



18 October 2023

Dear Families

## **Year 7 Poet Visit - Thursday 16 November and Friday 17 November 2023**

The English department is delighted to offer the opportunity to all of our year 7 students to have a 1-hour poetry workshop with the performance poet, Mark Grist.

Mark will be visiting Sackville School for 2 days on **Thursday 16 and Friday 17 November 2023** to deliver a workshop with each English class, helping them to create their own spoken word performance poems. These will be inspired by their own lives and experiences; all of the amazing things they have achieved and hurdles they have overcome. This will link to the students' learning in their English lessons as we focus on 'Autobiographies'. Students should arrive at school at the usual time and wear full school uniform as normal. Classes will be having their workshop on the following days:

**Thursday 16 November - 7XA (JPN) 7XC (CGS) 7XE (EGN) 7YA (LBE) 7YD (JBY)**

**Friday 17 November - 7YB (HMY) 7YC (JCK) 7YE (CHD) 7XB (ZLS) 7XD (HMY)**

### **A bit about Mark Grist:**

An ex-teacher, Mark Grist is now a multi-award-winning poet and international battle rapper with over 40 million views for his poetry & rap videos online. He has been honoured in two categories at the Webby Awards, won two Lovie Awards for his poetry online and toured hundreds of schools around the world. Recently, Mark's work has appeared on BBC1, ITV, BBC Teach, Channel 4 and BBC 6 music and he recently starred in Redbull TV's 'Mark Grist Battles the World.'

You can see an example of one of Mark's poems here: [https://youtu.be/Z\\_GUQQadwrM](https://youtu.be/Z_GUQQadwrM)

Mark has made two very successful past visits to Sackville, working with our Year 7 and Year 8 classes in 2022 and students have loved the opportunity to work with a famous poet, rap battler and now published author. Here is what our previous Year 7 and 8 students have said about working with Mark:

*I loved having Mark Grist coming in. He was really fun and amazing. Alice*

*The whole workshop was interesting and fun. James*

*It was really enjoyable and Mark was really good and funny. He really listened to us and our ideas. Zoe*

An opportunity to buy Mark's new book 'Rhinos Don't Cry' and get it signed will be available in the LRC after school on Thursday 16 November. Although this book is aimed at younger readers, it would make a great gift for small children for Christmas.

You are invited to make a voluntary contribution of £6.00, which will cover the cost of the workshop. I must, however, tell you that as the school could not bear the cost of the workshop, the session will not take place unless parents, who are able to, are willing to contribute.

We ask that you make payment via the My Child at School App by **Monday 13 November 2023**.

Please remember that if your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium government grant we will use that to pay for the workshop. Please get in touch with Mrs Nibloe at [hnibloe@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:hnibloe@sackvilleschool.org.uk) if you **do not** wish us to do this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [lwernham@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:lwernham@sackvilleschool.org.uk) if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Wernham  
**Teacher of English and Drama**



# Sackville School

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

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