

# Sackville News

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am aware that a lot of what I have written about this year relates to the unique situation we find ourselves in, and I will have more to say about that later, but first I want to celebrate some of the achievements of our community members. Whatever else is going on, you can't keep a good team down!

And team sports were centre stage this week in our two **sports awards 'evenings'**. This is usually a centrepiece of our spring term, replete with pizza and chips for the participants, a full complement of parent visitors and a famous sportsman to present the awards. This week we held two half-hour sessions after school for one for year 10 and one for year 11. The awards were valued by the participants as highly as they ever were. Students who have represented the school at three or more sports received **school colours**. Those who have played at county level or similar received **full colours**.



One special award each year is the **Matt Cox Memorial Award** for the outstanding cricket performance. This year it went to **Liam Dawes** for his big hitting exploits at the crease. Well done everyone!

Mrs Tingley has also been busy rewarding students, this time in her year group. In the picture you can see the **students in year 8 who worked hardest during the summer closure**, after they enjoyed a hot chocolate and a doughnut with me.



Meanwhile year 7 finally got to have their **teambuilding day**. We usually host a year 7 camp early in the term, but of course we have not been able to this year.

Instead **Mr Endersby and his team organised a day of events on Thursday**, including the activity pictured here, aptly called 'chaos'.



The students had an enormous amount of fun, and the energy expended would have powered East Grinstead for a week.

This week **live theatre returned to Sackville**, albeit with an audience respectfully socially distanced. Our year 13 drama students put on a mesmerising performance of **Jim Cartwright's Road**. The play itself is a desolate depiction of deindustrialising Lancashire, and the students gave it added force by **interpreting in the style of Brecht**.

Congratulations to **Aislinn Goss, Leah Griffiths-Ellis, Jack Charlton Nevitt** and **Madeleine Matthews**.



**Engineering and Technology**, and will be able to take part in a number of activities to support her planned route into studying engineering at university.

Congratulations too to **Sophie Taylor** in year 12, our latest **Arkwright Scholar**. Sophie underwent a rigorous application process whilst in year 11 to achieve this prestigious award. The scholarships are awarded to **high-calibre 16 year-old students** through a rigorous selection process and support students through the two years of their A levels. There are none with higher calibre than Sophie – you may remember she achieved a full suite of grade 9s in her recent GCSEs!

Sophie will be sponsored through her scholarship by the **Institute of**

While trips out of school are difficult in the current climate, our **A level law students** managed to visit the **Houses of Parliament** without having to leave the classroom. The **Parliament Education Team** hosted a virtual visit so the students could learn about how laws are made in Parliament.



They even shared how the MPs have been keeping their social distancing in the chambers with **images of the Commons and Lords before and after the Covid secure guidelines**. Students were encouraged to think about **who they would nominate as a life peer** and **what laws they would debate** if they had the opportunity. Our students were interested in the possible removal of the sanitary tax, and found out that it would in fact be removed after we leave the European Union next year.

It was a very useful hour but students did miss out the beautiful architecture of the building. On the other hand they didn't have to grapple with public transport and the tube, and they were able to attend their other lessons that day.

We would like to thank **Mrs Fleming** for organising the visit.



It is always lovely to hear what former students are up to, so we were delighted to hear from former student **Steven Sayell** (class of 2015/2017) who was inspired by his **film A level** to try to get a career in the industry. Last year, he was assistant producer on **'Wings'** now available on Channel 4, a story spanning six-decades about two land girls who met during World War Two. The film stars **Miriam Margolyes** and **Virginia McKenna**, and has **won awards** in LA, Chicago, Atlanta, Texas, Arizona, Sydney and here at home. All together (so far) it has won 12 awards and is up for selection for another 18. Amongst these is the **Iris Prize**, the world's largest short film award. Nomination for this automatically puts the **film in contention for a BAFTA** too.

On a more recent project, working on **Sky Atlantic's 'The Third Day'**, Steven even got to share a Kit Kat with Jude Law!

It's lovely to be able to write about these fantastic achievements of our community. Perhaps our biggest collective achievement this year is how our students and staff have allowed so much teaching and learning to happen this half term. How well this term has gone is beyond our wildest hopes, and I have to once again express my deep gratitude to our staff, our students and their families, all of whom have had to work together to make this happen.



Even this week, when we have had some staff self-isolating, lessons have been delivered to our students remotely from these teachers' sitting rooms. Here you can see **Mr Treen**



delivering a lesson to his year 11 engineers. In such lessons our excellent study supervisors run a Google Meet with the class, and the isolating teachers are able to present to the class and use collaborative tools to support the students throughout the lesson.

As half term has approached, some staff have even taken to having their own **socially distanced tea parties** under our canopy after school!



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October we were visited by the local **Health and Safety Executive team** who had come in to inspect our **system of controls** for dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

We are delighted to say that the team were very pleased with the systems we have in place. In their words '*It was great to see the control measures you have installed for COVID-19 on practice*' and '*we did not find anything during the inspection that required improvements*'.

This gives us great confidence to move into the new half term and the adventures that will bring. First up will be the **sixth form open evening** on November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is being held virtually this year, and parents and students will have the opportunity to listen live to presentations from subject leaders, or watch later on 'catch-up'. Year 11s then start their first set of mock exams on November 9<sup>th</sup>. [Year 11 parents were recently briefed on all of this by Mr Millican](#)

[and Mrs Sands.](#)

There remain significant challenges to life in school of course, but we all feel that this half term has gone extremely well, and we are looking forward to welcoming the students back in the first week of November.

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy half-term break.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

*Sackville has been tremendous during this incredibly difficult time and as a parent, I have assurance that you have both the staff and the children in your best interest at all times – parent of year 8 student*



## GIDAE TAEKWONDO ACADEMY

**INSTRUCTOR:** Miss Natalina Kiely  
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Dear Parents,

TAEKWONDO IS HERE!

We are a family run business and run classes throughout West Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Greenwich Please visit our website [www.gidaetkdacademy.co.uk](http://www.gidaetkdacademy.co.uk). All of our instructors are black belts from 1st Dan to 4th Dan, all DBS checked, safeguarding training and qualified first aides. In addition all instructors have a Martial Arts Covid Safe Certification.

Pupils will be enrolled into the club and taught a range of Taekwondo/Self Defence moves. It is a great opportunity for pupils to learn a new skill, give them confidence and also learn how to protect themselves while having fun at the same time. Not only that, discipline and respect are key fundamentals that we teach in every lesson.

Classes will run every Tuesday and Friday from 6-7pm at Sackville School, Lewes Road, East Grinstead RH19 3TY (excluding half term and holidays) from the 3rd November 2020. Open to all year groups age 11-18. Places are limited so please contact us today to secure your child's place.

If your child wishes to attend or you have any questions, please contact us on 07902987427 or alternatively email us on [gidaetkdacademy@gmail.com](mailto:gidaetkdacademy@gmail.com).

Many thanks,  
Gidae Taekwondo Academy



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