

September / October 2021 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

3 - 4 Nov	Senior Maths Challenge
4 Nov	Year 10 Information Evening
4 Nov	Sawston Cinema screening
5 Nov	Geography Bake Off
8 - 18 Nov	Year 11 Mock Exams
12 Nov	Year 9 Report 1 issued

16 Nov	Year 7 Information Evening
18 Nov	Year 7 Report 1 issued
19 Nov	Staff training day, school closed to pupils
26 Nov	Year 8 Report 1 issued
3 Dec	Year 11 Report 2 issued
9 Dec	Year 11 Parents Evening
10 Dec	Year 10 Report 1 issued

From the Principal



In *Hans Brinker*, an 1865 novel, there is a short story within it about a fictional Dutch boy – the Hero of Haarlem – who plugs a Dutch dyke with his finger and saves his country from a great flood. Immortalised by statues in Holland, the story is now part of popular folklore. There have been many times this term where the College has felt much like the boy in the story. Covid-19 has firmly

taken its grip, with so many of our young people and families feeling the impact of infection, self-isolation and disruption to learning. However, we are not alone. Schools up and down the land have been under enormous pressure due to pupil and staff absence. In spite of all of the measures we have put in place - following PHE and DfE guidance to the letter - schools are on the frontline of transmission. We must hope that the vaccination programme and, perhaps, a change in

approach by the government might stem the tide.

Despite this context, it has been inspiring to see the vibrancy and life of the College return to something more like normal this term. Pupils have engaged in so many different activities, clubs and opportunities. They have also shown great resilience in their studies and excellent attitudes in class.

Embracing the new CARE values, pupils have risen to the challenge of taking part, aiming high, being kind and working hard. It was also lovely to hear that this was recognised by many of the parents who visited during Open Evening, perhaps best summed up by one parent: 'Pupils conducted themselves with confidence and enthusiasm and knew how to take the initiative. They were clearly very proud of the school.' And we are very proud of them. With parents' support, we are equipping pupils with the skills they need to meet whatever challenge they may face.

'We must build dykes of courage to hold back the flood of fear'.
Martin Luther King.

Mr Russell, Principal

News from Geography

It has been a busy start to the term in Geography. Year 10 and 11 pupils are continuing with their GCSE topics. Year 10s are focusing on Natural Hazards, while Year 11s are looking at Coastal Landscapes in the UK. Our Year 7 pupils have started a new topic 'Our Island Home' focusing on the geography of the UK and the British Isles. Pupils have impressed with their knowledge and effort in lessons. Pupils were set a homework task to plan a school trip to somewhere in the UK and produced some excellent work, explaining their choices for trips. Locations ranged from Edinburgh in Scotland to the Isles of Scilly in Cornwall. Well done Year 7!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

English



Write Club, a workshop for pupils who want to develop their fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing is now up and running in the English department. Pupils from all age groups have already put pen to paper, and I have

been really impressed by the skill, ideas, passion and sheer ambition of those taking part. As well as offering participants a chance to flex their writing muscles – projects so far include detective novels, poetry collections and a science fiction anthology – it has been humbling to see so many pupils working together to troubleshoot and improve each other's writing.

Mr Gaw, English Teacher



Symonds Yat
Symonds Yat is set in a beautiful valley near Wales. There are lots of exciting activities to do there like: paddle boarding, canoeing and open water swimming. There is also a great butterfly zoo that I have been to.

We could get there by coach which would take around 2-3h.
You can learn lots about nature along the river and you can learn lots of new skills!

Dorset
The Jurassic Coast in Dorset sounds like a really fun and educational place to go to. We could go swimming, explore rock pools, go fossil hunting, sea kayaking and on boat rides. We could learn about the Jurassic times and the

We could get there by coach which would take around 3.5h.

Year 7 pupils produced excellent work.



Post-16 Conference Day

On Monday, 27 September, all Year 11 pupils took part in the Post-16 Conference Day. This was an opportunity for pupils to hear directly from visitors from post-16 centres about the different routes that can be pursued once pupils leave Sawston Village College. Visitors shared information about A levels, The International Baccalaureate (IB), apprenticeships, vocational courses and Higher Education and came from multiple destinations, including Hills Road, Long Road, The Oakes and CRC. The day was also an opportunity to launch the Personal Statement process and was designed to complement the post-16 Information Fair that took place on Tuesday, 28 September.

Mr Burgess, Assistant Principal



Business Studies

Year 10s have made a very positive start to Business Studies. They have looked at Business Enterprise & Entrepreneurs, Customer Needs & Market Research. They are working on how to analyse business case studies and have been advised to keep up to date with current affairs in the business world. Year 11s have started looking at the topics in Theme 2 and have demonstrated how they are interconnected with the topics covered in Year 10. Both year groups are reminded to make effective use of the Virtual Classrooms created for them. These will be of significant importance for Year 11s to be used as revision material in preparation for the mock examination.

Mrs Neesam, Business Studies Teacher

Enthusiasm in the Food department

The new Year 7 pupils arrived at Sawston Village College keen to tackle some practical work in the Food department. The teachers have been capturing this enthusiasm by getting them involved in practical activities as quickly as possible. The pupils have already made a fruit salad, pizza toasties, vegetable soup and savoury muffins. All the dishes have been carefully chosen to develop the skills needed for working in a kitchen: basic knife skills, and how to use the grill, hob and oven confidently. The pupils have also gained a sound understanding of kitchen safety and hygiene. They are already well on their way to becoming confident and creative cooks.

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care

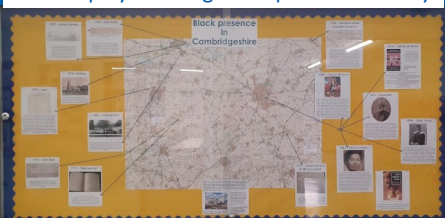


Professional Learning

Ten schools in Anglian Learning, the multi academy trust to which Sawston Village College belongs, are set to become the 'Creativity Collaborative' hub for the South East for a three-year project aiming to test innovative practices in teaching for creativity. Funded by Arts Council England and the Freeland Foundation, the Creativity Collaboratives project arises from the recommendations of the Durham Commission, which looked into the role of creativity and creative thinking in the education of young people. Anglian Learning is one of eight hubs awarded funding nationally and, working alongside existing school structures, teachers will develop and test out approaches to teaching for creativity, and evaluate their impact on pupils and schools.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

New display charting black presence locally



Focus on Black History

The History department really enjoyed working with Pastoral Leader Miss Hunt on Black History month this term. Over the summer I spent time in the Cambridgeshire Archives finding out about local black History in Cambridgeshire, and this research has led to a new display in the Spicer Wing corridor. The display charts black presence in Cambridgeshire from 1594 to 2019 and, crucially, we plan to integrate many of the stories uncovered across our curriculum. One of the stories featured on the display is that of Gloria Cumper (the first woman of Afro-Caribbean heritage to go to Cambridge University). We shared her story with our pupils during mentor time. The mentor time activities included recordings of our own pupils reading extracts from the book 'One Bright Child', which is a semi-autobiographical work by Patricia Cumper about her mother's life.

Miss Jackson, Head of History



Mrs Minett further adds:

The third **Geography Bake Off** takes place on 5 November. The theme is 'Climate Change'. We hope this sparks an interest in the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow between 31 October and 12 November.

Sawston Cinema is now open.

Visit the website:

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

to see the full programme of screenings.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Sawston
Adult
Education

It has been lovely to welcome previous and

new learners to our courses this term. We have had a good start to the term and are delighted that our new Garden Design course is fully subscribed. We have Saturday workshops planned for 27 November and some of these are starting to fill up. There are still places on



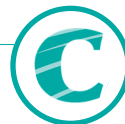
Classic Indian Delights, Creating picturebooks, Drums for beginners and Right Plant, Right Place. If you are

interested in any of these, or indeed any of our courses, please visit our website:

www.sawstonadulthood.org, email:

community@sawstonvc.org or telephone 01223 712424.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



The new term has seen the return of our 12-week courses, including Pilates and Yoga for adults and Trampolining, Judo and Gymnastics for children. We are delighted to see our swimming lessons return to capacity with in excess of 500 children now having weekly lessons and learning such a key life skill.

As we approach October half term our holiday programme is ready to book, including Wobstacle, Trampolining, Bubble Swims, Public Swims and 1-2-1 lessons. We are excited to host the Football Fun Factory again and are pleased to welcome Cambridge Endurance Triathlon club. If you would like further information on any of the activities, please contact our reception team on 01223 712555, check our website www.sawstonsports.com or follow us on social media.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager

Pupils must bake and decorate a cake to reflect the theme. Entries must be brought to school and placed in T7 early on the day. The competition will be judged by two professional chefs, and prizes will be awarded in two categories. Look out for a full report on this in the next newsletter!

Powering ahead in Drama

With much excitement and some trepidation, Drama have wasted no time with powering ahead with auditions, casting and rehearsals for the thrilling challenge that is Stephen Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street'. As you will now likely be aware, the show has been postponed until July, but we are still crafting, choreographing and singing our way through with grit and rigour! Our younger actors have been preparing for their National Theatre Connections festival entry in the spring, which is a first for the department, and we are extremely excited at the prospect of performing on a professional stage with our partner theatre, The Garage, in Norwich. A busy start to the term, and a year, which promises to provide a bevy of talent!

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

A date for the diary: Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street will now be performed 15 – 17 July 2022 in the Marven Centre.

Are you interested in tackling fun and interesting maths problems?

Then....

Maths Challenge Club

is the club for you!

Learn new strategies and work with each other to produce convincing solutions to UKMT Maths challenge questions as efficiently as possible.

- Mondays at 1:30pm
- In M4
- Get a lunch pass from Dr Tunna (M4).

Pupils challenge themselves in Maths

It has been wonderful to return to our departmental base in the Edinburgh Wing this term. Pupils are enjoying a greater variety of practical activities in class

and relishing the opportunity to learn new mathematical skills. We are delighted to see attendance at the Maths Challenge Club growing, with pupils working enthusiastically together to solve interesting puzzles and problems. This is great preparation for the competitions we participate in through the UK Maths Trust. The first of these, the Senior Maths Challenge for Years 10 and 11, will be taking place online in November. The Intermediate Challenge, suitable for Years 8 and 9 pupils, is scheduled for early February, and the Junior Challenge, for our youngest pupils, at the end of April.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



By Magda Sokolowska, Year 8

Great start in Art

The Art department has had a great start to the new academic year. Year 7 is being introduced to the building blocks of art, using liquorice allsorts to inspire their artwork. The unseasonably warm September weather

allowed Year 8s to participate in outdoor observational drawing. Using mark making techniques, inspired by the drawings of Van Gogh, they completed lovely studies of trees on the school field. This exercise has fed into a deeper understanding of how to present the illusion of distance and how to draw and paint trees. Year 9s are exploring mixed media approaches to creating art in their 'Art of Science' project. We look forward to seeing their



By Samuel Lewes, Year 8

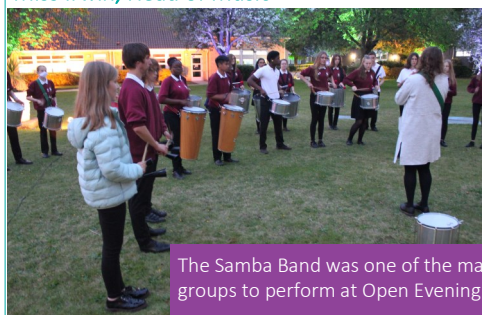
finished artwork at the end of the term.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

Lots of Music making

This term has seen the return of lots of music ensembles from Junior Choir to Senior Band to Samba. It has been wonderful to hear so much music making. We have been pleased to see many of our Year 7s joining in. In particular, Junior Band on a Friday afternoon (3.30 - 4.30 pm) is open to all woodwind and brass players who are Grade 1+, and new members are still very much welcome. A highlight of this term was Open Evening where several groups performed on Library Court for prospective pupils and parents. Senior Band started the evening off with some of James Brown's 'I feel good' at three separate performances. A thanks must go to our conductor Mr Dolby for generously giving up his time. Samba performed their first gig of the year, with the Year 9s giving their first performances with us ever. Jazz Band finished the night off underneath the lights of Library Court. Meanwhile, activities were ongoing in the Music department too. Well done to all pupils involved and a huge thank you for your commitment and help. We now look forward to the Carol Service which (Covid permitting) will take place on Thursday, 16 December at Great St Mary's church in Cambridge. We have much to prepare!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



The Samba Band was one of the many music groups to perform at Open Evening.



Coding Club for Girls is already in its fifth week!

Clubs are back in Computer Science and iMedia

I am writing this during a lunchtime, listening to pupils next door busily creating sprites for their games. This is just one of our Computer Science and Creative iMedia clubs, and it is absolutely fantastic knowing that Sawston Village College pupils can again enjoy these

clubs and activities both at lunchtime and after school. There are some new clubs too: Scratch Club has, well, scratched an itch that Year 7s and Year 8s have had for a while; we are about to start a Python coding club on Fridays and, with positive discrimination in mind, our Coding Club for Girls is already in its fifth week! Our older and more established clubs are back too: Gamemaker, Digital Imaginings and First Lego League, as well as a couple of clinics for KS4 pupils taking either or both of our subjects. It almost feels like it is back to normal...

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science and iMedia



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



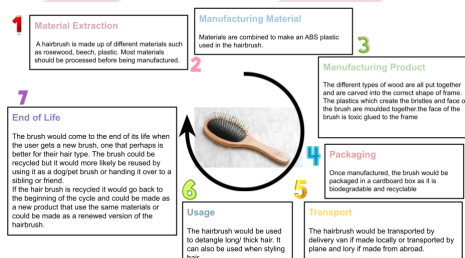
Endeavour
Work hard

Green Team: Developing a carbon positive product

Year 10 Designers have spent the last few weeks investigating not only how to develop a product but how to develop a carbon positive product. They started the exercise by investigating an existing product of their choice, researching its lifecycle from material extraction, preparation, manufacturing, packaging, transportation through to its use and how it could then be recycled. I think it is fair to say that the young designers have had an eye-opening experience on just how much carbon is produced

through each stage. With this new-found knowledge they are now about to embark on their challenge... to produce a carbon positive product. They will look at the 6 Rs (Refuse, Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, Repair and Reduce) at each stage of the product life cycle. I will update you on their exciting results in the next newsletter.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



House News

We have certainly made a firm and fresh start to this academic year. Pupils of all year groups mixing and learning around the school - just like the old days! The buzz is back although we remain cautious. We are so pleased to see the number of pupils who are seizing opportunities to join in extracurricular activities to enhance their school experience. Alongside this, we had a tremendous Active Week with a huge percentage of pupils and staff raising their activity and earning points for their House.

Welcome back!

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



Debating Team: back bigger and stronger

This half term, pupils across all years have been debating a number of big philosophical and ethical questions. Such as; 'How did we get here?', 'Why are festivals important?', 'Do criminals have rights?' and 'What is the nature of crime and justice?'. We are pleased to say that our debating team has come back bigger and stronger this year, with a record number of pupils wanting to join in. As part of Black History month, this week's debate topic was 'Do we celebrate our differences enough?'. Pupils' preparation for the debate showed great maturity, and the respect they showed one another was inspiring. Well done to all!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

Debating Club

This week's topic for debate is:

Do we celebrate our differences enough?

Please come prepared with arguments/research FOR and AGAINST the topic.

Where → HMH
When → Every Friday
Time → 1:30-2pm
Who for → ALL year groups

Early lunch passes are available. Speak to Mrs Clover for more details

Important note: Pupils will need to sit in Year groups, spaced out in the HMH.



VOTESFOR SCHOOLS

Update from MFL

This half term, the whole school celebrated the European Day of Languages from 27 - 30 September.

During mentor time, pupils completed a quiz: the first round was about famous people with language skills, the second one about interesting celebrations in foreign countries. In the final round, pupils listened to staff members speaking a foreign language and had to try to identify who was speaking and what language they were speaking in. Congratulations to da Vinci House who won the quiz! The top scoring mentor group (DH10, EH03, MH02, TH12) in each house got rewarded with a bag of Celebrations. Pupils also had the opportunity to complete our treasure hunt around the school and to watch foreign films at lunchtime.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Right: French homework to revise the near future tense by Imsy Butler-Burd, Year 8.



STEM Club Leaders

We are delighted that our Junior STEM club has returned this term, especially since we Science teachers have been able to step back and observe as a group of Year 10 and 11 volunteers have taken over leadership of the club. They are doing a fantastic job of introducing activities to the Year 7 and 8 pupils, explaining



some of the science behind them and making sure everyone has fun while working safely. So far this term we have enjoyed building lighthouses, fire writing and making an 'Apothecary's cocktail', with lots more planned over the coming weeks.

Mrs Lloyd, Physics Teacher



Lots of opportunities in PE

The PE department has been very busy providing the usual array of clubs and opportunities for all year groups this half term. We have been very impressed with the number of pupils who have attended a club so far this year but would love to see more faces, particularly in hockey and rugby where the opportunity to play fixtures against other schools will be coming soon! All of our clubs are mixed gender and mixed ability, so come and give them a go! Well done to all of the pupils who have started PE with a great attitude and willingness this term. We look forward to seeing you progress after the half term break.

Mrs Andersen, PE Teacher

And finally:

Have a good half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on 1 November 2021.