

January / February 2020 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

17-21 Feb	Half term
20 Feb	Sawston Cinema: NT Live: <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>
24 Feb	CEIAG Careers Fair
25-26 Feb	Year 11 Additional Mocks
27 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
27 Feb	Sawston Cinema: <i>Mrs Lowry & Son</i>
2 March	Year 10 GCSE RE Walsingham trip
4-5 March	Year 11 Drama Scripted Performances
5 March	Sawston Cinema: <i>Downton Abbey</i>
4-6 March	GCSE Food Practical Exams
6 March	Year 8 Report 2 issued
11 March	Year 11 Parents' Exam Information Evening
12 March	Year 7 Report 2 issued

12 March	Sawston Cinema: <i>Judy</i>
12-14 March	Year 10 Battlefields trip
17 March	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
20 March	Year 10 Report 2 issued
20 March	West Road Concert
24 March	Year 9 Girls HPV vaccinations
26 March	Year 11 Group and Senate photos
26 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
26 March	Sawston Cinema: <i>Official Secrets</i>
27 March	Year 11 GCSE Geography Hunstanton trip
27 March	Friday Singers' Concert
27 March	Year 11 Report 3 issued
1 April	Gym and Dance Performance
3 April	End of Spring Term



From the Principal

Valentine's Day is upon us once again and, whilst education is not about romance, it is certainly about igniting passion. We try to encourage pupils to find something they love to be part of, love to learn about or love to do. With representation in the finals of the national schools cross country,

national schools trampolining and regional Youth Speaks competitions, we can see just how far passion for something can take our pupils. This is also seen in the commitment of those involved in SYD's 'The Young Ones', the Y11 Stapleford Granary Concert and the many events

planned for the spring term. It is also evident in the flourishing Eco Forum and Wellbeing Forum, which are making a difference in supporting our aims to be greener and to celebrate diversity.

Those with a passion for running have an opportunity to join in this year's Sawston Fun Run on 3 May 2020. As a beneficiary of this event and with the money already raised from the Sawston Stomp, we will be buying our new minibus later this year. This will help transport pupils to new experiences and places, hopefully inspiring them to find a passion for something that will last a lifetime and reinforce Harriet Tubman's wise words: 'always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.'

Mr Russell, Principal



The show was a huge success.

Sawston Youth Drama performs 'The Young Ones'

Congratulations to Sawston Youth Drama leaders, the cast of pupils and former pupils in the SYD Seniors Group and everyone involved in the superb production of 'The Young Ones', which was recently performed over four nights in the Marven Centre. Seniors Director, Gareth Furbank, says, "I am incredibly proud of the great effort put into the production by both cast and crew alike. The Young Ones is a show about hard work, determination, and never giving up on what you believe in; values which we hold dear at SYD. The show was a huge success, but the real triumph for me was in seeing how much fun our



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



**Sawston
Village College**



New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP | Telephone: **01223 712777** | Twitter: **@SawstonVC** | **www.sawstonvc.org**

Email: **office@sawstonvc.org** | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Community Education: **01223 712424** - **www.sawstonadulted.org**

Sports Centre: **01223 712555** - **www.sawstonsports.com** | Sawston Cinema: **01223 712825** - **www.sawstoncinema.org.uk**

Professional Learning Update

This half term has been typically busy on the professional learning front. Departments have continued with their departmental enquiries, where each subject area explores an area of priority for them, reading relevant professional literature and evaluating current practice. The programme of training for colleagues new this academic year continues, with the most recent session on questioning, examining the complexity of devising good questions, considering the merits of different questioning strategies and comparing the types of questions that are used in different subject areas. A new working party has been established to investigate "Whole class feedback", a new approach to marking and feedback that potentially enables more timely, responsive, corrective feedback for pupils at the same time as reducing the need for the kind of late night work that traditional marking often entails. Finally, the Language for Learning group has held its latest meeting, continuing to examine research into how best to develop pupils' literacy skills. In the last session, the group looked at the role of generic and subject-specific approaches to literacy; in this session, the group considered how to develop pupils' vocabulary, in order to improve their ability to think and communicate precisely.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal



Sawston Adult Education

We have had a good start to the year and have more new courses coming up. We are offering family workshops, aimed at children

8 years and over, in Drumming, Bollywood Dancing, Blast off into Spanish and Quick Breadmaking on Saturday, 7 March, and we have several adult workshops on Saturday, 14 March. We are also starting to prepare our programme for 2020/21 so if you have any ideas for new courses, or are able to teach a subject, please complete our quick questionnaire by following: [click here](#). This can also be accessed towards the bottom of the home page on the adult education website: www.sawstonadulted.org. For further information on our courses, please visit our website, and contact us



on 01223 712424 or via email at: community@sawstonvc.org.

Mrs King,
Adult Learning Manager

The family workshops will offer a range of different activity.



Conference Day (PSHE)

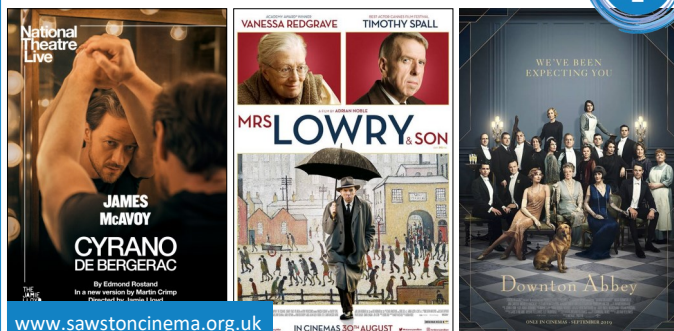
On 29 January pupils took part in their second PSHE conference day of the year. Year 7 and 8 pupils were involved in sessions aimed at mental health, as well as physical and emotional wellbeing. Our Year 9 pupils took part in GCSE options taster sessions throughout the day, and Year 10 pupils were led by Form the Future in an enterprise day, which culminated in a Dragon's Den-style pitching session. External speakers noted how polite, respectful and engaged pupils at Sawston Village College were throughout the day, and I echo their sentiments. A great success all around.

Miss Ivory-Johnson, English Teacher/PSHE Coordinator



We have lots of good things coming up at Sawston Cinema, the school-run cinema operating from the Marven Centre. We look forward to National Theatre Live's *Cyrano de Bergerac* on 20 February, followed by Mrs Lowry & Son on 27 February and *Downton Abbey* on 5 March. To check what is on and to buy tickets, please visit our website, given below.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Sporting Fun!

We have another busy half term holiday planned at the Sports Centre. Activities such as an Adventure Camp, Trampolining, Nerf Wars, Archery, Wobstacle, intensive swimming lessons and a Crazy Kidz club all promise to keep the children entertained. Extra public swims will run every afternoon from 2.00-3.00pm, and our pay-as-you-go classes continue as normal. For more information on holiday activities, classes, children's parties and everything else we have on offer, please contact Reception on 01223 712555 or visit our website: www.sawstonsports.com. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @SawstonSports for up-to-date information and offers.

Eyes on the Prize!

On Thursday, 16 January, all Year 9 pupils visited Anglia Ruskin University for the 'Eyes on the Prize' event. The aim of the day is to increase motivation, aspiration and knowledge in the run up to the options process next half term. Pupils were given a guided tour of the university and also had an opportunity to visit a trade fair and explore the potential careers and higher educational pathways that they may wish to follow. Pupils were also given an insight into pupil life at the University from current undergraduate students. The behaviour of pupils throughout the day was exemplary, and this was commented upon by Anglia Ruskin staff.

Mr Burgess, Assistant Principal



New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP | Telephone: 01223 712777 | Twitter: @SawstonVC | www.sawstonvc.org

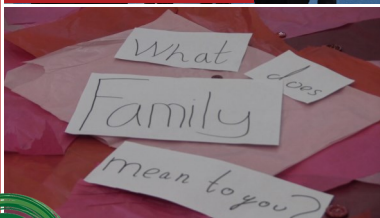
Email: office@sawstonvc.org | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Community Education: 01223 712424 - www.sawstonadulted.org

Sports Centre: 01223 712555 - www.sawstonsports.com | Sawston Cinema: 01223 712825 - www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Pupils make film for fostering campaign



The successful filmmakers



Sawston pupil filmmakers were delighted to take part in the Foster Film Video Challenge run by Cambridgeshire County Council recently to make a film highlighting the need for more foster carers locally. Pupils made two films, one of which was then chosen to launch a new campaign to promote fostering which was featured on BBC Look East. The pupils involved in the project also appeared in the BBC Look East feature and will shortly also visit the Look East studios for a tour and to see the programme go out live. Five pupils in Years 8-10 were involved in making the film, which also featured original music by another Year 10 pupil.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Once again, GCSE pupils Rose Smithet, George Nelson and Eleanor Topliss have been successful in securing a place in the next round of the Rotary's Youth Speaks debate competition, seeing off some tough competition from Impington Village College sixth form pupils. Praised, once more, for the engaging examples, level of detail and confidence with which they put forward their arguments, an enjoyable day was had by all listening to interesting and articulate debates from pupils of all ages. The next round is to be held at Cambridge Regional College on 21 March.

Mrs Carman, Head of English



Year 11 Concert at Stapleford Granary

Year 11 are a very enterprising year group, and the GCSE Music class proved this once again by organising a Leavers' Ball fundraising concert at Stapleford Granary. Pupils performed a wonderful selection of solo, duet and ensemble pieces, enjoying the beautiful concert hall and Steinway Grand piano. It was a pleasure to see how accomplished they have all become as performers, and it was a super evening full of great support from classmates, family and staff. Bravo Year 11!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Pupils gave accomplished performances.



Creative Writing Success

This term has been hugely successful for the Creative Writing Club and for all the pupils who have put themselves forward for the *Hunted* mini saga competition with Young Writers. A number of entrants from Sawston have been selected for publication in a book which encapsulates the creative achievements of young people in our region.

The published stories were thrilling, nerve-racking and highly crafted - an impressive achievement in such a constrained word limit - just 100 words! It was a pleasure for me to read and judge them in the internal, school-wide, level of the competition.

Congratulations to Charlotte Brown, Leona Catchpole and Libby Hull, who were all highly commended in this round, and congratulations also to Emily Harris, Anna Sargent, Fiona Leggate and Emma Quinell who were all commended.

Ms Eve, English Teacher



Lego League City Shaper Event

Lego, robots, algorithms, coding, competition: this year's First Lego League City Shaper event had it all, and, after weeks of preparation, our team was ready for the challenge. Leading up to the event, the group had met weekly to design and improve a robot, program and refine code to drive it, and come up with a solution to an urban city problem. The pupils focused on something close to our Cambridge hearts and minds: bikes and, more specifically, how to store them safely and efficiently in increasingly precious space. We competed in three rounds, and in stage 1, our robot was the first to successfully finish on the bridge. We presented our bike storage solution, and we explained how we programmed our robot. Our group's behaviour, enthusiasm and teamwork were all outstanding - as I would expect - and a great and exhausting day was had by all. We even won the selfie competition!

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science and iMedia



Pupils attended the First Lego League event.

Interview Day for Year 11 Pupils

On Monday, 20 January 2020, all pupils in Year 11 received a professional interview from a visitor from industry, as part of the schools Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme. Interviewers came from a variety of backgrounds, including some visitors from our local partners, such as Morgan Sindall and TWI. The main purpose of the day was to give pupils the experience of an interview prior to the guidance meetings that will take place for further education courses in the coming months. Each pupil was given a 5-minute interview with five minutes of feedback focusing on a number of areas, including content, delivery and body language. There was a huge buzz in the Henry Morris Hall, and pupils conducted themselves incredibly well throughout the process. Several interviewers commented on how articulate Sawston pupils were and how well prepared they seemed to be for the next stage in their education.

Mr Burgess, Assistant Principal



Follow Sawston Village College on Twitter: **@SawstonVC**

Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

House News

The autumn term ended on a high with another fantastic inter-house quiz, which included some excellent kazoo-ing skills from staff and some impressive handmade penguins from pupils. The scores were incredibly close, but congratulations goes to Turing House, who took the title this time around.

We have had a busy start to the Spring term, with Greener Week activities, Options assemblies for Year 9s, and Year 10s embarking on their Work Experience process. We are pleased to have introduced a

weekly Wellbeing Focus to mentor time, allowing all pupils to learn something about wellbeing each week, including tips and strategies for self help. So far, we have looked at worry, what it is and how it makes us feel. Any pupils or parents who would like support with wellbeing issues are encouraged to contact the relevant Mentor or Year Lead to discuss how



Greener Week

Sawston's first ever **Greener Week** took place recently, and pupils worked together to look at ways to make the College a greener and more eco-friendly environment for everyone. As well as looking at the recycling provision on site, pupils took part in a travel-to-school survey and explored how we as a College can gain our Eco Schools credentials in the near future. There was also a presentation from Cambridgeshire County Council on their Eco consultation, and pupils were encouraged to have their say on future plans for their local community. Pupils and parents were very generous in our giant clothing drive collection, and we passed on over 100 bags of clothing and accessories to the Bags 2 School company. We are waiting excitedly to see how much money we raised and we plan to use this for further eco projects.

Miss Hunt, Head of da Vinci House



Year 7 Cambridge Mosque Visit

Year 7 pupils had an opportunity to visit the new mosque in Cambridge, the first eco-friendly mosque in Europe. Upon arrival, pupils were welcomed into the Islamic garden, where they learned about the sustainability of the mosque and its unique design features. We were then taken on a tour, had the privilege of meeting with the Imam and were able to ask questions and explore what we have been learning in class in more detail. The pupils were outstanding during the visit, conducting themselves in a respectful and inquisitive manner.



The new mosque is eco-friendly.



Trampolining

In November a group of eight pupils from Years 7-11 took part in the regional round of the schools trampolining competition. The pupils performed two routines containing numerous somersaults, which were marked by a panel of judges. Notable successes came from Cameron Spence who came third in the intermediate boys' category and Abhi Macdonald Marlow and Gabe Strydom Green who have now progressed through



Left to right: Abhi Macdonald Marlow (Y10), Gabe Strydom Green (Y10) and Cameron Spence (Y9) at the zonal round in Cardiff.

the regional and zonal rounds to compete at the National British Schools Final being held in Southampton in March. All pupils who took part in the various rounds performed brilliantly, and we look forward to seeing where Abhi and Gabe will place in the final.

Mrs Andersen, PE Teacher

Cross Country



In December a group of six pupils from Years 7-9 took part in the district cross country race held at The Netherhall School.

All six pupils were a credit to Sawston Village College, demonstrating excellent determination

throughout their event. Notable performances came from Jenny Leggate in Year 9 who has qualified through the district and county rounds to compete at the English Schools Cross Country Competition in Liverpool in March. Matthew Smith in Year 8 has been selected as a reserve for this competition. A huge well done to all of our runners and the best of luck to Jenny for the race in March!



Left to right: Jenny Leggate (Y9), George Insley (Y7), Samuel Caroe (Y7), Tom Bullock (Y8), Matthew Smith (Y8) and Joel Dennington (Y8) at the District Round.

Intermediate Maths Challenge



On 6 February, a number of pupils in Years 8 to 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, which is run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) charity. The paper is a non-calculator one-hour paper, designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, fluency and precision of thought. Successful candidates can qualify for a number of follow-on rounds, and there is even a summer school for successful candidates.

Dr Tunna, Mathematics Teacher



Fancy yourself as a budding mathematician? Try this question. What is the difference between 25% of £37 and 25% of £17?

And finally:

We wish everyone a good half term break and look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday, 24 February 2020.

Dr Tunna's Maths Question Answer

The correct answer is, of course, £5.00.