

March / April 2021 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

12 April Summer term starts
14 April PSHE Day 2
29 April Junior Maths Challenge
8 May May Day Bank Holiday

11 May Year 9 vaccinations
13 May PSHE Day 3
14 May Year 8 report 3 issued
17-21 May Mental Health Awareness Week
20 May Year 10 Parents' Evening

From the Principal



This week marks a year since the country entered its first national lockdown to combat Covid-19. Tragically, 125,000 people in the UK alone have since died within 28 days of a positive test. We reflect on this heavy toll and the terrible sorrow of grieving families. In adversity, we have seen strength in our community

and can give thanks to the response of our pupils, parents and outstanding staff. Our Test Centre, in which we have delivered 4,700 negative tests this term, serves as a good example of this unity. We could not have achieved this logistical challenge without the support of our volunteering parents and friends.

We have all made personal sacrifices, and our children have endured a great deal, but we can also celebrate their self-discipline, independence and work ethic. Their return to College has proved they have an impressive capacity for resilience; it has been a delight to welcome them back and resume near normal school life. Over the

year, other international and national events have reminded us all of the need for respect, compassion and greater understanding. It is our collective hope that in the year to come, we can return even stronger, working together in a vibrant College where all individuals are valued and treated with the respect they deserve. In achieving this, we will have defeated more than just this virus.

'If we lose love and self-respect for each other, this is how we finally die.' Maya Angelou.

Mr Russell, Principal



The Sawston Village College test centre team



Quality discussions in RE

This half term, Year 8s have been taking part in a project created by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and adapted by the department to consider the following question: 'How could we, and why should we, reduce racism in our communities?'

The course has been designed to encourage pupils to learn about religion and beliefs, racism and prejudice in challenging ways that promote the wellbeing of all in our richly plural communities. We have been hugely impressed with the level of awareness of current issues and the quality of discussions all our pupils have had. Well done Year 8!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



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**

New Topics in History for Years 7 and 8

It has been a very exciting return for both teachers and pupils in History. As our wider aim this year in the History department is to start to improve the diversity of the curriculum, we are teaching some new topics for the first time this year: in both Year 7 and 8 we have introduced new enquiries.



Eleanor of Aquitaine is buried at Fontevraud Abbey

Year 7s are now studying what the fascinating story of Eleanor of Aquitaine can reveal about the High Middle Ages (part of the medieval era). Pupils are learning about what her life can tell us in particular about power and gender – and how one woman could

challenge accepted ideas of what it meant to be a woman. Year 8s are learning about the experiences of both native peoples and colonisers in a new unit on the development of the Early British Empire. We hope to use this unit to show pupils how the ideas of race were constructed to justify slavery, but also to show how native people showed great determination in resisting their oppressors in a wide range of countries: America, Ireland, Barbados and India.

Miss Jackson, Head of History

Interactive resources in Maths

The start of the spring term was a steep learning curve for teachers and pupils alike. As Maths teachers, we learned very quickly how to adapt our best classroom practice to the virtual world. Live lessons provided opportunities to trial exciting new digital teaching platforms that we would not have otherwise discovered. Observing and supporting pupils, working in real time, proved very powerful, as was exploring Mathematics through dynamic and interactive resources using Desmos. Although we are very relieved to be back in the classroom once more, the experience of remote teaching will certainly enhance our practice in the future.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Mathematics

Engagement, effort and enthusiasm in Computer Science

It has been a pleasure to see the backs of pupils' heads again now we're back in the Computer Suites(!); there is only so much one can take of identical crest logos in the Google meetings, and I think most pupils feel the same way, although the early starts are not as welcome! I miss some things, though: being able to instantly get a "1, 2 or 3" on pupils' understanding, getting live written responses from everyone, being able to share a link directly inside the meeting, having the luxury of recorded lessons that pupils can go back to.

I want to acknowledge the effort of Year 11 pupils in both Computer Science and Creative iMedia during lockdown, and although a few pupils struggled through this, for many in our two subjects, the engagement, effort and enthusiasm are rejuvenating. It's good to be back!

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science

A

In the Community



Our Sports Centre, Adult Education programme and Sawston Cinema continue to 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

Pupils impress in Geography

It has been great to welcome pupils back to Geography lessons in school. They have impressed with their positive attitude and energy! Year 10s and 11s are continuing with content in their GCSEs. Year 10s are exploring our Urban World, focusing on the cities of Rio de Janeiro and London. Year 11s are learning about the Challenge of Resource Management in a world that is demanding an ever-increasing amount of resources. During remote learning, pupils produced some fantastic work. Year 9

pupils created infographic posters to show the impacts of the Syrian Conflict, as part of their Conflict unit. It is the 10th anniversary of the start of the conflict this year, and the posters highlighted the significant impacts that the conflict has had on the Syrian people and country.



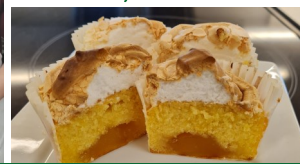
Miss Evans, Acting Head of Geography

Infographic poster by Will Lucas Evans, Year 9

Pupils back baking and making

The food rooms have been a hive of activity over the past few weeks. In lockdown, we spent a lot of time teaching nutrition and talking about the foods we should be eating, as well as discussing how to carry out various practical tasks. All everyone wanted to do when we returned to school was to stop talking about food and actually get on and make something. And to give an idea of just how keen pupils were to get back in the kitchen, some Year 11 pupils made lemon meringue cupcakes at 9.15 am on their first day back. Year 10 pupils have been using their knowledge of yeast cookery gained during lockdown to make caramelised onion bread rolls. After spending lesson time talking about kneading, mixing and shaping a yeast dough, it was good to actually practise these skills. Not to be left out, Years 8 and 9 have made vegetable chow mein, fish fingers and cupcakes.

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



Year 11s made lemon meringue cupcakes on their first day back!

P

E

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.sawstonadulthood.org

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

All systems go in Drama

KS3: Our Year 7s have honed their creative writing skills with some excellent parodies. With limited access to practical work, we forged ahead with writing contemporary, satirical and sometimes "gory" twists and turns. Imaginations fuelled by suggestions to promote the comedy have proven to be vivid and high-spirited in spite of lockdown restrictions. Pupils were encouraged to collaborate online where possible and some submitted fantastic performances for radio. In this term's Fountain magazine you can find just a taste of what the brilliant young actors and writers have created, and they can now transfer to stage once again for a full performance. Bravo Year 7!

KS4: Year 11s have returned to work on their texts in performance, and all systems are go to rehearse and prepare a range of play extracts from Neil Simon's hilariously verbose 'The Odd Couple' to Shelagh Stephenson's sibling skirmish, 'Memory of Water'. Once again, the level of commitment demonstrated is already impressive, and we look forward to filming and sharing some polished performances (via Vimeo) with families who would usually attend an evening of theatre. Good luck to our Year 11 Actors!

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



Great engagement from pupils in Business Studies

I have been really proud of the way Business Studies pupils have engaged with the subject content delivered since January. They have interacted with the virtual classrooms created for them, which will prove to be useful resources in the future. Since returning to the classroom pupils have demonstrated that they have been keeping abreast of current affairs and we have discussed announcements from familiar high street businesses and high profile court cases related to employee rights. Year 10s have now moved onto the final element of Theme 1, looking at external influences on businesses while Year 11 are investigating how businesses make Human Resource decisions.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher



Great final pieces for ceramic project



Clockwise from top left: work by Year 11 pupils: Samuel Lou, Emily Brown, Jemima Ashton, Anya Masih and Doriana Doneva.

Despite the challenges our Year 11s have had to face this year, they have been able to make exciting additions to their portfolios. Here is a selection of their concluding pieces for their 'Natural Forms' ceramic project. Ideas range from themes of climate change, studies of surface textures, the human form and sea life. The department wishes Year 11 pupils well on the next stage of their creative journeys.

Mrs Day, Head of Art



THE ANGLIAN LEARNING WRITING PRIZE 2021

SUPPORTED BY MORGAN SINDALL CONSTRUCTION

New Creative Opportunity for students at Anglian Learning Secondaries 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/Caricatures

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/>

Writing Prize still open for entries

The Anglian Learning Writing Prize remains open for entries until 12 April. There are four different writing categories and, since all shortlisted entries will be published in an anthology, there is also a Cover Design category. For information on how to enter, see: www.sawstonvc.org/news-and-community.



Let the Music play!

It has been a joy to welcome pupils back into the Music Department over the past two weeks. Year 9 have been making as much noise as possible exploring the syncopated rhythms of Brazilian samba. Year 8 have been 'escaping the vernacular' and composing pieces of music which explore the question 'what is music?'. Miss Irwin's performance of 4.33' by John Cage was a highlight (or lowlight?) for many. Year 7 have been composing Renaissance Dances and we have loved hearing music played as an ensemble and the energy this gives to us all. Year 10 performed extracts from Haydn's Trumpet Concerto this week as they study music from the Classical Period whilst Year 11 have a surprise up their sleeves. Watch this space. We have welcomed many of our instrument and singing teachers back to school and ABRSM graded exams will be taking place just before Easter. Good luck to all our pupils involved in these. We hope to have many year group ensembles and choirs up and running after Easter and would encourage all our pupils to get involved. Let the music play!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Follow Sawston Village College on Twitter: @SawstonVC

Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



DT: Year 10 from 2D to 3D

Spring saw DT open its workshop doors to Sawston Village College pupils again. All year groups had engaged well in remote learning but it was a delight to have them back in person.

Our year 10 pupils have been particularly keen to progress with practical activities as lockdown came just as we had started to realise their prototypes. The brief was to design an educational toy through research, developing a specification, iterations and responding to client feedback. Some fantastic outcomes have now been started. The technical drawings completed remotely also helped show an understanding of how these products would look when fully assembled.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Year 7s rise to the challenge in RE

After weeks of online learning, the Languages department was delighted to welcome pupils back into the classroom. It has been lovely to hear pupils practise their speaking skills, and we have been impressed with pupils' positive attitude.

As the Easter holidays come upon us and we all get a well-deserved break but wait for restrictions to be lifted, we would like to remind you that there is a wealth of fun activities everyone can do to explore other countries' language and culture. Why not visit the Museo del Prado virtually, watch a French programme on a streaming platform such as Netflix and Prime or listen to some German songs on your favourite music platform?

Mrs Deleplanque,
Head of
Modern Foreign
Languages



Why not visit the
Museo del Prado in
Madrid virtually this
Easter?

Pupils demonstrate creativity and resilience in PE



It was great to see so many of our pupils embracing the challenge to stay active during the school closure. During their online PE lessons, our pupils were given the opportunity to participate in a broad range of activities, including Netball, Football, Fitness, Yoga, Dance and even Gymnastic lessons. They demonstrated real creativity, and resilience, using household objects to develop their skill level, as well as their Fitness. Well done to all involved!

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



House News

Following the quietness in school of the closure period, we were delighted to see and hear the majority of our pupils return to school. We have celebrated the commitment of those working in school and those working from home and now we are all mainly back together. The weather has generally enabled conversations to take place outside at social times where pupils are reconnecting and reminding themselves of the school routine. With (hopefully) nicer weather on the horizon we can all settle into the return to school as we know it! Welcome back!



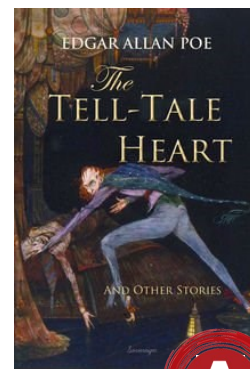
Mrs Wombwell, Head of Mandela House,
on behalf of the Heads of House



Year 7s hone their writing skills in English

Based on Edgar Allen Poe's The Tell Tale Heart and other classic short stories, Year 7s have been working on planning and writing their own thrilling tales this term and creating exciting narrative arcs to entertain their reader. From the thrill of a Formula 1 racing track to corrupt lawyers, their stories demonstrate intense creativity and an enthusiasm for writing. Stimulating writing workshops have helped them hone their skills, and we are excited to see what more our budding authors have to offer.

Mrs Carman, Head of English



The Cavendish Physics Education Programme Partnership

The Science Department at Sawston Village College has hosted a student from the Cavendish Physics Education Programme for the past four years. Students who may be considering a career in teaching opt to complete this programme as part of their third year course at the University of Cambridge. The students typically come into school for a couple of days a week during the Spring term to initially observe lessons, before building up to teaching part and whole lessons under the guidance of Mrs Lloyd. SVC pupils have gained a lot from discussing physics with the students and finding out about life at university. This year, due to the current circumstances, Mrs Lloyd has met with our student online instead. Our student is writing a lesson to accompany the Electromagnet practical and she will record a video which we could use in the future to aid teaching of this topic.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science

And finally: We wish everyone a good Easter break. The summer term begins on 12 April when we will look forward to welcoming everyone back into school.