

May / June 2021 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

31 May - 4 June Half term
10 June Year 9 HPV2 vaccinations
21 - 35 June Diversity Week
21 - 29 June Year 10 Exams
25 June Year 7 Report 3 issued

25 June Year 11 Summer Celebration
Evening Event
2 July Year 9 Report 3 issued
5 - 9 July Green Week
16 July Year 10 Report 3 issued
21 July Summer Term ends

From the Principal



We have appointed our Pupil Senate for 2021-2 and wish Keli and Tyler the very best in their new roles as leaders. They will follow in the footsteps of George and Lexi, and their dynamic team, who have dealt so well with the many challenges of the last year.

Each year it is a privilege to listen to the aspirations, ideas and observations offered by those who

put themselves forward. Without exception, each candidate demonstrated pride, creativity, maturity and insightfulness; each eager to ensure that all voices are heard and represented at the College and that all pupils are celebrated. Their interests in developing inclusion, helping all pupils feel safe, creating beautiful spaces and encouraging younger leaders will further shape our work next year. They are our leaders of tomorrow who represent the voices of today.

We know that there are many of our pupils who may not yet feel confident or ready, or have the desire to apply for such positions in our school. However, it is in their quiet actions,

their daily efforts and hard graft, their respectful attitudes to staff and their kindness to each other that they make an equally significant contribution to the success of the College. They give their best every day. In this sense, each is an ambassador of the school and we are grateful to them for the important role they play.

John Gardner, who served in US President Johnson's administration, said: 'Leaders come in many forms, with many styles and diverse qualities. There are quiet leaders and leaders one can hear in the next county. Some find strength in eloquence, some in judgement, some in courage.'

Mr Russell, Principal



Exciting Times in English

It is an exciting time in the English Department as we move into the summer term. Congratulations go to Innes Stewart and Emily Yau, winners of our Ovid competition. Pupils really let their imaginations go wild before Christmas, and we were delighted that we could finally reward the winners on our return to school.

Key stage 3 classes are currently immersing themselves in the works of Shakespeare. Year 7s are studying 'The Tempest' whilst Year 8s are enjoying exploring the context and plot of Macbeth. Exciting approaches, including the use of graphic novels and interactive videos, have been a particular firm favourite with the pupils and have really brought the text to life for them.

Year 9 pupils are currently studying 'A View from the Bridge.' They are thoroughly enjoying reading the play in class and making links between the plot and the context of the play.

Mrs Anderson, Deputy Head of English

Right: the
origami
Medusa
made by
Emily Yau



Below: Innes Stewart
with his Minotaur head



The Sports Centre is excited to have reopened, and it has been great to see so many new and returning customers.

Whether you enjoy a relaxing swim, a fitness suite session, or 5-a-side football, we are sure to have something for you. We are also pleased to welcome the return of children's swimming lessons for over 500 children. This is an important life skill, and we are proud to be able to assist with this. With the recent easing of restrictions, we also welcome back our indoor group exercise classes and are following the rule of six for many other indoor activities.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager, Sawston Sports Centre



National Support School
designated by
 National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Sawston
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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**

Professional Learning Update

The focus for professional learning currently is the Year 11 assessment process. With external formal Year 11 exams cancelled nationally, schools are required to assess pupils themselves under a novel system. This requires training and development time to devise appropriate means of testing and marking that allow us to make as fair and accurate an assessment of pupils as possible. Alongside this, the Excellent Teaching Team has been able to make progress updating teaching and learning policies to reflect our recent and ongoing professional development, particularly with regards to the work of US researcher Barak Rosenshine, as well as continuing an ongoing project looking at where we need to diversify our curriculum.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal



'Spoiling our Space' in Geography

Year 7s have been continuing with their 'Spoiling our Space' topic and recently learned about the issue of plastic pollution and how it affects the UK. Did you know that over 500 billion plastic bottles are made every year and that by 2050 the amount of plastic in the ocean will weigh more than the fish? Pupils were able to identify a range of different ways of reducing use of single-use plastics at home and in school. For example, in school, pupils are encouraged to use reusable water bottles and wooden

cutlery is now available in canteen. To encourage people to reduce their use of single-use plastics, Year 7 pupils created some amazing infographic posters. Have a think about what you can do to reduce your use of single-use plastics!

Miss Evans, Acting Head of Geography



Infographic poster by Emily van Dok, Year 7



Sawston
Adult
Education

We are back in the office and looking forward to planning a full adult learning programme to

start in September. As soon as we know which courses we are able to offer, we will post them on Facebook and our website. We are also looking for tutors to start teaching from September. All subjects will be considered but, in particular, we would love to hear from tutors who can teach yoga, Pilates, Spanish, floristry or jewellery making.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us on **01223 712424** or email community@sawstonvc.org. We look forward to welcoming you back to the College in September.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



Computer Science: Year 8

Flagging: becoming tired or less dynamic; declining in strength. I think we need to update that definition based on the huge effort and achievement of our Year 8 pupils in their latest coding work in P5.js, which is a JavaScript library inspired by the Processing language. We have taken flags from around the world and recreated them in code, perfectly matching shapes, proportions and colours, and then added a sprinkling of P5 magic: move the mouse and the colours change, the stripes multiply, the stars spin; computational thinking by stealth, and great connections with Maths and Geography. Let's redefine it as "creating nations' symbols and emblems with code". If you are interested, have a look at <https://p5js.org>.

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science and iMedia



KS3 pupils focus on World History

It has been an extremely busy half term in History. While Year 11s have been completing their final assessments, Year 10s have been grappling with how to analyse sources in a rigorous and meaningful way. In KS3, pupils have been broadening their understanding of history, by focusing on 'world' rather than British history. Year 7s have been exploring the Silk Roads, a network of ancient trade routes and, through this enquiry, have explored how the Abbasid Dynasty in the Middle East used the Silk Roads to help support the development of a sophisticated culture. Year 8s have been studying the Age of Revolutions, and explored not only the Revolutions of France and America, but also that of Haiti. During their studies of World War One, Year 9s have been exploring some of the research conducted by David Olusoga for his book 'The World's War', which has enabled them to explore both the experience of Commonwealth soldiers during the war and also explore conflict outside the Western Front.

Miss Jackson, Head of History



Tantalising aromas from the Food rooms

If you have been anywhere near the food rooms over the past few weeks, you might have had your taste buds tickled by the many tantalising aromas emerging from them. Who was behind this? Year 11 food pupils have been completing their final GCSE practical tasks and, to make sure of high marks, the dishes they have been creating have had to demonstrate advanced cookery skills and be beautifully presented. And they did not disappoint. Reminiscent of TV's *Masterchef*, swooshes and swirls of coulis, chocolate runouts, piped cream, finely cut julienne strips of vegetables, to name just a few decorative touches, were much in evidence.

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



Update from Business Studies

Year 10s have been working really hard in Business Studies, getting to grips with their examination technique in preparation for their assessments. We have completed all the content for the year and are now focusing on revision and exam technique before we progress onto the Year 11 course content. Pupils should use the Virtual Classroom links, which they all have access to on the Google Classroom Stream feed, to aid with their revision for their forthcoming assessment. I am so proud of the way Year 11s have conducted themselves in collating the evidence needed for their final grade, and I wish them every success as they move onto post 16 education. I will be sending out a post 16 starter pack for those pupils who want to study Business Studies or Economics at sixth form to help with preparation for future studies. 'Good Luck Year 11. I will miss you!'

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher

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Bravo, Year 11 Drama!

Once again, our committed Year 11 actors have impressed us with their excellent performances. Extracts from a full range of weighty texts from 'Memory of Water' and 'Skirmishes' to the brilliantly farcical 'Odd Couple' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' have been rehearsed, blocked, directed and performed for camera in closed studio conditions. This is a far cry from our traditional evening of theatre for family and friends, but our GCSE pupils devoted the same focus, the same determination and the same hard graft that leads to well-crafted, controlled and truthful performances.



Year 11s in 'Skirmishes'

With all the assessments to manage; the revision to complete; limited access to studio space and fewer rehearsals, I could not be prouder of what our Year 11s have achieved, and they are so richly deserving of recognition as not only accomplished performers but as driven, determined and successful young people. Bravo, Year 11, and thank you.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Sawston Cinema continues to remain closed at present but hopes to reopen in September. In the meantime, please check out the cinema website for updates on the forthcoming programme.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Anglian Learning Writing Prize 2021

Nearly 200 pupils took part in the first Anglian Learning Writing Prize from across all Anglian Learning secondary schools and sixth forms. 43 of those entries came from pupils at Sawston Village College. Well done to all of our pupils who took part.

All entries were judged anonymously, and we are delighted to announce that two pupils were chosen as winners in their categories.

Congratulations to Isobel Whitton in Year 8 who was a winner in the Poetry category and to Raphael Moreau in Year 11 who won the Cover Design category (see right). Congratulations are also due to the 11 pupils who have had their work selected for inclusion in the writing anthology, which is due for publication shortly.



Promoting Creativity outside school

The Art department encourages active participation in art not only in school, but also out of school. In January, I received an email inviting pupils to attend the 'National Saturday Club', which gives 13-16 year-olds an opportunity to study the subject they love at Anglia Ruskin University for free. This year, Year 9 pupil, Paola Rosella, was selected to attend the 10-week online learning event, conducted via Zoom, with modules covering



Work by Paola Rosella, Year 9, done at Anglian Ruskin University's National Saturday Club.

Illustration, Animation, Photography, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, and Interior Design. On the left you can see some of the wonderful work Paola produced.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

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Full of Music again!

The Music Department is full of wonderful music once again! We have been so pleased to have a variety of extracurricular ensembles up and running this term for each year group. Particular highlights have been new members joining our Year 9 samba band, meeting our Year 7 wind band for the first time and learning a piece written by one of our pupils in our Year 11 samba band. We know year group ensembles aren't quite the same as our full bands and choirs, but it has been really encouraging to see pupils stepping up and joining in within their own year groups. Pupils are still most welcome to join choirs and ensembles after half term. We are really hoping to put together some sort of outdoor event at the end of the summer term (in line with government guidance). Watch this space! Just before Easter we ran ABRSM music exams and pupils all passed their exams. Congratulations! Curriculum-wise, we are in full swing playing steel pans with Year 7, learning about the 12 bar blues with Year 8 and exploring samba from Brazil and djembe drumming from West Africa with Year 9. Our Year 10s have finished their first substantial GCSE topic 'The Concerto through Time', and our Year 11s are working as hard as ever as we come to the end of our time with them. They have been a fantastic class, their hard work, resilience and good humour have seen us through quite the two years. We wish them all the very best of luck for the future and look forward to seeing them at future music concerts!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Congratulations to Year 9 pupils (from left) Rachel Staines, Oishani Goswami, Grace Arnold, Izzie Allanson, Ellen Arthurs and Sally Hudson on achieving their Silver Arts Awards.

Celebrations in Maths

The last couple of months have certainly been a cause for celebration in the Maths department. 21 pupils received their results for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. We are delighted that eight pupils were invited to complete the next round, and a huge congratulations to Wensea Lee (Year 7), Will Lucas-Evans (Year 9), George Robinson-Fyfe (Year 9), Oscar Emerson (Year 10) and Sophie Stephenson (Year 11) who earned 'Best in Year' Awards. In lessons our Year 9s have been learning about financial maths, so feel free to rope them into checking your income tax has been calculated correctly. Meanwhile, Year 7s have embraced their creative sides this term to produce some fantastic artwork using coordinates.

Miss Cook, Deputy Head of Maths

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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



Year 11 Resilience

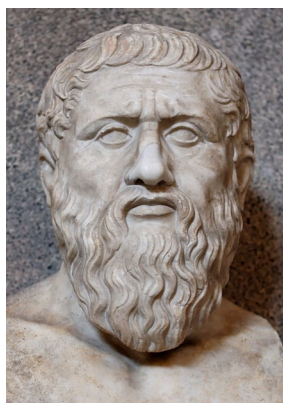
We say goodbye and good luck to our Year 11 GCSE DT pupils. Their coursework has been handed in and they are beginning to look ahead to their next chapter. It is fair to say that the outgoing cohort had a very unique experience of Year 11 DT. We started the coursework back in June 2020, during lockdown. Pupils responded well to live lessons, despite cats and toddlers in the background. We met up again face to face in September, when lessons continued in school. Historically, Year 11 pupils look forward to making the products they have designed. It is the crescendo of practical, the big finish, the fun bit. This, of course, had to be shelved due to Covid. Instead, pupils created mock-ups from card, or created their designs using CAD software.

The new year saw a return to remote learning, with pupils back to their headsets and devices. Luckily, March brought us back into the classroom. A very testing year, but the pupils' responses have been new, innovative and admirable. We wish all Year 11s the very best of luck in their next chosen steps.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Year 11s develop their philosophical knowledge



Above: Plato, who is considered to be the founder of Western political philosophy

With their final assessments completed, Year 11s have had the opportunity to develop their philosophical knowledge further and examine questions, such as 'What makes a chair, a chair?' and 'What does it mean to be free?'. Most recently, they have been investigating the most important Western philosophers of the past two millennia. The lessons have been really well received, with comments such as 'That lesson was really fun' and 'That lesson made my head hurt!'. It has been a

pleasure to introduce and explore these questions with such talented pupils, who have the potential to be amazing philosophers and theologians of the future.

Mr Clarke and Mr Patrick (RE trainee teachers)



'Are we doing a practical today, Miss?'

This question is often the first thing I hear upon entering a Science classroom and illustrates the enthusiasm of our pupils to engage in practical work. This year, despite each year group being based in a different zone of the school, we have endeavoured to get pupils into a laboratory as often as possible. Fortunately, our Year 10s and 11s are predominantly taught within the Science block, so they have been able to continue to enjoy practical work, such as investigating Hooke's Law, building DC motors and even dissecting lambs' brains! To enthuse our younger learners, we have ensured that each KS3 Science class has at least one lab-based lesson per fortnight. Science Department staff have been very impressed by the attitude and focus of their KS3 classes, who have recently engaged in practicals, such as food testing in Chemistry and heart dissections in Biology. We cannot wait until all Science classes are back in labs for every lesson.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science

House News

As we approach the end of another busy half term we are excited to celebrate with our top House point winners. The top 30 pupils in each year group will be rewarded with an outdoor game afternoon where ice lollies and a game of rounders will be the prize. We will also be rewarding the class with the most overall House points with a table-top games event in Year 7 and Year 8. On 28 May we say a fond farewell to our Year 11s, who have been working very hard at an extremely difficult time. We wish them the very best and every success for their future.

Miss Hunt, Head of da Vinci House, on behalf of the Heads of House

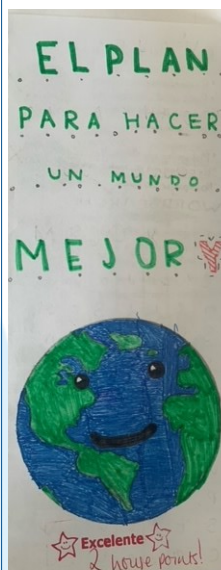


All busy in MFL

We have been very impressed with the way Year 11 pupils have engaged with the revision lessons and assessments as the skills they have practised since Year 7 come to fruition. We wish them all the best for the future.

This half term, Year 9 pupils have been exploring environmental issues in their Language lessons, learning about local problems in French and recycling and saving energy in Spanish. As part of a module of work about house and home, Year 10 German are learning about Anne Frank and the Amsterdam house where she took shelter and wrote her diary. The pupils are learning some challenging new vocabulary and how to tackle reading an authentic German text.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Mrs McIntyre, Deputy Head



Year 9s have been busy learning about recycling and saving energy in Spanish.



Clubs in PE

It has been lovely to welcome back so many pupils to extracurricular clubs again this half term. Mixed Netball has been a huge success, with record numbers of Year 8s getting involved. We look forward to recommencing even more clubs after half term, including Trampoline, Gymnastics and



Rounders.

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



Farewell

Mrs Sandra Thornton recently retired after 21 years of loyal service to the College. We wish her all the best.

And finally: We wish everyone a good half term break. The final half term of this academic year begins on 7 June when we will look forward to welcoming everyone back into school.