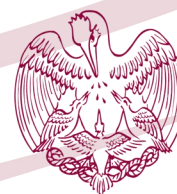


January / February 2022 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

14-18 Feb	Half term
17 Feb	NT Live Screening: The Book of Dust
24 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
28 Feb - 4 Mar	Book Week
4 Mar	Year 8 Report 2 issued
8 - 11 Mar	GCSE Food Practical Exams

9 Mar	Year 11 Exam Information Evening
11 Mar	Year 7 Report 2 issued
18 Mar	Year 10 Report 2 issued
24 Mar	Year 7 Parents' Evening
25 Mar	Year 11 Report 3 issued
25 Mar	West Road Concert
1 April	Spring Term ends

From the Principal



February half-term marks the halfway point in the academic year. As well as a welcome and much needed break (one that may also act as a firebreak to stem the spread of the Omicron variant in College, which has reached record levels in the last few weeks), it is an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved thus far.

We launched our CARE values in September, making clear our ambition

that all pupils take part, aim high, be kind and work hard. Since then, we have launched our new Sawston Pledges, Arts Ambassadors, House Ambassadors, HouseMates and begun preparations for a new House Celebration Evening in the summer term. Several new clubs have come on stream and our new website details a comprehensive range of opportunities and activities for pupils, as well as a wealth of information about our curriculum and aspirations.

Our CARE values are at the heart of our Improvement Plan. We are developing a wellbeing and mental health strategy to support further the pastoral care we offer to all pupils and staff. A strong (C)ommunity also needs future leaders, and we are creating more opportunities for young people to build their skills in this area. In our (A)mbition strand, we are keen for all pupils to be readers,

with several initiatives planned for the coming weeks. Look out for our 20 books campaign. In our SEND department, we continue to improve our new sensory room and plan for more dyslexic friendly classrooms, with a determination to make learning accessible for all.

Many teachers are involved in our 'Broadening the Narrative' project, a look at decolonising and diversifying our curriculum. Also in our (R)espect strand, we continue to develop the language, culture and ethos of the College with a focus on celebration, kindness and support. Meanwhile, our expectations remain high, and pupils in breach of the Sawston Way are appropriately sanctioned. Finally, through (E)ndeavour, we are improving further the quality of teaching, curriculum and assessment. We are carrying out various reviews and trialling different approaches to make learning 'stick' and to ensure pupils achieve the success they deserve.

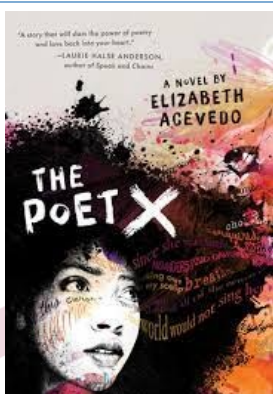
'True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice.' Saint Francis de Sales

Mr Russell, Principal

English to launch Top 20 Books

After half term, the English department will be launching our TOP 20 BOOKS reading book lists for all year groups, including Year 11 pupils who are thinking of studying English Literature at sixth form. Ten copies of each of the books will be available in the school library for pupils to borrow and, for Years 7 and 8, reading these books will be one of the ways to achieve their Bronze Pledge awards. Reading is the single most important determiner of success in school and all round happiness! Please watch out for my email home where I will share our lists!

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English



One of the books from the Year 9 list

Reporting from Science: Junior STEM club



As part of the junior STEM club, this half term we have begun looking into a solution for the plastics plaguing the planet.

Knowing that conventional plastics do not biodegrade, the STEM club set to work creating plastics out of potatoes and milk! First came plastic made from potatoes, which involved a lot of grating, soaking and decanting!

From this the pupils made an array of coloured plastic films! In the next week, STEM club created harder plastic from the polymers within milk. This involved curdling, colouring, draining and drying milk to form miniature shapes and models. Both were outstanding successes (with varying levels of mess!).

Well done STEM club!

Mrs Philpott, Deputy Head of Science



In Geography: Dark Tourism and Development

It has been an exciting start to the new term in Geography. Year 8 and 9 pupils have started new topics on Dark Tourism and Development respectfully. The Year 8 pupils have impressed with their mature and sensitive approach to what can be a difficult topic at times. They have been able to construct balanced arguments about the appropriateness of participating in tourism to slums in Kibera, Nairobi and visiting Auschwitz, a museum and memorial to victims of the Holocaust. Meanwhile, our GCSE pupils continue to work hard on their topics. Both Year 10 and 11 are studying Human Geography topics. Year 10 are thinking about our changing urban world, and Year 11 the challenge of resource management. Also, Ms Folan is heading off on maternity leave so we wish her all the best!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



You're Hired - Business Studies Club

This half term has seen the launch of the *You're Hired Business Studies Club* where we are discussing the disasters and successes of the current television series of *The Apprentice*. It has generated some interesting and lively debates about the tasks that the candidates have had to complete. It has been lovely to see some Key Stage 3 pupils join the club and take an interest in the subject. I will be setting our own mini apprentice challenge after half term, which I hope will be enjoyable for all involved.

Week 1
Think of the **positive & negatives** of the logo

Can you identify what sort of company this might be?



Pupils are reminded of the need to access the 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.

Virtual Classroom links:

[Theme 1 \(Year 10\)](#)

[Theme 2 \(Year 11\)](#)

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Professional Learning

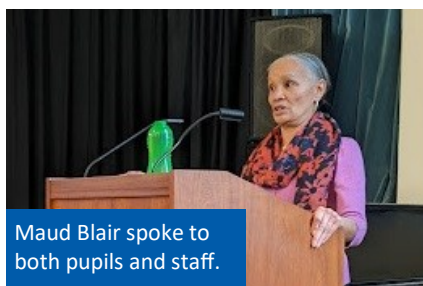


Our cycle of Teaching and Learning Briefings continues. Teaching and Learning Briefings are a series of mini training sessions on a theme running throughout the year. This year we are looking at how we can develop our teaching of reading across the curriculum, using evidence-based teaching strategies from the influential US educationalist, Barack Rosenshine. The most recent focus has been on teachers' use of questioning, which can be used both to *check* for pupils' understanding and to *develop* pupils' understanding. The precise wording of questions can make a big difference, and asking a series of questions, with follow-up questions responsive to what pupils say, can help to support and extend pupils' learning.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal

Visit from Maud Blair

We were very lucky to have Maud Blair come into Sawston Village College recently to speak to both our pupils and staff about her experiences of British rule in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).



Maud Blair spoke to both pupils and staff.

We heard first-hand about how extreme attitudes were to race in Rhodesia as Maud was sent to a boarding school at the age of four and not able to have any contact with her family for three years. Our pupils asked some really interesting questions about Maud's life in Zimbabwe and were able to gain a better understanding of the impact



and legacy of the British Empire today. After school, staff were also invited to hear Maud speak in our Professional Learning discussion group, on the really important subject of how to tackle the issue of race in the classroom. She gave us some extremely valuable insights, and staff commented on how useful the session was in moving our thinking on race forwards.

Miss Jackson, Head of History

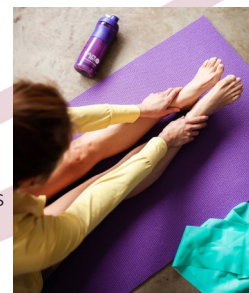


Sawston Adult Learning

This term has started well. We have a new Pilates for

Improvers course starting on Wednesday, 23 February from 7.00 - 8.00 pm for 6

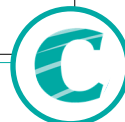
weeks. The fee is £42. Whilst some of our popular courses are fully subscribed, we do still have places available on others which can be joined at any time.



We are offering Saturday workshops on 12 March which are Bollywood & Indian Dance, Drums for Beginners and Indian Feast for Friends. Our Willow Plant Support Wigwam workshops are full, but we are taking a waiting list if you are interested. Please visit our website www.sawstonadulted.org for information on all our courses or to enrol, or contact us on 01223 712424 or community@sawstonvc.org.

If there is a subject we do not offer which would interest you, please let us know.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



Sawston Sports Centre is excited to see the return of the daytime Pilates, Yoga and Aquacise classes and the 50+ Swimming sessions.

We are proud to have introduced a ladies only fitness football session and an Inclusive Physical Activity group, ensuring activities are available to everyone.

Extra Half Term holiday activities include Intensive Swimming Lessons, Trampolining, Public Swims and Bubble Swims.

Please check our website and social media pages for the latest updates and offers -

www.sawstonsports.com.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager, Sawston Sports Centre

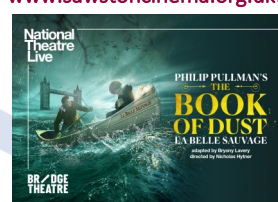


To see our full programme of screenings, visit our website:

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk.

Next up is *The Book of Dust* on 17 February.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Follow Sawston Village College on Twitter [@SawstonVC](https://twitter.com/SawstonVC)
Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Drama News

It is a busy time in the Drama Department with the Year 8s and 9s *National Theatre Connections* play, *Remote*, which included a recent Zoom workshop with the hosts. Mrs Meikle was 'extremely proud' of our young cast, whose contributions were shared with 140 other participants. Rehearsals are in full swing and the pupils are looking forward to their performance at *The Garage* theatre in April.

We are also very excited to be taking 76 GCSE actors out this Wednesday to the Arts Theatre to see a new adaptation of *Animal Farm* which uses puppetry and Olivier award-winning design. One of our Year 10 actors is writing, directing and producing her own play, '*When the Chips are Down*' for her Gold Arts Award, whilst also leading the Year 7 *Drama Improv* club

on a Monday lunchtime. We are, indeed, back in full swing with clubs and rehearsals; the GCSE actors, preparing for their original and scripted works, the *Sweeney Todd* cast forging ahead with rehearsals, and we look forward to seeing families back in school, in the not too distant future, to watch, enjoy and celebrate all the talent that is on show here at Sawston Village College.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



Year 10 pupil Izzie Allanson leading a rehearsal of her play for her Gold Arts Award.

Update from Music

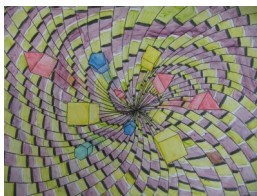
It has been another busy half term in the Music Department as all choirs and ensembles prepare for our West Road Concert on Friday, 25 March. The last time we performed there, the current Year 11 were in Year 8! Ticket information will be coming out shortly after half term.

The GCSE classes have also been busy. Year 11 have begun to explore Film and Games music and will be shortly handing in their composition work. Several members of the class planned and performed in a wonderful concert at Stapleford Granary. They all performed beautifully and should be very proud of themselves. Thanks must go to Stapleford Granary for hosting us. Pupils used the concert to raise nearly £300 for the Leavers' Ball. Year 10 are learning about the concerto and had the opportunity to hear Elgar's Violin Concerto performed by the East Anglian Chamber Orchestra. A fabulous concert! KS3 pupils have been busy composing, performing and learning about the history of pop music. Well done to all!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

Year 7s setting the bar high in Art

After completing their first term's work, it is clear that the Year 7 pupils are setting the bar high in terms of standards and creativity. Having studied colour mixing, drawing techniques, one point perspective and the Pop Art



movement, pupils created a painting of their own composition which consolidated all of these skills. They are now studying art from a different culture and working towards their own interpretation in a 3D outcome.

We look forward to seeing their designs shortly.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

Pupils' work clockwise from top left: Cam Dishaw, Ziyu Ong, Neve Wyatt and Maya Rivett



SYD: Oklahoma!

Congratulations to the pupils, former pupils and staff involved on stage and behind the scenes in SYD's marvellous production of Oklahoma! The show was a triumph and much enjoyed by all who saw it. Those involved can be rightly proud of themselves.

Coding Team Challenge for pupils in Computer Science

T.S. Eliot's 'Good poets borrow, great poets steal' echoes in my memory as we again open the door not to the rose garden, but to the Perse Coding Team Challenge with our Year 10 and Year 11 Computer Science pupils. In pairs, ten coding challenges are undertaken in 40 minutes, with the number of points increasing with the difficulty of the challenge. The tropes are familiar, and it is the keen ability to remove the wheat from the chaff - the knowledge from the noise - swiftly and effectively. In many respects, coding parallels poetry: algorithmic beauty and elegance with purpose. The pupils tell me they are enjoying the challenge; we will find out soon enough if our efforts are enough to progress to round two.

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science

What's cooking?

The Year 11 food pupils are all busy planning and making dishes for their GCSE coursework. Practical lessons are a hive activity with chickens being jointed, fish being filleted, pasta being rolled and all types of pastry being made into delicious offerings.

To achieve high marks in the coursework, pupils have to demonstrate a range of advanced cookery skills. During Year 10, they are taught the advanced skills needed to achieve high marks. Then, in Year 11, they have their chance to show off the skills they have learned by making a range of advanced dishes to complete their coursework and - hopefully - tickle the taste buds of parents and carers.

We are very grateful to these 'guinea pigs', whose feedback on the appearance, flavour and texture of these creative dishes are used by the pupils to help them improve their skills when it comes to the final three-hour practical exam.

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard



Above:
Mosque created by Maya Rivett in Year 7

Year 7s create mosques in RE

In Year 7, pupils have been busy creating their own mosques, outlining the key features and purpose of the mosque. The creativity of our pupils has been amazing, creating hand drawn mosques, 3D models and, in some cases, using computer programmes to recreate their designs. We will be launching a brand new creative lunchtime club after half term, focusing on NATRE's Spirited Arts Competition.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

House News

The first half term after the Christmas break is one of the toughest due to the dark nights and cold weather. However, time has been flying with our House Competition, in the style of Taskmaster!

Mentor groups have been working together on weekly tasks in order to gain enough points to secure a place in the Final. The concluding task will be a competition between the highest scoring mentor group from each House.

We finish this half term with our House Assemblies where we celebrate pupils with the highest number of House points, pupils who have achieved awards and those who have been nominated for their **Respect** towards others and the community.

Mrs Fink, Head of Turing House, on behalf of the Heads of House



Focus on Speaking in MFL

During the pandemic, speaking skills were the hardest to practise, and so we are all enjoying hearing pupils talk more this academic year. Key Stage 3 pupils will all complete at least one speaking milestone assessment this academic year.

Well done to Year 11, who completed their speaking mock exam in January. We were impressed by the quality of some of your answers, and it was clear that most of you had spent a lot of time practising and preparing. Remember to keep revising regularly so you do not have to start again for your actual speaking exam!

After half term, Year 10 will start preparing for their first speaking exam, and we look forward to hearing what they have learnt since starting their GCSE course.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



A Sustainable Challenge - Playing for the Planet

The annual challenge was set to this year's Year 10s... to design and make a sustainable children's toy. We analysed children's main activities when playing with toys and how the design of a toy could instil sustainable values. We looked at how these could be designed according to children's cognitive development and their learning skills, as well as conforming to the design process.

The results have been fantastic this year. We have had an interactive green picnic basket designed and made from recycled beech slats, a fantastic garden or allotment designer which encourages you to grow your own food, and an infinity puzzle (ironically designed with end of product life cycle in mind). These were just a few among a whole range of innovative ideas for the future. Well done Year 10!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Update from Maths

This half term, Year 9 pupils have been learning about credit and debit, budgeting household bills and the cost of buying or renting a property. Needless to say, many have decided to live at home for as long as possible!

Early February saw nearly 40 pupils from Year 8 to Year 11 take the intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge online. We are looking forward to hearing how they got on. How would you fare? Try the question below.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

In the Caribbean, loggerhead turtles lay three million eggs in twenty thousand nests. On average, how many eggs are in each nest?

- A 15
- B 150
- C 1500
- D 15 000
- E 150 000

Year 10 boys success in away fixture

Congratulations to our Year 10 boys who won their away fixture against Linton Village College with a 2-1 victory. Despite a strong start from Sawston, Linton managed to swipe a goal in the early stages of the match. Sawston quickly dusted themselves off to gain an equaliser from Oliver Chatwin before the half time whistle. In the second half, Sawston continued to dominate possession, with some fantastic attacking plays from the team. Some stand out defending from Thomas Moody-Tipping and Max Wilkinson kept Linton from applying any significant pressure. The second goal came from Tom Unwin, which pushed us into a 2-1 lead. Sawston maintained this lead for the rest of the game. All players should be proud of their result. Congratulations!!

Mr Walsh, PE Teacher



And finally:

We hope everyone has a good half term break and we will look forward to seeing everyone in school again on Monday, 21 February.