

# Sackville News

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers

I have to start this week by **thanking our exam students for the fantastic attitude they have shown through the first week of assessments.** These young people have faced some uncertainty since Christmas, but have dealt with it exceptionally well, and seeing how well prepared they are for these final assessments fills me with optimism about the grades they are going to achieve. I would like to give a **special mention for year 10 here**, who have sat their first formal assessment in the sports hall this week. Their attitude and preparation have been commendable.

None of this could happen without the work of our **exams office**, who are doing more than twice the work of a usual summer, running our own internal assessments as well as administering the official exam season and entering more than four-thousand data items into the exam boards' databases.



Mrs Sands serves breakfast to the year 11s before this Tuesday's maths assessment



A school is always a busy place of course, but this summer has seen additional activity as we maintain the fabric of the school and keep it fit for many future school year groups. The **new windows on our top gym and art block** make the building look good as new. No more rattling when the wind blows!

This *Sackville News* comes out on a Wednesday because we wanted to make clear that we will soon be following the **new government guidance about the wearing of masks in schools.** From Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>, **masks are no longer required for students in school**, though they are still expected when travelling to and from school by bus. Of course, should students feel more comfortable wearing them they are free to do so.

Overall, the national announcements on Monday show what a good position the country is in. We therefore now have some latitude to change the way we operate. After half-term, with the departure of years 11 and 13, **we are going to 'de-zone' the school.** Whilst students will still be taught in single year group classes (year 'bubbles') they will once again move around the school and be able to use the specialist classrooms in drama, music, technology and science. Students will be **issued with new timetables** during the last week of this half term.



In the last edition of *Sackville News* Mr Endersby wrote about the fundraising weekend for **Annie Dilek and Andrew Smith**, two of our former students who were sadly lost to cancer.

We are delighted to say that last weekend we raised **more than £1000** and will be able to add a basketball hoop to our playground in memory of Andrew, and a bench for Annie.

Friday saw a **Sackville Staff bake-off**, with some amazingly creative entries. Alongside **Mrs Smeaton**, who organised this so well with her sixth form team, I had the impossible job of judging. Third prize went to **Ms Fleming for Colin "Grown up"**. There had to be some reference to caterpillar cakes after all! Second prize went to **Mrs Thomson** from finance, for the gorgeous cream and fruit sponge. Mrs Thomson's daughter Jade was one of Annie's closest friends. The first prize went to our canteen manager **Mrs Palmer** for her lovely tribute to Andrew and Annie (at the bottom of the picture here).

On Saturday it was the turn of **Mr Endersby** to run a marathon on the south Devon coast, and over the weekend many staff took part in another Sackville **virtual relay** whilst others completed 100 mile cycle rides. I had the joy of starting the virtual relay in the pouring rain and winds of Saturday morning! Well done everyone for these amazing efforts.

I also have news of more fundraising for another extremely good cause. Readers of *Sackville News* will know **Jamie Young** successfully finished treatment for cancer a couple of years ago. Alongside some of his friends he wants to

raise some money for **Teenage Cancer Trust**, a charity that supported him and his family during his treatment. His idea is for his Saturday football team, **Forest Row U16s**, to take on an elite **Sackville staff invitation 11**.

The match will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. Players will all donate £5 and there will be raffles and collections for spectators. Please come and show your support; the staff are going to need it, as Jamie's team have just won their league!

Speaking of sport, in another sign that things are returning to normal, we are getting outside coaches in to work with our students again. This week, **Karl Youngman** from **Storm Basketball** has been in coaching our year 7 and 8 girls. We are looking to establish girls' basketball teams. There is an after school taster session on Monday (17<sup>th</sup> May) which [students have to sign up to](#) for reasons of COVID compliance.



There is even a rumour that after school fixtures have started – I look forward to seeing the results in the next Sackville News!

Before signing off this week, I would like to congratulate **Ms Fleming** who has become a **fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching**. This is a significant award!

With best wishes until the next newsletter.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Thank-you to the Rotary Club



Ms Abel writes:-

I am delighted to thank the **Rotary Club of East Grinstead Meridian** for an extremely generous donation of £250 for us to be able to buy tools and equipment for our **Alternative Provision Room**. We are looking to recycle objects such as tumble dryers and washing machines by turning them into fire pits. We are also aiming to upcycle old pieces of furniture, like the one in the photo with Rory and Jack, by cleaning, repainting and fixing. We also want to service and repair bicycles and garden equipment.

All of this will give our students the opportunity to learn some wonderful and invaluable new skills for life.

## Calling parents of year 11s ...

As this wonderful year group approach the end of their assessments, could we ask that any unwanted school and PE uniform is handed in to Reception for our second-hand uniform shop? All items are needed!

## Picking up students

Thank-you to parents who park courteously at pick up time in the afternoon. It really helps our neighbours and Estcots School when parents do not wait on the zig-zags, and turn their engines off.