

# March / April 2020 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## From the Principal



In these truly extraordinary circumstances, we are enormously proud of the tremendous efforts of our staff and pupils over recent weeks. It has been necessary to respond to ever-evolving government announcements and a rapidly changing situation. However, at every turn, staff members have provided pupils with as near as normal routines as possible. We have done all that we can to keep our pupils reassured in a calm and safe environment with a sharp focus on learning, whether at home or in school. That our pupils have risen to the challenge - with maturity, sensitivity and due respect to the national emergency - shows the remarkable potential of our pupils and your children. We could not be more proud of their core values, their sense of community and their compassion for others. Each day we have been reminded of why we do our jobs: to encourage, to motivate, to inspire, to excite, to prepare and to serve the citizens of tomorrow.

We are currently in the next phase of school provision.

For the foreseeable future, we are open only to the children of emergency key workers and the most vulnerable children. We are also hosting Icknield Primary School on our site; at times like these, it is so important that we work together as a community.

And we will be here ready to welcome pupils back when the time comes; perhaps even stronger, more resolute to be a great school and ever more certain that education is a powerful force for good.

From all the staff at Sawston Village College, we send our very best wishes to every person and family in the community.

As the great writer Maya Angelou said: "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them".

Mr Russell, Principal

## Coronavirus

During this current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the welfare of our pupils, staff and wider school community is of paramount importance to us. We must all follow the government guidelines, practising social distancing and frequent handwashing.



## Arts Agreement signed between Arts Council England and Anglian Learning

We further confirmed our commitment to the Arts recently when Arts Council England and Anglian Learning signed a formal agreement, and we are now the only Trust in the country to have such a partnership.

At the launch event, pupils from across the Trust were able to showcase their artistic talent before the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding undertaken by Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, and Jonathan Culpin, Anglian Learning's CEO.

Jonathan Culpin said: "We are delighted to be working in co-operation with Arts Council England as we advance our ambition of embedding arts and culture across our academies. The formalising of this MOU demonstrates our commitment to working with arts and heritage partners in designing a culture-rich curriculum that enables all pupils to advance their creative skills and literacy regardless of their background or starting point."

Sawston Village College, as with all Trust schools, recognises that arts and culture play a significant role in the lives of children, supporting their personal development and progression into adulthood. This partnership will help us to promote the arts and create further opportunities for all pupils.



Jonathan Culpin (left) and Darren Henley (right) signing the agreement



National Support School  
designated by  
  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



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Village College



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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**

## Hairdressing Competition

Well done to the Year 11 Hairdressing pupils, who recently took part in a competition between themselves to create an image of beauty as part of their course work. They set themselves very high standards, and all produced outstanding work, focusing on diverse themes, such as Carnival, Flowers, and Grease. A lot of effort went into all their creations from preparation, creating mood boards to their overall design. They should all be very proud of their achievements.



Pearl Harbour was awarded first place.



Avatar was awarded second place.



Grease was awarded third place.



## Sawston Adult Education

We would like to thank all our tutors and learners for their continued support over this past term.



Ordinarily, our programme would have started again on 27 April. In light of the current situation this is now unlikely. However, we will aim to resume as soon as we are able to after that date. Please check our website [www.sawstonadulthood.org](http://www.sawstonadulthood.org) for up to date information. You can also email us at [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org).

We have workshops planned for Saturday, 20 June for Bollywood Dancing, Drums for Beginners, Coiled Basketry, Creative Writing, Fused Glass Jewellery, Hand Made Chocolates, Indian Vegetarian Wonders, Summer Wedding Day Flowers and Tasty Vegan Cooking. Please do check nearer the time that these workshops are running.

We are also starting to plan our programme for 2020/21 so if there is a subject you would like us to offer, or something you could offer to teach, please contact us. Email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org) or telephone **01223 712424**.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



Sawston Sports Centre **closed from midnight on 17 March 2020**.

This decision was taken in relation to the government's guidance on limiting non-essential social contact and protecting at risk groups. Also, due to staff absences, the Sports Centre was unable to provide a safe environment.

The Sports Centre will rearrange any suspended courses, bookings and memberships in due course and will hold any payments received against these. If you have a birthday party booked, please contact the Sports Centre by emailing [awilson@sawstonvc.org](mailto:awilson@sawstonvc.org). We will keep you updated on plans to reopen, but you will appreciate that at the moment it is unclear when this is likely to be. Please check our social media pages for updates:

Website: <http://www.sawstonsports.com/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SawstonSportsCentre>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SawstonSports>

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Mrs Michelle Wilson, Sports Centre Development Manager, by emailing [mwilson@sawstonvc.org](mailto:mwilson@sawstonvc.org).

Thank you for your continuing support. I will continue to update you as necessary.

Mrs Michelle Wilson, Sports Centre Development Manager



Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic we have suspended cinema screenings initially until 24 June 2020

when we will review the situation.

Please check our website [www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk) for updates on this closure, or you can email us at



[cinema@sawstonvc.org](mailto:cinema@sawstonvc.org) or telephone **01223 712825** for more information.

Tickets bought online for cancelled events will be refunded.

Thank you for your understanding.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager

[www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk)



## Year 11 GCSE Scripted Performances

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.00-9.30pm (approx)

*The Cagedbirds* by David Campton  
*Relatively Speaking* by Alan Ayckbourn  
*The Memory of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson  
*Absent Friends* by Alan Ayckbourn

### INTERVAL

*The Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen  
*The Norman Conquests* by Alan Ayckbourn  
*Private Wars* by James McLure

Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.00-9.30pm (approx)

*The Kitchen Sink* by Tom Wells.  
*The Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter  
*The Long Road* by Shelagh Stephenson  
*It, Him and Rose* by Amelia Bullmore

### INTERVAL

*Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn  
*Invisible Friends* by Alan Ayckbourn  
*One for the Road* by Harold Pinter  
*The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon



Sawston  
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**Tickets:**  
(on the door)  
★ £5  
★ £10 family  
★ £3 pupils

**Interval:**  
15 mins  
Refreshments  
available

**Venue:**  
Studio  
Theatre

## Scripted Performances

Our Year 11s delivered fine performances from a range of 14 play-texts by accomplished playwrights such as Harold Pinter, Henrik Ibsen and Shelagh Stephenson. We are always so proud to present these works as a production and a celebration for families and peers, with a pupil technical team ready to dedicate extra weekend and evening hours to support our young actors. Moreover, our actors are performing live in front of an examiner who added, "How lovely to see an audience." And, of course,

we will always uphold that Sawston tradition of inviting an audience to watch and enjoy the experience as it should be; an emotional exchange and an opportunity for the Year 11s to show us how they have grown, not just as actors, but as empathic, sensitive, strong and supportive members of a community. Bravo, Year 11!



## Music Live: Brass Funkeys and Grand Union Orchestra

In early March the school was delighted to host members of the Brass Funkeys and Grand Union Orchestra for two different days of music making as part of Cambridgeshire Music's Music Live festival. Both groups gave concerts for visiting Year 5 and 6 pupils from our cluster primaries and for our Year 7s, which will support them to complete their Bronze Arts Awards. The groups also each ran two workshops with pupil musicians, all of which were well received by those who attended. All in

## Farewell Year 11

We were sad to have to take leave of our Year 11 pupils prematurely, and we wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

We hope they will keep in touch with the school. They can do this by joining our Alumni Network and by completing the form on our website here: <https://www.sawstonvc.org/alumni/>. Good luck!



Good luck to our  
Year 11 pupils!



Unsurprisingly, due to the current Coronavirus crisis, it was decided that the Regional Final of the Youth Speaks: A Debate competition was to be cancelled. While this was disappointing, pupils should be very proud of their achievements. Back in February, KS4 pupils Rose Smithet, George Nelson and Eleanor Topliss put on an impressive performance in the District Final against Impington VI form, debating their motion that those in the public eye have a moral duty to uphold society's values. A huge well done goes out to them for the effort and commitment they have shown as part of this competition.

Mrs Carman, Head of English

## Year 11 Careers Fair

On Monday, 24 February, 15 guests from industry were invited to the College to run interactive sessions for the Year 11 Careers Fair taking place in the Henry Morris Hall. A vast range of national and international companies was represented, as well as strong local representation from, amongst others, TWI, University of Cambridge Museums, Saffron Building Society and Borrás Construction. All pupils in Year 11 had the opportunity to engage with multiple stands to gather information and ask questions about careers across a diverse range of industries.



All pupils were  
respectful and  
engaged.

## Walsingham Trip

As part of our GCSE Religious Studies curriculum, we visited Walsingham village in Norfolk, a major site of Christian pilgrimage since the 11th century. This was a very valuable opportunity to see, first hand, a working pilgrimage site that we have been studying in our GCSE 'Living the Christian Life' unit. We were hosted by the Anglican Shrine Education Centre, and pupils investigated a wide range of denominational buildings including Orthodox, Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and chapels. We explored the Shrine and the 'holy house', and observed a sprinkling service. All pupils were respectful and engaged in some really interesting discussions.



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



SAWSTON BOOK WEEK

## House News

The beginning of March and another annual Book Week for Sawston Village College! Thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff who donated books; we had a fabulous book hunt mid-week, and hopefully pupils who found a book have been enjoying their new read.

Once again, staff shared some of their favourite books, there was some fabulous character dressing up and the ever-popular story in six parts on World Book Day itself; this time we lived through the horrors of Antony Horowitz's *Killer Camera*. The take-home message was as always: read; it's good for you!

**Mr Hunt, Head of Earhart House, on behalf of the Heads of House**



## Dance-a-thon

On Friday, 6 March the Wellbeing Forum, headed by Rose Smithet and Izzi Morgan in Year 11, hosted a spectacular 12-hour Dance-a-thon, from 8am - 8pm. The dancing was literally 'non-stop', with someone dancing at every moment throughout the 12 hours. There were pupil-led ballet lessons, zumba, disco dancing and even a conga line at one point! Pupils doing PE danced through their lessons, and pupils from all year groups took part during their free time. They danced all over the PE dept and even 'shook their tail feathers' on the tennis courts as the sun went down. It was a joyous event for all involved. Money raised will support a local mental health charity and was due to contribute towards the Year 11 Ball. A huge well done to all involved - it was a delight!



## Fundraising for Sport Relief

Pupils raised over £1,000 for Sport Relief recently, running a range of activities over a week, including 'Beat the Goalie' against Mr Sutton, a Staff vs Senate netball match, which the staff of course won, and staff trampolining, which proved hugely successful, despite Mr Bailey's breaking the trampoline. Well



## PE Fixtures and Tournament Update

This half term has seen more success across a range of sports teams and individual performances alike! The Year 11 Netball team put in a determined effort in their last Netball tournament, and after some outstanding play, they secured 2nd place across the Cambridge District Secondary Schools! The success continued at the National Schools Trampolining competition, where Abhi Marlow, earned himself 5th place in the National finals! Success also continued in Cross Country, with Jenny Leggate earning herself a qualification spot at the National Schools County Cross Country Championships, representing Cambridgeshire. Jenny ran superbly, finishing in the top 50% of the 300+ competitors in her category and 2nd place for Cambridgeshire. Well done to all pupils involved in this season! If you would like to see more pictures from these events or subsequent events, please follow us on twitter @SawstonVCsports or on our Instagram page.

**Mrs Harvey, Acting Head of PE**



Staff and pupils 'shook their tail feathers' as the sun went down.



## Techognition Week

As part of Techognition Week the Science Technicians submitted a poster made by some Science classes recognising the excellent work they do, and were then delighted to win a plaque for the Prep Room door, one of only five winners recognised in this way. Technician Mrs Kerr said, "It is lovely to be recognised in this way and to feel valued as part of the team. We all love being part of the Science department."



## Berlin Trip

Between 13 and 18 February, 67 Year 11 GCSE historians travelled by coach to visit the wonderful city of Berlin. The itinerary was packed, with a combination of visits and tours including: the Brandenburg Gate, Olympic Stadium, Reichstag building and the Television Tower at night. Pupils were also given specialist guided tours at several museum sites, including the German Historical Museum and German Resistance Memorial, from expert local historians, which allowed them to engage with original propaganda and artefacts from the period of Nazi Germany. They were able to engage with the topic of the Holocaust



Pupils enjoyed a combination of visits and tours.

thoughtfully, as we visited the Holocaust Memorial, Wannsee House and the deeply moving Sachsenhausen concentration camp. On the last day, pupils enjoyed a trip to the Berlin Wall and the DDR museum highlighting life in East Berlin during the Cold War period. During the trip, pupils also enjoyed a little free time for souvenir shopping and had fun bowling on the last night!

**Mr Reed, History Teacher**

