

January / February 2021 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

15-19 Feb	Half term
25 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
26 Feb	Year 8 Report 2 issued
1-5 March	Book Week
5 March	Year 7 Report 2 issued
11 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening

12 March	Year 10 Report 2 issued
12 March	Year 9 Options deadline
19 March	Year 11 Report 3 issued
26 March	Spring term ends

From the Principal



It will be a year ago next month that we first entered national lockdown with the unprecedented closure of schools. Perhaps, back then, we might not have anticipated to be in the same position now with school gates closed, the majority of pupils working from home, and uncertainty for tomorrow. However, throughout this pandemic, our pupils and staff have responded magnificently. It has

been a huge team effort and we could not have managed any of this without the support of our parents, carers and

guardians. Their enormous reserves of patience and resilience have enabled our children to rise to the challenges of home learning. Their love and care have meant that our pupils are healthy, safe and secure. Their encouragement and optimism have helped all of us look to the future. We look forward to the potential March reopening. Until then, enjoy a well-earned break, time spent away from screens and an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved together.

At this time, it seems fitting to draw on the inspiring words of Captain Sir Tom Moore: 'Let's try not to get downhearted, we will get through this, whatever is thrown at us and together we can ensure that tomorrow will be a good day.'

Mr Russell, Principal



After Martin Luther King's campaigns, support for the Civil Rights Movement and black American rights increased, which led to many changes, both de jure and de facto. For example, in 1963, Martin Luther King organised the Birmingham Campaign, which was a non-violent protest against segregation. Many school-age children were involved, which is why the Birmingham Campaign is sometimes known as the Children's Crusade. Unfortunately, local sheriffs and police officers attacked the children with high-pressure hoses and dogs and many children were arrested. Images of young people being treated so badly outraged the nation and led to President Kennedy speaking out against violence towards black Americans. In addition, large department stores were desegregated and racial discrimination in employment was banned. In the same year, Martin Luther King organised a march on Washington that aimed to put pressure on the President and Congress to pass a Civil Rights Bill. 250,000 people marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to hear speeches from leading figures in the Civil Rights Movement, including Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech, which was played across the world and drew attention to civil rights. 20% of the marchers were white, which means that the Civil Rights Movement had gained the support, not just of black people as in previous campaigns, but also of many white people. As a result of the Birmingham Campaign and the March on Washington, in 1964 the Civil Rights Act was passed, which outlawed segregation and racial discrimination. A year later, the Voting Rights Act was passed, which made it illegal to prevent black Americans from voting.

Martin Luther King's campaigns marked significant progress for black Americans because both significant de jure change and de facto change were achieved. Many more white Americans were in support of black American rights and attitudes towards black Americans changed. As well as this, segregation and discrimination were outlawed, and it was now illegal to prevent black Americans from voting, which meant that black Americans could have more of a say in how the country should and who should run it. There was particular progress for black Americans in the South, though, as that was where there were still many racist attitudes and segregation was still in place. Needless to say, however, the Civil Rights Movement didn't gain everyone's support, especially in the South, as Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968.

Above: Work by Nick Mada in Year 9

Pupils working hard in History

Our History pupils have been working really hard during lockdown; our Year 7s continuing their studies of the Norman Conquest and our Year 8s looking at changes in who held power 1649-1760: including the most forgotten foreign invasion into Britain, the Glorious Revolution of 1688! Our Year 9 pupils have now completed their milestone on Black American rights 1789-1960, and we have been blown away by the quality of their writing under such difficult circumstances. They are now going to be exploring interpretations of the suffrage movement, looking at different perspectives on why women got the vote in 1918, including the role of lesser-known working class women in the campaigns. Their lessons will include stories of women such as Selina Cooper who, while campaigning for Votes for Women in Cambridge, was carried by a mob of students through the city streets! Pupils will also have the opportunity to investigate the recently collated suffrage database to trawl through records of 3,000 different campaigners from across the country for themselves. For access to the database: <https://www.suffrageresources.org.uk/database>

Miss Jackson, Head of History



Right: Selina Cooper, campaigner for Votes for Women



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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's staff professional learning has, predictably, focused primarily on remote teaching. In particular, as well as the inevitable need to continue to build our technical expertise, we have explored various methods of increasing pupil engagement and providing feedback. Complementing this, a recent Teaching & Learning Briefing was an opportunity to revisit how to use questioning to check for understanding, key elements of the seminal research of Barack Rosenshine. New colleagues have also continued their induction programme, alongside our many trainee teachers, looking in greater depth at different methods of questioning and structuring classroom dialogue.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

Year 9 Options Process

The key stage 4 options process is now well underway. Over the coming weeks, Year 9 pupils, supported by their parents and guided by their teachers, will be making decisions about their course preferences for Years 10 and 11. Class teachers and subject leaders are happy to receive questions via email, and there will be formal opportunities to discuss courses at the parent consultation meeting on 25 February and the options guidance interviews thereafter. Details of both will follow shortly but for now, full details of the process can be found in the [Parents section of the college website](#).

Mr Wallace, Deputy Principal

Writing Prize Opportunity



New Creative Opportunity for students at Anglian Learning Secondary and Sixth Forms

Do you write fiction, non-fiction or poetry?
Do you create comic strips or other art work?
Would you like to see your work in print?

This project will see work by young people published in the **Anglian Learning Writing Prize Anthology 2021**.

Take part in this exciting project by entering your work in one of the categories below.

Writing Prize Categories:

Fiction
Non-fiction
Poetry
Comic strips/Caroons

Special Art Work Category:
Anthology Cover Design

All longlisted entries will be judged by published writers.
All prize-winning and shortlisted entries will be published.
All first placed entries will also receive a mentoring session with a literary editor.
All entries must be received by midday on **12 April 2021**.

For guidelines on how to enter go to:
<https://anglianlearning.org/category/trust-news/>

The English department welcomes the launch of the first-ever Anglian Learning Writing Prize. With four different writing categories to enter and also a cover design category, there is lots to interest everyone. The closing date for entries is 12 April. Find out more about how to enter by following the link on the poster here.

Mrs Carman,
Head of English

In the Communi-



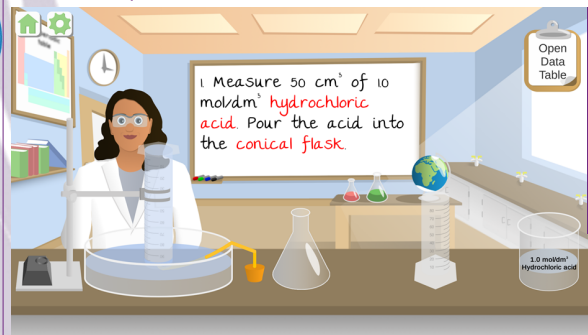
Our Sports Centre, Adult Education programme and Sawston Cinema all remain closed at present but will return as soon as it is safe to reopen. In the meantime, please check out the relevant websites for updates.

Sports Centre: www.sawstonsports.com
Adult Education: www.sawstonadulthood.org
Sawston Cinema: www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

PhET simulations in Science

Sawston Science Department has been busy scouring EduTwitter for suggestions of new resources to facilitate the delivery of practical work during remote learning. Pupils have enjoyed using PhET simulations, developed by the University of Colorado, to model half-life and build circuits. The department has now purchased a licence to use Science Practical Simulator to enable pupils to experience the required practicals, which are a compulsory element of the GCSE course. Mr Barnett recently reminded his Year 11 class to bring their coats to his virtual fieldwork lesson, with one pupil emailing back following the lesson to apologise for leaving their coat on the virtual mini-bus! We hope all pupils continue to enjoy engaging with the simulations.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science

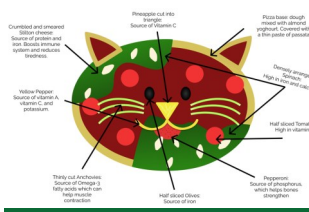


Pupils have been engaging well in their new practicals.

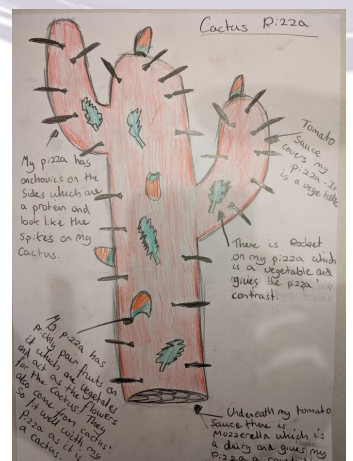
Pandemic Pizzas

Teaching a practical subject, such as food, during a pandemic does not make for a good recipe. Staff and pupils alike miss working in the kitchens and creating some tasty dishes. Half of Year 7 pupils are coming to the end of their food lessons for this year and had been looking forward to making healthy pizzas. However, lockdown means they can only complete the theory for this milestone task, using their newly gained knowledge of nutrition to design a pizza that reflects the healthy eating advice of the NHS Eatwell Guide. The brief also asks them to come up with a design that will appeal to teenagers. As you can see from the photographs, imaginations have, in some cases, run riot!

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



Great pizza designs from Year 7s!



Years 10 and 11 busy in Business Studies

In Business Studies Year 11 have been looking at how businesses make operational decisions in terms of the production process, managing quality, working with suppliers and the stages of the sales process. Year 10 have been investigating putting business ideas into practice by considering business aims and objectives and how these change as a business grows; revenue, profit and profits; cash and cash-flow; and finally sources of finance available to businesses.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher

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A plethora of styles and genres in Drama

Teaching Drama to a screen, with very little scope for alternative interactions has been a challenge! We have, however, made the most of the rich and varied literary elements that each unit of work has to offer, and our brilliant, talented young actors have read, researched, read out and written in response to a plethora of styles and genres, including fairy-tale parody writing, the vocal presentation of classic poems in the style of a Greek Chorus and the translation and analysis of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet extracts, ready for some creative and contemporary staging. Our Year 10s and 11s have been writing and/or preparing monologues for performance and just last week we had a professional actor and casting agent join us for an insightful and informative virtual workshop on performing to camera. These 'self-tapes' as they are called will be a brand new acting experience for our GCSE pupils and all credit to them for embracing another steep learning curve! The department will be ready and raring to return to the studio and perform together; to share our lockdown learning and celebrate the value of real, interactive performance once again.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Interactive Maths lectures

This half term we enrolled our higher GCSE pupils in a national programme of interactive maths lectures. Designed to enrich learning and highlight the everyday uses of Maths, pupils have enjoyed the UK's most inspiring maths speakers, including Rob Eastaway, author of 'Why do Buses Come in Threes', present maths live. In the first show, pupils discovered the surprising ways in which quadratic equations crop up in the real world, from falling objects to crowd management at large events. We are looking forward to discovering a variety of ways that Trigonometry is used in entertainment, from music to visual effects in the next show.

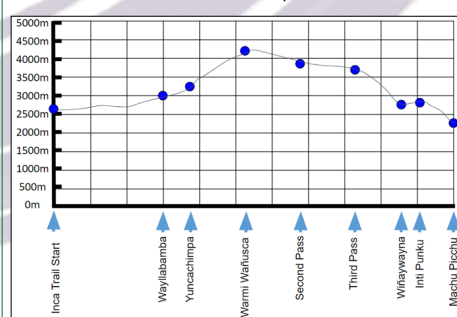
A busy Music department

We started the term still on a high from our Carol Service which went 'live' on the penultimate day of term. An enormous well done to all the pupils involved and a thank you to Mr Cragg and Ms Morgan for all their technological expertise. We also enjoyed some impromptu playground carolling from the Year 10 woodwind octet and Year 11 brass quartet to bring in the festive season. This term has been a tough one with everything heading online just as we felt we had got started with music groups. However, music making has continued with Year 10 putting together a virtual performance of the Allegro from Corelli's Christmas Concerto in order to fully understand the inner workings of a Baroque Concerto Grosso. Year 11 have been delving into film music and thinking about how to create specific atmospheres with particular musical features. Year 9 have been stamping their way through body percussion performances (some Music teachers may have been injured in the teaching of this). Year 8 have been learning how to create their own pop and rock compositions using 'Soundtrap' sequencing software, whilst Year 7 have been learning about pulse, metre, major and minor scales, rhythmic ostinatos and drones via Renaissance dance music, including (virtually) dancing a Pavan all together. We cannot wait to be back in the classroom and to get the instruments out but, meanwhile, we are doing as much music making as we can. Well done everyone!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

Enthusiasm for topics in Geography

In Geography, pupils adapted quickly to the move towards remote learning and have enjoyed participating in live lessons. They have amazed us with their hard work and enthusiasm for their topics. Year 10 and Year 11 have continued with their GCSE topics. Year 10 have moved on to Climate Change, exploring the evidence, causes and effects. Year 9 recently completed their Uncertain Futures milestone, producing some excellent written work. Year 7 have continued with the Fantastic Places topic. For Fantastic South America, pupils researched the formation of the Andes Mountains and completed cross sections of the Inca trail that leads to



Machu Picchu. Cross sections are a challenging map skill, and Year 7 impressed us with their resilience and can-do attitude to produce some brilliant cross sections.

Miss Evans, Acting Head of Geography

Year 7s completed cross sections.

New projects in Art

The Christmas holiday is a natural break for one art project to finish and a new one to start. This term, all our KS3 pupils have started new projects, with Year 7 looking at, and responding to, Ndebele art in their 'The World Around Us' project; Year 8 are beginning to understand Portraiture, and Year 9 are exploring how social, economic and political events can inspire artists. Young people are also embracing the change in our daily routine to create their own pieces of art, which is always a delight to see.



Work by: (L left) Anu Schoenfelder
(Above) Libby Unwin

Mrs Day,
Head of Art

Computational thinking for Year 10s and 11s

Year 10 and Year 11 Computer Science pupils have once more taken part in the Perse Coding Team Challenge, this year with the added complexities of participating from home, working solo, and for many, in a language that is unfamiliar to most: Python. Although it is too early to say how we have performed, we are proud of wrestling with coding problems such as arranging seats in Covid-safe ways, counting carrots that are up to scratch, and sharing sweets fairly whilst scoffing half before passing them on. This is Computational Thinking, and is one of the main pillars of CS. To Year 9: If you think you would enjoy solving this sort of problem, CS would be a great option choice for you.

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science



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DT from a new perspective

The new calendar year has seen a new way of teaching and learning for DT. Key stage 3 classes were about to embark on the realisation of the prototypes they had been developing over the autumn term but, unfortunately, they had to be housed for the time being, with the question being 'What can we do instead?'. Well, we have taken this opportunity to develop our technical drawing skills. Ranging from learning one and two-point perspective drawing techniques to developing quick idea generation and how to communicate through sketching and annotation. Pupil responses to these lessons have been fantastic.



Staff are very excited to see how these new-found skills will be used in the design development stage when we can all be together in the workshops again.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

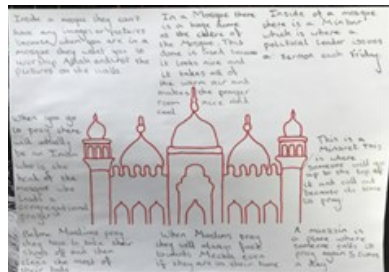
Drawing by Sara-Sophie Mansat-Bhattacharyya in Year 9



Year 7s rise to the challenge in RE

This half term, our Year 7 pupils have begun learning about Islam. They have recently been completing their mosque challenges, with some outstanding pieces of work coming through. The challenge was to encourage pupils to learn about the key features and the importance of a mosque for Muslims through a more hands-on approach and a chance to be as creative as they liked. And they certainly were creative, ranging from wonderful drawings, recycled creations, digital videos and even a 3D-printed mosque. Certainly some of the best mosque challenges we have seen - well done Year 7!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



PE offers a menu of activities

This term the PE department has set learning activities that have been adapted for the home environment. Fitness, football, dance and netball have been on the menu so far, with other activities in the pipeline. It is incredibly important that physical activity is part of our daily routine, giving us a chance to move away from a screen and get some fresh air. Exercise boosts your mood, self-esteem, concentration levels and your energy levels. Get moving, you won't regret it!



Before lockdown: Pupils enjoy netball in school.

House News

All geared up to return to school after the Christmas break and then another few weeks at home, learning online with just a few pupils in school. Again, our pupils have proved their resilience, ability to adapt and commitment to their learning. We are so proud of them. This closure period, more live lessons have been offered, and pupils have engaged well. With the positive impact of exercise on health being well known, many have also engaged with our activity challenge. Quizzes have been provided and a source of fun through the bulletins and via email, and calls have kept the communication alive. A huge well done to you all, and we hope to see you soon!!

Mrs Wombwell, Head of Mandela House, on behalf of the Heads of House



Engaging lessons in Languages

During this remote learning half-term, the MFL department has experimented with a range of strategies to make virtual and independent lessons as engaging as possible. From competitions on Quizlet live and Kahoot to the interactive Blookit games, pupils have impressed us with their vocabulary recall as we have continued with our normal schemes of learning. Well done to the Year 8 Spanish and German, Year 7 French and Year 9 French cohorts who completed their milestones this half term, with some pupils achieving excellent scores, a true testament to their outstanding attitudes to learning and determination to do well even as their daily routines were turned upside down.

Pictured, a Year 8 German "tweet", practising school subjects and opinions.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Right: Tweet from Reuben Belcher Soame, Year 8



Holocaust Memorial Day

In the past few years we have marked Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, by hosting a visit from former pupil and Professor of History, Tom Lawson. Professor Lawson has given engaging lectures and then held a Q&A session with pupils. This year, this usual programme could not take place and so, instead, we invited pupils to mark the day with poetry readings from selected poems written by survivors of the Holocaust and those affected by genocide. Pupils' recordings were then collected together in one short film.



Well done to all the pupils who took part.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager

Pupils made poetry recordings for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021.

You can see the film here: <https://vimeo.com/505039679>

And finally: We wish everyone a good half term break. With Book Week coming up at the start of March, half term is a great time to get a head start. Happy reading!