

July / August 2020 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

From the Principal



In a football cliché, this year can best be described as a game of two halves. Pre-Covid we were as busy as ever with pupils beavering away in lessons, embracing the extra-curricular opportunities and enjoying the company of their peers. In December's newsletter I wrote: 'in the new year..., we can look forward to even more of our pupils becoming fully involved in the life of the College and making the most of every hour.' We could not have

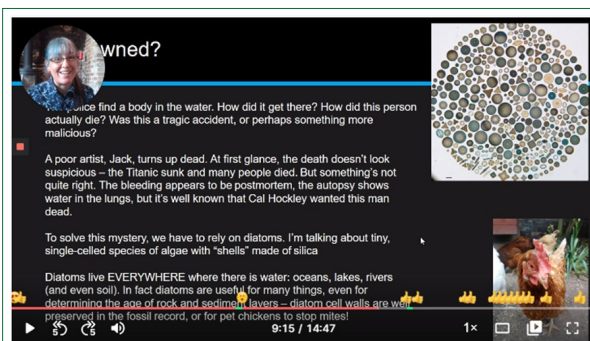
anticipated what was to come next but what has been so uplifting has been the positive response to the crisis from the whole community. Making the most of every hour has taken creativity, patience, resilience and determination - and perhaps our concept

of time has somewhat slowed in lockdown - but we have reached the next milestone together and we can look forward to a well-earned break for all.

Sadly, we have a few members of staff leaving this term: Dr Fox after three years of lighting up the Bunsen burners in S4 is returning to industry and research; Mrs Venn, having explored and debated religion, ethics and philosophy with hundreds of eager pupils since 2014, leaves to spend time with her baby son and will work part-time at the Faculty of Education; and Mr Pocock, one of our magnificent team of Science technicians, has had enough of mixing potions and retires with our very best wishes.

The year ahead looks challenging, and it will not be school as normal, but our community will stay strong and our values can shine through. We look forward to welcoming everybody back in September. Until then, we wish you the best of summers and hope that you all have an opportunity to heed Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice: 'Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air.'

Mr Russell, Principal



Teaching in Science

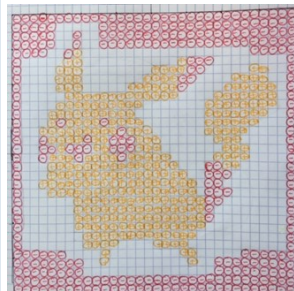
When lockdown began we knew Science would need to engage pupils in a way that continued to support our unique explanatory styles, and that a worksheet-based approach would not enable a thorough understanding of concepts. Mr Barnett found Loom, a program that superimposed a small video of our faces on our PowerPoint

slides, which was perfect. Virtual lessons allowed pupils to pause and re-watch any sections. My first Loom was viewed 280 times, 68 of which were repeats. Making the videos was really fun, from the surprise appearances of my cat to a lesson on microbes that became a Titanic-based murder enquiry! Pupil feedback has been incredibly positive.

Ms Page, Science Teacher

Creativity in Maths

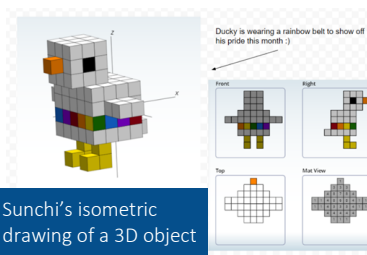
We always delight in the creativity of our pupils, and remote learning has not interfered with this.



Annika's representation of -2

Pupils in Year 7 have been learning about negative numbers using double-sided counters. They were challenged to come up with a unique way to represent the number negative two. I am sure you will agree that Annika Pettersson's representation of -2 is amazing. Not to be outdone, Year 9 pupils have been using isometric drawing tools to present different views of 3D

objects. Well done to Sunchi Nicholas for her creation. During Activities Week, KS3 pupils developed their cryptography (codebreaking) skills. Some even took a virtual tour of Bletchley



Sunchi's isometric drawing of a 3D object

Park, home to the codebreakers of World War 2.

Indeed, many pupils have been testing their problem-solving skills, with over 50 pupils from Years 7 and 8 competing in the Junior Mathematical

Challenge online. Congratulations to all pupils that took part. Collectively, they earned 8 gold, 15 silver and 23 bronze awards. A special mention goes to Archie Meikle (best in school) and Jake Williamson (best in year).

Year 10 pupils have been very receptive to masterclasses delivered in school, reviewing topics, including Functions and Proof. As with all years, we are collecting topic-based diagnostic information, to help us best support pupils when they return in September.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



National Support School
designated by
 National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Professional Learning

Being a conscientious bunch, teachers have continued to engage with professional development during lockdown. Curriculum planning continues in many areas, always a continuous iterative process but given new incentive by: (a) the need to ensure our curriculum is appropriate for pupils who have experienced, in the jargon, 'blended learning' for some months, and (b) important international conversations about ensuring that school curricula are sufficiently diverse and representative, including being reflective of the latest scholarship. Additionally, numerous colleagues, including teachers, teaching assistants and cover supervisors, have taken advantage of the proliferation of online webinars and virtual conferences. Of particular interest has been some excellent training on literacy, including dyslexia, spelling, morphology and so on, which will inform next year's whole-school professional development focus on cross-curricular literacy.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

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Stories in English

As the world went into lockdown, it was easy to overlook World Storytelling Day which took place on 20 March. However, this was not the case for Years 7 and 8, who have spent the summer term honing their skills and developing their own narratives. From dramatic weather events to wittily depicted everyday occurrences, pupils have worked through a series of home learning lessons that, with the help of Miss Harriss' voice-overs and Miss Richards' writing workshops, have seen them shaping and crafting their own story structures, focusing on all the key elements that will support them to be successful in their writing. It is clear pupils have enjoyed writing them as much as we have enjoyed reading them!

Mrs Carman, Head of English

S

Campaigning in Geography

In Geography, our pupils have supported the Send My Friend to School Campaign. Every year we look at the global education crisis and the 262 million children who are out of school around the world. This year, the Campaign focuses on the Climate Crisis and the fact that the climate emergency is causing extreme weather events around the world and wreaking havoc with people's hopes and lives, including the fundamental right of all young people to go to school. To ensure that everyone has the Right Climate To Learn, our pupils have written persuasive messages to our local MP, Andrew Browne, and the Prime Minister, calling for action for the right climate to learn and asking them to pledge to make a difference. We received some amazing work, as always - Thank you Geographers!

Mrs Sage, Head of Geography



In the Community

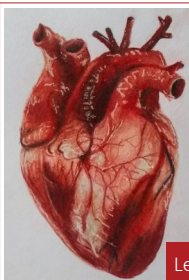
Following current government advice, our Sports Centre, Adult Education classes and cinema screenings all remain closed. However, there are plans to reopen the Sports Centre soon. See further information about the Sports Centre on this page. For Adult Education and Sawston Cinema, please check out the relevant websites for more information about plans.



www.sawstonadulted.org



www.sawstoncinema.org.uk



Biological Drawing

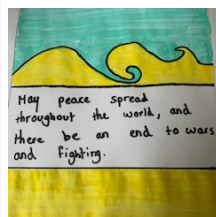
One of the most important skills a scientist should have is that of observation. With this in mind, Biology set a biological drawing challenge for Activities Week. 44 drawings were submitted and we were amazed at the quality.

Mrs Philpott, Deputy Head of Science

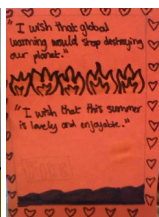
Leonora Matthews, Year 11, produced a heart drawing.

Debates in RE

The RE department has had a busy term. KS3 have been enjoying looking at Buddhism, Philosophy and Ethics, debating a number of issues such as; suffering, nature of reality, morality and environmental ethics. Meanwhile, KS4 have been engaging in weekly



Painting by Elsa Gordon, Year 9



Left: Prayer flags made by pupils in Year 7.

live lessons, challenging themselves to class debates, research tasks and live interactive quizzes. Pupils have been working hard, and we would like to wish them a restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming them back into the classroom in September.

Mrs Clover, Head

S



Reopening

We are delighted to announce the reopening of Sawston Sports Centre on Monday, 27 July. We have been working extremely hard throughout this period of closure to ensure that the Centre is ready to open in the safest possible way. Whilst we will be ready to reopen, it will be necessary to operate in a slightly different way. Please check our website (www.sawstonsports.com) and social media pages for further information on a revised timetable and new procedures. We look forward to welcoming you back very soon.

Understanding Binary

I have been really impressed by the engagement of our Year 10 pupils. Their attitude, focus and determination to succeed have not wavered in these unprecedented times. In CS we have tackled the Network unit - one of the most demanding - from home, and have introduced a brand new Games Concepts unit in Creative iMedia. At KS3, some Year 9 pupils have completed their Games and (as planned!) are sharing them; the results are again impressive, but it is also clear that other pupils have found this significantly more of a challenge. Year 8 pupils have sprinkled magic over their P5.js flag designs with terrific results, and I have had great attendance at the three master classes I have run. Year 7s have thrived creating their e-safety websites, perfectly capturing our ASPIRE values in this critical unit; they are now proving that $1 + 1 = 10$ in our binary and logic unit... Did you know that there are 11 types of people who understand binary? Those that do, those that don't, and those that make off-by-one errors...

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A Panoply of Scripts in Drama

Throughout lockdown, our pupils have maintained and sustained their theatrical pursuits with a panoply of submissions. The 7s have been researching and preparing for contemporary Lazzi sequences from the famous Commedia dell'Arte genre, while the 8s have been writing their own naturalism scripts in response to textual stimuli. Year 9s have written, recorded and submitted introspective monologue pieces, based on their lockdown experiences but with a choice of setting that transports them to somewhere more (or less) exotic and more transformative as characters. Our GCSE Drama pupils are currently using live lessons to build characters in a remote space before partnering up for spontaneous duologue experiments. Please keep an eye out for a Twitter post for one or more of these! We look forward to returning to the studio in September and embracing the chance to adapt and create new and exciting work.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

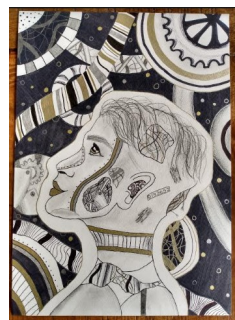
Year 6 Transition

As with many aspects of education in recent months, our Year 6 transition process has required some reinvention. It was with both great pleasure (and no small relief that the technology held up) that we met Year 6 pupils and parents virtually on 2 July, for Induction Evening. Whilst we would have loved to welcome Year 6 as normal and meet parents face-to-face, it was nevertheless a typically enjoyable evening for us as we continue to get to know the new members of our school community. It is really encouraging to see that Year 6 pupils, despite some understandable nerves which are normal at any time and possibly greater in the current circumstances, are excited at joining us for the next academic year. It will be great to meet you all in person in just a few weeks' time. I would like to thank parents for your understanding throughout this process, as well as for being unwitting guinea pigs for the new virtual parents' evening system, which worked superbly. Thank goodness.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

Everyone's been busy in Art!

As we near the end of this year, the Art department is able to



look back and reflect on another creative half term. Year 7s have been busy creating work inspired by legendary Pop Artists; the 'Crazy Bird' project has seen Year 8s creating weird and wonderful designs. Year 9s have worked towards completing their half human/half machine portraits, and Year 10s have

continued to develop their portfolios. Extracurricular work has also impressed, in particular a short film by Hannah Jeggo which focused on a pair of swans, the link to which is given below. Her love of swans can also clearly



be seen in her stunning origami model here. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Art rooms.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

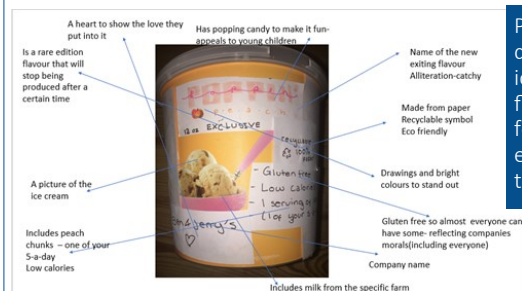
Clockwise from top, work by: Amelia Sims, Year 9, Nick Mada, Year 8, Scarlett Petty, Year 10 and Hannah Jeggo, Year 8. Swan film: www.vimeo.com/434652940

Performing and Composing in Music

The Music Department has continued to perform and compose at any opportunity during lockdown, albeit virtually. Sadly, we could not play steel pans this term, but year groups had an opportunity to compose their own steel pan pieces on music software 'SoundTrap'. Our pupils' tech skills have really impressed us, and many rose to the challenge with excellent pieces (some on Twitter). In the last few weeks Year 9 have been exploring the syncopated rhythms of Brazilian samba, Year 8 have gone into the (somewhat) unknown world of Musique Concrète, whilst Year 7 have been composing their own music for movie trailers. We've been experimenting with online lessons and have really enjoyed interacting with pupils during our live Soundtrap demos. Year 10 have been learning about Pop Ballads and Solo Artists from 1980s to present. A highlight has to be some very high quality pop ballad music videos: lockdown has certainly not dampened our creativity! Many pupils have chosen to continue their instrument lessons online too, which have been a great success with lots of progress made. Well done! Finally, we launched our last 'virtual ensemble' with pupils, parents and staff taking part (look out for it on Twitter), and some Year 9 pupils participated in an online chamber music concert. Bravo to all! We cannot wait to see everyone in September.

Enterprise Task in Business Studies

In Business Studies, Year 10 pupils have been looking at the external influences that can affect businesses, which has been quite apt given the current pandemic. I have asked pupils to research into local businesses to see how they have adapted in order to survive, and pupils have written some very interesting news articles. This half term we have welcomed Year 9 pupils, who have completed a mini enterprise task where they had to design a new flavour of ice cream for Ben & Jerry's. Pupils came up with a number of interesting flavours and some brilliantly designed ice cream tubs and



Pupils designed ice cream flavours for an enterprise task.



Normally we would organise an Arts Award moderation in July for the Year 7 pupils completing the Bronze Arts Award within the curriculum. Since this has not been possible this year, we are delighted that, instead, a moderation will take place in the autumn term. Year 7 parents should now have received a letter about bringing work for assessment into school on or before 4 September 2020. We are also pleased with the numbers of pupils completing the Silver Award and will aim to organise a December moderation for them.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



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House News

A very unusual end to the year, but one with lots of successes nonetheless. Pupils have responded incredibly well to the circumstances, both in terms of the work and in supporting each other. We have been pleased too to offer help when needed, and to tailor our provision to suit

individuals. As the end of term draws near, so too does the traditional end of year Inter-House quiz. It will take a different form this time, but the sense of competition is very much the same! We encourage pupils to join in on the last day and do their House proud.

Mr Hunt, Year 8 Lead and Head of Earhart House, on behalf of the Heads of House



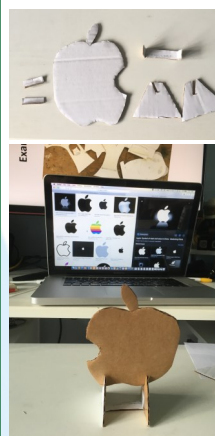
Flourishing DT

Our DT family has continued to flourish under the challenge of remote and live learning.



The Year 7 cohort has produced some spectacular working models of their cake stand designs. The DT staff have been really impressed with the levels of creativity shown. The Year 8s have been producing some amazing responses to their flat pack mobile device stands.

Although modelling final prototypes in card or cardboard, they have been able to show a sense of proportion, aesthetic and form. The Year 9s have been keenly investigating GCSE DT, with live lessons proving very popular with pupils and staff alike. Our Year 10 pupils have made a superb start to their GCSE coursework and/or



Engineering tasks and, again, live lessons have been warmly welcomed with excellent attendance. All pupils, parents and staff involved are to be commended for their willingness to contribute, support, share and empathise through this often difficult time. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Pupils have produced spectacular work.



Around the World Challenge

In June, the PE department set pupils and staff the challenge of walking, running or cycling as many miles as they could over seven days in a bid to get as far around the world as possible. After travelling an impressive 5,025 miles as a collective, our final destination was Beijing in China! We were so impressed with all of the individual efforts being submitted each day from a large range of different pupils. Congratulations to Da Vinci House who topped the leaderboard with 1,650 miles and to DH08 for coming first out of the mentor groups by travelling 471 miles!

SVC's Around the World Challenge

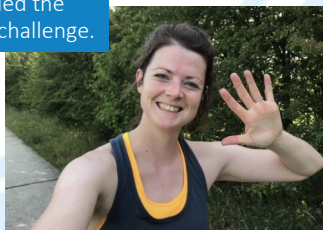
Well done to everyone who participated!

Mrs Andersen, Acting Deputy Head of PE

If you would like to see more pictures from this or subsequent PE challenges,



PE staff led the challenge.



Postcards from the Past

This term, Sawston History department ran a 'Postcards from the Past' competition via the bulletin. Pupils were tasked with pretending they were a historical character living in



A postcard from Catherine the Great

lockdown. The joint winners were Anna Sargeant (Year 7) and Jenny

Leggate (Year 9) who will share the £20 Amazon voucher.

Jenny wrote a postcard from Mary Queen of Scots, and Anna wrote her postcard from the perspective of Catherine the Great. The girls will receive their prizes at the start of the next academic year. It was an absolute pleasure reading all the entries submitted and we really enjoyed seeing so much creativity.



Mary Queen of Scots



And finally...

We wish everyone a restful and safe summer break. School opens for Year 7 and Year 11 pupils on Thursday, 3 September, followed by pupils in all other Year groups joining them in school on Friday, 4 September. We will look forward to seeing you then.