

# Sackville News

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021



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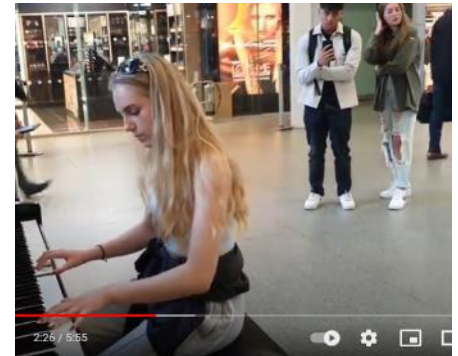
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Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to share the news that our local authority, West Sussex County Council, **have judged Sackville School to be grade 1 (System Leader/Outstanding)**. Every year they review our **results**, our **teaching and learning** and our **leadership**, and this year we were awarded the top grade. I am of course delighted by this, and it is no more than the students, staff and Sackville community deserve.

The days may be getting shorter, but Sackville students seem to be packing more activities in than ever! Just after the last newsletter, we heard about **Gabi Straszynski's** viral video on YouTube. Using a public piano at St Pancras Station she played a flawless rendition of 'Interstellar' which left passers-by awestruck. I really recommend you watch [this clip](#).



Meanwhile, year 8 student **Megan Holroyd** spent part of half-term competing in the **World Irish Dance Championships**.

She became the U12 **British Open Premier'ship Champion** picking up four gold medals and one silver along the way.

A fantastic achievement – well done!

**Year 8s** were treated to a monster evening of entertainment on Thursday 21 October, when they got a choice of watching either *The Woman in Black* or *Scooby Doo*. I've no idea who the two staff on the left (below) are, but I think one was **Mr Pearson** our year leader. Lots of laughter – and some screaming – were had!



**Road safety** is always a priority at Sackville. Wednesday 20th October saw excellent drama presentations on the subject delivered to our year 7 and 11 students.

The message could not be clearer – roads can be dangerous places. Our students absorbed the message in the way it was meant.

We would like to thank them for their excellent attitude, and the performers for delivering the sessions so clearly.

Our **year 10 gifted and more able students** spent the morning of Thursday November 4th on a project to design the perfect school for the twenty-first century. Presented with a brief by organisers **Mr Millican, Mr Thompson, and Ms Woolley**, they had to design both the physical infrastructure of their new school and the curriculum the students would follow.



All of this had to be costed to ensure that it met a very tight budget. There were some very imaginative suggestions, with environmental education being at the heart of many of the proposals.

At the end of the session, the teams had to **present their findings to the audience**, and two winning teams were chosen. This was an exceptionally difficult task since the quality of each submission was so high. All of the students deserve congratulation for solving something as challenging as this and presenting a solution in just two hours.



It is lovely to see our **year 10 sports leaders back at work**. We are inviting students from **Estcots** to use our sports hall at lunchtimes and the noise and fun that was had at the first session was immeasurable!

**Sports co-ordinator Mrs Currie** said 'I am so proud of their maturity and confidence'.

Well done to all – a great advert for activity – and for Sackville!

Our first post-lockdown residential trips have now taken place. Over half-term, there was a **sixth form art trip** to Suffolk, and a **year 13 geography field trip** to the Sussex coast and Wales. Mr Andrews and Mr Johnson write about these later in the newsletter. I am once again grateful to staff who give up their holidays to make these extra-curricular activities happen.

**Geography club** is also one of our popular after school extra-curricular activities. Last week, members spent an evening making **climate promises**.



The students wrote their pledges on paper leaves, and these will be displayed both in the geography corridor and more importantly within the hallowed corridors of the **COP 26** climate conference in Glasgow.

Let's hope the coming generations make a better fist of stewardship than we boomers.

The KS3 **Sackville Book Club** has also been busy over the first half-term. The group, called '**All Booked Up**' has had two meetings so far, and there is an update from Ms Wernham later in this newsletter.



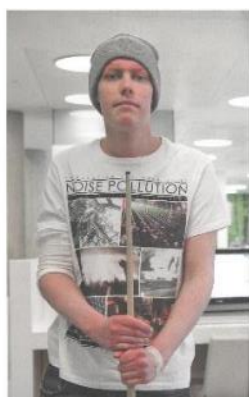
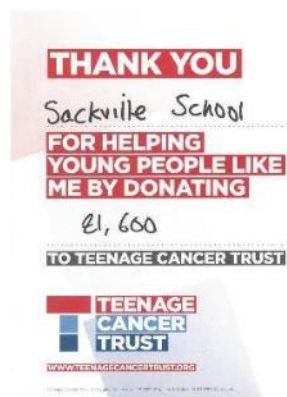
Our canteen was decorated with a hundred diwas on November 4th to celebrate the Hindu festival of **Diwali**. This festival of lights celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.

Our **Diversity and Equality** student leadership group arranged the celebration, and also created an information card to be placed on each table explaining the festival. Our amazing canteen also provided samosas for students and staff – and very popular they were.

Yesterday the school impeccably observed two minutes' silence at 11.00am to mark **Remembrance Day**. This week Mr Feist and I have been giving assemblies to

each year group to about Remembrance, giving a bit of our own family histories, and suggesting to students how they might research their own.

I was delighted to receive a certificate from the **Teenage Cancer Trust** recognising our contribution to raising £1600 with the Forest Row Junior Football Club.



The certificate is on display in our foyer.

Many of our students swim with the **East Grinstead Swimming Club**, and assisted in raising more than £3000 for the charity **Young Minds**. All the swimmers wore yellow swim hats to support the 'Hello Yellow' initiative and to raise awareness for the support of young people's mental health.

Well done to **Abigail Nix, Gabriel Nix, Amy Grantham, Chloe Grantham, Emma Tindale, Oliver Tindale, Yanni Hudson, Chloe Greenwood, Jess Greenwood, Lilly Hill, Robert Taylor, Sophie**

**Taylor, Will Farmer, Brodie McMullan, Lucy Beard and Ruan Rossouw.**



More money was raised for charity with our annual **Children in Need Quiz**, organised by the sixth form. This has become a fixture of the Sackville autumn, and this year's quiz was of the highest quality. The hall was packed, and lots of money was raised. Well done to **Jessica Holland, Millie Knowles, Alex Lucas, Emily Williams, Eleanor Lacey, Holly Aston and Nicole Noakes** who made up the winning student team. Once again the **maths team** won the staff prize. None of this would have happened without the extended efforts of our four senior students **Leah Bush, Eric Parker, Phoebe Smith and Archie Mabey.**

With so much going on, this is already feeling like a much better year than the last two. To keep it that way I would ask you to **support your children in taking twice-weekly lateral flow tests** so that any cases of COVID are quickly identified.

With best wishes.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Book Club 'All Booked Up'

Here is an update from Ms Wernham on the Sackville Book Club.

This half term we have had the first 2 meetings of the new KS3 book club 'All Booked Up!' Where our keenest readers meet once a month to discuss and choose the next book we will be reading.

Our first ever meeting on 29th September in the LRC saw our founding members discuss how they order their bookshelves at home, their favourite genres and a few tasty chocolate brownies were consumed.

Then we moved on to researching the three books on offer for our first read – 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve, 'Maggot Moon' by Sally Gardner or 'Whispers in the Graveyard' by Teressa Breslin.

After some extensive searching of other reviews and blurbs of the books a vote was taken and 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve was chosen.

We also discussed the merits and drawbacks of all reading the same book but we decided that we wanted to discuss the book together at our next meeting without risking any spoilers. Everyone agreed to bring some notes and questions of our own with us to discuss next time. Each member was given a notebook to fill in and decorate and signed up to the online book review app 'GoodReads' to share our progress and reviews.



At the second meeting on 20th October everyone discussed the main characters in 'Mortal Engines', their feelings on the ending of the book and the use of language and description. A real range of opinions was shared and everyone went on to write their own review of the book and a paragraph from a different character's perspective. Finally it was time to vote on our next book for the month – we were offered a range of brand new books with perfectly unbroken spines and shiny pristine covers. On reading the blurbs we found it difficult to reach a consensus but finally picked 'Skywake Invasion' by Jamie Russell and made sure we polished off all of the cupcakes.

It's not too late to get involved if you want to join our book club, just pop in to see Ms. Wernham in D16 to get a copy of the latest book choice and join us in the LRC on Wednesday 24th November at 2.35pm to 3.35pm to discuss books and eat cake!

#### **Rewriting from a different character's point-of-view based on 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve**

When the stalkers bring me into the room I see MEDUSA for the first time. I don't focus on it though. All I see is Valentine staring at me. The whole time I was thinking about Shrike. I wanted to see him badly, I wanted him to be proud. I didn't want him to see me in this weak state. As I was about to accept my fate, this girl Valentine had called his daughter had come out of nowhere and saved my life! I wish I could thank her but she hit her head on MEDUSA and gave it commands that made it do something crazy.

**Abigail Mudd 8RSH**

I looked down at Shrike as tears welled up in my eyes. "Oh, Shrike!" I whispered, falling to my knees and cradling in my arms. Shrike had been my hero, friend, mentor, I even thought of him as my family. "What did you do that for!" I screamed at Tom who was also on the ground staring at me in disbelief. How could he! Didn't he know that I'd loved Shrike, almost as much as I'd hated Valentine! He was going to make me everything I'd ever wanted to be! Someone who had no feelings, no memories, someone who didn't remember all the pain that had happened in my life. This could have been the sharpest pain I'd ever experienced.

After explaining this to Tom I jumped to my feet. "I hate you, I hate you so much!" I sobbed while taking Shrike's hand.

**Sophie Hewer 8THR**

#### **Book Reviews of 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve**

I give this book a four star review.

I found it very interesting and exciting and I absolutely love the ending.

The story follows the main two characters Hester Shaw and a Third Class Apprentice called Tom. There is London on tracks, it tries to kill other small cities. In the end London builds a super weapon and Tom and Hester nearly get killed.

I would recommend this book to anyone above the age of 8 who is a good reader.

**James Coates 7ACE**

It was very slow moving at the beginning, then almost too fast-paced at the end. I thought the characters were a bit shallow and lacked development over the book. The dystopian world was quite interesting. I thought Tom's clashes with the anti-tractionists were very interesting. Some characters were introduced for no real reason. Overall, I would give this book 3.5 stars out of 5.

**Phoebe Kelly 7DPT**

## Art and Design field trip, Bawdsey, Suffolk 2021

Mr Andrews delightedly writes:-

Finally after a long two-year wait, the annual art trip to Suffolk was able to go ahead on Friday 22 October, staying at beautiful Bawdsey Manor.



Y13 Students in their final year took full advantage of the excellent weather to add to their **personal studies** with a series of first hand and observational visits to **heritage sites** and **maritime locations**. They were also able to see the work of influential well established artists: works by Henry Moore, Maggie Hambling and the Britten Pears concert halls at Snape added to 'arts in the community' experiences.

A highlight was Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich where the "World of Stories" reflected on the arrival in June 1948 of the Empire Windrush, and the cultural diversity of Ipswich. Students will be working towards a visual presentation in November.

I would like to personally thank Mrs Hadlow and Aimee Andrew from Robert Mays School who were fantastic in supporting and facilitating the smooth running of the trip.

## A2 geography field trip to the Sussex coast and Wales

Mr Johnson writes:-

October 2021 saw the **first residential geography field trip since the summer of 2019**.

Our A2 students were hard at work from Thursday 28 October to Monday 1 November. They started looking at **coastal erosion** and **beach profiles** off the Sussex coast. On Friday, the group travelled to west Wales, stopping in **Port Talbot** to analyse the quality of urban life. Saturday saw the team collect a prodigious amount of both **human** and **physical data** making the best of the drier day of the weekend. This formed the basis for presentations on Sunday, and will in several cases be used for coursework. The human survey from Port Talbot was repeated in **Tenby**. **Beach profiles** and **dune transects** were then made at **Broadhaven South** and **Freshwater West** (famous as the beach where Dobby was buried).



Sunday was one of the windiest days of the year, and some activities were slightly curtailed. Nonetheless the team were able to see the **Green Bridge of Wales** and the **geos of Stennis Ford** and **Hunstman's Leap**, and the fault at **Stackpole Quay**.

The students were fantastic throughout and are now very well set for the rest of their course.

# Outdoor education at Sackville

Mr Brinkmann, our outdoor education teacher, writes:-

I have been tasked with bringing Outdoor Education to Sackville School and creating a rolling six week programme to focus on, **teamwork, leadership, communication, resilience, problem solving** and **focus**. I have begun to work with small groups of ten students selecting outdoor activities in which they can explore these key skills.

Over the last six weeks students have been working in a variety of environments, using local outdoor centres, local sandstone rock formations and local lowland hillsides such as Ditchling Beacon. We have been exploring the skills we need to tackle a series of challenges as a team and personally. **The students have responded really well** to everything that was thrown at them.

The whole team of students developed their new skills over a six week course. The confidence and trust that the team displayed in each other during our final week was only possible through hard work. The students were asked to audit their skills at the start and end of the programme to self-assess how they had developed and grown key skills for the future.

I hope to build on the programme over the academic year and believe it will truly benefit many of the students here at Sackville.

As we are now entering the winter months I thought it would be good to try and create a store of outdoor clothing that can be used on wetter/colder days.

If you have any old waterproof trousers or coats that are no longer of use but still in weatherproof condition. Please email me - [rbrinkmann@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:rbrinkmann@sackvilleschool.org.uk) - or drop them off to T01.

Thank you.





## TEACHING COULD BE THE ANSWER!

Are you a relative or family friend just starting your career or thinking of making a career change?

*Are you looking for a secure, rewarding, and life-giving profession?*

Bosco Sussex Teacher Training are recruiting applicants to train in a range of primary and secondary subjects.

We are looking for recent graduates, career changers or those wanting to re-start their working career to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with young people in our communities.

Teaching remains a valuable and fulfilling profession. We are looking for those with the drive and resilience to really make a difference to young people's lives.

We will support you with high quality placements in primary and secondary schools in our partnership of over 30 schools across Sussex, which are recognised for excellent academic outcomes and secure prospects for employment.

*If this sounds appealing and is of interest to you?*

*We are holding an information event via Zoom on the 24th November 2021 between 6 and 7pm.*

Topic: Get into Teaching with Bosco Teacher Training - Graham Jones/Jo Newman  
Time: Nov 24, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8401674162?pwd=aWhQSXVWazZVZUVMSDFwdDN2MmhkZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 167 4162

Passcode: Bosco

For general information about our offer and for an up to date list of places, please see our website <https://boscocet.org.uk/tsa/train.php>

*If you intend to attend the event, please contact Theresa Cashman at [tcashman@sphcs.co.uk](mailto:tcashman@sphcs.co.uk) so we can plan the event accordingly.*