

Sackville News

Friday 25th September 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin this week by once again saying **how well the students have settled in to the new COVID-secure ways of working**. We always have high expectations of our students, but I can emphatically say that they have surpassed even these. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in making the first month of the school year so successful.

Our **open day** was a little different this year of course. We used our second school **INSET day** to invite seven separate groups of up to sixty parents and prospective students to enjoy a **safe physically distanced presentation and tour of the school**. Using the INSET day meant that our open day was not at the expense of students' learning.

Our **senior sixth form students** were magnificent in leading the tours and our visitors left having been **able to talk to teachers in every subject area** and get a **real flavour of the school**. We have now also released **two videos** of the day on our website which may be of interest. The **virtual tour** is particularly enjoyable!

We continue to live in challenging times of course, and as a result **we have decided to change how we feedback to parents of year 11 students this term**.

It will **not be possible to run parents' evening in its usual format** and regrettably we are therefore replacing the evening with an alternative that still allows parents to receive feedback pertinent to each subject as well as engaging in information about the upcoming mock exams.

On **Friday 9th October**, students will receive a sheet with an **attitude to learning grade** and a **short concise comment** for each subject. The comment will give advice on where to focus in the run up to mocks. We will **not include a current 'working at' grade** at this time; these will be **sent home after the mock exams**. As already shared, the mock exams have been brought forward to earlier than usual, now commencing week beginning **Monday 9th November**; this will enable the 'working at' grades to reach you **well before the end of term** and be based on solid evidence.

In addition you will be invited to attend a **virtual meeting with Mr Millican and Mrs Sands**, to discuss

- what support has been put in place leading up to this set of mock exams
- how parents can best support their child through the mock period
- how you can receive feedback from teachers, if you have a specific subject concern/question.

This meeting will be held several times during the week beginning **12th October**, so that you are able to choose a slot that suits you. We will also **record this meeting** for any parents who cannot attend a live meeting. More information will follow in due course.



I am pleased to see how well the **canteen ordering system** is currently running. If there are students who are struggling making packed lunches in the mornings, I am happy to say we are now in a position where our canteen can serve more meals than it currently is. It is an excellent service which ensures that your child receives her/his food **very promptly** at the start of the lunch break as it is delivered to their particular zone.

Please remember to cancel any meals booked in the case of **student absence** by adding **catering@sackvilleschool.org.uk** to your email reporting this, and a refund can be made.

I would like to thank parents who contributed to our **Chromebook Fund** last term. We have purchased four new machines which will soon be available for students who do not have access to online learning materials at home.

I end this week with a plea. Understandably a larger number of students are arriving in cars this year, but this can create problems for our neighbours at the start and end of the day.

Please can I ask that **parents and carers park carefully and legally** even though it is for a short time? Also I would be most grateful if you could remind your child about the importance of not riding bicycles on pavements and moving over on the pavement when members of the public are approaching from the other direction. Our students are **extremely well behaved**; this reminder reflects the context of the current times when awareness levels need to be high.

In the meantime, best wishes for a peaceful weekend.

Julian Grant
Headteacher





**If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste**

**This could be a sign of
coronavirus**

Book a test

**If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell**

**But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste**

**These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus**

**Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP**