

# November / December 2021

# Newsletter



**Sawston**  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

<b>4 Jan</b>	Staff training day
<b>5 Jan</b>	College closed. LFD testing for Yrs 7, 10 & 11
<b>6 Jan</b>	College open to Yrs 7, 10 & 11. LFD testing for Yrs 8 & 9
<b>7 Jan</b>	College open to all Year groups
<b>10 Jan</b>	Year 11 individual photographs
<b>13 Jan</b>	Year 8 Parents' Evening

<b>18-20 Jan</b>	Year 9 Exams
<b>20 Jan</b>	Year 10/11 RE Walsingham trip
<b>20 Jan</b>	Sawston Cinema: The Courier
<b>25 Jan</b>	Stapleford Granary Year 11 Music Concert
<b>27 Jan</b>	Year 9 Options Evening
<b>27 Jan</b>	Sawston Cinema: NT Live: Leopoldstadt
<b>2-5 Feb</b>	SYD Seniors: Oklahoma!
<b>4 Feb</b>	Year 9 Report 2 issued
<b>10 Feb</b>	Year 10 Meet the Mentor

## From the Principal



The closing race of the Formula 1 series can serve as a metaphor for this term in our battle with Covid-19. It's been a constant tussle and just when we think we are pulling away from the virus, the rule book is torn up and Omicron comes soaring through to upset us in the final lap. Another take would be that the F1 race teaches us all never to give up, that remorseless effort will see us victorious in the end; childhood

dreams can be realised through ambitious goals, self-discipline and the support of our team. The drama in Abu Dhabi gave us excitement and controversy whilst cementing this particular championship in motor racing history.

We cannot lay claim to anything quite so historic but we have certainly had much to celebrate this term in spite of all the individual challenges many have faced. We have had our own share of sporting triumphs on the rugby pitch and in cross-country, our mathematicians excelled themselves in competitions, our clubs have been well attended all term and the arts continue to flourish. There are increasing leadership opportunities for pupils and we are

excited to be launching our Sawston Pledges in January, a system to reward and recognise pupils' participation as well as to encourage even more to take part.

In January, we are also looking to further develop our support of pupils' mental health and wellbeing, beginning with a dedicated staff training day. We want our young people to be safe and know even more explicitly who to ask for help when they might need it. Our new website will also signpost more clearly what support is available and link to charities and resources that give advice. We need to prepare them for whatever surprises may be round the next corner and whichever course they steer.

'It is only those who have won with integrity and care, over an extended period of time, who have become universally regarded as successful.' – Sir Jackie Stewart

**Mr Russell, Principal**

## Farewell to our Staff Leavers

Sadly, we say goodbye to several staff leavers. Mr Marmion has been on PE supply this term. He will be replaced by Mrs Schofield, who now converts to full-time. Ms Fontana has been covering maternity leave in Languages but has secured a job abroad. Mr Mannall, Maths, is returning to the private sector. Miss A Harvey has been doing a great job holding the fort in RE but Miss Hall returns from maternity leave after Christmas. Mr Bailey, PE, is heading to Cheltenham with his hockey sticks and our best wishes; he will be replaced by Mr Trent. Mrs Carman, Head of English, who has been an outstanding presence in the department since 2013 is relocating to Kent to start her new family. She is replaced by Ms Goodbrand. Mrs Harris, Lead Practitioner English, is seeking a new challenge at Linton; she will be sorely missed after 11 years with us. She is replaced by Mr Cox. And, after 19 years' service, Mr Dunk retires as our caretaker, an iron man with an iron will who we cannot believe is finally going to stop. We will miss them all and wish them all the best in their new ventures.



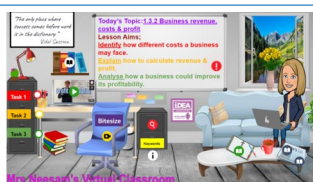
Caretaker Mr Dunk (right) retires after 19 years' service.

## News from Business Studies

In order to help support Business Studies pupils with their learning, I have created a number of virtual classrooms (one for each topic) that provide pupils with links to different learning resources e.g., PowerPoints, video clips, knowledge organisers, key term glossaries, news articles and revision websites. Pupils are reminded of the need to access these virtual classrooms if absent and also as a revision tool. All they need to do is click on the 'flashing icons' within the virtual classroom and it will give them instructions. Links to all the virtual classrooms are available on their Google Classroom News Feed.

**Mrs Neesam,**  
Business Studies Teacher

Virtual Classroom links:  
[Theme 1 \(Year 10\)](#) [Theme 2 \(Year 11\)](#)



## We need you to help us find out about school experiences 1960s-1990s!

Sawston Village College's History department is launching a new scheme of work this year which will give our Year 11 pupils the opportunity to add to the historical record. As part of our History GCSE, pupils study the school and its history. However, we don't have much information about the experience of female pupils in the school's history so we'd like to give our pupils the chance to see if they can find out any more information themselves and help us recover these experiences. We would really like the opportunity to record a few short interviews with women about their experiences of school at Sawston Village College (or at another comprehensive school) in the 1970s or 1980s. We would also benefit from hearing from women who went to school in the 1960s and 1990s. If you are happy to be interviewed as part of this project, or are willing to speak to one of our pupils about your experience of school in this period, we would be exceptionally grateful. Please send an email to [sjackson@sawstonvc.org](mailto:sjackson@sawstonvc.org) if you feel you can contribute.

Miss Jackson, Head of History

## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Between 9 and 11 November, a group of our most able pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a Senior Maths Challenge. The Senior Maths Challenge is designed to challenge and interest some of our best mathematicians. We had 13 pupils who participated in the challenge from Years 8 to 11. When the results were released, we could see that the pupils had done extremely well, with a number of the pupils obtaining certificates from the UKMT, who are the charity that runs the challenge. Two pupils qualified for follow-on rounds. One of these challenges was 3½ hours long! We eagerly await these results.

Dr Tunna, Maths Teacher



Some of the Maths Challenge participants

## Professional Learning

Recent weeks have seen various professional learning activities. As we deepen our understanding of Rosenshine's "Principles of Instruction", a summary of research into effective teaching methods, colleagues have met in mixed-subject groups to explore less familiar aspects to decide how relevant they might be to their subject areas. We have also established a very popular voluntary working party, exploring how we might diversify and decolonise elements of our curriculum, informed in part by training from the University of Bristol.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

## Cakes showcase Climate Change

It's been another busy term in Geography, and pupils have just come to the end of their first topics. A highlight of this term has been the annual Geography Bake Off with the Food department. The theme for this year's Bake Off was Climate Change, and we received some amazing entries! Pupils impressed with their take on the theme, with many cakes showcasing the serious impacts of Climate Change, such as forest fires and melting ice caps. Pupils demonstrated some amazing skills on their cakes, including sugar work and iced decorations. Congratulations to the winners! We are already looking forward to seeing what pupils create next year!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

### The Winners

#### Cookery skill winners

- 1st place - Iris Dean MH06 Y10
- 2nd place - Grace Arnold MH08 Y10
- 3rd place - Ella Bacon EH08 Y11

#### Geographical interpretation

- 1st place - Isobel Whitton EH07 Y9
- 2nd place - Zenab Usman MH04 Y7
- 3rd place - Tilly Broome DH12 Y10



Cake by Isobel Whitton, Year 9



## Sawston Adult Learning

We are coming to the end of our courses for this term and

would like to thank you for your support. We are delighted that we were successful in getting most of our courses running after such a strange 18 months. Our new Garden Design course was oversubscribed and so we will be offering this again next term. Spring term courses start the week commencing 17 January, and we have Saturday workshops planned for 12 March. If you would like to enrol, or see what courses we are offering, please visit our website: [www.sawstonadulthood.org](http://www.sawstonadulthood.org), email: [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org), or telephone 01223 712424. If there is a particular course you would like us to offer, or a course you could offer to teach, we would love to hear from you. We look forward to welcoming you to the College in January.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



The last 12 months have tested both our mental and physical health, and we are delighted to see so many customers returning to enjoy their experiences at the Centre.

If you are looking to begin using the fitness suite, our friendly team is on hand to help guide you through all the equipment.

We are excited to announce that our new online booking system was launched in November, allowing a simple process for customers to book their favourite activities, including Swimming, Fitness Suite, Badminton, Squash and Exercise Classes.

Please check our website and social media pages for the latest updates and offers, especially over the Christmas and New Year period - [www.sawstonsports.com](http://www.sawstonsports.com).

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager, Sawston Sports Centre



Sawston Cinema is now open, and we are delighted that our NT Live

programme will start once again from January 2022. First up is Tom Stoppard's play *Leopoldstadt* on 27 January. To see our full programme of screenings, visit the website: [www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk).

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



## Drama news

We are thrilled to share our latest Drama news, which kicks off with our first, live theatre trip to The Junction to see their modern adaptation of *The Snow Queen*. Families and friends of pupils were invited, and eighty tickets went in three days! This clearly shows how much we all love the collective theatre experience. *Sweeney Todd* rehearsals are well underway for our KS4 production at The Marven Centre next July, whilst *Remote*, a new play by

Stef Smith, will be performed by our younger actors for the National Theatre Connections festival next March at The Garage theatre in Norwich. We look forward to inviting you all to our productions and not forgetting the GCSE Texts in Performance and Devised works in the spring to, once again, celebrate our brilliant actors' achievements. Until then, we wish you a merry, healthy and happy holiday.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

## Making persuasive speeches

Year 8s have been taking inspiration from some great orators of the past and present this term and producing their own persuasive speeches. Whether it's homework, the length of the school day or encouraging pupils to become more actively involved in sports, pupils have been writing their speeches using techniques learnt from the best, including a little Aristotelian wisdom, and will be delivering them in class to keen audiences.

Well done Year 8s!

Mrs Carman, Head of English

## Role plays in Health and Social Care

In Health and Social Care, Year 11 pupils have been learning about care values and how these can be put into practice in a care situation. They have shown their understanding of the topic by writing and performing a role play. In various scenarios, they played the parts of a care worker and different types of client to demonstrate the use of the care values.

Very few of the health and social care pupils like acting, so this type of activity takes them out of their comfort zone. However, they all tried very hard with

this exercise. Watching the role plays, it was obvious that many of the pupils already have an appreciation of the skills needed by a care worker. Well done to all!

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care

Pupils performed role plays



## Christmas Card Design Competition

Over 30 pupils took part in our Christmas Card Design Competition, producing work of a very high standard. It proved a challenge to choose a winner but three entries were eventually shortlisted and, from these, joint winners and a runner-up were chosen. Cards from left to right: Joint Winners Grace Ormerod, Year 8 and Sara-Sophie Mansat-Bhattacharyya, Year 10, and Runner-up Alena Neesam, Year 7. Thank you to everyone who took part.



## New painting course in Art

This term has seen the launch of a new lunchtime club. Pupils in Year 9 can participate in an exciting opportunity to become familiar with and develop skills in using acrylic paint. This is a 6-week course which will repeat every term, and participants have already experimented with techniques and understood a basic colour palette. Work now begins on painting their canvas with a view to displaying the finished results around the school site.

Mrs Day, Head of Art



## Update from Music

The brass ensemble are rehearsing carols next door, and the Madrigal singers' voices are sounding beautiful after their extended rehearsal. Preparations for the Carol Service are in full swing, and we look forward (with a great deal of hope!) to the Carol Service on Thursday, 16 December at Great St Mary's church. Pupils have put in a great deal of work and should be rightly proud of their achievements thus far.

This half term has also seen Year 11 pupils complete their first compositions and performances towards their GCSE grades. Year 10 pupils have also had a most supportive lesson, performing to one another. For several pupils it was the first time they have ever performed to any one else, a huge well done to them all.

Looking back on a busy and musical term Mr Cragg and I would like to thank all of our pupils who have been involved in ensembles and choirs. You have worked hard and we hope you have enjoyed all the music! We also thank all of our instrumental and singing teachers who have done a fantastic job with all of our pupils this term too.

Have a music-filled Christmas, and we look forward to more pupils getting involved musically in the New Year.

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

## A festive focus

It must be getting close to Christmas again: we're working towards Christmas Trees with Turtle graphics in Year 7, poster designs for our image editing work in Creative iMedia have ghostly Victorian overtones, and the coding of snowflakes is present in our coding clubs. Considering the journey our Year 11s have been through, the great results in the CS Mocks are also worth celebrating, and in class, our coding activities all also have festive themes: it's perhaps not surprising that we can weave iteration (loops) conditional execution (decisions) and patterns into electronic advent calendars, travelling Father Christmas problems and Christmas quizzes. I guess the techy side of the course also helps pupils decide what could be on their own Christmas lists... Raspberry Pi for dessert?

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science and Creative iMedia



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard

## Coasting into SVC



The end of the Autumn term usually sees Year 7s with a fully stamped DT tools and machines passport. This autumn, however, we have focused on hand carpentry craft through using the coping saw with dexterity, focusing on accuracy and precision. The Year 7 classes have thoroughly enjoyed the Covid-secure practical sessions.



Although the Spring term may still not see the introduction of the electric machines, the pupils are fully equipped with hand tool skills and keen to realise their final designs. The images show some of the coaster designs which have been created by hand.

Good skills Year 7!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

## House News

We've had a successful first term, with pupils getting involved in all aspects of school life. There have been many House activities and competitions; the Geography Bake Off, One Kind Word, assembly discussions, and literacy and numeracy challenges. We've had an assembly celebrating achievements, including House points, Music and Arts Awards and previous competition winners. There will be another celebration assembly before the end of the year. There's been a Christmas card design competition, and we will have a mentor room Christmas decoration competition and an end-of-year Christmas quiz. A well-deserved rest beckons for all pupils and staff!

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



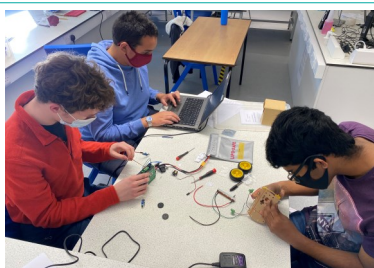
## Update from RE

There have been lots of active and engaging lessons in RE this half term. Year 7s have been learning about Buddhism and different forms of meditation practices. These lessons have encouraged pupils to learn to appreciate sitting calmly and reflecting upon themselves, focusing on their own wellbeing. Year 10 Full Course GCSE pupils have been preparing and taking part in their own courtroom trial, considering arguments for and against whether euthanasia should be legalised. The pupils handled such a challenging topic maturely and respectfully, and the quality of their written work has shown great development. Well done to all year groups!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

## Senior STEM Club

In addition to our very busy and successful Junior Stem clubs, the Science department is also running a Senior Stem Club, open to our



Year 10s and 11s. This year started with our visiting Hills Road Sixth Form for the launch of their STEM competition: designing and building an autonomous robot that can navigate an arena to collect and deliver presents. During the day our pupils successfully got to grips with programming the control units of their robots, and putting together the hardware to allow them to drive towards a "present". Back at school, we are meeting once a week to continue the design of the software and hardware for our robots. The club has so proved popular, with more than 20 pupils taking part, that we are building two robots: Year 10s are competing to build a better robot than the Year 11s!

Mr Barnett, Biology Teacher

## Sentence builders all around in MFL!

This term, in MFL, we have been very busy writing and introducing our new knowledge organisers, which are made up of sentence builders. Rather than the old-fashion vocabulary lists, sentence builders allow pupils to see how parts of sentences fit together and can easily create a range of sentences on the topic they are studying. These are then practised extensively in class and at home, and even come with their own Quizlet sets for independent practice. We encourage all parents and carers to have a look at their child's sentence builders and help them practise at home!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Tu veux sortir? (do you want to go out?)

Demain (tomorrow) Ce weekend (this weekend) Samedi (Saturday) Ce soir (this evening)	Tu veux / veux-tu / est-ce que tu veux (do you want)	aller (to go) jouer (to play) faire (to do) regarder (to watch) sortir (to go out) venir (to come)	au parc / au collège / au cinéma / chez Louis (to Louis's) au foot / au rugby / au tennis / aux jeux-video (videogames) les magasins (shopping) / du vélo (some cycling) / de la natation (some swimming) un film / une comédie / une série / un match de badminton avec moi (with me) chez moi (to mine) / au cinéma avec moi (to the cinema with me)	?
				
Bonne idée! (good idea) Chouette! (great) Je veux bien! (I want to) Carrément! (absolutely)	Bof... (meh) Pourquoi pas... (why not) Ça m'est égal... (I don't mind) D'accord. (OK)		Tu plaisantes! (are you kidding!) Je n'ai pas envie! / je ne veux pas (I don't want to) T'es dingue! (are you crazy!) Certainement pas! (absolutely not)	

## Great performance at Girls Rugby Festival

A massive well done to the Year 9 and 10 girls who took part in the Girls Rugby Festival at Shelford Rugby Club recently. They performed brilliantly and were a real credit to the school. Star performers included Keira Collinson and Phoebe Herbert, who both scored a series of excellent tries. Isobel Smit, our scrum half, distributed the ball expertly out of the ruck. Amber Facer and Edith White displayed tremendous leadership skills organising the attacking and defensive lines. Lastly, lots of credit has to go to Isobel Whitton, who played her first ever rugby game with poise and confidence. Well done ladies!

Mr Walsh, PE Teacher



## And finally:

Have a good festive break. We will look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

