

November / December 2020 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

17 Dec	Carol Service
18 Dec	End of Autumn Term
4 Jan	Staff training day
5 Jan	Spring term begins
14 Jan	Year 8 Parents' Evening
18-22 Jan	Volunteering Week
21 Jan	Year 8 HPV vaccinations

25 Jan	Year 11 Music at Stapleford Granary (provisional)
28 Jan	Year 9 Options Evening
5 Feb	Year 9 Report 2 issued
11 Feb	Year 10 Meet the Mentor
15-19 Feb	Half term
25 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
26 Feb	Year 8 Report 2 issued

**Sawston
Village College**
is
90
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This newsletter highlights the energy, determination and creativity of our pupils and staff in the face of the

enormous challenges this term.

Thankfully, this edition comes at a time of renewed hope and optimism for a better 2021 with the promise of mass vaccination and, perhaps, a return to normal one day.

This autumn, we may not have been able to offer the depth and richness of our full curriculum, events and activities, but we have adapted well, and pupils have responded with credit and verve. This is because we have been guided by a firm belief in what is possible and calmly, carefully and cautiously carried on as best we can, seizing opportunities as they arise. To steal from Kipling, we have treated those two impostors, Triumph and Disaster, just the same. The end result has seen pupils making good progress and enjoying their learning. Whether through virtual overseas visits in MFL or socially distanced performances in Drama or choir bubbles in Music, pupils and staff have been inventive and

From the Principal



flexible, ensuring that education shines through.

This, our longest term, is always an exhausting one and no doubt our pupils are excited for the festive break. On behalf of all staff at the College, we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and we can all look forward to a New Year brimming with optimism and possibility.

'Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and true progress.' Nicholas M Butler, Philosopher.

Mr Russell, Principal

Remembrance Day

Leading up to Remembrance Day, we had moving assemblies about local men who lost their lives in both the First and Second World Wars from History teacher Mr Reed. The whole school then marked Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence at which Year 11 pupil Toby Fitzgerald played the Last Post.



Well done to our youngest DT cohort

September brought us our new batch of keen Year 7 Design and Technologists, it also brought a completely new approach to teaching and learning. The days of pupils gathering round the teacher's demonstration table to observe workshop skills had been shelved. In its place, live video demonstrations, sanitisers and individual tool kits.

This completely new way of working was well received, with pupils quick on the uptake and keen to be involved in realising their design proposals. We are making coasters!

It continues to be a learning curve for pupils and staff alike. A big thank you to staff, pupils and parents for adapting so rapidly and meticulously to our new Covid-secure lessons.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

Year 7s are making coasters!



National Support School
designated by
 National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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Professional Learning Update

Subject departments are continuing to work on their Departmental Enquiries; investigations of areas of particular interest and priority to teaching, learning and curriculum in their subjects. Focus areas include literacy, assessment and feedback, decolonisation and peer-coaching. The latest staff training day was an opportunity for subject teams to continue to deepen their understanding of exam specifications and requirements, particularly mark schemes and examiners' expectations; to moderate and standardise mock exam marking; and to plan for subsequent teaching and support, informed by mock exam performance, to ensure pupils will go on to achieve great results in the summer.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

Food Practical Lessons - Back on the Menu

After a great deal of reorganisation, food practical sessions were once again back on the timetable in October.

Years 9, 10 and 11 pupils are now cooking every fortnight, and Years 7 and 8 once a month. This is much less than usual but teachers and pupils alike are all enjoying getting back to something like 'normal'.

To reach this point, there have been many changes put in place to make lessons work in a Covid-secure way. Pupils are only allowed to enter food rooms for their lesson, which means ingredients brought from home have to be collected from the pupils' bubble and the results of their endeavours delivered back to the bubble at the end of the day; this all gives our technician, Mrs Smith, plenty of exercise every morning and evening! Despite having to adjust recipes to take account of reduced lesson times, pupils are still managing to produce some superb results.

Year 10 pupils have made an excellent start to their GCSE course. Their topic this term is 'protein' and they have been studying its role in the diet, as well as its scientific and chemical function in foods. This new-found knowledge of how protein helps in foam formation has led to the creation of some magnificent meringues and creative chocolate roulades, as you can see here. It is to be hoped that pupils will put these skills to the test at home and recreate these tasty treats to impress their families over Christmas.



Mrs Minett,
Head of
Health and
Social Care

Left:
Pupils'
delicious
meringues
and
roulades



SAWSTON CINEMA

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

We remain closed at present but will hope to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

For updates, please visit our website.

Ms Morgan,
Arts Development Manager



We are extremely excited to have reopened and to

be able to offer a wide variety of activities and sports to the local community. The safety of our customers and staff is paramount, and we have therefore introduced procedures for each activity to ensure everyone remains safe while enjoying their particular interest.

All sessions must be pre-booked by calling our Reception Team on 01223 712555. Please also check our website and social media pages for regular updates.

Mr Wilson,
Assistant Sports Centre Manager



Fitness Suite / Swimming Pool / Astro / Badminton / Squash / Table Tennis / Tennis
Classes available: Boot Camp, Revolutions, Kettlercise, Triplefit, Pilates & Yoga

Business Studies

In Business Studies Year 11 have been learning about business ethics and with the opening of Green Weigh Shop in Sawston they have been able to see how small businesses can operate in a much more ethical way. They have also been looking at Marketing by considering how each element of the marketing mix is managed and used to inform and make business decisions in a competitive marketplace. Year 10 have covered the topic of Spotting a Business Opportunity where they have explored how new and small businesses identify opportunities through understanding customer needs and conducting market research. They have also considered the concept of competition. They have also looked at making a business idea happen through identifying aims and objectives and concentrating on the financial aspects.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher

Year 7 Juggling Lessons

Covid has brought some interesting problems to our Year 7 Computer Science teaching, and we are splitting lessons between base classrooms and computing suites. The pupils, however - and of course - have met this challenge with typical Sawston VC ambition, resilience and optimism. We have introduced a new Computing Systems unit that blends binary with supermarket checkouts, and pupils' engagement with this and our parallel Computing Heroes (think Steve Wozniak meets Ada Lovelace) units are an inspiration to all. Fingers crossed that we keep the momentum after Christmas when we embark on computational thinking (foxes, chickens and grain crossing a river) and coding adventures in C# (10 Green Bottles)!



**Sawston
Adult
Education**

For updates, please visit our website: www.sawstonadulted.org. You will find information there about when we are likely to be able to run our courses.

You can also contact us by email at: community@sawstonvc.org. We look forward to being able to welcome you to the College as soon as we can.



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Dark Tourism and Fantastic Places

In Geography, Year 7 and 8 pupils have recently moved onto new topics. Year 8 will be exploring the topic of Dark Tourism and deciding whether it is something that we should encourage or not. Year 7, meanwhile, will be completing a topic on Fantastic Places. For each continent, pupils will learn about a particular fantastic feature found there. For example, for Asia, pupils have been focusing on Mount Everest. This has included exploring the dangers of climbing the mountain and the impacts that tourism have on the environment and local people. Some pupils have also completed some homework researching a fantastic place of their choice and it has been really interesting to read about the variety of places chosen. These have ranged from the Giant's Causeway to the Burj Khalifa and Angel Falls.

Miss Evans, Acting Head of Geography



Young Ambassadors for RE

In the RE department this half term we now have a team of Young Ambassadors for RE from Year 9. The group has been meeting weekly and discussing why they value the subject and how they can pass on their appreciation of ethics, philosophy, and learning about religion to others in the school. They have been working on an application to the RE Ambassadors scheme, which is a national programme run by the RE Council of England and Wales, as well as thinking about things they would like to do within the school to get people thinking more about the subject and why it is interesting and important, with the hope of implementing some of their ideas in the near future. So watch this space!



Music

This half term has been a busy one in the Music Department as extra-curricular activities slowly started back up again. All groups are held within year group bubbles, meaning ensembles such as Junior Choir have suddenly multiplied to Junior Choir 7s, 8s and 9s! We have been using bigger spaces to host our ensembles and have enjoyed the acoustics of both the HMH and the Marven Centre this term with Year 8 and 9 Wind Band and Year 10 Wind Octet. This week has seen us recording all of our separate performances for our 'virtual' Great St Mary's Carol Service. This will all be pre-recorded but will go live at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 17 December. A huge well done to all our pupils, who have put this together on a very tight rehearsal schedule. We also welcome back many of our alumni on this evening too. We look forward to 'seeing' many of you there!



New Topics in History

We have really enjoyed teaching some more History this half term and marking our first sets of amazing milestones! Our pupils have moved onto new topics: Year 7s have been exploring the changes that occurred during the period of the Anglo-Saxons, including the amazing story of Hadrian, a Libyan scholar who helped bring new ideas, such as astronomy, to Britain. Year 8s have been looking at the impact of the Reformation, including experiences of witchcraft and migration, and are now looking at the Civil War and exactly how Puritan members of Parliament fell out with Charles I. In Year 9 pupils have started looking at what kind of progress was made by Black Americans in the USA from 1789 to the 1960s. They have explored the role of a wide range of factors from the Emancipation Proclamation to the role of early Civil Rights campaigners such as Ida Wells.



Devised Performances

I am proud to say that our Year 11s sustained their creative momentum in spite of the locking down of any practical work for four months! Pieces had to be adapted and distanced, which provided further opportunity for creative development. With physical contact vetoed, actors had to use alternative pathways for contact and connection; revised use of space and a more intensive focus on nuanced, naturalistic performances. As a result of this, pieces ranged from psychological drama to slapstick thriller parody and all from the same stimuli. This is devising theatre: no creative boundaries and any enforced limitations will provide another stimulus from which to weave more brave and original works. Hats off to the diligent Drama pupils in Year 11.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



Natural Forms in Art

This term the Year 11 Art pupils have been working hard on their ceramic projects. From the title 'Natural Forms', pupils have had the opportunity to develop their own ideas. Each pupil has met four assessment criteria starting with research, moving on to development of ideas, refinement of those ideas and then producing a conclusion to their creative journey. The working atmosphere has been purposeful and productive. We have, in the department, everything from bugs to bodices, seed pods to sealife!

Mrs Day, Head of Art



Work by: Top right: Leah Benjafield, Right: Maddie Martin, Above: Amy Gilbert



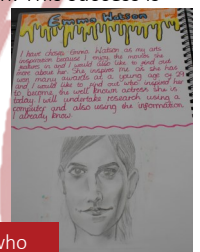
Ida Wells, early Civil Rights campaigner

Arts Award Success

Congratulations to the 154 pupils who achieved their Bronze Arts Award this term, with all having started work on their awards in the previous academic year and having continued to work independently on these during lockdown. This success is testament to pupils' motivation and commitment, and they should be rightly proud of their achievement. Many pupils are now keen to go on to do the Silver Award, and I look forward to supporting them with this.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager

Congratulations to the pupils who achieved their Arts Award this term



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



All set for travel in MFL

We may not be able to travel much due to all the restrictions in place at the moment but, in Languages, this doesn't stop us from finding out about foreign countries! This half-term, Year 8 French are completing a module on travelling to Paris and have been finding out about the main landmarks, from the Eiffel Tower to the lesser-known catacombs. Meanwhile, Year 10 Spanish have just furthered their knowledge of holiday vocabulary and have weighed up the pros and cons of different types of accommodation. They have also practised booking a room in a Spanish-speaking hotel and had fun learning the vocabulary of complaints, should they have some unpleasant surprises in their room.



The Paris Catacombs



HOTEL PUERTA MADRID ****

Sawston is 90 - Reflections in English

As you will be aware, Sawston Village College is celebrating its 90th year, and each pupil has been given a commemorative booklet with space for them to write their own contributions. In English lessons this week, pupils were able to reflect upon and add their own happy memories of the school and what they will take away from it. Be it friendships, winning hockey matches or learning another language, pupils wrote fondly about what Sawston means to them,



The Princes of Wales plants a tree at the opening

which will offer a wonderful way for them to think back on their time here when they too have moved on.

You can read some of the pupils' contributions in the school's Fountain magazine.

Mrs Carman,
Head of English



PE - Dance

A selection of Year 8 girls have taken part in a new scheme of work this term based on Parkour and Street Dance. They have experimented with use of travel, moving with momentum with grace and also with a small snippet of street-based choreography. They have created some fantastic performances which have been showcased in their lessons, demonstrating creativity and maturity throughout. The other Year 8 groups can look forward to creating their own pieces next term.

Mrs Andersen, Deputy Head of PE



House News

We are so proud of the pupils this term. They have shown a resilience and determination, despite all the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us all. House wise, we are pleased to have seen some fabulous, friendly competition taking place each Friday in Key Stage 3, and as we write

Earhart are top of the table. We have also been pleased to celebrate some excellent individual performances in terms of House points, with the top pupils being rewarded with a hot chocolate voucher. We trust that this is a season of joy, peace and rest for all. Happy Christmas!

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



In Science: Guest appearance of Frida the dog

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Frida the labradoodle into our Biology lesson on 'Selective Breeding'. The Year 11 pupils were learning about how we have selectively bred dogs from wolves over many, many generations in order to have all the variety of dog breeds we see today. Frida really brought our lesson to life!

Thank you to Frida for her appearance, Mrs Wright who had the idea of including her, and her owner Mrs Morris for documenting the occasion.



Mrs Wright and Frida the dog

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Success

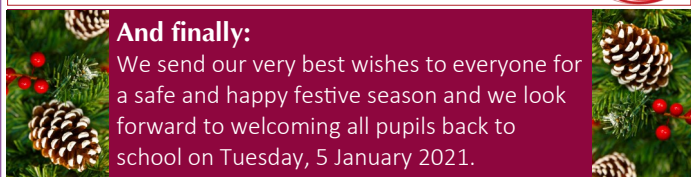
In the run up to Christmas our pupils have certainly been busy in the Maths department. Year 7s have been working with double-sided counters to develop a deep understanding of negative numbers, Years 8s, 9s and 10s have been extending their knowledge of algebra and shape, and finally Year 11s have been working hard throughout their mock exams. Outside of lessons, eight pupils received certificates for completing the online UKMT Senior Maths Challenge; a special congratulations goes to Sophie Stephenson (Year 11) for achieving the Best in Year award and to Oscar Emerson (Year 10) for achieving the Best in School award.

Miss Cook, Deputy Head of Maths



And finally:

We send our very best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday, 5 January 2021.



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