

# Sackville News



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Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

One of the great pleasures of the job of headteacher is being able to walk around the school and see so much high quality learning going on. Every time I do, I am struck by the **calm and industrious atmosphere in our classrooms**.

At the end of yet another unprecedented term, I am more than ever impressed by this, and thankful for it. Only three weeks ago we all returned to the school buildings, often to find their rooms decorated for Christmas as they were left in December.

The last four weeks have seen enormous levels of activity. We have **tested of our students and staff for COVID**, and ensured students have enough **home testing kits** to use. We have continued **to recover our IT systems** from a ransomware attack which we have since found out we were far from unique in suffering. We have run a programme of **HPV injections for years 8, 9 and 10**. We have delivered **options information to our year 8 students**, and their choices have successfully been input online. Our subject **leaders** have been working double-time to lead our exam years towards their **final assessments in May**, whilst our **exams officers** have busily put an exam timetable together often as advice from the government changes around them. Our **canteen** has been busy serving food, though not as much as we would all like just yet – another ransomware casualty. Our **site staff** have worked endlessly to keep the school **COVID secure**.

Most of all though, our **students have returned energised and keen to study**. They have worked closely with their teachers over the last few weeks to show just how much progress they made over the last lockdown. As the spring weather arrives, **we can look forward to the rest of the year in confidence**.

With the return of the students, our Wednesday lunchtime concerts have resumed. It is wonderful to see the talent on display, and I know it is not just my mood that is lifted. In this picture you can see **Seren Foulds, Ollie Tomkinson and Joe Boyle** supported by our own Mr Hoelters.



This week, **Mr Endersby, Mr Jones and Mr Street** have held celebration teas with those **year 7s whose attitude to learning has shown the most improvement** since the first set of monitoring grades. You can see **Connor Beard** receiving his award from Mr Street with that very 2021 'handshake'. After a photo in the spring sunshine, the students were treated to a biscuit and fruit juice. Well done to all of the hardworking year 7s!



Individual students have continued to do amazing things. Firstly, congratulations to year 8 student **Lewis Cottam**, who earned the chance to interview **Brighton manager Graham Potter** last month.

Lewis, an ardent Seagull, won the right to talk to one of his idols by describing his favourite Brighton game in 250 words. You can see his interview [here](#).

Lewis' next job is to write a match report for the programme. Well done Lewis – we look forward to seeing you on *Match of the Day* in a few years. I know this story will not please our many Crystal Palace fans!

Well done too to our **sixth form chemists** who put in an amazing performance during this year's 'lockdown' **Chemistry Olympiad**. Special congratulations go to our year 12 students, who have only just finished the AS level content, whilst many of the questions required knowledge of work to be done in year 13. All these students showed how much they are **up for a challenge**, and we hope to achieve even more highly next year.



Thank you to **Mr Langford** and **Mr Groves** for organising, and to Mr Groves for hand-delivering the papers to every student during the school closure.

Pictured here alongside their teachers are **Sam Parsons, Lucas Ryan, Nadia Usman, Lucy Kolter, Luke Waddell, Hannah Plumb, Isobel Carrick and Sophie Taylor**.



Finally, a mention for **Rosie Baird**. She may only have left our sixth form last year, but her photos are already getting noticed.

Some of her work featured on the website of **Italian Vogue** this month – a major scoop.

Well done Rosie. We will be checking fashion shoots soon for your work!

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has [written to every student](#) congratulating them on their efforts over the closure and their attitudes now they have returned. This praise is well-deserved.

I must wish the **best of luck to our exam years** for whom the upcoming 'holiday' will really be anything but. There is a programme of online revision sessions for our year 11s – they will receive details of these alongside an assessment timetable at the end of term.

We have worked together to ensure we are in a far better place than many thought we would be on January 4<sup>th</sup>. We can now look forward to a peaceful Easter break, and perhaps the chance to meet a few friends in an outdoor setting. I wish you all the best.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## INSET days

The school closure has of course meant changes to our school calendar. We want to give you plenty of notice of our next two INSET days, which will be on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of May**. These are our second and third INSET days this year, and the week after is half-term.

## COVID home testing

Mr Bush writes:-

Students were issued with new boxes of Covid-19 home-testing kits last week. Testing should continue every Sunday and Wednesday for the rest of term and **throughout the Easter holidays** so that mass testing will not be required on return. Anyone who has not received a kit can collect one from their form tutor or year office. Further kits will be issued when students return after Easter.

If someone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19, everyone in the household must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre, or order one by post. You must NOT use the lateral flow test kits issued by school as a way of 'ruling out' Covid if someone has symptoms as they are only for detecting asymptomatic cases only.

## Frequently asked questions

### ***Why are students being asked to complete tests at home?***

Almost all students completed lateral flow tests (LFTs) for Covid-19 in school in early March to check for those carrying the virus but with no symptoms. Now students have learned how to take a swab, testing is to be completed at home. This reduces the risk of transmission into school.

***If someone in the household has symptoms, everyone must self-isolate and book a PCR test. Do NOT use these tests as a way of 'ruling out' Covid; they are only for detecting asymptomatic cases.***

### ***Who should take a test?***

All students should take a test if a parent consents to doing so. However, if the student has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days from a PCR test need **not** be tested, as they may generate a 'false positive' result. They should wait until the 90 days have expired and then begin testing from day 91.

### ***Where do we get test kits from?***

Students are issued with kits as they arrive into school. If you cannot find the tests, or have run out, please contact the year team for a replacement.

### ***When do students need to test?***

Students should be tested **every Sunday and Wednesday** until further notice.

### ***Do I need to supervise my child to take the test?***

Students under the age of 16 require supervision for the test and reporting of the result

### ***Once I have the result, who do I need to tell?***

**All results** (negative and positive) must be reported to the **NHS Test & Trace website**. Full details are given in the instructions so please follow them carefully.

Please only contact Sackville if the test is **positive**. If so, email Mr Bush on [sbush@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:sbush@sackvilleschool.org.uk)

### ***Are testing kits available for the rest of the household?***

Rapid testing is now also available for **parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles**. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by ordering tests online using the link [here](#), or by attending a test site to pick up tests to do at home. To find out more on school household testing visit the link [here](#).

## School shop reopening times

We are delighted that our school shop will reopen on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**. Opening times are as follows:

Wednesday, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Saturday, 10.00am – 12.00pm

## Sackville standards and expectations

Mr Street writes:-

As we approach the Easter holidays and following a period of grace as students have returned to school, this seems an appropriate time to revisit our standards and expectations as we move into the summer term and begin to return to some kind of normality.

'Give Me 5' is a simple and memorable way of summarising our high expectations. The poster below clearly displays our five expectations and I hope you will agree these are standards that our community would want from all young people both in and out of school.

# Sackville School

## Give Me 5



Sackville is a **Rights Respecting School**  
Our school has high expectations, in that we:

-  Display a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** and try our best
-  **RESPECT** the school, one another and use appropriate language
-  **BEHAVE RESPECTFULLY** and follow staff instructions
-  Follow the **UNIFORM CODE**
-  Are part of a **RESPECTFUL COMMUNITY** and support one another

**Sackville School**  
Together We Achieve




### School Uniform

We fully appreciate that school uniform has been more difficult to purchase during the lockdown period and that many students have demonstrated their individuality with regards to haircuts and colour. I would appreciate that parents assist students in addressing issues regarding uniform and appearance over the Easter period so they can return to school ready to learn and following our uniform guidelines.

It is also worth noting that as the weather improves in the summer term students will no longer be permitted to wear coats / non-Sackville jumpers in classrooms.

Uniform guidelines are set out in the tables below and can be viewed on the school website by following this link, <https://sackville.w-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads//2015/04/uniform-website.pdf>

#### Girls

Navy pleated skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Knee length or just above</li> </ul>
Navy tailored trousers of a boot cut or straight leg variety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No skin tight trousers</li> <li>● No leggings, jeggings, jeans or jean style trousers, wide flares, culottes or shorts</li> <li>● No belts with a visible buckle</li> </ul>
Light blue blouse with revered collar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any garment worn underneath must not be seen at all</li> </ul>
Navy V neck jumper with school logo	
White, black or navy socks OR flesh coloured/black tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No multi-coloured socks</li> <li>● No leggings instead of tights</li> </ul>
Black, flat footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No high heels, decorations or any other colour, boots of any kind or sandal style</li> <li>● Canvas shoes are permitted</li> </ul>

#### Boys

Charcoal grey or black trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No light grey trousers</li> <li>● No excessively tight trousers</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No jeans style trousers or jeans</li> </ul>
Navy V neck jumper with school logo	
Blue shirt with collar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The neck must be wide enough for the top button to be comfortably fastened</li> <li>• Any garment worn underneath must not be seen at all</li> </ul>
Navy clip on tie with the school logo	
Black shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No different coloured decoration or logo or boots of any kind</li> <li>• Canvas shoes are permitted</li> </ul>

In addition to the above it is also worth noting that:

- No jewellery is acceptable other than a wrist watch and a set of plain stud earrings. Any other piercings of any kind will be asked to be removed.
- Shirts must be worn tucked in.
- Nail varnish and acrylic nails are not permitted.
- Extreme haircuts and colours are not permitted. Grade 2 or below and tram lines of any description are not allowed. For girls hair colour must be natural and dip dyes are not acceptable.
- Make up by girls in year 9 or above must be discreet, particularly eye make-up.

At Sackville we believe that ‘Together we Achieve’ and parents can support the school in educating students in how best to behave in a respectful, responsible and appropriate way, ensuring all students uphold our high expectations.

As always, I thank you for supporting us to ensure that all Sackville students can be really proud of their appearance, behaviour and conduct. Should you have any questions about the uniform or our high expectations then please do not hesitate to contact me or your son / daughters Year Leader.

Finally, I wish you all a very relaxing and pleasant Easter break.

Paul Street – Deputy Head

## Car parking during drop-off and pick-up

Please avoid using Warburton Close at the start and end of school, since this often means the entrance to Littlefair Care Home is blocked. Easy entrance and exit is needed at all times.



## e-Scooters



Fun as these clearly are, and however green an alternative to a car, e-Scooters are **currently not legal on UK roads or pavements**, and so as long as this is the case we have to ask **students not to use them as a transport method to school**.

*I thought I would just drop an email of appreciation. I work in Health and Safety and I must commend you and the whole school on the application of safety protocols that you have put in place since the return to school on March 8th.*

*I am impressed with your communication and preparation ensuring that things are running as smoothly as possible during these awkward times. I am sure that the majority of parents would agree that the way things have been implemented at the school has not only ensured the children's safety at all times but has also provided considerable reassurance that many needed.*

*Being so proactive in your ways has already had a huge effect on the improvement of student's mental health and positive attitudes. These times have been difficult for many of us, and for those of us who work ensuring the safety of others it can often be a thankless task,*

*So honestly, thank you.*