

# Sackville News



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents,

I would like to offer a warm welcome back to all students and a particularly warm welcome to our new students in year7 and those joining our sixth form in year 12.

I hope everyone has had a relaxing and refreshing summer break. A lot has been happening at the school and I would like to thank our **premises team** and the many fine ex-student painters who worked very hard to get our school looking really good for the start of the new school year. At the same time, we had two major trips to **Malawi and Tanzania** take place, both of which involved working on community projects which were invaluable experiences for all concerned.



The community also has to face difficult challenges and last month, it gathered in very sad circumstances at the funeral of Paul Keenor who attended Sackville from 2003 to 2010. Deputy Head Neil Feist felt privileged to speak at the occasion where so many shared in the tragic loss of a young life. Last week we also heard of the untimely death of another former student, Matthew Cox. The loss of these men at such an age has had a profound effect on the school community. Our thoughts and condolences are with families and friends at this time.





August also saw the release of **examination results** to many of our students ranging from years 9 to 13. Our A level results arrived first and saw students achieving a fine set of results and university places. We were delighted that **half of all A level grades were at B and above**, which is an impressive achievement. **Three quarters of grades were at C and above** and the overall pass rate was over 99%. 17 students achieved an A or A\* grade in maths alone! We are now busily analysing the data by subject and by student, looking at the progress made since GCSE as such detail helps us to plan lessons and courses carefully for the new year.

Particular congratulations go to Rohan Pritchard, Laura van der Heijden and Ella Wooding who achieved 2 A\*s and an A, closely followed by Scott Latham, Rebecca Stovell and Emily Thomas on 1 A\* and 2 As and Michael Clements and Conor Thornley Gibson on 3 As. There are, of course, many others worthy of praise for their excellent progress.

I am sure that many will have heard about our **GCSE success** or read about it in the local press. We achieved a **double figure increase** on the previous year's good results such that **73% of our year 11 students gained at least 5 strong passes at grade C+ including English and maths against a county average of 61%**. Such results place us **amongst the very top schools in West Sussex and the cross-border locality** this year. A quarter of all grades were at A/A\* and 99% achieved 5 or more A\*-G grades which shows a real sense of success for all which is what the school stands for. The students did themselves proud, and staff and parents gave tremendous support throughout. This follows on from our extremely positive Ofsted report and reinforces the judgements made by the inspectors. They were keen to know our results and were delighted on hearing them.



Brin Martin, **West Sussex Strategic Commissioner for Learning**, wrote to us saying: "At West Sussex, we are equally celebrating your outstanding results and the incredible journey at Sackville. I am absolutely delighted for the staff and especially the students".



The whole year group deserves much praise for this and they are now well set-up for further studies and careers. I am delighted that so many have chosen to return to our thriving sixth form and please do encourage any post-GCSE youngsters you know to consider us at this crucial stage in their education.

For the first time in the school's history, both English and maths saw **over 80%** of students achieving at least a grade C this summer against a national average of 65% for English and 63% for maths. **Over 86%** achieved at least expected progress from end of primary school which is tremendous. Bearing in mind the well-publicised increase of 8 marks in the C/D maths boundary, to achieve 82% C+ in this subject was marvellous.

**19 students gained at least 10 A/A\* grades:** Katie Balmer, Tom Beswick, Anna Davison, Lucas Day, Joe de Souza, Ben de Turris, Esme Foreman, Sophie Gallimore, Amy Heron, Francesca Higginson, Kevin Michell, Ciara Nightingale, Joe Roberts-Percy, Emma Sizer, Finn Treadaway, Laura Trewern, Robert Ure, Amber Walton and Adam Woods.

Of equal importance is the **value added achievement of the students**; the progress they have made since sitting their primary school and of key stage 2 tests. Well done to the following top performers in this category:- Jessica Argy, Katie Balmer, Tom Beswick, Glen Chandler, Oliver Harris, Gianluca Inserra, Jasmine Mayne-Clark, Lia Raymond, Steven Sayell, Isabella Sterling, Abigail Tamakloe, Henry Thompson, Zach Thompson, Rebecca Turner and Robert Ure.

During the holiday period we also received the great news that we have gained a '**Good Schools' Guide' Award for 2015**. This is a prestigious national award and commends the school on its progress, with particular praise for boys' progress in design and technology at GCSE. This came hot on the heels of the **Sainsbury's School Games Gold Award** gained in July.



**Award Winner 2015**

We are very pleased to welcome the following staff who are joining us this term:-

- **Mrs Rawsthorne**, teacher of science
- **Miss Offler**, teacher of PE
- **Mrs Smith**, teacher of maths
- **Mrs Abel**, Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- **Mrs Charlton**, Learning Support Assistant
- **Mrs Hallums**, Learning Support Assistant

**Mr Heatley** has been promoted to the post of Head of Music following Mr Nicholson's departure and **Mr Payne** is taking on the additional role of Director of Numeracy at Sackville, looking at consistency of numeracy delivery and development across the curriculum.

Some parents may well be aware that our Business Manager, **John Burke**, will be retiring at the end of this month. This will be a significant loss to us as John has steered us incredibly well through the difficult financial times faced by all in education. Despite all of this, he has ensured that our premises and facilities are well looked after and, indeed, better than ever. I am, however, delighted to inform you that we have made an excellent appointment to succeed him: **Nicola Clapson**. Nicola is an experienced school Business Manager who lives locally in Ashurstwood and is very keen to work at Sackville. She will be starting her duties this month, which ensures a careful overlap period with John.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a happy, productive and successful new academic year.

Best wishes,

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## Mr Street writes



Welcome back, I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday despite the recent August weather; I blame it on global warming.

It was great to see all students returning in good spirits and can I say how fantastic the new year 7 look in their Sackville uniform. Their excitement and enthusiasm is contagious. It is also good to see the Year 11 buddies, who act as super role models for them, also looking great in their blue uniform; it brings about a real togetherness. Can I just remind students and their parents that we have returned to our standard uniform and all boys should be wearing clip on ties.

It is no surprise that the school's ever improving exam results have coincided with big improvements in attendance and it is important that at the beginning of the school year I outline our high expectations. We look at students' attendance to exceed 96% as this is conducive to good learning. In line with government policy, Sackville School does not authorise holiday in term time. As always, we are happy to work with all students and their families regarding attendance issues or concerns; please do not hesitate to contact your child's year team, our attendance team or myself.

Sackville's new bus service serving the villages of Turners Hill, Copthorne, Crawley Down and Felbridge has also started today. This meets the requests of many families and will hopefully help in what is quite a difficult route by public transport.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy and successful school year.

Paul Street

## Year team leadership, 2016-16

Oversight – Mr P Street

Year Group	Pastoral Assistant	Head of Year	Senior Lead
7	Mr Jones	Ms Jakubowska	Mr Street
8	Mrs Shipman	Mr Maywood	Mr Street
9	Mrs Farrant	Mr Millican	Mr Treen
10	Mrs Newcomb	Mr Endersby	Mr Hayden
11	Mrs Knock	Mr Latus	Mr Hayden

## Pictures from the first day



Mr Grant (above) and Miss Jakubowska welcome the new year 7 students to Sackville ...



... and Miss Jakubowska talks to her old year group (the new year 12s). She always said they would break the school exam record, and they did!



## Abandoned BMX bike

We have one small bike looking for a home ... if you recognise it please get in touch. If no-one claims it we will have to find it a new home!

I quite fancy riding this in the local skate parks so someone better come forward soon!



Best wishes for the new year!

Adrian de Souza