

Sawston
Village College

Alumni News

Autumn 2019
Issue 10



Welcome

Welcome to Issue 10 of **Alumni News**, our newsletter for former pupils of Sawston Village College.

We have had a busy autumn term. If you would like to know what we have been up to, please take a look at our termly magazine 'The Fountain', which is

compiled by members of the Pupil Senate and can be found on our website here: www.sawstonvc.org/news-and-community/fountain-

magazine. If you have any stories about this magazine, or earlier school magazines, we would love to hear them.

2020 will see us mark the 90th anniversary of Sawston Village College, and we hope to plan some activities for this occasion. In particular, we would really like to hear your memories of your time at Sawston so we can create a publication covering the different decades from the opening of the College in 1930.

This newsletter focuses on former pupil Tom Curran, who is now enjoying a successful career in the music industry. He reflects on how his interest in music developed at Sawston Village College and how this influenced his career choice.

If you have news, or would like to be featured in this publication, please do get in touch. You can contact us at alumni@sawstonvc.org. With all best wishes for 2020!

Mr Jonathan Russell, Principal

Can you give a summary of who you are and when you studied at Sawston.

My name is Tom Curran, and I was a pupil at Sawston from 2005 – 2008, joining at the start of Year 9.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

My favourite subject was Music. I have really fond memories of the lessons and all of the extra curricular activities led by the brilliant Music department staff. Janet Macleod is the most inspirational teacher I have ever met, and it is because of her that I decided to pursue a career in music.

What is your best memory of being a pupil at Sawston?

As well as performing at West Road Concert Hall and Great St Mary's Church with the Music department, I also have good memories of working with Steve Williams and Mark Baslington doing technical



Tom (left) with former Head of Music Janet Macleod (right) at the BBC Proms In 2008.

theatre for many Sawston Youth Drama productions and school events, and also with Gerry Holloway on the annual 'Pop Idol' competitions and Fun Runs.

For this edition we spoke with former pupil Tom Curran.

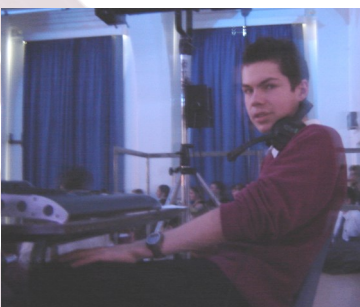


Tom was nominated for an Olivier for his work on SIX.





Tom (left) and Declan Corr (right) (also an SVC alumnus) performing at West Road Concert Hall in the school concert in 2008.



Tom managing the tech for a school event in 2006.

What do you think you gained from having been a pupil at Sawston?
 Sawston Village College is a great environment for learning, and the facilities are fantastic. Thinking back to it now, I really did learn a lot and was pushed to achieve my full potential in all subjects.

Have there been any highlights for you in your career to date?
 A recent highlight was being nominated for an Olivier Award for my work on the new pop concert musical 'SIX'. The show is currently playing in London and on a UK tour, and in March 2020 it opens in New York on Broadway, which is very exciting.



Tom, above centre, working at Abbey Road Studios in 2019.

What route did you follow to your current role?
 After leaving Sawston I went to Hills Road 6th Form College and then moved to London to study at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. I now work as a music arranger for theatre and TV.

What is a typical day at work like for you?
 No day is quite the same, but I generally work from home and am occasionally in London for rehearsals or recording sessions.

What advice would you give to any current pupils who are interested in a career in music?
 Do it! It can be challenging but extremely rewarding and there are so many different avenues to take. Get involved with as many music-making opportunities as you can, be kind to people and always try to give your best, no matter the size of the project.

Tom at the Olivier Awards in 2019 below (left) with his partner, and below right (centre) with his sister and brother (also SVC alumni).



What are your plans for the future?
 Hopefully to continue creating music for theatre. I am grateful to be able to collaborate with some amazing people and to get to do something I love doing every day.

(Tom spoke with Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager.)



And finally...
 Sawston Village College wishes all our alumni and their families the very best for 2020.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

