

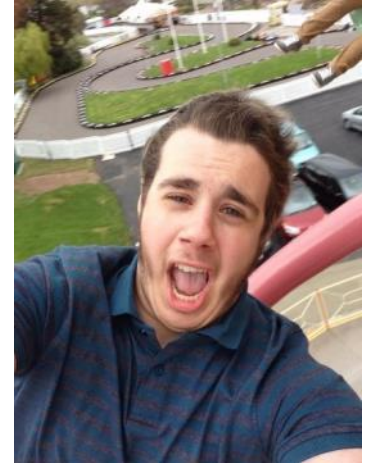
Sackville News

26th May 2016



Dear Parents,

Communities always face both good and challenging times and in this respect Sackville is, of course, no exception. I am sure that parents will be aware of the passing away last week of **Matt Rieley** who had fought cancer so bravely over the past three years. Matt was a wonderful, selfless student who contributed so much to the school in so many ways. In more recent times he worked with our site team, cheerfully throwing himself into looking after our site and refusing to allow the increased pain he was suffering to be a barrier to his energy and positivity. Matt was heavily involved in sport both in and outside school and few will ever forget his tremendous contribution to the school shows, which he loved. This year's production of 'Our House' was particularly special to him and how great it was to see him dance on the stage on the final night.



Matt's funeral will be on the Thursday of half term and our sincere condolences go out to his family. As we expressed on our website at the time of his passing away, our community is, indeed, immeasurably diminished with his passing.

At times like these, the importance of our togetherness is emphasised all the more and it has been good to **welcome many of you to the school** whether it be for the year 7 parents' evening with subject teachers, for the year 10 reports afternoon with tutors, for meetings about forthcoming trips such as the one to Spain in June, or to discuss opportunities in higher education for our year 12 students. All events have been well attended and fruitful.

As usual, we do ask parents to give us **feedback** via a survey at all the major parents' evenings as we need to be clear about what are seen as our strengths and our areas for further improvement. This term, we held a survey at the year 7 parents' evening and were really pleased with the responses which indicated that students and their families had settled in well. One parent commented:-

'This year has been the best year of education my son has had in all the years he has been in education. His progress, attitude and development have been amazing'



Our **year 12 higher education evening** was an important occasion to look at such an important area of decision making for a young person's future. Adrian de Souza, deputy head and editor of Sackville News, played a key role in this event. He rarely accepts compliments so I am delighted to share the following parental letter about the evening:-



'Dear Mr Grant

My wife and I just wanted to express our appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Sackville staff who gave parents and students such helpful advice at yesterday's forum on applying for university.

It is clear that your staff are well informed and experienced and that they are giving Sackville pupils excellent advice and support as they begin their applications for university. It was much less complicated when we were applying back in the 1970s! It is good to know that the students are being so well served by their teachers.

We were especially grateful to Mr de Souza for giving an informative and honest summary of the suitability of university for students and the likely career prospects afterwards. He had clearly put a lot of work into his talk and we are really grateful to him.

Thank you once again for a really useful and informative session.'

I am continually grateful to parents for the significant contributions made towards the success of the school. Thank you especially to Mr Goodwin, a year 8 parent, who has recently given up 10 hours of his time to run **drama workshops** with year 10 BTEC, year 12 AS and year 12/13 BTEC classes. These sessions were a rewarding and invaluable experience for the students.



Our young people are, of course, always at the heart of everything we do and they have embraced the challenging times of **examinations**



magnificently. We have actually had cohorts from year 9, year 10, year 11, year 12 and year 13 all sitting external examinations over the past few weeks and years 11, 12 and 13 will continue to do so until well into June. We have endeavoured to support them in the best way possible and have been pleased to offer an individualised timetable/revision package, including at holiday time, to all year 11 students. GCSE students, whichever year they are in, have attended our exam briefing breakfasts in large numbers. We believe these occasions are important as a final preparatory step and, significantly, in making that journey to the exam hall together as a mutually supportive team.

Our sixth formers face a busy time of AS and A level examinations and this time of year also marks the election of a new **Head Team**. I was pleased to host a lunch for the outgoing Head Team (who haven't quite finished yet!) and our new team in the conference room. The current team have led the school with skill, dedication and enthusiasm this year and they will be a hard act to follow. However, we have great faith in our new leaders and in the many other year 12 students who will be supporting them over the next year. The teamwork of the most senior year group always sets the tone for the whole school.

I would like to offer my best wishes to the following Head Team 2016-17 members:-

Esme Foreman – Head Girl
Jessica Argy – Deputy Head Girl

Joe Roberts-Percy – Head Boy
Angus Gallagher – Deputy Head Boy



Pictured from left to right: Julian Grant, Dale Whitehead, Helen Valentine, Michael Tarpey, Michael Turnbull, Tristan Hall, Nicole De Barra, Emma Baker, Roxana Diba, Joe Roberts-Percy, Esme Foreman, Angus Gallagher, Jess Argy

Elsewhere in the sixth form, year 12/13 Btec students were worked hard to prepare a performance of the Mousetrap as their final examination piece. They did not disappoint; it was an excellent production enjoyed by an attentive audience. For Emmy, Cailean, Rhian, Hannah, Zohar, Alice, Ethan and Hope this was their last show of many at Sackville. For these year 13s we say thanks for all the indelible memories. To the whole cast and crew, we express our appreciation of a great show. Well done!



Pictured from left to right: Chloe Marcham, Emmy Russ, Shanjhana Rahman, Cailean Burns, Jess Argy, Alex Brooker, Hannah Evans, Zohar Shay, Alice Jones, Rhian Gillah, Ethan Ingram, Hope Fuller

Finally, it is good to end on a positive communal note and share an act of kindness and good responsibility brought to my attention by local police officers last week:-

'We are writing to let you know that some of your students acted in a very supportive manner to a young female this weekend. They protected her, ensured that police and ambulance were called (which was entirely appropriate), and they remained on scene to help.

We thanked them at the time and felt that an email to their school is fully deserved.

We heard explanations that the girl was not a friend as such but they felt a need to step in and help because if it was their sister in a similar situation then they would like to think someone would take care of her.

Our thanks go to this group of Sackville students who demonstrated a range of good life skills including common sense and care for others.

*With kind regards,
PCSO Erica Baxter and PCSO Stephen Low'*

Society can be quick to criticise teenagers which makes a letter like this all the more welcome and well deserved. None of us are without fault and we all make mistakes, but Sackville students are fine young people.

Best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher

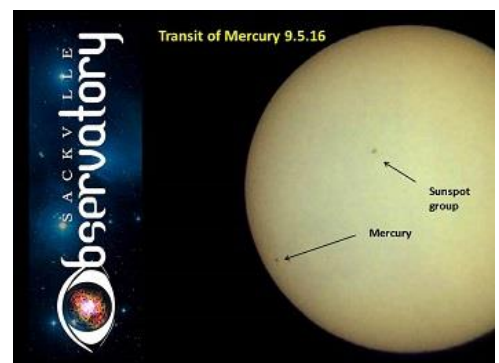
News from Science

The Transit of Venus

It's a quiet time of year for extra-curricular activities as staff and students draw in their horns and concentrate on the summer exams. However, the astronomical clock is no respecter of GCSEs and A levels, as **Mr Bush writes:-**

We were worried that the nice weather might have broken too soon, and although the clouds did roll in we still managed to observe the start of the transit of Mercury until around 1.45pm.

Over 50 students were able to see the tiny planet race across the surface of the



Sun. What amazed them most was just how small it looked, and if this 4900km planet was 58 million km away from the Sun and STILL looked this tiny, the Sun must be HUGE. This is clear in the photo and provides a real sense of scale to our solar system. It was great to share this with students as the next time it will be this good is in 2049 – another teacher will have to run the session then!



Thermal imaging with year 7s in the science club

Sam Parsons (year 7) writes:-

After the school was given a thermal imaging camera, Mr Bush thought it would be a good idea to put it through its paces at Science Club.

We decided to carry out some fun tests using exothermic and endothermic reactions. Adding magnesium to hydrochloric acid releases heat (exothermic) and mixing water with ammonium nitrate absorbs heat (endothermic).

When we looked at these test tubes through the thermal camera it was amazing! We could actually see the temperature difference of both tubes which was very exciting. Can you tell which one's which?

It was really fascinating to see ourselves as a thermal image.



Thank you Sam for that write up. I think I was in year 11 before I knew the difference between endothermic and exothermic reactions.

Forest School Friday Intervention Programme

Mr Elsdon writes:-



Friday has become an outdoor learning day as Sackville increase their alternative curriculum for some students in year 8. Our Forest School Intervention has started at Sackville and the first 'victims' were a group of five boys. The idea is to allow them to interact in a different environment and possibly to go on and gain a qualification in Countryside Management if they take up the full course in the near future.

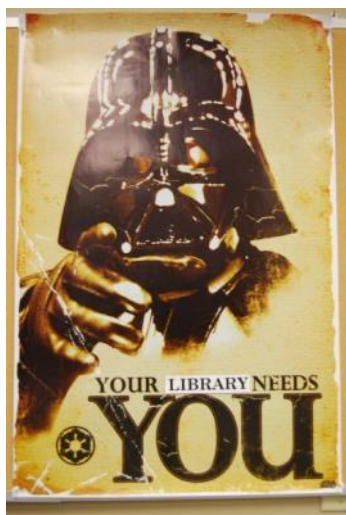
We had a look around the farm as we walked to the forest; all the team were talking about the rules of the countryside. We stopped to look at the ECO-toilet. Our first activity was to eat lunch in the open air around the camp fire (not lit) that has been so soundly built by our regular Forest Schoolers. We then walked the surroundings. Each person was encouraged to lead the way. The students all found a suitable stick and walked around learning the boundaries. These sticks will become their symbol for the next six weeks. We finished by adapting a well-known game made up on the spot, called Capture the Croc, using an old clog found on site. The boys all threw themselves into the day.

Again, a massive thank you to all those at Broomlands Farm who allow us to use the facilities week in, week out.



Become a reading warrior

Mrs Rose and Mrs Wogan write:-



The second half of the summer term sees the exciting launch of a new reading group to start after school on Tuesday 7th June.

Miss Williams has been doing assemblies for all year groups promoting reading as a whole and introducing the new reading group called "The Reading Warriors". The students will be given books from the new titles bought for the LRC and asked to read and give feedback either in the discussion group or by writing a short review or even doing video reviews.

They will also help choose the books to restock the shelves, vote for their top reads for the "monthly top 10 reads" and compile the shortlist for the "Sackville Best Reads of 2016" which will then be voted on by

the whole school! These are just a few of the things the group will be involved with.

It's a great opportunity for any student who loves to read and wants to get involved in some fun activities. To find out more, call into the LRC and sign up!



Honouring our Matthews – please donate

Mr Grant has already written of the sad passing of Matt Rieley, who gave so much to the school both as a student and a member of the site team.

A number of staff, students, former students and friends will be doing a sponsored cycle ride this July, in aid of the charity nominated by Matt's family, **CLIC Sargent**, which was so helpful and supportive to Matt over the last few months. [You can donate here.](#)

Last summer, our community also lost **Matthew Cox**. His friends and family are raising money to build a pavilion at Edenbridge Cricket Club to be named in his honour. Our cyclists are also riding for this cause, and you can [donate here.](#)

We would love to be able to **raise £2000 for each of these excellent causes**; please help us honour these two exceptional young men by sponsoring us!

Help needed! Year 12 work experience

Mrs Valentine and Ms Butler write:-

We would be grateful if you would consider offering a work experience placement to one of our sixth form students (aged 16 or 17 years) preferably in the week of Monday 18th July 2016 to Friday 22nd July 2016.

We appreciate offering a whole week may be difficult, but we would be grateful if you could offer any amount of time. This could involve shadowing of someone in the work place or undertaking certain duties or some observation. We would love to hear from you if you can offer any sessions in that designated week of 18th-22nd July 2016.



Our students' opportunities are enhanced greatly if they can show they have undertaken some work experience, no matter how short or limited this experience may be. It is an invaluable opportunity to extend the students' learning – we can reflect this positively in references and on UCAS applications.

Our main aim for students is to give them an insight into working life and to give them the opportunity to work alongside adults, undertaking new tasks and developing their self-confidence. In addition, students have been given a list of employability skills on which to focus. Along with other things, these include:

- Personal presentation
- Enthusiasm and commitment
- Communication and literacy, and
- Time management and organisation

Please let us know if you would be able to help as we are endeavouring to place students in an environment that is of interest to their future career plans. Please contact either ybutler@sackvilleschool.org.uk or hvalentine@sackvilleschool.org.uk.

**'Nothing more to say - GREAT
SCHOOL' - Year 7 parent May 2016**



Nicole Noakes is May Queen!

Year 7 student Nicole Noakes was crowned May Queen during the Fair on Mayday Bank Holiday earlier this month.

Here you can see her pictured with Mayor Dick Sweatman (who is also a councillor for our local ward of Herontye).

Well done Nicole!

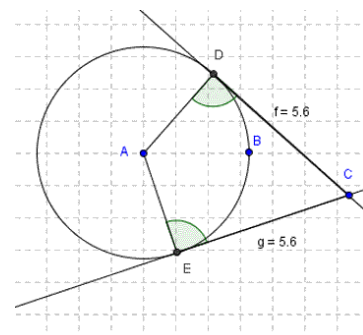
Parents can help with maths!

Miss Hilaly writes:-

I was delighted to receive an email from a parent recently, asking that a difficult question got sent home for him to have a go at!

I was so happy to hear that a student had gone home and spoken to his parents about maths he had done in the lesson that day. The solution that got sent to me from the parent was 'spot on' and perfectly models how an answer should be set out.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to get involved with their son/daughter's learning and to not be afraid to engage in some maths once in a while. Students at Sackville are excellent at explaining some quite difficult concepts – so take advantage of this and get stuck in!



Year 9 reports

Earlier this year we moved the year 9 exams from early May to June so that they did not clash with the fast track language GCSEs. As a result of this the year 9 reports will be issued slightly later than the calendar originally indicated, on 12th July. As usual, where we have concerns about student progress, we will invite parents in on that day to receive the report.

Sports News

U13 A&B Rounders

Miss Offler writes:-

On Tuesday 26th April the U13 Rounders A&B teams went to **Imberhorne** for their first match this year. The girls battled through snow showers (yes that's right, snow in April!), showing some excellent batting and fielding skills throughout both games. After the first innings both teams were close, with the A team winning 6-4 and the B team losing 3 ½ -5 ½.

With everything to play for in the second innings, both teams rose to the challenge. The A team produced some big hits to keep the score climbing with the end result being a win to Sackville 11 – Imberhorne 8. The B team started their 2nd innings fielding extremely well, but after a couple of big hits from Imberhorne, the final result ended in a loss to Sackville 11 ½ - Imberhorne 13 ½.



Well done to both teams for a great first game of the year, especially in the colder weather!

The Teams:

A team: Megan Stratford, Clara Vincent, Emilie Lagrange, Erin Harnett, Katie Cooper, Siobhan Thomas, Olivia Ross, Poppy Nichols, Heidi Crowther.

B Team: Amber Davies, Aliya Harvey, Antonia Deeley, Brooke Richardson, Anika Rahman, Harriet Allison, Daisy Alleway, Emily Bone, Rosie Pumford, Kiera Ellis.

On Thursday 5th May the U13 A&B teams prepared for their second match of the year **against Burgess Hill School for Girls**. In stark contrast to their first match in the snow, the girls were looking forward to the beautiful sunshine!

Both teams had a strong start to their games showing further improvements on their fielding skills, with Poppy Nicholls and Erin Harnett making some key throws, with Emily Bone and Faye Adams showing some excellent deep fielding skills.

The A team had a particularly close game with just ½ a rounder between the two teams after the first innings. After some excellent hits, the pressure was on for Burgess Hill. With more excellent fielding in the second innings, Sackville were working hard to stop the rounders from being scored. Burgess Hill tested our deep fielders and played some excellent hits with the final score being Sackville 7 Burgess Hill 8 ½.



The B team displayed some excellent hitting with Amber Davies asking questions of the deep fielders. After the first innings both teams had everything to play for, but the half rounders kept building up resulting in the final score being Sackville 6 Burgess Hill 15½.

Despite losing both games, both teams showed excellent improvements to both their batting and fielding skills which we look forward to applying into our next game.

The teams

A team: Megan Stratford, Clara Vincent, Erin Harnett, Katie Cooper, Siobhan Thomas, Olivia Ross, Poppy Nichols, Heidi Crowther, Aliya Harvey.

B Team: Amber Davies, Antonia Deeley, Anika Rahman, Harriet Allison, Daisy Alleway, Emily Bone, Kiera Ellis, Faye Adams, Maisie Barnes.

On Thursday 19th May, Sackville's U13 A&B teams faced their second match against **Imberhorne**. The last time they met, the A team won and the B team lost so we were looking to improve on our scores from last time.

The B team started off strongly with Daisy Alleway performing great bowling to throw the Imberhorne team off. Everything was to play for after the first innings with the difference of just 1 rounder between both teams. In the second innings, the team had some big hits from Aliya Harvey and Anika Rahman. Unfortunately Imberhorne managed to hit well in the second innings with the end result being Sackville 10 – Imberhorne 13. The score being so close, it was a shame to have the loss, however, all the girls involved played an excellent game.

The A team stepped up to the mark showing some excellent fielding skills and teamwork to get five players out in the first innings! They remained focused throughout their game, with some excellent hits from Poppy Nichols and Heidi Crowther which started building up the score. Strong deep fielding in the second innings from Katie Cooper and Heidi Crowther also made sure that we stopped Imberhorne's batters from scoring some key half rounders. The final score was Sackville 16 – Imberhorne 4 which is a greatly improved result from their first meet!

The teams:

A team (on left): Megan Stratford, Clara Vincent, Emilie Lagrange, Erin Harnett, Katie Cooper, Siobhan Thomas, Olivia Ross, Poppy Nichols, Heidi Crowther, Faye Adams.

B team (on right): Amber Davies, Aliya Harvey, Antonia Deeley, Anika Rahman, Harriet Allison, Daisy Alleway, Emily Bone, Kiera Ellis, Maisie Barnes.



Yesterday I had occasion to be on the 261 bus on both the morning and evening school runs.

I thought I would write to you and compliment these students on their behaviour. There was no pushing or shoving to get on or off the bus. I heard no bad language. Students were aware of other passengers and speedily moved aside when needed and as they left the bus the majority thanked the driver - I was extremely impressed!

So often schools only get to hear when their students have been annoying the local community and I thought you would appreciate a "bouquet" for a change.

A well-deserved "well-done" to all those students I encountered - they are a credit to the school.

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