

July / August 2021 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

21 July	Summer Term ends
1 Sept	Staff Training Day
2 Sept	School open for Year 7 & Year 11 only
3 Sept	School open for all pupils
14 Sept	Year 7 Freshers' Fair

22-23 Sept	Year 7 CAT Tests
23 Sept	Year 7 Meet the Mentor
25-26 Sept	Bronze DofE Training Expedition
27 Sept	Post-16 Conference Day
28 Sept	Year 11 Information Evening
7-8 Oct	Staff Training Days
7 Oct	College Open Evening

From the Principal



There are only so many ways to say the same thing: it has been an extraordinary year yet pupils, staff and parents have risen to every challenge and through their patience, support and understanding, as well as their resilience and respect, the College has stayed strong. It may be the same message but it is with our heartfelt thanks to all.

This is always an exciting time of the year, with the promise of summer holidays ahead, but it is also a time to say goodbye. Mrs Gilbert is heading to Saffron Walden with her protractors, Mr Smith is going to find other pupils with whom to kick a ball, Mr Burke is going to train to be a teacher, and Miss Cooper is jetting off overseas. The English department will feel very

different: Mrs Wells is to be Deputy SENDCo at Bassingbourn, Miss Ivory-Johnson relocates to London, Miss Richards seeks sixth form teaching at Comberton, Ms Rose looks for new opportunities and Mx Berridge's temporary contract ends. We thank them for their generous contribution to the College and wish them all well.

It is also with great sadness that Ms Abbs will be leaving us. She has been a huge support to so many families as Director of Welfare and Inclusion and in her various roles since joining us in 2010. Ms Abbs will be the Local Authority's new Safeguarding Advisor but, to our delight, will remain connected to the school as a Trust appointed Governor. We wish her tremendous success.

'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.' (Dr Seuss)

Mr Russell, Principal

Year groups enjoy Olympic Days

14 - 16 July saw all of our year groups participating in their Olympic Day, in which pupils had the opportunity to represent their house in a broad range of sporting activities, including Rounders, Paralympic activities and Trampoline, to name a few. Year 10 went first and, after a fierce morning of competition, Mandela topped the table with 15 Golds, 9 Silvers and 5 Bronze medals to their name, but it was Turing who took the lead in the points table, scoring a whopping 352 points overall! Next, it was Year 9's turn. Da Vinci pupils were on an unstoppable winning streak, moving them ahead of Turing to take pole position in the overall standings! With less than 100 points between the houses, it was still all to play for at the halfway stage. Monday saw Year 8s take the field, with Earhart moving the medals table also, overtaking Mandela in the points table. Tuesday was finally Year 7's time to shine. Turing experienced a gold rush but, after many hours of competition, it is Da Vinci house who are victorious, scoring 1392 points to proudly lift the house cup! Well done to all involved.

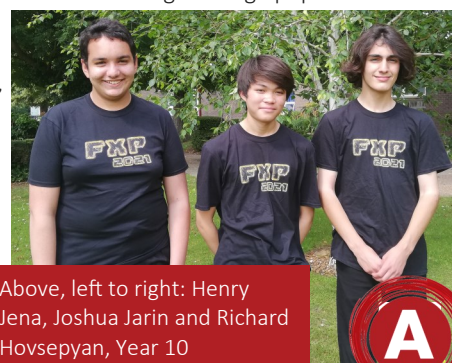
Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



Success in FXP Games Competition

Covid has brought out the very best in many pupils, and I have been amazed at the effort Year 10 have made in their Computer Science exams in the most turbulent of years: success worth celebrating. The hurdles of exams and coursework have also been met by many pupils in Creative iMedia and I have been humbled by the resilience and determination of many in this cohort. Covid, however, did not stop us participating in the FXP games competition, and three Year 10 pupils (Josh, Henry and Richard) won the top prize (Secondary School) for their amazing Prime Meridian game. Former Sawston Village College pupils also won the FE top prize. I send my congratulations to all, and give my thanks to Miss Field for helping to mentor our Year 10 team.

**Mr Phoenix
Holland, Head of
Computer Science
and iMedia**



Above, left to right: Henry Jena, Joshua Jarin and Richard Hovsepyan, Year 10



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



**Sawston
Village College**



Professional Learning Update

With the Year 11 assessment process out of the way, it has been refreshing to have the opportunity to look ahead to the professional learning programme for the new year. We have concluded our sequence of Teaching and Learning Briefings looking at Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, ending with, appropriately, advice on how to review prior learning. We are also in the midst of strategic planning for next year, including designing a renewed focus on literacy, particularly reading across the curriculum. Beyond Sawston, next year sees considerable change in the training of newly qualified teachers, who will in future follow the national Early Career Framework. There will also be a new raft of educational leadership qualifications, known as National Professional Qualifications. Whilst these changes do present some challenges for schools, it is nonetheless a very positive sign that teacher professional learning continues to be a priority nationally.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal



Writing Prize Success

We were delighted to present certificates to those pupils who had had their work shortlisted for inclusion in the first Anglian Learning Writing Prize anthology. 13 pupils had their work shortlisted in total, with two pupils being chosen as winners in their categories. Well done to all!

Above: Isobel Whitton, Year 8, who won the Poetry Category.



Who doesn't love a pizza?

There were plenty of pizzas to love earlier this term when Year 7 pupils took over the Food rooms to create and cook their 'milestone' pieces of work. It was the culmination of a term's work during which they had learned about the Eatwell Guide, which sets out recommendations for healthy eating and achieving a balanced diet.

Using their knowledge, they were asked to design and cook pizzas that were both healthy and tasty, and that had to appeal to teenagers. And they didn't disappoint. Many let their imaginations run riot, creating tasty treats in the shape of stars and animals, while others topped their pizzas to look like faces.

Who says eating healthy can't be fun?

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



Sawston Adult Education

We are planning to run a full programme of courses in the College from September and we hope there is something that will

appeal to everyone. Our courses are now on our website: www.sawstonadulted.org, so please have a look, and if there is something that you fancy doing, please enrol as soon as possible as some courses will fill up quickly. We have some new art courses, and also garden design for beginners, as well as our usual popular courses. For more information please visit our website, email community@sawstonvc.org or telephone **01223 712424**. We look forward to welcoming you to the College in September.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



As the Summer Holidays are fast approaching Sawston Sports Centre is preparing for a fun-filled six weeks. We are offering a variety of activities for children of all ages, including our ever-popular Intensive Swimming Lessons, Trampolining, Bubble Swims and our Inflatable Wobstacle course. Extra swimming sessions have been added to the programme and the floodlit tennis courts will be available to book throughout the holidays to offer families the chance to have fun and get active outdoors.

Moving forward, we plan to offer additional classes including Pilates, Yoga and Aquacise. From September, our popular swimming lessons will return to weekly rather than fortnightly sessions. If you would like further information on any of the activities on offer please contact Reception on **01223 712555**, check our website www.sawstonsports.com and follow us on social media.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager, Sawston Sports Centre



Sawston Cinema plans to reopen from September and already has new screenings planned, including NT Live dates. Check out the cinema website for updates on the forthcoming programme.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager www.sawstoncinema.org



Interesting topics in History

It has been an exciting last half term in History. Our Year 10 pupils have now moved on to a new topic, the Norman Conquest, where they have been exploring Anglo-Saxon culture. Our Year 7s have been learning about Mansa Musa, the Emperor of Mali in Africa, who historians have said may have been the wealthiest man to ever live! Year 8s have been studying the Industrial Revolution by looking at autobiographies and first hand testimonies of the working classes through the work of historian Emma Griffin. Finally, Year 9s have been looking at personal testimonies in their exploration of 'How should we tell the History of the Holocaust?', which has included a traditional narrative of how the Holocaust has developed but also a focus on Jewish life before Nazi power, Jewish resistance to the Holocaust and experiences of liberation to try to provide pupils with a wider perspective of Jewish experience and agency.

Miss Jackson, Head of History



Update from Business Studies

In Business Studies, pupils have been working hard on preparing for their assessments, with a focus on recapping the topics from Theme 1 and then on examination technique. Feedback has now been given to pupils on their examinations by getting them to identify the assessment objectives within anonymised written responses. We have now progressed onto starting Year 11, Theme 2, content by looking at Business Growth and the sources of finance available to larger businesses. Pupils are reminded to keep an eye on the Google Classroom stream feed as this is constantly updated with Business-related current affairs.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher

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

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Year 10s rise to the challenge in Drama

Every challenge brings an opportunity for creativity, and our amazing Year 10s have risen to their recent performance challenge admirably. This year, unlike any other year, the pupils have used their isolated and locked down experiences to stimulate more introspective and psychologically driven pieces, which have emerged from the actors' own, original monologue writing. Each piece explores the time between events; the experiences we have by accident or the plans that go awry because we cross another's path or fate steps in. We have explored and rehearsed naturalistic techniques and devices to deliver what appear to be everyday experiences, some repeated and some new, that take a twist or turn which pushes human behaviour to its limits. We will be sharing a Vimeo film of the performances for families to enjoy at their leisure.

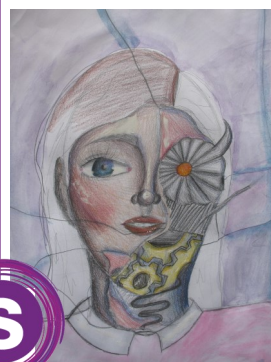
We also enjoyed a recent virtual theatre trip to The Old Vic to see an excellent production of Pinter's 'The Dumb Waiter', which provided another opportunity for pupils to watch, analyse and discuss a new stage production for camera. We look forward to returning in September and to auditions for a school production and the NT Connections festival. We will be taking live trips to the theatre once again, all clubs will be running and Drama will, once again, be a fully functioning, live and vibrant part of the College.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Fieldwork in Geography

It has been great to have had some pupils outside completing Geography fieldwork recently. Pupils have engaged impressively in the enquiry process, which has included identifying a hypothesis, designing a methodology and presenting their data. Year 7 pupils have been investigating infiltration around the school site, seeing how quickly water soaks into different surfaces. Year 8s have been learning about microclimates, the climate of a very small area, especially when this differs from the surrounding area. In their fieldwork, pupils visited a number of areas, recording data on temperature, wind speed and wind direction. They also recorded whether there were any physical features that could be affecting that climate, such trees, walls or buildings. Pupils conducted themselves impeccably during their fieldwork, and we look forward to completing more next year!

Miss Evans, Acting Head of Geography



Focus on Portraiture in Art

Despite the recent challenges of reduced time in the specialist Art room, pupils have worked conscientiously on completing their practical outcomes. All KS3 year groups have had a term looking at portraiture. Year 7 have been introduced to the elongated faces of Modigliani and responded with their own version in oil pastel. Year 8 have been completing self portraits where they focus on identifying what attributes they have on the inside, rather than what they



From top, clockwise, work by Chloe MacDonald, Year 9, Alex Shelford, Year 8 and Elspeth Dwyer, Year 7.

look like on the outside, and Year 9 have fused manmade machines with human faces to develop a personal response to their 'Fantasy Art' unit. The responses across all classes have been imaginative and creative.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

Outdoor Concert - a highlight

The highlights for the Music Department this term have been the socially distanced Singers' Concert and Outdoor Concert. It was wonderful to hear some of our Year 10 and 11 singers share pieces they have been learning this year. The fact that the Outdoor Concert was able to happen feels like somewhat of a triumph in itself. We were so sorry that some pupils could not join us but a huge well done to all those who performed through the rain as needed! Year 7 Wind Band, Samba, Jazz Band, Folk Group, Madrigals and Woodwind Ensemble all played and sang beautifully. We miss performing so much and cannot wait to (hopefully) get back to more concerts next year. The Carol Service is booked! We are also busy finalising instrument lessons for September. Please do get in touch if your child is interested in learning an instrument. We are on the hunt for clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, French horn and trombone players in particular. Have a wonderful, music-filled summer and we shall see you at first rehearsals in September!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



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History of English Literature

In English this term, Year 8s have been working through a History of English Literature from Anglo-Saxon tales through to Modernism with stops at the Renaissance, Neoclassical and Romantic periods on the way. From Beowulf through to Woolf and Hemingway, pupils have explored key ideas and thinking across the different eras and gained an understanding of how texts are influenced by their contexts, all while exploring texts and poems from the time periods themselves. Their learning this term will help them to understand how texts studied in the future can be pinned to a timeline of literature.

Mrs Carman, Head of English

Maths beyond the classroom

It's been a busy end to the school year, teaching our last units of work and preparing pupils for end of year assessments. Thank you to all pupils for their effort and resilience, particularly those who have had to return to online learning. We will use the exam data to help us plan effectively for next term, addressing any gaps in learning. Learning of course doesn't just take place in the classroom. With the summer holidays fast approaching, why not engage the family in activities that promote numeracy. Packing for a staycation? Don't forget the playing cards and board games!

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

E



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New life for Marven Centre floor

Developing practical skills had to be paused during



lockdown. As a result, and to get back to grips with developing these skills, the DT department set pupils the following recycling challenge: Create a new product from the old Marven Centre floor. The Marven Centre flooring had recently been replaced, and, as a result, we managed to salvage and store a large section of the well trodden boards. The timber was in fact pitch pine, originally laid in 1932, and probably originating from North America. We had some fantastically innovative pupil responses, ranging from guitar pick holders through to a stationery organiser. It was a great way to get pupils thinking about the circular economy and, at the same time, develop design and making skills.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

Work, from top, by Ilhan Usluer, Katie Pritchard and Nathan Westwick, Year 10

House News

Well here we are... fast approaching the end of a truly memorable academic year. We have many fun activities to look forward to and much to celebrate, not least, the resilience and positivity of our pupils. Key Stage 3 have enjoyed the Euros sweep organised for mentor times, and the winning House have enjoyed their treats! We have Olympic days to follow and end of term rewards for effort and achievement. Year 10s started this celebration feel in school with their well-deserved afternoon of relaxation and fun, following their impeccable behaviour and efforts for their recent exams. We wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer break!

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



Update from MFL

This half term, Year 8 French have been discussing entering a talent show and what they must do to do well in the competition. Meanwhile, in Spanish, Year 8 have been discussing clothes and giving their opinions on outfits.

Year 9 Spanish went on a virtual holiday to Madrid and Year 9 French are currently doing a small unit of work on the film Neuilly-Sa-Mère, exploring regional differences and relationship issues whilst practising their vocabulary on films, opinions and descriptions.

Congratulations to Year 10 pupils who completed the four assessments of their exams: reading, listening, writing and speaking. We encourage all pupils to build on their strengths and continue to practise their language skills over the summer holidays. Bonnes vacances! ¡Buenas vacaciones! Schöne Ferien!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Above and right: 13 boxes of surplus Science equipment and resources packed and bound for Sierra Leone.

forward to receiving photographs showing the girls enjoying more practical Science lessons as a result of our donation.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science



And finally: We wish everyone a good summer break. Autumn Term 2021 begins on Thursday, 2 September for Years 7 and 11, and on Friday, 3 September for all other year groups.

Big philosophical and ethical questions

This term, all year groups have been busy exploring some big philosophical and ethical questions. Covering areas such as 'What is reality?', 'Is all life valuable?' and 'Is it OK to genetically modify nature for human gain?'. Our Year 9s were also fortunate enough to have a live session with a speaker from Animal Aid, focusing on animal rights, veganism and the ethics of testing on animals. As part of this session, pupils were able to ask questions and watch short videos to help challenge their views further. To round off a busy year, our Year 7 pupils had an opportunity to explore the Buddhist practice of meditation, hopefully being able to take away a few techniques. A huge well done to all pupils for their participation and hard work this term.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



Supporting school Science in Sierra Leone

As part of a technician project within the Science department, we have been taking inventory of our practical requirements following the recent upgrade of some apparatus. As a result of this, we identified a surplus of equipment and resources, which although outdated, was still fully functional.

The Science technicians were able to identify a fantastic recipient for our unwanted glassware, bottles and textbooks through Mrs Brookman, an alternative provision teacher here at Sawston Village College. Mrs Brookman is the Chair of Trustees of Friends of Freetown, a charity dedicated to relieving poverty and advancing education in Sierra Leone.

Our donation of 13 large boxes has recently been shipped to the Kate McGrath School for Girls, Bo City, Sierra Leone. We look