

# Sackville News

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

Term is now **well and truly underway**, and as always there is an **enormous range** of things going on at Sackville to talk about.

**Sport at school** is gradually getting back to normal. This week saw our first interform competition for our year 7s. It was a pleasure to see the students participate with such enthusiasm and I can see that this year group is going to be able to field some strong teams. Results will be announced in form time on Monday.



Our Year 9 buddies enjoyed a reward breakfast with Mr Grant on Tuesday

Overall our **Year 7s** have made a very impressive start to their Sackville careers. Initially they were escorted around the school by our brilliant **buddy team from year 9**, but they mastered the difficulties of the school site so speedily they were soon able to dispense with this support.

This week, they have been sitting **Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)** which require them to spend three lessons completing an online battery of quizzes on our Chromebooks. They are taking the tests because once again **SATs were cancelled this year**, and the CATs will allow us to make sure we are **giving each child the correct level of stretch and support**. I would like to commend the year group on their excellent attitude to these assessments.

Meanwhile for **year 7 parents**, our series of [information workshops](#) started last Thursday, with Mr Treen's session on **eLearning and eSafety**.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, we were finally able to host the **Teenage Cancer Trust** fundraiser which had been postponed twice. A **Sackville staff team** took on last year's **Forest Row U16s**. A close fought game saw the staff run out 2-1 winners, though there was lively debate at the end of the game as to whether the result was deserved! More importantly, a staggering £1600 was raised for the charity, which has supported a number of our students over the last few years. I'd like to thank **Karen Young and James Moon** of the Forest Row team for organising such an enjoyable event, and also the **many local businesses** who offered such **generous raffle prizes**.



The **performing arts** are very special at Sackville, and I am delighted to say we are planning for our usual big musical theatre performance once again. In February 2022 we will be performing **We Will Rock You**, the juke-box musical featuring all of Queen's greatest songs. Ms Whitmore and Mr Heatley have been talking to each year group this week inviting students to auditions.

Anyone who has been lucky enough to see one of our previous shows will know why we are all looking forward to show week with such keen anticipation!

There are always lots of **extra-curricular activities** for students at Sackville. You will recently have had a list of these from Mr Treen, and you can always find them on our [website](#).

Of course, a lot of events this coming year will depend on **successful management of the virus**. Later in this newsletter, Mr Bush has published answers to a helpful set of **frequently asked questions about COVID** for this academic year.

In fact we are still trying to make up for lost time with some of our students. Year 12s finally got to see the **leavers' video** made by **Mrs Sands** for her wonderful year group last summer. The video had some lovely messages from teachers, and some less lovely Tik-Tok routines involving other members of staff!



Meanwhile, a large number of this year's year 11s enjoyed an enrichment session on Wednesday led by **Mrs Valentine, Mr Millican and Mrs Smith** in which they looked at routes through university to different careers. Students were invited to browse a number of displays showing what subjects would need to be studied after year 11 for different careers. The displays were ably staffed by members of our sixth form, and will definitely assist our students when choosing level 3 subjects after the sixth form open evening next half term.

The big event this week of course is **Open Evening**. I was once again humbled by the lengths our students and staff went to in order to show just what a great school Sackville is. I am glad to say prospective parents were equally impressed and we look forward to seeing many come on a morning tour next week. [Booking](#) is essential for these tours.



Some pictures from our open evening follow.

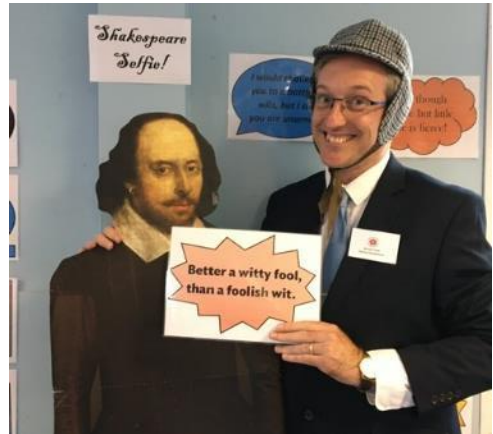
Finally, a special congratulation to **Macey Davis** in year 9 for an amazing performance in the **South East Gymnastics Championships** last Saturday. Competing in the 13-18 age group, she was crowned **all round champion**, and has now been selected to represent the South East of England in the National Finals in November.

On that wonderfully positive note, it just remains for me to wish you the best for the INSET day and the weekend.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Open Evening 2021 in pictures





# COVID Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for parents, autumn 2021

Mr Bush writes:-

## My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What should I do next?

If the test taken was a lateral flow test, then you should book a PCR test for confirmation. Your child should self-isolate at home until the results of this PCR test is known, and if it is positive they must continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the isolation period. If it is negative they can return to school. Please keep the year office and attendance team up to date with the situation. Other members of the household are advised to book a PCR test as well but may continue with work or school whilst awaiting the results, unless advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace. (See next question)

## A member of our household has tested positive for Covid-19. Can my child still attend school?

The government recommendation is for everyone in the household to book a PCR test due their close contact with the infected person. It is not necessary to self-isolate whilst awaiting these results so your child can continue to attend school unless advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace. However, we would ask that they complete a lateral flow test each day until there is no longer anyone infectious in the household. Spare lateral flow kits can be collected from year offices or the main reception.

## My child has been informed that they are a close contact of somebody who has tested positive for covid-19. What should I do?

The government recommendation is for you to book your child a PCR test. It is not necessary to self-isolate whilst awaiting these results so your child can continue to attend school. However, we would ask that they complete a lateral flow test each day until there is no longer anyone infectious in the household. Spare lateral flow kits can be collected from year offices or the main reception.

## Is my child allowed to wear a face covering in school?

Yes, your child is free to wear face covering whenever and wherever they wish.

## When should lateral flow tests be taken?

Please ensure lateral flow tests are taken every Wednesday and Sunday and report the result to the NHS via [this link](#). Remember, lateral flow tests are only to be used to identify asymptomatic cases, i.e. those who do **not** have symptoms. Anyone displaying Covid symptoms should immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test. Spare lateral flow kits can be collected from year offices or the main reception.

## How long will lateral flow testing continue?

Lateral flow testing will continue for as long as we are advised to by central government.



Our brilliant COVID testing team got the school off to a safe and healthy start to the academic year

# Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds: Sussex NHS message for parents

This message is from the local NHS.

*The Government has announced that people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).*

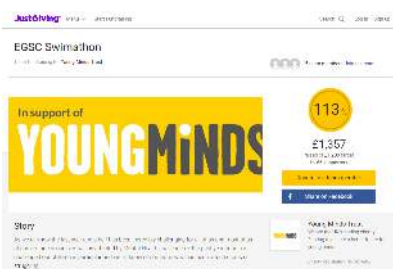
*The government has accepted the advice of the four UK CMOs and the NHS is preparing to deliver a schools-based vaccination programme, which is the successful model used for vaccinations including for HPV and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP), supported by GPs and community pharmacies. Invitations for vaccination will begin next week.*

*In Sussex, plans have been developed to run vaccination sessions in schools and over the next six weeks each school will be offered a visit to provide the vaccination for 12 to 15 year old students. Parental, guardian or carer consent will be sought by vaccination healthcare staff prior to vaccination in line with existing school vaccination programmes.*

*We will write out to every parent, guardian or carer with the details of this session for our school, the consent process, and next steps.*

*In the meantime, we recognise that you may have questions – please visit <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme> for the latest information.*

## East Grinstead Swimathon



A number of our students are involved in the East Grinstead Swimming Club Swimathon raising funds for the **Young Minds Trust**.

They have chosen this charity to support young people who have been particularly affected by the last eighteen months. You can donate to support the swimmers [here](#).

## Exams 2022

The **Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)** asks us to share each year key information for exam candidates.

For the current academic year you can find the information [here](#).

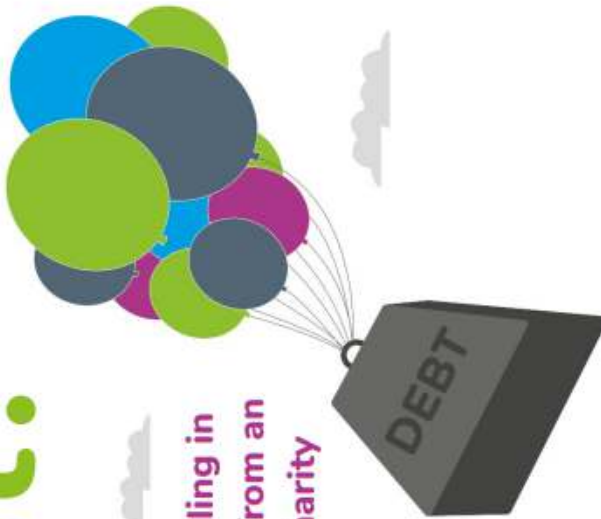
We are also looking for **invigilators** for the coming academic year. Please see our [website](#) for details.

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# Harvest Christmas Appeal!



Tinned Fruit, Custard & Rice Pudding, Jam  
Tinned Tuna, Hot Dogs, Ham, Meatballs & Tomatoes  
Tubs of sweets, Biscuit selection boxes  
Tinned vegetables, Packets of biscuits  
Pasta sauce, Tubes of crisps

Please ensure all items are in date - THANK YOU!