

# Sackville News



8<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Parents

It seems incredible that we are already into the **exam season** with our year 11 students sitting their English Language GCSE this week. Everyone has worked so hard in preparation and there is a great spirit of support amidst the understandable anxiety. I was very impressed by the attitude and approach of the year 11s to this important first hurdle; they were tremendous.



Year 11 students have all been given individualised timetables for the exam period to help ensure that the preparation is as structured and personalised as it can be. We will be providing breakfasts, which proved to be a popular initiative last year, as well as briefing sessions by specialist teachers before they commence the actual exam. They are pictured here having just finished the lunch we provided for them before the English exam.

## UCAS

Our year 12 AS students will commence their examinations next week and I would like to wish them well. We held a **UCAS university preparation evening** for parents this week to help with decision making and planning ahead. We moved the date forward this year as we wanted the focus to be before the season of open days in June.

With the **general election** occurring this month, student awareness of how our democracy functions and the choices within it is important. We were very pleased to welcome the Mid Sussex constituency candidates to the school last week for a question time session with our sixth formers. An article follows giving more details but suffice to say it was an interesting and thought provoking event. Running alongside this has been our own mock election with sixth form students standing as candidates and explaining what they have to offer in assemblies. The school vote took place on Election Day and do scroll down to see Sackville's results!



Last month, we were very pleased to welcome some 400 primary school parents to Sackville to see their youngsters take part in the **East Grinstead Primary Dance Festival**. The enthusiasm of the performers was wonderful and they spanned a wide age range. It was great to see Sackville Sports Leaders helping them throughout the evening.

I am very pleased that our **Chair of Governors**, Rebecca Diba, has written for us below about the essential work her team carry out in supporting and quality assuring all that happens at the school. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of governors and you can gain a flavour of what they do from the article.

The summer term is an important time of the school year for many reasons. The vast majority of students are sitting exams but importantly have different enrichment experiences to look forward to such as **Curriculum Enhancement Week**, the **Eggsfest** concert and **trips abroad** to France, Spain, Germany and further afield to Malawi and Tanzania. Academic performance will always be a priority but the balance of opportunities elsewhere in the curriculum is so important.

Finally, I would like to send our good wishes to two staff who are commencing on new ventures. **Mrs Hicks** (Science) has just begun her maternity leave with her baby due any day! We are delighted that she intends to return next summer.

**Mr Wintle** (drama technician) has gained a promotion working at The Hawth theatre in Crawley from 19<sup>th</sup> May. This is well deserved and he will be a huge loss to us. However, Alex has already said that he will be around for Eggsfest and that we won't be able to keep him away from next year's show, so I am sure we will keep a strong connection!

Let us hope for good weather as the term progresses!

With best wishes,  
Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Our Chair of Governors, Rebecca Diba



The last two years, since the school's previous Ofsted inspection, has been a busy time for the governors, and we are delighted that Sackville has now been officially recognised by Ofsted as a good school.

Our role, as governors, is to hold the school to account in terms of the achievement and behaviour of students, the quality of teaching and leadership and management of the school. We recognized that for the school to improve in these areas, we as a governing body also needed to step up a gear so that we could provide effective challenge and support to the Head and Senior Leadership Team. We did this in two ways, firstly by getting to know the school better and secondly by becoming more familiar with and monitoring the data that tracks students' progress over time.

To get to know the school better, each governor has been linked to a department in the school. We meet up with our link Department Head once a term and also observe lessons from time to time. In addition, staff members give informative presentations to governors at our Full Governing Body meetings and we attend many of the outstanding and varied extra-curricular events that the school puts on. Grappling with the complexities of statistical data relating to student performance has been a bit more of a challenge to us! However, the Deputy Head, Adrian de Souza, has ably tutored us about the key aspects of school data analysis and some governors have also attended training sessions run by West Sussex County Council. We now feel confident in monitoring data effectively and are able to challenge the school about the relative performance of specific groups of students.

All school governors are volunteers, and in fact make up the largest volunteer force in the country. Although the governors at Sackville have had to put in more legwork over the last two years, I think as a body we feel privileged to be involved in the school's journey towards being graded an 'outstanding school'. We were very gratified to hear the lead inspector from Ofsted commenting that Sackville was well on its way to achieving this goal. Following on from our Ofsted inspection, a number of initiatives are being developed to bring about further improvements to Sackville and as governors we will be monitoring these closely.

Our next task is to reconstitute the governing body in line with new legislation. From September 2015, we will be a smaller but tighter unit, comprising thirteen governors, including the Headteacher, a staff governor, a local authority governor, three parent governors and seven co-opted governors. At present, we have no vacancies on the governing body, but as and when vacancies arise for an elected parent governor or co-opted governor with specific skills which we think will be of value to the governing body, we will let you know. So, watch this space!

## School Election

You may well be tired of talk of the election but it is not just adults that have voted this week. Sackville has held its own 'School Election' in which candidates represented the main parties and all students were invited to vote in a secret ballot at lunchtime on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Each year group had been spoken to by the candidates during assemblies and so had some idea of what each party stood for prior to voting.

The sixth form also hosted hustings (picture below) for the actual candidates or their representatives and so were able to hear their views on the EU, Trident and tuition fees.



### Voting takes place

The hall was packed at lunchtime on Thursday as students from every school year queued to vote in the school election. The picture shows year 8s patiently waiting – even after their maths exam that morning.








### The count

Year 7 BV students then counted the papers. Each pile was counted twice for certainty. Several students acted as ‘scrutineers’ to ensure the whole count was conducted fairly.



The result could then be declared. Becca Mann for the Green Party had won the 2015 Sackville School Election

<b>GIBSON, Jack</b> Liberal Democrats		<b>17%</b>
<b>GRAY, Cameron</b> The Conservative Party		<b>23%</b>
<b>MANN, Becca</b> Green Party		<b>24%</b>
<b>VINCENT, Hugo</b> UKIP		<b>16%</b>
<b>YOUNG, Dan</b> Labour Party		<b>18%</b>

Thanks go to Mr Morris, our SMSC co-ordinator, who organised all of this.

I am pleased to announce that Sackville has just been given the **Silver Democracy Award** for their greater than 70% turnout in last month's Youth Elections.

This is great news for the school and highlights that the key British value of democracy is alive and well at Sackville.

Mr Street

## Biology Challenge

Mrs Morris writes -

Students from Years 9 and 10 took part in the annual Biology Challenge run by the Society of Biology in March.

The challenge consisted of two half-hour papers taken online, based on the biology curriculum and their knowledge of the natural world, conservation and beyond. Questions ranged from identification of animal skulls and seedpods to the structure of the circulatory system and enzyme reactions.

The results were impressive as ever, displaying our students love and curiosity for the natural world. Many congratulations to all who took part, but particular applause must go to our Gold award winner, Melissa Turner, and our record number of Silver award winners; Sofia Day, Grace de Souza, Rhiannon Hobby, Oliver Blackman, Rienel Bronilla, Luke Burtenshaw, Erin Dearlove, Christopher Stuart, Cameron Toogood, Will Kemp, Matthew Cook and Caitlin Murray - great biologists in the making! Certificates will be awarded later this year.

## Group Raises Money for Seizure Support Dogs Charity

Alex Mustard and Charley Skinner (Year 10) write:-

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March Sackville School opened a stall in the canteen to raise money for the charity 'Seizure Support Dogs'. This is a charity which helps to train dogs to be alert and to help people when having epileptic fits. The dogs can detect a fit up to fifty minutes before it happens, and then they can make the person, or someone close by, aware of this.

On sale were a variety of delicious treats to entice money from our pockets! There were amazing cakes, such as cherry and coconut, marble, cup-cakes, chocolate chip, Victoria sponge and lemon drizzle. There were also two types of brilliant brownies, one the traditional type (just chocolate) and the other the irresistible Oreo flavour! Also on sale were shortcakes, Swiss rolls (chocolate and plain), cookies (chocolate fudge and oatmeal) and scrummy sweets which came in a bag!



Organising this event was Charley Skinner, 10JAL, in memory of her cousin who sadly passed away in February from complications including epilepsy. To help Charley was a group of her closest friends: Jess Oyo, Amelia Thomas, Sophie Bull, Alex Walsh, Adam Starks, Esmee Birch and Henry Lagrange with Emilie Lagrange (who baked the star chocolate chip cookies!). We also got help from Miss Haywood, Miss Nixon and Mrs Rowlingson.

Thank you to everyone who helped out and everyone who bought one of these tantalising treats as the group managed to raise an amazing £200.45 for the charity!

## Observatory News

Mr Bush writes:-

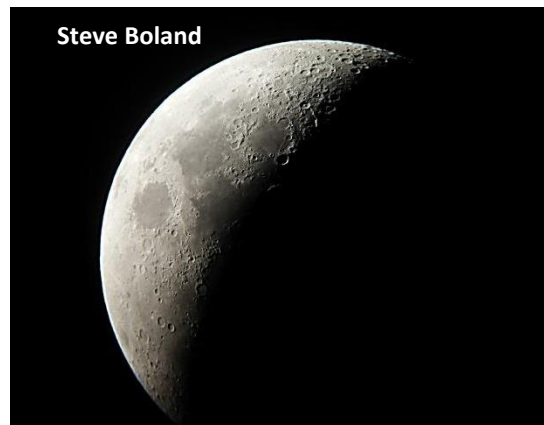
Well, what a busy end to the season! We welcomed scouts from Hartfield for an evening of astronomy and were treated to clear skies, which really helped them along towards their astronomy badges. Although the Moon was not visible, we did enjoy Jupiter and double stars, along with the Orion nebula.

The skies were clear again on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March and over 50 guests came along to view the cratered surface of the Moon and the Orion nebula. The cloud belts of Jupiter and its four moons were also on show and keen-eyed youngsters also picked out the great red spot too! Sky tours and star maps added to the fun. We're very grateful to Pete Hill and the Brockbank family for bringing their scopes so more people could observe.



Some amazing photos of the Moon were taken and thanks to Pete Hill, Steve Boland and Sue Armstrong for emailing theirs so we can display them here.

We also welcomed over 100 year 1 and 2 pupils from Estcots School for a tour to help with their space-related topic work. Let's hope they'll be inspired to become our next generation of astronomers.



## Sixth Annual Sports Awards Evening

Sackville hosted its **sixth annual Sports Awards evening** on Thursday 23rd April. Students from years 9 to 13 received awards for both sporting and academic achievement from England hockey player Susannah Townsend.

Susannah is pictured here with Esme Foreman from year 11, who was voted the **Sackville 2015 Sports Personality of the Year**.

Before presenting the awards Susannah talked about her own career and how making the most of her own 'superpower' of speed got her to where she is. Her message that hard work was a vital ingredient of her success was well received by all the students attending.



## Other sports news

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April **George Johnson** in year 13 played for the National League 3 Rugby Team G Force, East Grinstead Men's First Team. He plays the position of scrum half and at the age of 17 this is a big achievement.

They lost against London Irish 34-28 but George did score a try in his debut game. The team is coached by Justin Bishop, ex- London Irish professional rugby player and ex-Sackville student!

Hopefully George will follow in his footsteps.

In March, year 7 students **Luke Waddell** and **Edward de Barra** were amongst many swimmers participating in the Kings Centre Swimathon, whose 2015 charity is Marie Curie. Both boys swam 100 lengths in less than an hour and a half – a fantastic achievement.

Meanwhile former student **Andy Rigg** was officiating at the British Championships in London when Adam Peaty broke the World 100m breaststroke record. Without the proper officiating team of course the record would not have counted.



Year 7 student **Callum Stone** has put down a marker for the future, winning the Brighton Mini Mile in 5 minutes 21 seconds. The race was significant enough to be televised. Callum, pictured here, is the third brother to attend Sackville. Both Aaron and Jordan are talented runners and represented the school many times.

Well done Callum! We look forward to hearing more about your achievements.



### “Every little helps” – Sackville Easter revision classes are a success!

Sackville opened its doors and classrooms over the Easter period to students wanting to revise for their upcoming exams or finish coursework and they never let us down. Revision and catch-up sessions including ICT, Business Studies, Technology, MFL and English were in demand and many took up the offer of that little extra help.

All subjects took part in the programme and the two-hour sessions were run by subject teachers and their hard work was very much appreciated by the students who attended; coupled with the chocolate treats and drinks supplied it made the effort all worthwhile.

Mr Elsdon

# Lower School Theatre Trip



**Open to years 7 & 8  
plus year 9 GCSE and BTEC  
Wednesday 17th June 2015  
12:10pm-7.00pm**

**Places are limited so get your  
replies back to the Drama  
Office as soon as possible!  
Deadline Friday 22nd May.**



**ASHSTOCK IS BACK!!!  
SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**12noon until 11.00pm  
At John Pears Field, Ashurst Wood**

**YOUTH BANDS REQUIRED  
from 1.00pm until 7.30pm**



**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THE  
STAGE CONTACT:**

**REBECCA ROBERTS on 01342 823770 or**

**[assistant@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:assistant@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

# SCOTT CINEMAS

## Autism Friendly Screenings

Scott Cinemas are pleased to announce the introduction of 'Supportive Environment Screenings', which are also referred to as 'Autism Friendly Screenings'

On Sunday 12th April, we will host our very first 'Supportive Environment' screening. With these screenings, the lights are kept on at a low level, sound is turned down, and you're free to move around the auditorium as you like.

These screenings will be on the second Sunday of each month, and you can now buy tickets for the first show on 12th April, of Dreamworks' Home.

Further shows will take place on Sunday 10th May & Sunday 14th June with films to be announced.

- the sound volume will be turned down
- the lights are turned up a little
- you can move around and make noise\*
- you can bring your own food and drink
- there's no trailers, and the film will start promptly at the time stated



DREAMWORKS  
**HOME**

Sunday 12th April 10.30am\*\*

\*Please don't run inside the cinema, and ensure children are supervised at all times  
\*\*Cinema doors open at 10.00am

Autism  
friendly

Items should be  
Clean, Dry and Loose  
**Not tied up in  
plastic bags!**

# You can now recycle your plastic pots, tubs and trays with your plastic bottles



To learn more about your improved recycling service, visit...

[www.recycleforwestsussex.org/plastics](http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/plastics)

 **recycle**  
for West Sussex

www.rws.org.uk

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The second hand uniform shop is now in place – all items £1 each...

We have shirts, skirts, trousers and PE kits all waiting for a new home!

Please visit reception to ask to see the stock or ask your child to visit at lunchtimes.

We ask that you are patient if reception is busy at the time you visit.

Is your child now too big for the shirt you bought 6 weeks ago? Please give it a new home at the second hand shop, all clothes donations to reception gratefully received.

Janina Jakubowska

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