

Sackville News

24th September 2015



Dear Parents,

We are three weeks into term and the momentum of learning has gathered pace. I have visited many lessons and have been pleased with the attitude and approach of the students together with the quality of lesson preparation. Fresh on the heels of an excellent summer of examination results, it is of great importance to build on this by hitting the ground running. Neil Feist, Deputy Headteacher in charge of teaching and learning, has written an article for Sackville News which I hope you will find informative. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, concerns or, indeed, positive observations to share about your child's learning.



During our first full week of term, we held **two sporting events** on our fields which brought the community together for very different reasons. Firstly, an inter-form competition was held for our new year 7 students on a beautifully sunny afternoon. We were delighted by the numbers of students who took part and it was great to see so many parents supporting them. Our first **year 7 parental workshop** was taking place at the same time in the English department, so many tried to attend both! The following day saw an even larger gathering on our sports fields but for a very contrasting occasion. A memorial rugby match was held in memory of ex-student Paul Keenor who tragically died in a car accident in July and it was a fitting occasion, organised by Paul's sister Poppy and Mr Currie. These events remind us about what a power for good sporting, and indeed other occasions, can be in bringing us together.



As September draws to a close, we sharpen our focus through a **teaching and learning INSET day**, annual safeguarding training and, of course, devote time to our **open evening and open mornings** when we welcome prospective parents to the school. We are both proud and excited to share our story and the quality of what we have to offer with year 5 and 6 parents and children in the locality.



Sackville Open Evening

Thursday September 24th
5.30 - 8.30

Open mornings all the following week

"We would just like to say what a great year our son has had; he has been totally inspired by what Sackville has to offer, and has thoroughly enjoyed his year. Any initial anxieties he had were soon overcome and we as a parents could not be happier with his education." Year 7 Parent, 2015

I am delighted to report that our **sixth form** is now bigger than ever, with well over 400 students enrolled to our courses. It has been a real pleasure to welcome so many students from other schools to join us. The sixth formers play a key role in our school and set a fine standard to the younger students as role models.

With best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher





Developments in teaching and learning 2015-2016

Neil Feist, Deputy Headteacher

It is my privilege to lead the development of teaching and learning at Sackville with Mr Hayden.

Over the course of last year, our teaching staff have worked together to ensure their lessons **meet the needs of all of our students**.

I was delighted that Ofsted recognised the progress we have made in our practice during their spring inspection, commenting that “teaching has improved over the last two years; **it is now consistently good**”.

Our record breaking exam results are the result of a concerted effort by all subjects to ensure everyone reaches their potential. However, we are not and cannot rest on our laurels. We aspire to see everyone in school love learning and we as teachers know we can always improve what we deliver.

We continue to base our teaching on eleven **Sackville Standards** that will ensure we continue to inspire and challenge our classes.

This term we are focusing on differentiation strategies, with a particular focus on **stretching our most able students**.

On 25th September we are running an INSET day where all staff will attend five different teaching workshops delivered by our own staff showcasing new ideas and the latest thinking on pedagogy. The sessions will be very interactive and thought provoking and give our teachers the chance to become students for a day.

Other themes for this year include working on **numeracy across the curriculum** and assessment for learning using personalised learning checklists. More on these in future editions!

We also recognise that teachers in a large school can get very immersed in their own subject area and can miss seeing strategies in other subjects. Consequently, we are also running **‘open door’ weeks** throughout the year when staff can use their non-teaching time to visit a colleague in another department and see them teach. We will feed back our findings to each other at a whole staff training session. Ofsted recognised that all subjects have strong practitioners and we want to spread as much of this expertise as possible!

Ofsted said of Sackville: “**Learning is often outstanding because teachers know [students] well and challenge them at just the right level**”. This is a huge compliment to our work so far and something we will continue to build on.

The Sackville Standards

In every lesson we strive to:

- 1. Plan** to meet the needs of all students.
- Create a **positive** learning environment with high quality activities and resources.
- Ensure strong **respect** and **discipline**.
- Share **learning objectives** with students, return to them during the lesson.
- Build on prior **knowledge** and **skills**.
- Develop good **literacy** skills.
- Assess** learning regularly.
- Deliver good **Questioning**.
- Reshape **teaching** to meet the changing needs of students.
- Pace** lessons to ensure effective learning.
- Improve **independent learning** skills.

Sackville's vision and values

Mr Street writes:-

The start of the academic year is always a good time for a school to reflect on and revisit its vision and values and never have Sackville's been stronger.

Whilst celebrating our students' really strong GCSE and A level results, I am constantly reminded of the great support that our staff provided through this challenging and pressurised time. This was through individual mentoring, revision classes or just simply great teaching. Whatever it was, it made a difference. It clearly shows that our motto '**Together We Achieve**' is alive and well at Sackville.



Sackville is a '**Rights Respecting School**' and we have high expectations of all students. It is becoming increasingly clear that our students do not just behave because they are accommodating, but out of genuine respect for one another, the staff and our community. They realise they are part of something special, something to be valued.

As we start another academic year our community's high expectations will ensure that each and every one of our students reach their personal goals through mutual self-respect and excellent support.

I wish everyone a very successful year.

MEG is back!

Mr de Souza writes:-



Students are getting reacquainted with their MEGs as we start the new academic year. The MEG is the '**Minimum Expected Grade**' for a student to achieve in a given subject. Parents might be aware we introduced the MEG two years ago, and they have helped us gain this summer's fantastic exam results.

These are set based on students' prior attainment we are relentlessly focussed in ensuring students achieve at least their MEG. Students in KS4 are also invited to set an aspirational target which is at least one grade above the MEG.

The annual **staff performance management cycle** is built around students achieving at least their MEGs.

These three pillars are what is building the success we are now enjoying: excellent teaching and learning, strong vision and values and a relentless desire to smoke out underachievement.

European opportunities at A level and beyond

Mrs Valentine writes:-

The MFL department and sixth form team were delighted to work with Laura Dennis and town twinning in East Grinstead to enable Laura to take part in her second German work experience within the space of six months. Earlier in the year, Laura went to our twin college in Hamburg on a work placement and in July, she completed a three-week placement in a Kindergarten in Mindelheim – our twin town in Bavaria, Germany, with which we have very valued links. Laura has been inspired to continue language learning at undergraduate level now, as she starts her German degree at Exeter University.

Special thanks go to Ken Averill, Chair of East Grinstead Town Twinning – without his stalwart work, we would have been unable to build up such valuable contacts.



Laura wrote the following letter of thanks to Town Twinning, reporting on her stay:

Ken,

Sorry I haven't e-mailed you before, telling you how Mindelheim went. It was so good – I really enjoyed it!

I went to Munich on my own twice and the family took me to the Alps. That was cool – I never really appreciated how swimming in lakes was a big thing in Germany before! The Kindergarten was also great and I think going there really helped improve my German.

My final results were A in Maths, A in Chemistry and B in German.*

I also have good news! I got accepted into the University of Exeter.

Did you want me to come to one of the twin town meetings as well to tell you in person how everything went! Thanks again for organising everything!

Hope you're well

Laura

Work experience opportunities in Europe

A European work experience is not just for the A level linguist – it is a career enhancing opportunity which at Sackville we are proud to offer to a wide variety of students, regardless of the sixth form options they are studying

In the coming academic year, we have a work experience group of year 13 students going to Germany, as well as a group of year 12 /13 students going to Madrid, Spain.

Should your son / daughter be interested in pursuing such opportunities, please see Mrs Valentine (hvalentine@wsgfl.org.uk)

World Challenge 2015

Hannah Evans writes:-

I think I speak for every member of the group who went on the trip when I say that world challenge Kenzania (Kenya and Tanzania) 2015 was the best experience I will ever have during my time at Sackville and it tops anything I've ever done before. There's so much to learn and appreciate about the culture of the two countries that in some aspects four weeks just isn't long enough and I know that I want to go back and explore the culture even further. From trekking alongside the Masai men and helping to build parts of a nursery school for mentally handicapped children in Kenya to planting trees at the base of Kilimanjaro and being within metres of some of the most beautiful wildlife in Tanzania, we most certainly experienced some of the most amazing culture in the world. The list of things that we got to do and take part in is endless.

The World Challenge experience lasted longer than the trip though; over two years we worked together as a team and individually to raise the money to go and for the equipment we needed together with the necessary vaccinations. Having raised the money and earned our place, it felt like the experience was even more worthwhile. Since our return people keep asking what the trip was like and I've been finding it difficult to say anything other than that it was 'AMAZING'; there are no other words that I can find to describe it. What other opportunities does a 17 year old have to share Haribo with a Masai warrior, or play sports with children from a Kenyan slum, or enjoy a ride on a traditional Dhow off the Swahili coast of Tanzania, or to see the "Big Five"?

World Challenge is also an opportunity to learn a lot of new life skills such as communication with local people, organisation, money management but also skills such as packing a bag with a month's worth of kit before you go; learning to make sure to ANTI-BAC at every opportunity to stop yourself being susceptible to illness and learning that hygiene is so important as you don't want to get ill or make others in your group ill! We also learnt how important it is to work as a team and create a strong bond with both the other members of the team and the teachers and leaders; to appreciate the value of money as took I \$185 of personal spending money to spend on souvenirs and still managed to spend it all whilst the children on project had worn-through clothing; and finally to make sure you join in every opportunity you are given. It makes the whole trip, and life in general, a lot more enjoyable when you really try to join in with everything and give it 100%.

To finish off I'd just like to say a massive thank you to the teachers that accompanied us. Mr Wilcox, Miss Jones and Mr Johnson you were all amazing and thank you so much for this great opportunity!



Both my children have been on various school trips this term (Y8 trip to Spain, Y10 to Wales, Y8 CEW overnight camp at Blackland farm, Y10 team dynamics and the big one to Malawi).

I would like to pass on my thanks to all the staff involved in organising these trips and more importantly for looking after my children whilst away from home, helping them to enjoy these wonderful experiences. They do an amazing job and I hope that you will be able to convey my thanks to them all.

Arkwright Engineer Scholarships

Mrs Wogan writes:-

Joe Roberts-Percy, now year 12, has been awarded an **Arkwright Engineering Scholarship** for two years, commencing in September. He will receive his award at a special Awards Ceremony in London in October. Mr Treen, Curriculum Leader of Design Technology, said "This is a fantastic achievement by Joe in receiving this award which reflects his hard work over the past five years in Design & Technology."

To achieve the award, students are required to complete a detailed application form, sit an aptitude exam, and if successful, attend an interview. A sponsor is appointed and the scholarship granted.

Joe is shown being congratulated by Julian Grant, Headteacher.

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK. They nurture future leaders in engineering and related areas of design and do this by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process, to high-calibre students in year 11. Their Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels and encourage students to pursue engineering or related areas of design at university or through a high quality apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field. The Engineering Scholarships are sponsored by industrial companies, universities, charitable trusts, trade associations, professional engineering institutions and personal donors.



Scott Dollemore – next Olympic showjumper!

Scott's amazing performances on horseback go from strength to strength. It's been a busy summer for him

At the The Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead Scott rode brilliantly to qualify for the main international ring in the Children on Horses Grand Prix against top level junior riders. Even to qualify was amazing, but then to get the chance to compete on a novice horse against professional horses owned by the top international riders was a dream come true.

He was then nominated by the lead coach for Sussex for the British Show Jumping Shining Star award for July which he won.



In that same week he competed in the U25 South East Championships (which he had qualified for previously) at Pyecombe where he came 5th and he also won a class on his young horse at the same show.

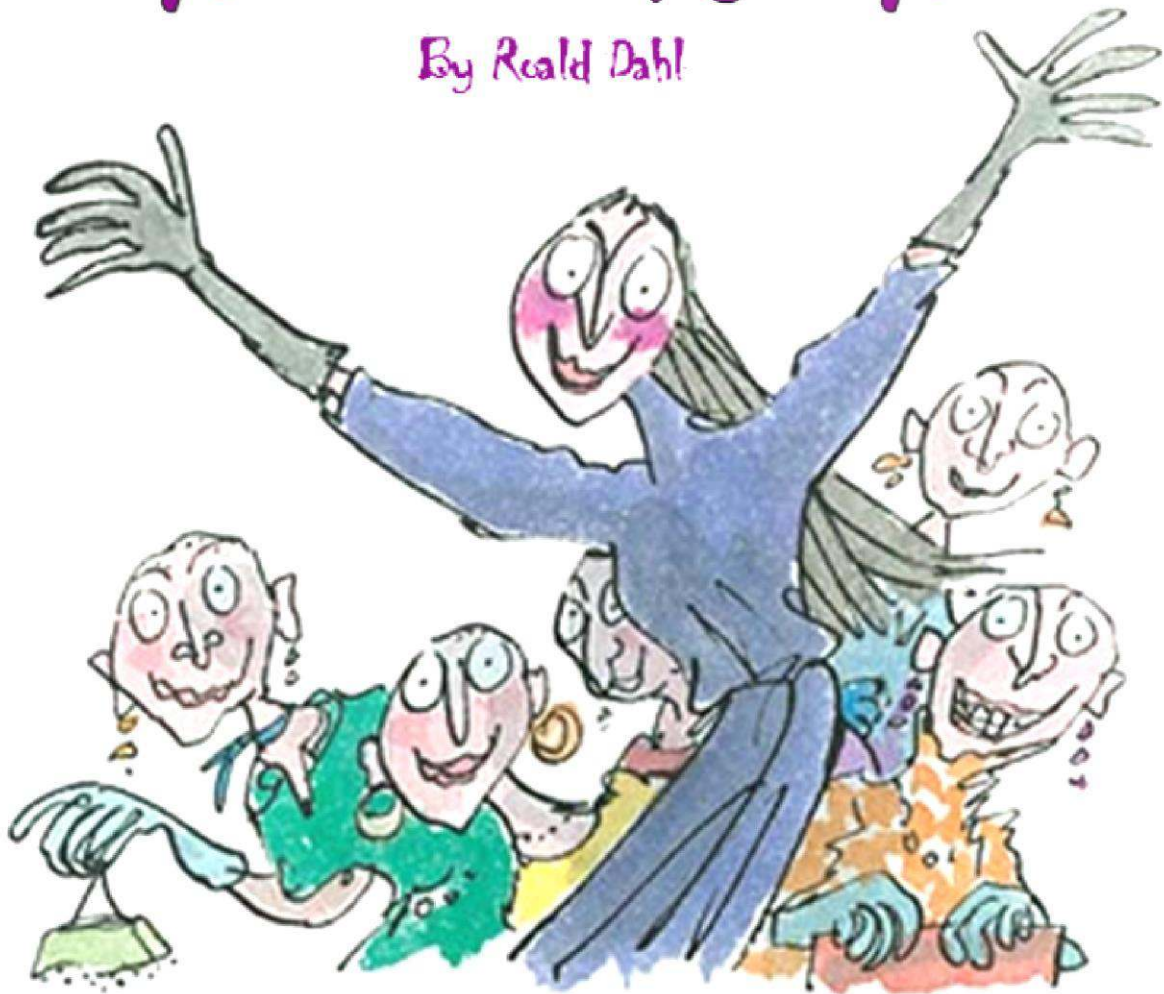
Finally at the national Inter-Academy Championships he won the NAF 5* style and performance award on his pony Grantstown Rebel.

Well done Scott – we look forward to hearing of even more success as the year goes on!

The Drama Club Production 2016 is...

The Witches


By Roald Dahl



Exclusively for years 7, 8 and 9.

Sign up letters available from the Drama Office NOW!

Rehearsals start Thursday 8th October in P12 3-4pm



**Forgotten your exam pencil case?
Lost your pen? Not to worry...
Visit the Sackville School AVA stationery
shop situated next to the medical room.**

Open every day 8.30am - 3.00pm

**We sell a variety of items all reasonably
priced including: pencils, pens, erasers,
highlighters, glue sticks, rulers,
protractors, memory sticks and those
all-important clear exam pencil cases.**

Large maths exam-ready pencil case - £2.00

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The second hand uniform shop is now in place – all items £1 each....

We have shirts, skirts, trousers and PE kits all waiting for a new home!

Please visit reception to ask to see the stock or ask your child to visit at lunchtimes.

We ask that you are patient if reception is busy at the time you visit.

Is your child now too big for the shirt you bought 6 weeks ago? Please give it a new home at the second hand shop, all clothes donations to reception gratefully received.

Janina Jakubowska, jjakubowska@wsgfl.org.uk