

Sackville News

Friday 21 October 2022

Dear Families

Coming to the end of the first half term of the year marks a significant milestone. Especially when you consider where we were this time last year, still with the uncertainty of Covid and gradually starting to get students back into the rhythm of a 'normal' school day, with its expectations and opportunities.

This half term it has been an absolute delight to see students happy and engaging with their learning, new talents emerging, new confidence being found and new friendships developing. Just this morning I was blown away in my weekly Hot Chocolate with the Head by a new Year 7 student discovering his shared interests and ambitions with a student in Year 12. Without prompting, I sat and watched a mentoring session take place right there and then and an acknowledgement from both of them that they now have this 'connection'.

These are the things that are never written about in school league tables but that play such an important part of what we do every day and go such a long way to seeing students achieving in so many ways both academically and socially.

You will find many more examples of the wonderful things that have been going on this half term in our first edition of Sackville News. If you get a moment over the holidays, get a cup of tea, sit back and enjoy some time reading it.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Ms Jo Meloni, Headteacher

Year 11s Celebrate Fantastic Exam Results



Sackville students celebrated a **tremendous set of GCSE grades**. The whoops of delight as students received their results could be heard from the centre of town.

This is the first year group to take official exams for three years.

These students worked so hard and overcame so many pandemic-related barriers that we can say without hyperbole that **never has such a good set of grades been more deserved**.

One student got ten of the very top grade 9s, two others got 7 and two more achieved six. An astonishing **43 students achieved at least one of these very top grades** – a truly magnificent achievement.

Many students also stood out for the outstanding progress made since year 6. Though it's difficult to be precise, we think **more than fifty students have achieved at least one grade higher in each of their subjects than was forms when they left primary school**.

Headteacher, Jo Meloni, said *'We are really proud of everything that this group of students have achieved. They have met the challenges of the past few years head on and with the incredible support, expertise and commitment of our staff, are now able to move on to the next exciting phase of their education'*.

Well done to class of 2022 – never has a cohort of students deserved success more.

Open Evening 2022 – A Great Night!

As always the school was busy for the Open Evening for prospective students. There was a real sense of excitement as another huge number of families visited Sackville to look at what the school is all about. There were three talks by, Ms Jo Meloni, Headteacher, which were all fully booked and there was a great atmosphere around the school. Every department did a great job in showcasing the values that Sackville School stands for.



Young People from Sackville Trained up to Tackle Bullying with the Diana Award

On Tuesday 4 October, 23 students and 4 staff took part in a one-day anti-bullying training session run by The Diana Award. Young people, aged 11-17, worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying in their school by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

The Diana Award's free Anti-Bullying Ambassador programme, which is available to schools across the UK, sees trainers working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. The Diana Award's anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.



The training looked at bullying in different situations including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, students made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues that may arise in their schools and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. They kicked off their action plan by being involved in delivering the big anti-bullying assembly to all year 7, 8 & 9 students.

We can't wait to see what comes next.

Observatory Open Evening Update

On Wednesday 5 October we had our latest observatory open evening. It was great to see over 30 guests of all ages attend and take part. If you are interested in taking part in future the next dates are:

Wednesday 2 November 2022

Wednesday 7 December 2022

Follow the observatory team [here](#) on Facebook to stay up to date!



Year 7 Activity Afternoon



On Friday 30 September our year 7 students attended an activities afternoon. This was an amazing event where over 200 students took part in a range of activities such as bouncy castles, basketball, dodgeball and obstacle courses. The students had a great time as they formed new friendships and created a real year group bond. The hot dogs and doughnuts may have helped too!

It was great to see so many of the new year 7 cohort take part and we are so proud of the community spirit they showed. The afternoon helped them develop a range of our school values and is an excellent way for them to start the year.

Thanks go to Mr Jake Endersby, Leader of Year 7 and Mrs Karen Brown, Transition Co-ordinator, for organising the event, as well as all the staff and sixth form students who offered help and support at the event.



Pathways from Year 11 into year 12



Congratulations to the 70 year 11s who took part in the **KS5 subject taster session** recently, which took place in the sixth form centre. All students were engaged and interested in fact finding about A level choices. Many thanks to the current year 13s who took part in Q&A sessions and talked about how they chose their subjects and what they would like to have known about life in KS5 prior to joining sixth form. More sessions will follow for those students who were unable to make it.

We are really excited to welcome the year 11s to our sixth form open evening, which is taking place on **Tuesday 8 November at 5.00pm**.

Sackville Sixth Form - the first half term



Whilst term only began in September, the Sixth Form team was hard at work in August enrolling students into our large and successful Sixth Form. This is a big and important operation; we are pleased to have enrolled nearly 190 students into our new Year 12. This, combined with over 170 students in Year 13 and 14, makes us a large local sixth form provider. Our Year 13 of 2021/22, some of whom are pictured above on results day in August, are now happily settled either at university (70%+ of the year group), in high quality and competitive apprenticeships, employment or the armed forces. We do, of course, wish them well.

Year 12 of 2022/23 has made a flying start - in addition to the obvious curriculum teaching, our SMSC and curriculum enrichment programmes are well underway. We were delighted to welcome apprenticeship degree speakers from Portsmouth University, a speaker from Cardiff university on how to research a programme of further study along with employment and job apprenticeship opportunity workshops. One such workshop was the health care evening Mrs Smith (Futures Leader) took our students to at the Queen Victoria Hospital. We enjoy strong relations with this hospital and they are always happy to work with us in promoting health care apprenticeship opportunities within the hospital trust.

Our **SMSC** sessions for both **Years 12/13** have been thought provoking and topical. We have had a programme of study celebrating Black History Month this October, along with outside speakers from the Southdown Refugee Project where we openly discussed difficulties faced by immigrants and asylum seekers and the practical help we all as individuals can give.



Last July 30 students, now in Year 13, undertook a **TEFL** (teaching English as a Foreign Language) accredited qualification. These students are able to put the skills learned to good use as we start up our volunteering programme with local primary schools and within our own school.



Year 13 students are working closely with Mrs Bush (UCAS Leader) to perfect and then submit **university applications** and with Mrs Smith on **employment and apprenticeship** opportunities. This week students have

been working with an interview coach and personal statement advisor. This is in addition to the sessions we have had help on CV and application letter writing.

As we approach the latter half of the autumn term, Year 13 students are busy preparing for their first set of mocks. At the same time, we are preparing for our Year 11 into 12 open evening on **Tuesday 8 November** and showing Year 11 students the exciting opportunities that exist in the Sixth Form here; both for study and personal development. We have sought to broaden our curriculum; this set of Year 12 students are the first to be offered Criminology, Child Development and a Maths in Context AS level qualification. They are also embarking on an exciting enrichment programme 'LIFE' which will give opportunities for volunteering, mentoring within the community and extension programmes of study, such as EPQ and online courses.



Year 13 student mentoring Year 8



Year 13 students talking to Year 11 about the pathways into the sixth form

Sociology & Criminology - There's a body in the changing rooms!



P block girls' changing rooms temporarily became a crime scene on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October, when Years 11, 12 & 13 sociologists & criminologists had an immersive experience as homicide investigators. The 'crime scene to court room' workshop [[see more details here](#)], delivered by Zakon consultancy, launched students into a live murder investigation, in which they made the crucial decisions, from handling the initial 999 call, to preserving evidence at the scene and eventually putting a suspect on trial before a jury. They gained an insight into the range of careers available in policing, forensic sciences and the criminal justice system. They were gripped throughout by trainer Simon Smith's morbid examples from his days as a CID officer. The event supports the sociologists' study of crime and deviance and the criminologists' application of their learning to real crime scenarios.



Question Time? Student Leaders help select a new member of the Team Sackville

Recently, I had the opportunity to lead a student interview panel alongside four year 9 and 10 students for a new PE teacher. This was a great experience for the students because for many of them it was the first ever interview experience they have had; it gave them an insight into how interviews work and also the process our staff have to go through in order to be hired. They also got to have a say on who they thought would be the best candidate for the job from a student's perspective. For me it was a good opportunity to gain an understanding of the kind of questions you may be asked in an interview and what the interviewer is looking for. This will aid me in preparing for university interviews in the coming months and future job interviews. It was an invaluable experience given to us by the school and will give us a head start in any future endeavours we may have.

Written by Hannah – Year 13

County Final Heartbreak for Brave Sackville



Sackville v Brighton College

This final was held over from the Summer term. Sackville still had to play their semi-final against Steyning Grammar School which proved to be a walkover. As Sackville won by 10 wickets after bowling out Steyning for 17!

The final proved to be a close affair. Playing at Poynings Cricket Club set in the picturesque Downs on a sunny but cool September day. Sackville won the toss and put Brighton into bat. The Brighton openers had a slow start with some excellent bowling by Ben and Morris this led to a couple of run out chances which unfortunately Sackville were unable to capitalise on. The Brighton openers accelerated the run rate until the introduction

of Harry who bowled with accuracy and picked up a wicket in his first spell. Brighton continued to pick up runs due to some inconsistent bowling and their second wicket partnership took them to 90 just before the start of the 15th over. Harry again broke the partnership bowling the Brighton opener. Harry finished his excellent spell of bowling with figures of 2 wickets for 11 runs in his 4 overs. In the last few overs Brighton tried to accelerate but Ben and Charlie bowled tightly reducing their innings to 122 for 6 off 20 overs.

In reply Sackville started slowly with some excellent bowling by the Brighton opening bowlers.

As Sackville tried to accelerate they began to lose wickets with both Ben and Fewlix both falling cheaply as the pressure mounted to score at 9 an over. This brought Charlie Anderson to the crease with Ben Vale. These two started to put a partnership together with some great pull shots from Ben with a big 6 over mid-wicket off a free hit being the pick of his shots. Charlie off drove each of the Brighton bowlers with ease and power. They kept pace with the run rate, leaving 43 required off the last 5 overs. This then brought back the opening Brighton bowlers who managed to put a squeeze on their runs with some excellent line and length bowling. Unfortunately, Ben was run out for 46 followed quickly by Charlie for 25 having put together a fantastic partnership of 72 for the third wicket which took Sackville close to the target set by Brighton. It was an impossible task for the incoming batsman to score at over 15 an over in the last 2 overs and Sackville fell short by 21 runs, finishing on 100 for 4.



The boys have had a fantastic season as they had already secured the Mid Sussex Schools Area Cup beating The Weald by 9 wickets. They came very close to winning the County Cup and going forward to represent Sussex in the Nationals.



Year 9 Sports Leaders

Mrs Suzanne Currie, PE, ran a year 3 and 4 netball festival on Wednesday 12 October. 120 primary students took part in the event and 17 of our year 9 sports leaders helped run it!

The Sackville students were amazing! Such great characters and role models for the younger children. All the primary schools had a wonderful day!



National Swimming Finals



Congratulations to our senior girls who have qualified for the national finals for the second year in a row. We can't wait to spend another Saturday at the London aquatic centre.

We have had so many great sporting experiences this half term it is impossible to include them all within this edition of the Sackville News. To keep up to date on all we have been up to please follow us on Instagram page @sackvillepeandsport.

Kind regards, PE Department

Medication



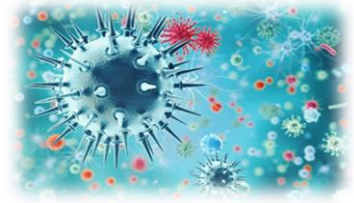
in addition, should your child's medical condition change (i.e., they no longer need to use their inhaler) please contact their year team.

To ensure that we continue to support students when they are unwell, we need to make sure our records are up-to-date. As a school we will continue to administer ad-hoc medication as per the consent slip you have completed. If you wish for this to change, please contact the relevant year team. Should your child be diagnosed with any new medical condition please contact us. In

We will continue to provide the support and medical assistance you have already agreed to unless we hear from you.

Illness

In order to keep the more vulnerable members of our school community safe, a reminder to inform the school if your child contracts any of the following: Chickenpox, Shingles, Measles or Mumps. Please call the relevant year office, thank you in advance.



Welcome to Art" Mural

Over in the art department we have been very busy planning our new "welcome to art mural." The new KS3 Art Club on a Monday, have been designing away for the last 3 weeks and coming up with some amazing ideas for the empty wall space. Painting started in the last week of half term and we hope to have it completed by the second week of the new half term. Students have been very excited about seeing their ideas coming to life and we hope you are as excited about its unveiling as we are. We are hoping to plan a big reveal in the new half term along with a Year 7 bake sale for charity.

Ms Sarah Stirling
Curriculum Leader for Art

