



Sawston
Village College



Prospectus 2022-23



“Our particular thanks are due for the way in which you have led the school with calmness, kindness and empathy throughout the pandemic; we cannot imagine how challenging a task this has been, and yet you have all risen to this challenge and provided such excellent care, continuity of teaching and exemplary communication with us.”

Year 11 Parent, July 2021

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted that you are considering Sawston Village College for the education of your child.

At Sawston Village College, we are committed to maximising the potential of every single child that is part of our community – whether that is through GCSE examinations, involvement with extracurricular activities or via the wealth of leadership and personal development opportunities that we have on offer. We recognise that not only are we building the foundations for study, employment and training beyond 16, but that we also have a duty to develop the whole child to enable them to take their place in our communities as positive, purposeful and fulfilled citizens. We aim for our pupils to leave as kind, caring and considerate young adults, ambitious for themselves and supportive of others.

We are also committed to providing an exciting range of opportunities for our young people – to open their minds to

new challenges, new ideas and broaden their horizons in ways that make both teaching and learning come alive. This prospectus can only give a brief glimpse of all that we usually have on offer at Sawston Village College, in and out of the classroom.

We are driven by the need to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work – in high expectations for pupil achievement and behaviour, in our outstanding care and support for young people, in the quality of our staff and the partnerships they form with parents and others in our community. Our pupils deserve nothing less.

In normal circumstances, we would look forward to meeting your family in person at our College Open Evening or on a personal tour in the daytime. This may not be possible this year but, rest assured, we will do our best to share with you what makes Sawston Village College such a special place.



Mr J Russell, Principal

For information on our admissions policy, please see the admissions section of our website: www.sawstonvc.org



“The school’s commitment to the inclusion of all pupils is transparent and at the heart of well-established procedures.”

Ofsted 2017

Our Aims, Vision and Values

Our mission at Sawston Village College is to:

- unlock potential
- create opportunity
- achieve excellence

in all aspects of our work, an ambition that applies equally to pupils and staff.

As a result, we expect all learners to leave school having:

- achieved to their highest academic potential;
- embraced all available opportunities;
- learned how to value, respect and care for each other;
- taken responsibility to support their school and the wider community, and developed the essential skills, personal resilience and confidence to be successful in education, employment and life.

This vision underpins all of our work, setting out the purpose of education as we see it if we are to create prosperous and successful people who will contribute to our society.

To achieve this, we expect pupils to conduct themselves with kindness, generosity of spirit, politeness, humility, compassion and respect. At the heart of our expectations are the **CARE** values we hold dear:

- **Community** (*'Take Part'*); we are stronger when we thrive together;
- **Ambition** (*'Aim High'*); we reach further when we believe in ourselves and each other;
- **Respect** (*'Be Kind'*); we are better when we look out for each other;
- **Endeavour** (*'Work Hard'*); we achieve more when we apply ourselves fully.

We are proud to be part of Anglian Learning, a highly successful multi-academy trust of fourteen academies that have come together to provide outstanding education and



learning for our communities. Together, we believe education can play a transformational role in the lives of children and in the success of our young people.



“The strongly committed team of governors share senior leaders’ ambition and determination to continue to improve on pupils’ overall strong progress.”

Ofsted 2017

Our unique place in history – the first Village College

Sawston Village College opened in 1930, having been founded by education pioneer Henry Morris.

His vision was for a school which would nurture a lifelong love of learning for people of all ages, in an environment that offered inspiration. The original Grade II listed buildings reflect these ideals, based as they are on Cambridge University courtyards. These values are still at the heart of our work over 90 years later.

Today, the College's campus encompasses some 30 acres of classrooms, state of the art laboratories and extensive sports facilities, providing a stimulating environment in which to learn.

We continue to maintain a vibrant adult learning programme, and we operate a cinema with live satellite broadcasts, as well as our own commercial Sports Centre. This means we have over 1,500 members of the local community visiting the school every week, reinforcing our message that learning is for life, in keeping with Henry Morris's original vision.





“Despite our children being restricted to schooling behind a screen for the spring term, I am grateful to you all for your hard work and high standards, and the sense of community which has meant so much to us throughout. You have made it feel very much business as usual when we all know that's far from the case, so thank you for rising to the numerous challenges and the clear and optimistic communications. Thank you for ensuring not only that the children are safe, but that they feel safe as well.”

Year 8 Parent, July 2021

Unlocking Potential

We are very proud of our achievements in public examinations. Pre-Covid – the last set of available public data – our English, Maths and Science results were among the very best in the region. Furthermore, we were in the top 6% nationally for our EBacc performance and one of the highest performing schools locally. Throughout the pandemic, our pupils have achieved excellent results and secured the very best progression routes to sixth form colleges.

This success is based on a firm belief that all pupils, whatever their starting point, have the right to an education that meets their needs and provides them with the opportunity to realise their full potential. The curriculum offered at Sawston Village College reflects this ambition.

All pupils follow a three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum before having a free choice in option subjects at the end of Year 9.

We have a vibrant STEM offer and are strongly committed to the Arts, offering Dance, Drama, Music, Art and Music Technology. The vast majority of pupils opt for at least one EBacc discipline to complement their core subjects, which, for many, includes Triple Science. We also provide breadth in the curriculum through more practical subjects, such as Digital Media, Engineering and Hairdressing, to accommodate a wide range of interests.

Where pupils may have had difficulties with literacy at primary school we will work hard to boost their reading and writing through additional support – our ambition is to ensure that no child falls behind in their learning.





“Opportunities to attend after-school clubs and interesting enrichment experiences are extensive and popular.”

Ofsted 2017

Creating Opportunity

One of the strengths of the College is the breadth and depth of opportunities on offer to our pupils.

Our provision in the Arts is truly outstanding. All Year 7 pupils are given the opportunity to complete the Bronze Arts Award, a nationally accredited qualification, and they are able to draw on the high quality experiences offered in Music, Drama, Art and Dance to do this. Filmmaking is also offered as an extracurricular activity. Our strong links with Sawston Youth Drama and other similar organisations also open up further exciting opportunities for our young people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, some activities may not be able to run in the usual way.

Pupils are encouraged wherever possible to develop their leadership skills, for example, by joining one of our pupil-led forums, or through becoming House Mates or Sports Leaders, working with younger pupils and in our primary schools. Pupils are also able to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Arts Award at different levels and gain

further valuable skills. In addition to this, pupils also regularly take part in regional Science, Maths, Geography and Technology competitions, with a strong track record of success, while the normal range of lunchtime and after-school opportunities is extensive, with something for everyone to take part in.

Add to this – when they are allowed to run again – the residential trips to Italy, Germany, Spain and the legendary Ardèche trip, as well as the fundraising events, environmental projects, Activities Week, Work Experience and much more, it is clear that the College offers wonderful and stimulating opportunities to support the personal development of our pupils.





“We are new to Sawston - our eldest son is just finishing Year 7. He has settled so well, in spite of all the challenges this year has presented, and that is in large part down to the fantastic pastoral care you offer at the school. He has been supported and encouraged at every stage, and although he is a keen and conscientious child, it has been great to see him being offered so many opportunities to get involved and given such encouragement.”

Year 7 Parent, July 2021

Achieving Excellence

We aim to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work. Our teachers work hard to ensure their practice remains fresh and inspiring, with many involved in delivering professional learning to other schools. Our practice is informed by evidence and strongly aligned to the principles of cognitive science and developing young people's long-term working memory.

In addition to the quality of teaching, we also seek excellence in the quality of support we give to our pupils. We are a warm, friendly and welcoming community, with a team of staff who care deeply about the progress and wellbeing of all the children in the College.

Central to this is our House system of mentoring and support. All pupils are placed in one of four Houses, creating a family within which there are smaller mixed-age mentoring groups, each overseen by two mentors. Pupils quickly form positive relationships with others across the year groups, while the mentors and non-teaching Year Leads/

Heads of House can review academic progress and respond quickly to any concerns, providing a much more personalised experience.

We have high standards for pupil achievement. We also have high expectations regarding behaviour, demanding of our pupils good manners and respect towards each other, staff and other adults in the College at all times.

Furthermore, we expect pupils to take care and pride in the quality and presentation of classwork and homework, to wear the correct uniform and to support the school and local community, implementing the College's aims and values at all times as active, positive citizens.

The College is committed to achieving excellent outcomes for its pupils and creating an environment where they are safe and happy. This can only happen where there are high standards of behaviour, mutual respect and adherence to our code of conduct. In this we look for, and expect, parental support.



Da Vinci



Earhart



Mandela



Turing

All pupils are placed in one of four Houses.



“I just wanted to say thank you for the past years of support and guidance. Your encouragement has given me more confidence as a person, and I will never forget the experiences and opportunities that the Senate offered me. Thank you for believing in me.”

Year 11 Pupil, 2020

Preparing for the Next Step

Working in close partnership with our local primary schools is the key to ensuring a smooth transition to Sawston Village College. In addition to the taster days and joint projects between our core departments and Year 6 teachers, senior staff visit all prospective pupils to find out about their interests, skills, ambitions and concerns, to place them in the right mentor group, House and teaching group. Parents are also given a personal appointment with their child's mentor before school begins in September, to ensure the best possible start and to form that all-important relationship between home and school.

For those pupils about to leave the College at the end of Year 11, we provide a very strong programme of Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) to enable pupils to progress successfully to post-16 education and training. 90% of pupils continue their academic studies at local sixth form colleges or schools, with the overwhelming majority securing their preferred place of learning.

All pupils receive careers guidance through dedicated PSHE Days and have one hour a fortnight in Year 11 to support their application to post-16 providers. Alongside this, all pupils complete work experience and have the opportunity to visit employers and undergo face-to-face mock interviews to prepare for the world of work. When they finally leave College, we hope that our pupils will continue to stay in touch with us through our flourishing Alumni Network – please see the alumni section of our website: www.sawstonvc.org – so that we can follow their continuing education and careers, and for the benefit of the next generation of young people who will join the College.

Whatever stage your child is at in their education, we aim to make sure that their progression is as smooth as possible, setting pupils up to succeed in their next step.





“The school has educated my children in an excellent manner. I am sure that this good education and the morals they have been taught will help them through later life.”

Parent

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