



# SACKVILLE NEWS



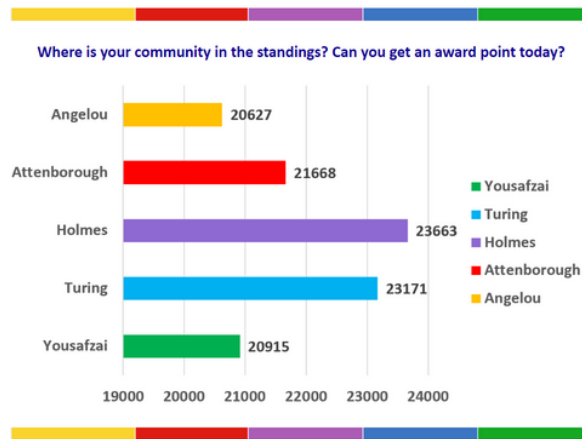
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Community points
- Christmas readings
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
- Futures visits
- Art
- DT
- Sixth Form update
- Online safety
- Sport
- Governors update
- Community notices

...and more

### Our Smaller Communities

Our Communities have really started to make a difference to life in school and we are only at the very start of that journey. We will be sending a special round-up of things they have got up to at the start of the new term and they all get ready to decide their individual charities for the year



### How the Achievement points add up after our first term!

Students gain achievement points for modelling our values and Sackville way. As well as their engagement in activities, their punctuality and attendance. Big congratulations to Holmes Community who are leading the way but its a slim margin with a long way to go.



### Headteacher's Message

As ever, our Sackville community has ended the year with a number of highs. Carol service, Rotary santa sleigh collection, celebration assemblies, Christmas lunches, Y7 transition celebration assembly, gym and dance show, Winter Concert and a christmas card competition to name a few.

I am incredibly proud of our students and our whole community.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from this term and wish you all a happy and peaceful festive break.

**Jo Meloni**



## Breakfast in T01 – Alternative Support

Breakfast was made and hosted on Wednesday this week by students from the Alternative Provision, led by Mrs Broad and Mrs Abel, as part of the life skills sessions. C Bowers Yr 8 was instrumental in delivering leaflets to staff in advance, preparing cups of tea and wonderful home cooked festive treats for the staff.

## LRC Christmas Readings

Mr Roberts read some lovely Christmas Stories and Poems at lunchtime this week, to a captive audience in the LRC. A wonderful treat for the children to listen and reflect on the coming weeks ahead.

Thank you Mr Roberts, Christmas week just would not be the same without you.



## Anti Bullying Ambassadors

A few weeks ago, myself and some other anti-bullying ambassadors went to Seaford high and received training to be Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, working towards the Diana Award. Sackville and some other schools went as well, where we were taught about what classes as 'bullying behaviour', how to identify if someone may be being 'bullied' and how to best support peers who are experiencing 'bullying behaviour' or may have 'bullied'. There were different situations where we had to talk to our peers about how we would respond. Along with that, we played many games, including doing a 'Let's Dance' to Ghostbusters. It was Halloween after all! There are multiple badges to collect, which our anti-bullying ambassadors are working towards; we are hoping to get our wellbeing badge by creating a happy, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Watch this space!

Thanks to Mrs Hallums and Mr Thompson for accompanying us.  
By Nevaeh Plummer 7LWM/Angelou

In the photo: T Broughton, F Wyatt, Z Mewis, I Diamond, N Plummer, H Deacon, L Hawkes





## SACKVILLE – PUTTING FUTURES FIRST with ‘Find it out Thursdays’

As part of the careers programme Sackville offers their students we run the weekly event, ‘Find It out Thursdays’. Here is a brief run down of the people we have had in this term:

### Shionagh Kerr – Physiotherapist

Shionagh spoke about her rewarding work including the training required. Her enthusiasm for the job was contagious and the fact that no two days are ever the same. The opportunities that her role has brought her were fascinating. She spoke about assisting at the London Marathon and the behind the scenes volunteers that nobody thinks about, the fact that once qualified you would be able to find work all over the world. There are many different avenues that physios can work in from professional sports teams to working with the NHS or working for yourself. You are able to specialise in different areas, the opportunities are huge. What a fascinating and inspiring talk.

#### Talk about the technology in industry

Students were fortunate enough to hear first hand how the IT industry has changed, expanded and developed over the last few years. They heard about the opportunities this expanding industry could hold and were given advice on how to enter. We touch on AI and how that has developed and the impact on the industry. Students were given a lot of food for thought.

### Matt Bingham – Head of Sales

Matt came in and spoke about the Sales industry, techniques they use, how to join the industry and tips on the range of jobs within it. He spoke about how to engage with people, the skills required for the role and the fact that listening is a key part of being successful. He also discussed strategies for putting people at ease whether that be in the language you use, the setting for meetings and even the way you present yourself. These were all tips that students can use in any walk of life.

### Katherine Ferry – Historian

Kathryn came in to highlight the many roles that a historian can hold or work with and not just teach history. Kathryn explained how she and colleagues have helped to protect historical buildings, the various skilled crafts people work to restore and preserve buildings for generations to come. We found out about the various charities and professional bodies that are linked to the work of historians. East Grinstead having so many wonderful examples of historic buildings meant that we learned about buildings we walk past everyday. Kathryn specialises in beach and seaside history and through this has had books published, has worked with some famous people and does broadcasts on both TV and radio. She also spoke about the benefits and drawbacks of being self employed, a very useful lesson for all the students that had signed up.

### Lara Scrivener – Veterinary nurse

Lara works at Carewell Vets in Lingfield and returns to Sackville to speak to students about the wonderful work she does and the opportunities that her profession offers.

Students learnt about Lara’s duties and responsibilities, the huge variety of jobs and animals that she deals with and the life saving work she and her colleagues can face. She talked about the skills required to enter the field of veterinary medicine, the various routes available, the grades required and offered advice on how to get practical experience ready for the application process. At the end of her presentation students had the opportunity to ask questions. We would like to thank Lara for her continued support to Sackville students.



### Simon – British Army

Our final talk was from the Army, and as always is very popular with students and finding out about the many various roles that are on offer is fascinating. The training and apprenticeships are numerous from catering, musical to engineering and beyond. Simon spoke about the two routes available to students, either straight form GCSE’s or after taking A Levels. He spoke about the fast scope of professions that are available, the way of life, what is expected of recruits, a typical day and the opportunities for travel. We had a student join last year and has started his training and we have one from this year's year 11 who has applied. I am sure both will have some amazing experiences and I hope they will come back and share them with us at some point in the future.

If any parent/carer or associate would be willing to come in and speak to students about their professions please contact Helen Smith on [hsmith@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:hsmith@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

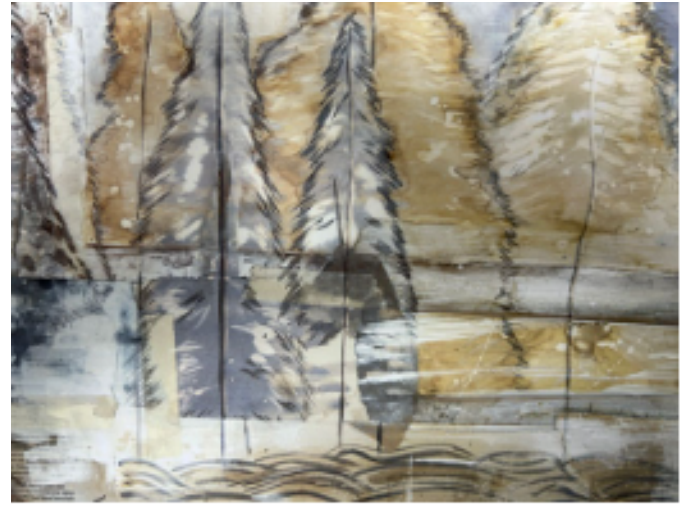
Thank you for reading, Helen Smith, Futures Leader

## Art - Community Christmas card competition

Another year another Christmas card competition completed. A massive congratulations to those who not only won but also took part. We have some incredibly talented students in this school and are very proud of their efforts and achievements. A huge well done to our overall winner Oscar Duggan, who had his card selected as the Sackville School Christmas card 2023!  
Wish you a very Merry Christmas.



**1st Place**  
O Duggan 7CTN Turing



**6th Form Winner**  
E Attwater Holmes



**2nd Places**  
L Rolland Year 8 Turing



**2nd Places**  
S Maxwell Year 7 Attenborough



**3rd Place**  
O Stonley Year 7 Yousafzai



**3rd Place**  
E Staton Year 7 Angelou



**3rd Place**  
R Tanko Year 7 Attenborough



## Art – Community Christmas card competition



**Highly Commended**  
P Lock Year 8 Turing



**Highly Commended**  
P Sands Year 8 Yousafzai



**Highly Commended**  
A Tudoran Year 7 Yousafzai



**Highly Commended**  
I Brown Year 8 Turing



Even the staff got involved!

**Staff Competition Winner**  
Alison Clark, LSA – Yousafzai

## Textiles Club

Some festive ideas the Textiles club have been coming up with for the chilly nights:  
Christmas Hand warmers.

Left J Kelly 7HMS, right A Taylor 9CPN





# Food Technology

Yr 10 had a practical option to make a choice of biscuits or yule log to take home to their families for a christmas treat. Here are some of their wonderful delights.

Mrs V. Slater  
Curriculum Team Leader, Food Technology





## SIXTH FORM NEWS

We have a lot to celebrate this half term – whilst some great individual and group events have taken place, it is also important not to overlook that students across KS5 have worked hard and attended well. We are always monitoring, tracking and following up our attendance. As a result of this, our attendance in the 6th form at form times, SMSC, lessons and supervised study is at an all time high. We thank families and students for working with us on this. Many students have excelled in individual and team events. The KS5 Band has been hard at work both performing and practising this half term. Students have performed at the Winter Concert, Carol Service, Community Celebration Assemblies and at school Christmas lunches. We look forward to more from them in the school show next term. I would like to start by highlighting one of our most successful fundraising events, the year 12 business Christmas market organised by Mr Dupoy (Deputy Head of Sixth Form.) This event combined both curriculum learning and charity work.



### Business Christmas Market

Students were tasked to create their own Christmas market stall in aid of the Grocott Centre, a place for young adults with learning difficulties to have access to educational days out. The event on Tuesday, 12th December raised over £370 for the charity which is truly fantastic!



### SANTA SLEIGH

Thank you to all the sixth formers who gave up their evening to do a Rotary Christmas Charity Collection on Santa's Sleigh around areas in East Grinstead. Even though the weather was very wet, students still managed to enjoy themselves with Mr Dupoy and Mr de Souza parading as Santa and Santa's helper. THANK YOU!

Collection totals are still being totted up but the students were a real credit to the school!



We have also had some great individual efforts from students, and in the case of yr13, many of these sustained over an extended period of time for their LIFE programme. We congratulate Erin and Macie for their work at the FoodBank – please see this link for the film they have produced about the invaluable work of the foodbank– click [here](#) Mary has volunteered at Edenbridge Hospital, Josh is a young carer to a severely disabled young adult – he is actively involved in all aspects of care for this person – and Veronika who entertained families and students arriving for the sixth form open evening with her piano playing. We are proud of these students, along with the many of our unseen and unsung heroes.

I am also proud to report on students who are furthering their own career aims and aspirations through sourcing relevant and in some cases additional work placements to enhance their chances of gaining offers of training or employment – whether it be through UCAS or the apprenticeship schemes on offer. Sam and Linn have both undertaken Vet Med opportunities in their own time; other students have worked hard on their applications for universities and apprenticeships. We thank Mrs Bush and Mrs Smith, in particular for their enduring help on the application processes.

## SIXTH FORM NEWS (cont)

Mrs Bull continues to play a key role in our sixth form team as our sixth form intervention leader. Mrs Bull works with students, form tutors and the sixth form team, helping students address attendance issues and giving practical assistance on how to tackle mental wellbeing, particularly for those facing public exams.

Mrs Bull was delighted to recruit 16 yr12 students to undertake Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA), delivered by our very own Mrs Nibloe. These students are now in a position to offer MHFA to our younger students in the school.

Similarly Ms Godden has recruited and trained in excess of 50 reading buddies from yr12 and yr13 to help with lower school reading,

Mrs Sands has trained some 6th form Anti Bullying Ambassadors – again to work with younger students – and Mr Dupoy has trained mentors across the 6th form who can support the whole school mentoring programme in the younger years.

We were delighted that some of our sixth form students came into school to help with our year 11 into 12 Taster Day for prospective students coming into our sixth form in September 2024.

Our university applications process continues to go from strength to strength. Many students are now receiving competitive offers from a range of universities. Many of our students receive reduced offers or awards for their extra curricular dedication – Emily for example continues to play for and train with Harlequins Under 18; students who have an EPQ are now reaping the benefits of this in their university and apprenticeship offers.



It is always great to welcome back past students:

- Neeve Theobald Smith (2020 leaver) joined us to talk about her flourishing career in the health service as an Operating Department Technician.
- Aminah Rahman (2020 leaver) graduated this year from UCL with a first class degree in Biomedical Sciences;
- Alex Flude (2021 leaver) spoke fluently and enthusiastically to yr13 students in assembly about his BSc course at University of East Anglia in Global Development and the Environment
- Emma Smyth (2023 leaver) is flourishing in Salford on her BBC Journalism apprenticeship.



### Exam Season

In January, some of our KS5 students sit external unit exams of their Btec. At the end of January yr 13 students begin their mock exams. We wish all students well in these exams.

### Sixth form information evening

Our next key date is Thursday 18 January 2024 when we are holding a sixth form information evening for families and students. We will forward information shortly and we look forward to welcoming you then. The Sackville sixth form team wishes you all the very best for the holiday period and for 2024.

Helen Valentine and Sackville Sixth Form Team



## SPOTLIGHT ON ONLINE SAFETY

### Safe Shopping Guide for a Fraud-Free Christmas

As the joyous season of giving approaches, many of us turn to online shopping to find the perfect gifts for our loved ones. However, this surge in online activity also attracts the attention of cybercriminals who prey on unsuspecting shoppers. To ensure a safe and secure holiday shopping experience, here are five essential tips to help you protect yourself from fraud:

#### 1. Shop with Reputable Retailers

Before making a purchase, always check the legitimacy of the website. Ensure the website's address starts with "https" and has a valid security certificate. Look for the padlock icon in the browser's address bar. Reputable retailers will also have a physical address, contact information, and positive customer reviews readily available.

#### 2. Be Suspicious of Overly Good Deals

Cautious scepticism is your best friend in the online shopping world. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Phishing scams often lure victims with enticing offers that are too good to pass up. Research the item's true market value to avoid falling prey to these traps.

#### 3. Protect Your Personal Information

Never share your personal information, such as your full name, address, phone number, or credit card details, on unverified websites or through suspicious emails. Only enter sensitive information on secure websites that start with "https" and have a padlock icon. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) whenever possible to add an extra layer of protection to your accounts.

#### 4. Be Cautious of Social Media Promotions

Be wary of social media promotions that direct you to a website or ask you to click on links. Phishing scams often disguise themselves as legitimate social media posts or messages. Before clicking on any links, hover over them to check the actual website address. If the URL doesn't match the advertised company, it could be a scam.

#### 5. Keep Your Software Updated

Regularly updating your operating system, browser, and antivirus software is crucial for safeguarding your device against malware and security vulnerabilities. Outdated software can provide hackers with a backdoor into your computer, allowing them to steal your personal information or install malicious software.

By following these simple tips, you can navigate the online shopping world with confidence and enjoy a fraud-free Christmas experience. Remember, if something feels suspicious, it probably is. Err on the side of caution, and always prioritize your online security. Happy shopping and a very Happy Christmas

#### Mr A Vallally-Godfrey

Online Safety and Digital Learning Lead



**Online Safety at Sackville**

PRIORITISING ONLINE SAFETY & DIGITAL WELLBEING

## SACKVILLE SPORT

The Yr 8 boys that we took to Hurstpierpoint college took part in 6 rugby work-shops in the morning on 15 November. They had four games in the afternoon to utilise the skills learnt, they listened well, and worked so well as a team.

An absolute credit to the school. I was proud to go with them. They were amazing.

**Eunice Taylor**



### Sackville Students perform at the NEC Super Weekender Dance Convention

Sackville students from Urban City dance elite group 'DVSN' were dancing again and winning awards at the NEC Super Weekender Dance Convention.

Younger students placed 2nd in their Team competition, and more senior Sackville gained 3rd place.

AJ Marsh & J Devlin placed 5th in their Duo competition. They designed their own routine, not knowing what music will be played, until they are on the stage and it starts playing. They have to be able to pick up the beat and dance.

There were also masterclasses with top-level choreographers including world champions that the children could attend, and The Royal Family Dance Crew was watching them perform.



Sackville students from Year 7:

AJ M & Jenna D - Turing  
Belle E & Bethan L - Attenborough  
Ayda M - Yousafzai  
Lara B - Holmes



# GOVERNORS ANNOUNCEMENT

## New Governors

Following our recent request for nominations for parent governor, we had applications from two parents who were both really strong candidates with very valuable experience to strengthen the skills of the governing body. Since nominations closed we have had a further vacancy open up in the category of co-opted governor so we have been able to appoint both candidates onto the governing board. We have asked one to fill the parent governor vacancy and the other our co-opted vacancy.

Below are their application statements:

### Anthony Cheeseman

I am a serving Police Officer with Sussex Police. I have been an officer since 2006 and have worked in a number of roles such as on Response, Neighbourhoods and within OPS Command. I am currently an inspector based at Gatwick. I have a number of responsibilities on top of my day job such as chair of our Race Equality Network, and operational lead for national programmes such as Police Now which aimed to break the link between crime and deprivation. I have worked closely with schools within Sussex and partner agencies over the years around safeguarding education and recruitment. Originally from South London, my wife and I settled in East Grinstead in 2008 when I transferred to Sussex Police from Surrey Police. We have two children, the oldest of which currently attends Sackville. Educationally, I hold a masters degree in Policing, Policy and Leadership complimenting my varied professional experience. I am comfortable working with people of all ages and backgrounds on a 1:1 basis as I am in groups and when addressing large audiences

### Tiffany Vickery

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Parent Governor. As a parent and a professional committed to the well-being and educational development of children, I believe that active parental involvement is crucial in fostering a positive learning environment. I have been actively engaged in my children's education at Sackville and have a keen interest in contributing to the school's development. Over the years, I have gained valuable insights into the school's challenges and successes and am particularly passionate about advocating for the needs of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). As a parent of two children with SEN requirements, I understand firsthand the importance of fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment for all children. I am committed to being a strong advocate for the voice of parents, ensuring concerns and insights are considered in decision-making processes. I believe that a collaborative approach between parents and the school is crucial for the holistic development of all children. Furthermore, my professional background in education has equipped me with skills and knowledge to contribute to effective governance. I hold an MSc in Education Management and Leadership and believe this uniquely positions me to contribute to the continued success and development of Sackville's school community. In addition, as a Chartered Manager through the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) I have the skills to ask pertinent questions and drive initiatives that align with the school's goals and values. I am confident that my strategic perspective will contribute to the continuous improvement of Sackville and equip me with the ability to assess and enhance the quality of both educational and pastoral programs, ensuring they meet the diverse needs of all students. In conclusion, I am excited about the opportunity to serve as a Parent Governor at Sackville. My combination of professional expertise, advocacy for SEN, and strategic experience positions me well to contribute positively to the school's governance.

## Retiring Governors

We also take this opportunity to thank retiring governors Anna Kilpatrick and Dani Flude for their hard work and support over many years. We are happy to have Dani now on the staff in the Safeguarding and Welfare office so it's not goodbye and Anna remains a Sackville parent too. They have both been very generous with their time and a great support to the school.

### Emmeline Kane and Jo Meloni

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**ARIEL DRAMA ACADEMIES SATURDAYS**  
**DRAMA SINGING DANCE**



**EAST GRINSTEAD**

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**01444 - 250407 WWW.ARIELCOMPANYTHEATRE.COM**

 **GIRLS RUGBY**

**UI2 & UI4's (Years 7 - 9)**  
Sunday 9.15 - 10.30am & Wednesday 7 - 8pm

**UI6's & UI8's (Years 10 - 13)**  
Sunday 11 - 12.30am & Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm

**ALL ABILITY & EXPERIENCE WELCOME**



Contact us now: [girls@egrfc.com](mailto:girls@egrfc.com)

**EAST GRINSTEAD RFC**  
The Gearon Pavilion, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead,  
West Sussex RH19 4JU

T: 01342 322338  
[www.egrfc.com](http://www.egrfc.com)

## CUB NIGHT AT SACKVILLE

We had a group of 25 Cubs getting working towards their science badge over 2 consecutive Wednesday evenings in November. We all enjoyed learning about heart rate and exercise, how acids react with metals and we even made an indicator solution.

Thanks go to all the hard working Cub leaders and volunteers, as well as the science technician team for helping to sort out the resources required for it. Here's hoping it might inspire a few to consider careers in science related subjects in the future.

**Mariona Tingley (Science teacher) and James Costain (IT Technician)**





AND FINALLY...



**It is my privilege to share a few moments with you at Christmas time.**

It's that time of year when we pause to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We decorate our homes which cheers us up in the middle of winter. We have a break from our normal routine, and we make a special effort to meet up with friends and family that we don't see all year round. We eat and drink together, we give presents and, if we are very fortunate, we receive as well. In lots of our homes, it is a time for generosity, generosity of time, generosity of money, generosity of thoughts and emotions. I've spoken before about a poem called the 'Work of Christmas' and when all the celebrations have passed, we face the rest of winter before the coming of spring. It's a time when our generosity of time, talents, money and thoughts is most needed by so many people who, through no fault of their own, need help and support and some care.

On Advent Sunday, the 3rd December, I attended a service in Wells Cathedral in Somerset. The preacher talked about generosity. He spoke about a homeless woman who had been living in a leaky land rover in a lay-by. Before it was too late for her, she was helped by a charity to get a start in a new home. Her reaction, of course, was incredible gratitude for that new start but, way above and beyond that, she was overwhelmed that someone cared about her. In February this year, I was behind an elderly lady at the checkout in my local Co-op store. She had a mobile walking frame and she seemed to be taking a long time with the cashier to sort herself out. To my surprise, for once I wasn't angry or irritated at her slowness or for me being delayed, I just waited patiently for my turn and I watched. The lady put a couple of items into the tray under her walking frame to take with her, then she picked up all the other things, in fact most of her shopping and she walked away from the counter. She took those tins and jars and put them in the Food Bank donation basket. Then she paid and left with her newspaper and TV guide. When I got to the counter, I remarked to the guy serving me at her generosity and he replied that she came in and did that most days. I was more than a little overwhelmed.

Christmas is a time to give.

Many years ago, when I sang in choirs, I loved to sing the Christmas Carol, In The Bleak Midwinter

The last verse of that is:

What can I give him?

Poor as I am

If I were a shepherd

I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man

I would do my part

Yet what I can I give him

Give him my heart

Give him my heart.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANmgEFa5QvU>]

My hope and prayer this Christmas is that each and everyone of us will give generously whatever we can for others, be it time, talents, money or simply caring about someone less well off than us. Finally, as always, may I wish you all a blessed, peaceful, joyful and, most especially, a generous

Christmas. Happy Christmas to you all.

**Jim Roberts**