SSAT LEADING EDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

2015 - 2021

SACKVILLE SCHOOL TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

Award winner

Sackville School

Teacher of English

Sackville serves the southern and eastern sectors of East Grinstead. In addition, a number from the surrounding villages in East Sussex, Surrey and Kent also attend Sackville. The roll is around 1500, including a large and thriving Sixth Form. In excess of 75% of Year 11 students continue with their studies at Sackville, the vast majority being on AS and A2 courses. The school is a happy and purposeful community, offering wide enrichment opportunities for students and many professional development opportunities for staff.

Site: The school is based on a single site near to the centre of the town. Most of the buildings were erected between 1970 and 1975, are very well maintained, with numerous additions over the years. Each subject has its own staff work area. The school features a performing arts block, a large sports hall and an observatory. The restricted acreage is supplemented by a full 400m Redgra track with space for hockey and football at each end.

East Grinstead: The town is a thriving community with many historic buildings and traditions. It has a very active Town Council and many vibrant community groups. There is a full range of residential accommodation and most is privately owned. Employment for local residents is offered in the town itself, in the Gatwick/Crawley area which is about eight miles away, or in London, about 50 minutes by train. Sackville is within easy reach of a wide variety of accommodation. Many staff live in the Brighton/Lewes/Uckfield area, the Surrey (Oxted) area, in East Grinstead itself or on the east-west axis from Tunbridge Wells to Horsham.

Partnerships: The school has a number of partnerships. There are well-established and very productive links with local primary schools. Good relations are maintained with the other secondary school in the town, Imberhorne and both schools are part of an active Mid-Sussex soft Federation. Sackville is a member of the East Grinstead Chamber of Commerce and the local business partnership. International links are very well developed. Both staff and students benefit from exchanges, study trips and work experience, particularly in Europe. We have achieved the Leading Space Education Gold Quality Mark and have our own observatory with numerous links with the community in this area. We are proud to have been awarded 'Leading Edge' status by the SSAT six years running in recognition of our high quality teaching and learning and we are an active member of the St. Paul's 'Inspire' teaching alliance.

Students: Sackville's student population is enthusiastic and eager to learn. They respond well to good teaching and achieve significant success in both examinations and other activities. Extra-curricular sport and the arts are also thriving and successful. A significant emphasis is placed on team games and Sackville achieves much success at local and county level. The Arts Programme is always full with excellent exhibitions, drama productions, music concerts and the wonderful annual show. The Junior Leadership Team is very active and plays a key role in the development of the school.

Routine Day: The curriculum is organised on a one-week timetable of 25 one-hour lessons. The day starts at 08:25 with assemblies in two locations. The lunch period is 40 minutes and the formal day finishes at 15:00. This allows for a variety of extra-curricular activities, particularly sport, additional lessons and various meetings of staff. The Learning Resource Centre remains open until 16:00 so that those students who wish to can remain under supervised conditions to conduct their independent learning.

Governors: The governing body is very supportive of the school's work. There are two main committees, Personnel and Resources and Teaching and Learning. The Headteacher meets the Chair of Governors weekly and both are ex-officio members of the two committees. Governors visit Sackville on a regular basis mainly through their very effective links with our departments. Lessons are visited and progress data discussed frequently.

Parents: Parents are very supportive of the school's work. Attendance at parents' evenings usually exceeds the 90% mark. Information meetings are well attended. "Sackville News", our newsletter, is the main means of communication and candidates are encouraged to look at this on our website. We also have an active parents' focus group working as a 'think tank' of ideas to help us move continually forward.

Ofsted/Results: Our last OfSTED in January 2019, a short inspection, graded us as a Good school with a particularly positive above average summary letter, noting that students "make strong progress across all subjects". Our GCSE results are consistently impressive with positive value added progress. We have received national SSAT awards in four years in recognition of this. At A level, one half of all grades are at grade B or above. We have a comprehensive bespoke CPD programme for all staff that is well established and successful. Teaching and learning is strong and behaviour is usually exemplary.

Staff: The staff of over 100 teachers and nearly 100 support staff are a committed, able and dedicated group of colleagues. Morale is high. They work in a variety of teams, each of which operates as an effective unit. Annual turnover is low, providing both the stability for a successful school but also the new blood necessary to challenge historic assumptions. Innovative ideas are always encouraged, where they can contribute to the raising of student achievement. Teachers are supported in postgraduate study and full use is made of in service training through our membership of Pixl (Partners in Excellence) and local teaching alliances (e.g. the St Paul's 'Inspire' Alliance).

Curriculum Leaders: Each Curriculum Leader is line managed by a Deputy or Assistant Headteacher on a day-to-day basis. Curriculum policy is coordinated by Curriculum Team Leaders, membership of which comprises the Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team.

Year Team Leaders: Student care is operated on a horizontal year basis. The Year Team Leader and Year Support Assistant remain with their year group for five years in order to retain continuity of care and contact. YTLs are line managed by the Deputy Headteacher (student provision). Most Form Tutors will also remain with their form for five years. At the end of Year 11 some of the tutors transfer into the Sixth Form team; a senior teacher leads the 6th form supported by an Assistant. The pastoral team, which includes Assistant Headteachers and Year Leaders, chaired by the Deputy Headteacher, meets on a regular basis.

Senior Leadership Team: The team consists of seven members who oversee specific key areas of school development: Teaching and Learning, Raising Standards and Student Provision.

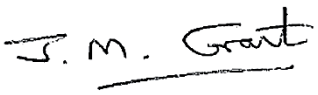
The Business Administration Manager is responsible for the oversight of the site and the finance team.

The Senior Leadership Team works very well as a team and provides clear and effective leadership for the school. A wider leadership model also exists whereby middle leaders are regularly invited to partake in senior decision making.

I hope that we have provided the information you need as you consider your application. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Neil Feist, Deputy Head on nfeist@sackvilleschool.org.uk if you want to discuss the post further.

Please note that Sackville has adopted a 'Safe Practice Policy' and referees will be asked to comment with regards to the suitability of candidates to work with children.

Please apply by email to krowlingson@sackvilleschool.org.uk attaching the electronic application form and safer recruiting sheet on our website, together with your letter of application. Alternatively please post your application.



Julian Grant
Headteacher