

September / October 2020 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

26-30 Oct	Half term
2-13 Nov	Year 11 Mock Exams
5 Nov	Year 10 Information Evening (provisional)
6 Nov	Geography Bake Off
13 Nov	Year 9 Report 1 issued
17 Nov	Year 7 and New Parent Assessment Information Evening (provisional)
20 Nov	Staff Training Day, school closed to pupils
23 Nov	Year 7 Report 1 issued

30 Nov	Year 7 vaccinations
2 Dec	Year 9 Photographs
2 Dec	Year 11 Report 2 issued
3 Dec	Year 11 Parents' Evening
9 Dec	Year 8 Report 1 issued
10 Dec	Year 8 Meet the Mentor (virtual)
10 Dec	WEX Information Evening (provisional)
11 Dec	Year 10 Report 1 issued
17 Dec	Great St Mary's Carol Service (provisional)
18 Dec	Autumn Term ends
5 Jan	Spring Term starts

From the Principal



After the most extraordinary of starts to the College term in living memory, we can reflect on an outstanding response from our pupils, staff, parents and wider community. Preparation for this term began before the summer holidays and it is only fitting that we should pay tribute to the remarkable team effort and commitment of all those who work at the College. That

we have been able to provide high quality education and to do so, as far as possible, within a safe and secure environment is testament to the unstinting loyalty and dedication of our staff. It is an inspiration to work alongside them.

This term we had planned for a series of events to mark the 90th anniversary of the College. Sadly, such community celebrations cannot take place but it would be remiss to let such an anniversary pass without comment. As we head towards our centenary, we can look forward with optimism to a decade of sustained growth for the College; further cementing

our values and enabling young people and young professionals with the skills and character required for a bright, fulfilling and ambitious future. And just as we have with our response to Covid19, we will achieve this by working hard together as a team, being judicious in our actions and guided by a firm held belief to act in the best interests of the child. As Roosevelt said: 'we cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.'

Mr Russell, Principal

Computer Science: Focus on Year 10

We are seeing some really great work that reflects the effort pupils are investing, and the pupils' hard work is improving their understanding, planning and creation of digital images as part of the Creative iMedia course. The Computer Scientists have been juggling number bases, determining logic and comprehending magnitude; they have also been thinking with functions in their coding in C# and (hopefully!) enjoying real-world coding challenges on the superb Edabit website. I have been consistently impressed with this cohort's behaviour, and their willingness to ASPIRE to excellence is enabling them to thrive in these unprecedented circumstances.

Year 7s study Ovid's Metamorphoses

Our Year 7 pupils have made an excellent start to this new academic year and have approached their learning with real enthusiasm. We have started off this term by studying Ovid's Metamorphoses. Pupils have enjoyed learning about the myth of Prometheus and Pandora, and they will be studying King Midas over the coming weeks. Pupils will then have the exciting opportunity to enter a creative competition, run by the University of Cambridge, where they can take an element of any of the myths studied and showcase their talents. Last year's entries included a piñata of Medusa's head, paintings and a stunning cake, made to look like Pandora's box. The English department cannot wait to see what this year's Year 7 pupils produce.

Mrs Anderson, English Teacher



Prometheus, a Titan God of fire



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**

Professional Learning Update

Our recent two training days proved to be a very useful and productive time. Circumstance has imposed a new model of online training, which in many ways was superior to traditional models. We were able to provide colleagues with greater choice, and video conferencing technologies actually helped in the development of a strong sense of collegiate support and advice, enabling more interactive dialogue than is possible in a more conventional lecture-style session. The training days gave us an opportunity to continue our work on the curriculum, with particular regard to the "recovery curriculum" and contingency planning should we need to return to a blend of remote and in-school learning. We were also able to continue our exploration of research recommendations about how to develop pupils' literacy, focusing specifically on "disciplinary literacy" and its implications for the teaching of subject-specific vocabulary, writing and reading. What stood out throughout the days was the expertise around the College, with sessions led by teachers drawing upon their own practice and research, sharing their advice and experiences with colleagues.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal



Sawston
Adult
Education

We are pleased to announce we have returned to the office. Whilst we are unable to run any courses in the

College at the moment, we are hoping to be able resume some courses after October half term and others early in the spring term. We are also hoping to run some Saturday workshops on 28 November 2020.

The Italian Advanced Conversation course, which started on Tuesday, 22 September from 9.30 – 11.30 am, is now running online. If you are interested in this, please enrol as you can join this course at any time in the term.

Please visit our website: www.sawstonadulthood.org. This will be updated as and when we are able to start courses. You can also contact us by email at:

community@sawstonvc.org, or telephone 01223 712424. We look forward to being able to welcome you to the College as soon as possible.

Mrs King,
Adult Learning Manager



The Italian Advanced Conversation course is now running online.

Science Practicals and Demonstrations

Since the beginning of term, the Science Department has delivered over 300 practicals and demos to our pupils. A big thank you goes to our fabulous Science technicians, Mrs Kerr and Mrs Bär, who are the power house of this achievement. They have co-ordinated the quarantining of equipment and books, sanitised equipment/goggles and are grandmasters at dismantling and assembling equipment in just a few minutes. Pupils are rising to the challenge of completing practical work independently, without the usual hands-on assistance of their teacher, and the Science Department team are proud to continue to provide an enriching Science curriculum.

We would also like to thank Mrs Barnett, Global Operations Director at Thermo Fisher Scientific, for replacing the 300 pairs of goggles that were donated to Addenbrooke's Hospital at the start of lockdown. Without these, very few of the pupil practicals would have been possible!



Sawston Sports Centre is delighted to be able to offer sport, exercise and wellbeing for the local community. We

have made some changes to our procedures to ensure the safety of our staff and customers, including increased cleaning, social distancing measures and reduced capacity for all sessions. All sessions must be pre-booked by calling our reception team on 01223 712555. Please check our website

www.sawstonsports.com. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @SawstonSports for regular updates.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Sports Centre Manager



We have:

Fitness Suite / Swimming Pool / Astro / Badminton / Squash / Table Tennis / Tennis

Classes available: Boot Camp, Revolutions, Kettlercise, Triplefit, Pilates & Yoga



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

Positive starts in Business Studies

Year 10 pupils have made a positive start to studying Business Studies. We have looked at Enterprise, Entrepreneurs, Risk and Reward and Market Research. Year 11 pupils have come back to lessons with a positive learning attitude beginning with the topic of Business Growth. Pupils are starting to engage with the Google Classroom Stream where current affairs, topical activities or recommended reading material and documentaries to watch are posted. I am hoping that as the year progresses this will become an area for virtual class discussions.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher



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



Artwork by
Amelia Swierczynska
(now in Year 10)

We mistakenly attributed this artwork to another pupil in our last newsletter and so are pleased to be able to correct this here.

Drama: The View from Here

With ever-increasing restrictions, comes an ever-increasing instinctive determination to adapt and create. With the new and protective non-contact measures in place, our performance spaces have been re-configured to allow for a new, paradoxical together and apart devising approach entitled: **The View From Here**. Our Year 10s have been approaching their work as writers of intimate, naturalistic and more psychologically driven internal journeys that incorporate spaced settings for two-hander pieces. This is a more sophisticated approach, tapping into techniques and devices used by television and film actors. Moreover, with this concept and a company of the same name above, we are about to join the National Theatre Connections project, to direct and perform one of their new writings for 2021. Clubs will be back after half-term, and our studio will be offering more co-curricular opportunities for our young actors very soon.

Maths - both important and enjoyable

Why study maths? This is a common question, frequently asked by pupils and also the theme of our first Year 7 unit of work. Thank you to all Year 7 family members that were interviewed about the maths they use in their daily lives and job roles. We received some fantastic videos that really did promote the importance of maths beyond the classroom.

Pupils of all ages enjoy the challenge of a puzzle, and this term we have been solving KenKen's (you can find these at the back of your child's starter booklet). Simply put, it is a grid-based number puzzle that uses the four operations. Why not test out your problem-solving skills and give one a go? [Ken Ken Puzzles and Similar](#)

Mrs Shearn, Head of Mathematics

All busy in Music

The Music Department have been thrilled to hear Music floating down the corridors once again. We feel very lucky that we have been able to start some performance work with KS3. Year 7s have been exploring pentatonic scales and ostinatos on the xylophones whilst Year 8s have been learning to play the steel pans. Year 9s have been examining the extraordinary world of Stravinsky's ballet 'The Rite of Spring'. Our Year 10s have been working on their listening skills, composing together and even doing some singing. Year 11s have had the opportunity to look at a variety of musical traditions through their 'Rhythms of the World' area of study, exploring Brazilian samba and Trinidadian calypso so far. We have been thrilled to have instrumental lessons back up and running and are very thankful to all our instrumental teachers. We have developed a new Music Department website so that pupils can check their lessons times online and established instrument stores for each year group. Well done to pupils for adapting to the changes. We hope to have adapted extracurricular ensembles back up and running soon and have enjoyed some year group specific string quartets and samba this half term. Watch this space!

New Topics in Geography

Pupils have made a fantastic start to their new topics. Year 7s have started *Map Skills* while Year 9s are exploring *Uncertain Futures*. Year 10s have just completed their first GCSE unit on the *Living World* and will be moving onto the *Challenge on Natural Hazards* next. Our Year 11 GCSE pupils are currently studying the *Changing Economic World* and have been focusing on the causes and consequences of uneven development. This term, Year 8s are studying 'Tectonics' and have been exploring the causes of earthquakes and tsunamis. They have created storyboards to show

the causes of the Japanese tsunami in 2011 and will be exploring its effects on the people of Japan. Pupils were also given the opportunity to research an earthquake, tsunami or volcanic eruption for homework, and we received some amazing pieces of work on events, including the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD and the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004.

Miss Evans, Geography Teacher



Storyboard by Elena Webb, Year 8

Creativity abounds in Art

Creativity abounds in the Art department, where, this half term, the focus in all year groups has been on revisiting techniques and participating in the learning of new skills. Year 7s have been introduced to the 'Visual Elements' - the building blocks of Art. The use of tone, line and colour were demonstrated in lovely 'Op Art' homework pieces. This term Year 8s currently have an Art history focus, looking at the Impressionists and Post Impressionists. They will be exploring mark making techniques and enhancing their knowledge of colour theory when working towards producing their own landscape pictures. Year 9s, meanwhile, are working towards a still life outcome, and GCSE classes continue to make good progress on their chosen topics.

Work by (L to R) Maya Chambers,
Scarlett Wilkinson and Lauren Broome



Explorations in History

We have really enjoyed being back in the classroom learning about History this term. Year 7s have been exploring the Romans, looking at the evidence left behind by the eruption at Pompeii and by exploring some of the stories of migrants from Hadrian's Wall. Year 8s have been looking at the Reformation through the eyes of Anne Boleyn; and considering the role she played in such an important historical event. Year 9s have been exploring the Transatlantic Slave Trade through looking at original sources and accounts to help our pupils analyse the choices and options that slaves had. We are excited to see the outcomes of their learning in their first milestones this year.



Year 8s: looking at the Reformation through the eyes of Anne Boleyn



Follow Sawston Village College on Twitter: [@SawstonVC](#)

Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



Interesting Designs in DT

September saw the start of the new Year 11 DT cohort. It was great to see them again although I did wonder if I had shrunk over lockdown. We began lessons with a general catch up on coursework, and we discussed what we needed to do as a minimum this half term. I was extremely impressed with the self direction and motivation that the Year 11s had managed to adopt over lockdown.

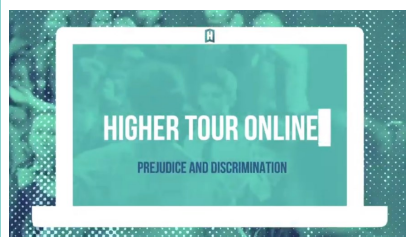
This half term has seen the development of some fantastic investigation work, leading to some very interesting design briefs. The Year 11s are now at the stage of embarking on their initial designs and iterations, which will eventually lead to a prototype. This is something that we, as a department, are really looking forward to.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Year 10 Q&A with Higher Tour

Back in 2018, we had the Higher Tour group into school delivering workshops and hosting a mini concert in the Henry Morris Hall for all pupils. They are on tour again, but this time they have gone live online. This Christian charity has been working with schools for over 25 years, helping young people to explore life, faith and positive values. The focus this time was on prejudice and discrimination, with the opportunity to have a live Q&A session with two of the band members for our Full Course Year 10 class. We wish to continue our

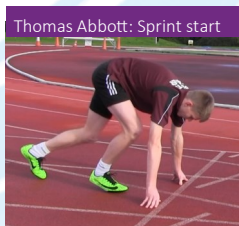


connections with the wider community, and will hopefully hold more live sessions with different organisations in the future.

Mrs Clover,
Head of RE and Ethics

GCSE PE Athletics

In light of recent events, Ofqual have confirmed that the GCSE PE exam board will not be conducting live moderation visits in summer 2021. Instead, centres have been asked to gather filmed evidence for all activities. In order to give our pupils the best opportunity to obtain their video footage, a number of our Year 11 pupils participated in an Athletics moderation at Cambridge University's purpose built track, Wilberforce Road Sports Ground. Our athletes performed brilliantly, recording some excellent times and distances across a range of events. They should be very proud of their efforts.



Thomas Abbott: Sprint start



Lucas Jackson: Javelin



Ella Pelan: Long jump



Samuel Doubleday: Finishing a race



House News

What an amazing start pupils have made to the autumn term 2020! We are very proud of their positive attitudes and support for the current school guidelines, respect for staff and each other. We have welcomed Year 7 to Sawston Village College and feel that they are settling in well.

Their 'Meet the Mentor' was held virtually on 8 October. There was also a virtual event for Year 11s' first and extra Parents Evening on 24 September, and our Year 11s are now preparing for their forthcoming mock exams. Well done to all!

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



Fantastic French

In the MFL Department we are very excited to be teaching a new curriculum for Year 7 French, putting into practice the principles developed by the National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy (NCELP).

The lessons encourage learners to build confidence and independence. There are three key strands to this: phonics, vocabulary and grammar.

Year 7 pupils are using phonics to create the individual sounds of the French language - they are doing very well with this and sounding very French!

They are also developing an interesting and useful vocabulary with a range of nouns and adjectives, alongside the key verbs and connectives. These words have been carefully planned so that pupils can create their own sentences with ease. They have been talking and writing about powerful machines, fast bikes, charming friends and more.

We look forward to seeing how our Year 7 French pupils progress this year and wish them all *bonne chance*!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern



Online Open Evening

Due to the current restrictions, we were unable to hold our Open Evening in the usual way this year. Instead, we produced films which we launched on our Open Evening, and which are now still available on our website. The films were created to give Year 6 pupils in our feeder primary schools a real flavour and feel for our fantastic College. One film introduced the school and key members of staff, and gave information that prospective pupils and parents should find helpful, while the other offered a tour of our usual open evening event, highlighting also the amazing opportunities open to our pupils. A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the making of these films, which you can find by following the link below.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal

<https://www.sawstonvc.org/parents/open-evening>



And finally:

We wish everyone a good half term break and look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday, 2 November 2020.