

Sackville News

Friday 5th March 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers

We are almost there! This week we have welcomed our staff, year 11s and sixth-formers for their consent-based COVID tests. The school has been deep-cleaned, and we are all looking forward to the return of students next week.

Organising well over three thousand lateral flow tests in just over a week is a considerable undertaking, but with our great team we hope to manage it.



These pictures from Thursday show our staff registering with the NHS site, 'booking in at Reception', and the testing team ready to receive them.

Testing is part of our efforts to make the return to school as COVID-secure as possible. We have already written to students and parents about the return to school. You can find information on our website about the [return to school](#) and the [testing schedule](#).

Planning for the return of students has certainly not been made any easier with our IT systems only partially available this week, as we have worked to clean the ransomware completely from the system and rebuild our servers and desktop machines. I would like to thank **Bill Lewis**, **Jack Ives** and **James Costain** for their calm and patient work this week. What they have done is vital and cannot be rushed! They are pictured here in a rare moment of calm at the end of Thursday planning the next stage in the restitution process.



The network outage does mean that there is **no online food ordering facility next week**. Food will of course be provided for those eligible for free school meals. We ask that others **bring a packed lunch next week**.

Two lovely pieces of student news arrived last week. Firstly, we learned that the virtual efforts of our sportspeople have meant that **Sackville has been crowned winner of the Sussex Secondary Virtual School Games**.

That looks like a healthy points advantage to us! You can't keep a good team down ...



Specsavers 'Virtual' Sussex School Games: The Winter Games
Overall Leaderboard
Secondary Schools (26/02/2021)

Position	School	SGO Area Team	Points
1	Sackville School (East Grinstead)	Mid Sussex Panthers	94
2	The Angmering School (Littlehampton)	Southern Sharks	58
3	Priory School (Lewes)	South Downs Giants	55

We are all missing after school fixtures; their return will be a big sign of the return to normality!



Then we learned that **year 12 student Amber Titchener** has been made an **Ambassador for Yamaha Music**, one of five women chosen to be part of their **International Women's Day** celebrations on March 8th. She is the youngest ambassador they have ever had.

Amber has been asked to record an **acoustic version of her next single, 'Get Me'**, as well as talk to camera about what Women's Day means to her.

Amber is now eagerly awaiting a delivery of Yamaha instruments to play. You can read two great press releases from

Yamaha [here](#) and [here](#).

After eight weeks with the delightful company of 'critical worker' children, it is perhaps a good time to thank them for their **great attitude in school**. It is also time to **thank their parents and carers**, and more widely **all key workers** in our hospitals, care homes, nurseries, supermarkets, schools and in many other vital workplaces, without whom we would not have been able to navigate this lockdown.

We have had some lovely feedback from these parents and carers:

"May I take this opportunity to thank you and all the staff at the school who have come in and provided for the children. You are all a credit to the school. My son has thoroughly enjoyed the last 8 weeks and has enjoyed making new friends."

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the wonderful staff at Sackville for taking such good care of my son during the last 8 weeks. He has really enjoyed "lockdown school" and said he will feel very sad tomorrow. He's made some good friends in year 8 who he will miss as he won't be able to see them when they return to their bubble groups next week!"

Thank-you for these comments – it really helps us know we are getting things right. Our **Parents' Focus Group** meeting on Monday was, as ever, also extremely helpful in this respect.

One last thank-you before signing off this week, and that is to **all of you at home who have supported your children's education** over the last eight weeks. I can see how well students have engaged from the attendance at live lessons, and conversations with our teachers and support staff.

Talk of 'lost learning' is misplaced at Sackville. Our students are incredibly well-placed for the next stages of their learning journeys and have developed an awesome set of independent skills as well. Another parent sums it up well:

"I really appreciate all the hard work Sackville staff have put into everything over the past year. The remote learning has been fantastic and I have no concerns for their education over the past few weeks, they have been kept very busy and it's a joy to get a real insight on their work and watch them working so independently. Please pass on my thanks to everyone. Teachers have had such bad press recently and I think it's important to try and balance that out with some appreciation of the massive effort staff have put in."

We can **look forward with confidence to the rest of this year – the future is bright!**

With my best wishes and thanks.

Julian Grant
Headteacher

PE lessons from next week

Mr Currie and Mrs Richards write:-

Please can you make sure that **all students have their PE kit for their lessons this coming week**. It would also make sense to make sure it still fits! If kit needs replacement, then please buy the items online until the school shop is open again. If you have any questions, then please email Mrs Richards lrichards@sackvilleschool.org.uk or Mr Currie acurrie@sackvilleschool.org.uk.

Please be aware that your child must **bring a plastic bag to put their mask into** whilst they are doing their PE lessons.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any after school clubs at present However, we hope that we will be able to do extracurricular activities after the Easter holiday.

We look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college who do not have symptoms can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended by Public Health England to all who are eligible.

Covid grants for families in need in East Sussex

AmazeSussex is inviting families with SEND students from East Sussex who may be struggling financially to apply for a grant worth £50 for each young person to help cover the cost of food or fuel at this difficult time.

Full information is on their [website](#).



The screenshot shows the AmazeSussex website. At the top left is the Amaze logo, a green square with a white geometric pattern. To its right is the text "welcome to amaze", a helpline number "01273 772289", a "donate" button, and search and menu icons. Below this is a large purple banner with the text "Covid grants" in white. Underneath the banner, there is a breadcrumb trail "home / Covid grants". The main heading is "Covid grants for families in need in East Sussex". To the left of the text is an image of a person wearing a face mask and gloves, shopping for produce in a supermarket. The text explains the difficulty of the situation and mentions a campaign by Marcus Rashford. It also describes the grant scheme, which provides £50 per child or young person with SEND to help cover food or fuel costs. On the right side, there are sections for "related" content (a link to "Coronavirus advice and support"), "resources" (a link to "jargon buster"), and a "Sign up to our newsletter" form with an email input field and a "subscribe" button.