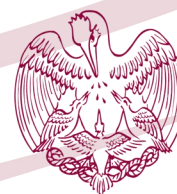


March / April 2022 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

19 April	Summer term begins	11 May	Year 9 vaccinations
19-22 April	Greener Earth Week	11-12 May	Drama devised performance evenings
21 April	Sawston Cinema: NT Live: Henry V	19 May	Sawston Cinema: Sorry We Missed You
25 April - 4 May	Year 10 exams	20 May	Year 8 report 3 issued
8 May	Sawston Fun Run	23 May	Year 9 HPV vaccinations
		25-28 May	SYD Juniors performances

From the Principal



In the penultimate week of this term, the arrival of warm air, blue skies and wall to wall sunshine marked the arrival of spring and the promise of things to come. Two years ago, we were bathing in similarly glorious weather but under very different circumstances when the country entered its first Covid lockdown. Since then, it is irrefutable that the pandemic has had a dramatic impact

on children's development and education worldwide. From today, the country enters a new period of 'living with Covid' and, slowly but surely, we will return to business as usual. In doing so, we can hope that we have learned lessons from this experience and envisioned a better future where kindness, community spirit and empathy are the norm. We are deeply fortunate to have the freedom to choose the future we want for our children.

In considering questions about the future, we have been further developing our curriculum, asking ourselves whether it is sufficiently ambitious, inclusive and current. 19 of our teachers have joined together to look at how we can improve the diversification of our curriculum, broadening the narrative

to ensure different voices are properly represented. Our pupil groups - BAME, Pride - continue to grow in popularity. Our ambition for increased pupil involvement in clubs and leadership opportunities is being realised. Through their behaviour, attitudes and endeavour, it is evident to see that our pupils want the very best and are equipping themselves with the skills, knowledge and understanding to take on the challenges ahead. The future looks safe in their hands.

'Our greatest natural resource is in the minds of our children' (Walt Disney)

Mr Russell, Principal

This week, we said a fond farewell to our Adult Learning Manager, Sue King, who retires after 21 years of professional service to the College. Sue has ensured that our community values and commitment to Morris's vision of 'cradle to grave education' will long endure. We wish her all the best in her retirement.



Introducing Anglian Leisure Sawston

I am pleased to announce that Sawston Sports Centre has now become Anglian Leisure Sawston as part of a new brand aimed at uniting the Sports Centres across the Anglian Learning trust and ensuring that they remain at the heart of their communities, while also offering inclusive, affordable and varied activities. We hope our facilities become a dedicated place for young people and the wider community to enjoy the wellbeing and mental health benefits physical activity has to offer. If you have any questions about using any of the facilities offered by Anglian Leisure Sawston, please contact: Michelle Wilson, Anglian Learning's Sports Centre Development Manager, at mwilson@anglianlearning.org. You can also find out more about our facilities and activities on offer by visiting our website: www.sawstonsports.com.

Mr Wilson, Assistant Manager, Anglian Leisure Sawston

Diversity in the History curriculum

As part of our plans to develop the diversity of our History curriculum, our Year 8 historians have been learning about the use of labels and categories in History through a new enquiry planned by Miss Phillips called 'How useful is the label Native American?'. Pupils have been learning about the diverse nature of different Nations, including authentic testimony, such as an extract from a fictional book called Waterlily by Native author Ella Deloria. Pupils have also been exploring Native attitudes to gender roles, and have learnt about how individuals with 'two-spirits' were highly valued within Native American culture, and often played important roles, such as healers and matchmakers.

Miss Jackson, Head of History



Geography Update



As we approach the end of term, our Geography pupils are completing current topics and will be moving on to something new after Easter. Our Year 8s have impressed with their mature and sensitive attitude to Dark Tourism and have produced some excellent milestone assessments discussing whether it is a type of tourism we should be encouraging. Year 7s have finished their travels around the continents, visiting something fantastic in each, and have been making their final decisions about which one is the most fantastic. Iceland and Mount Everest have been very popular choices! Year 11s have finally finished the content for their Human exam. The Challenge of Resource Management and Energy topic has proved interesting in light of recent global events and has sparked conversations about how the UK can create a sustainable energy supply in the future.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

Professional Learning



Anglian Learning is undertaking significant work strengthening the Trust-wide professional learning offer, drawing upon, spreading and improving the excellent practice that exists in different forms in our partner schools. Professional learning leaders across Trust schools meet half termly and have been contributing to the development of a new teacher professional learning curriculum. In time, this will provide all Anglian Learning teachers with a curriculum for their professional development, building on their initial teacher training and taking them through into middle and senior leadership roles. This model will also support the growth of specialist expertise, in areas such as subject development, pastoral care or SEND provision. In parallel, Anglian Learning is developing models for training and professional learning for support staff, including TAs, office teams and site teams, to provide them with improved professional development opportunities and open doors to various career pathways.

Mr Woodcock, Assistant Principal



Sawston Adult Learning

Our summer term courses are now on our website, so

please do have a look and see if there is something that appeals to you. We have a new Garden Design for Beginners course starting on Wednesday, 4 May for 10 weeks. We also have Saturday Workshops planned for 18 June.

We are now starting to plan our programme for September so if there is a course you would like us to offer, or a subject you could offer to teach, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly seeking a new ceramics tutor, ideally to start sometime in the summer term. For more information on our courses please visit our website:

www.sawstonadultlearning.org,

email: community@sawstonvc.org or telephone 01223 712424.

Mrs King, Adult Learning Manager



Business Studies

Both year groups have been working hard on completing their relevant course content, and we are now focusing on revision and examination technique. Pupils are reminded to keep up to date with their Google classroom newsfeed for revision advice and current affairs.

The *You're Hired Apprentice* club will continue after the Easter holidays, and pupils who attend will be set a number of business-related challenges.

I am keen to make some links with local businesses who might be interested in supporting the work our pupils do during lessons. If any parents are able to help in this matter, please email me at eneesam@sawstonvc.org.

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Challenging topics in RE

The RE department has been busy examining some challenging topics this term, such as: What does it mean to have an anti-racist worldview? What challenges and misconceptions may some religions face? Is marriage an outdated idea? What is human freedom? and What is anti-racist language?

We have also launched NATRE's spirited arts competition, where pupils have an opportunity to enter into a National Competition. Those who are interested are encouraged to see Mrs Hall in RS1 for further details about how they can get involved. Amazon gift vouchers are awarded to the winning entries.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



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

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk.



Next up is *Henry V* on 21 April.

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager

Update from Maths

As always, it's been a busy term in Maths, particularly for Year 11s with another set of mock exams. Many pupils have impressed us with their conscientious attitude; carefully reviewing their marked paper, identifying areas for development and working on these in their own time. Last week, all Year 11 pupils took part in a bespoke intervention session, readying themselves for the summer exams. Pupils engaged very positively, participating in a variety of activities to deepen their understanding of key topics and trial different revision strategies, including the use of knowledge organisers. Revision resources for all year groups can be found on the pupil drive. In addition, the online portal Mathswatch can be accessed from home, and is a helpful tool for completing homework.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

Update from English

It has been another jam-packed half term. English teachers have had the pleasure of hearing impassioned speeches from Year 11 pupils as part of their spoken language component for their English Language course.

Additionally, our top 20 books for each year group are arriving in the library daily, and Year 7 top 20 books are already on the shelves available to borrow.

After Easter, all KS3 groups will have a library lesson each fortnight to allow pupils to take out and return books. Reading fiction for pleasure is the best way to make progress in all subjects and leads to better mental health. Year 7s have been studying *A Monster Calls* in their lessons, Year 8s *Macbeth* and Year 9s have been studying South African poetry. Year 10s are preparing for their Year 10 exams after Easter and have been focusing on their narrative writing.

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Drama News

The Drama department is back in full performative force with showcases, trips and other exciting opportunities for ALL our budding creatives. At the beginning of the year we opened our Studio Theatre doors (at last!) to a public audience of family and friends to watch the Year 11s showcase their play extracts. All actors worked hard to interpret, develop and refine some challenging and complex pieces that required emotional depth and sophistication, and they succeeded. Congratulations to the Year 11s!

Other news: our KS3 actors have been rehearsing evenings and weekends in preparation for their National Theatre Connections play in association with The Garage Theatre in Norwich, and we wish them every success for Monday's mentor performance. Industry Day for the Year 10s was an inspirational and enriching experience, and we have enjoyed two recent trips to the Arts Theatre. Please do look out for Year 10 performance event tickets in May and for lots of other live theatre on its way.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



Update from Music

It's been a busy term over in the Music department with a real sense of 'normality' returning despite persevering through Covid absences. Classes have been composing, performing and listening, studying everything from Renaissance dance music to Indonesian Gamelan. Year 10s are well on their way with their GCSE course and are very knowledgeable about the concerto. Year 11s are within touching distance of finishing their coursework and look ahead to next term to our listening exam. We also held a successful set of ABRSM music exams in March. Well done to all pupils; we had another 100% pass rate. To top it all off on Friday we headed to the West Road concert hall for our first annual concert since 2019. It was FANTASTIC to be back. Congratulations to all the groups involved, from percussion ensemble to Junior Choir to the Year 11s surprising everyone: it was a super evening. Well done everyone! Following on from the concert we would be most pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the parent fund. Do email Miss Irwin. Next term sees a Key Stage 3 concert, our Outdoor Gig on Fountain Court (get the picnic blankets out) and more ABRSM exams.

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

E

World Record Contributors in Art

Way back in the uncertain and disrupted days of early 2021, a competition run by the Post Office landed in my inbox. The brief was to design a new stamp which recognised the 'heroes' of the pandemic.

Several pupils created delightful images, which captured their personal responses to this brief.

There were 606,049 entries to the competition in total and, although we did not have any work selected to become a stamp, the pupils were honoured to learn they had contributed to a world record, verified by the Guinness Book of Records, for the largest postage stamp design competition. Well done to Phoebe Silk, Emily Van Dok, Coline Moreau, Ettolle Martin, Ellice Hoddinott, Ben Lane, and Francesca Walls. The winning entries can be viewed here <https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news/heroes-stamp-competition-finalists-revealed/>.

Mrs Day, Head of Art



Some of the pupils who entered the competition with their certificates.

A

Visit from a Chinese cookery expert

Did you know... China is 42 times bigger than the United Kingdom? This is just one of the facts that the Year 10 class learned from Audris, a Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassador, who visited Sawston on Friday, 18 March.

Audris gave the class an informative talk about the history of Chinese food, as well as showing them how to make hoisin chicken. After watching the demonstration, everyone had the chance to make and serve the dish themselves using a variety of

vegetables. The pupils were encouraged to think carefully about the serving and presentation of the dish as Audris awarded a prize to the best one. A great time was had by all.

Mrs Minett, Head of Health and Social Care



A full diary in Computer Science

Dear diary. We made it to Round 2 of the Perse Coding Team Challenge, with around 20 teams progressing from the first round. We also enjoyed a recent trip to the inaugural Cambridge Coding Competition, in arrangement with the Rotary Society, and the Year 8 pupils' behaviour, effort, and achievement were outstanding in full measure. You can read their own accounts of the day in our termly Fountain magazine. KS3 pupils are wrestling with turtles and snakes, finding unique pitches for market stalls, and creating digital art that fuses cityscapes, layering of textures, and dispersion techniques. At KS4, we're embarking on our final iMedia units with the Year 11s - games development and photography, and another round of mock exams has shown how determined and able the CS cohort are. It's been a very busy term. Again.

Mr Phoenix Holland, Head of Computer Science



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Designs on a sustainable future (Cont.)

We have a bit of a showcase this half term. This follows on from last half term's write-up on the project for Year 10s to create a sustainable children's toy. Work by Tilly and Lauren Broome is featured below.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Lauren's game teaches children to build a nutritional picnic lunch.



Tilly made a shape sorter with an environmental focus.

Celebrating British Science Week

We celebrated British Science Week in March with activities and quizzes during mentor time. At lunchtime pupils came along to the Science department to make rocket cars, soap-powered boats and to perfect their paper aeroplane design. We also looked at a variety of slides under the microscope and checked the heart rate of daphnia. Well done to everyone who took part, and especially the Science teachers and technicians for all their hard work.

Mrs Lloyd, Acting Deputy Head of Science



House News

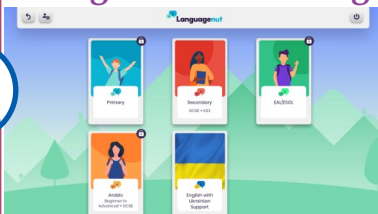
As we start to emerge from the darker days of winter we are feeling the joy around the school. This half term we have enjoyed Book Week with a wide range of activities arranged around reading. Pupils and staff dressed as book characters on the Friday and we enjoyed celebrating the many types and genres of reading in everyday life throughout the week.

With Science Week and Sports fundraising week also full of extra opportunities for engagement, it seems fitting that our CARE value focus is "Endeavour". Thank you for all your support and encouragement from home.

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



Going nuts about languages



We have recently purchased a new website called [language-nut.com](https://www.language-nut.com), which all our classes get to use during computer lessons and for homework. This is a

fantastic resource for our pupils, enabling them to practise all their MFL skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking, translation). Not only does it allow its users to get instant feedback on their progress and achievements, but it also gives them the opportunity to improve their language skills whilst having fun. What the pupils enjoy the most is a school leader board, which sets up a competition between classmates, as well as friends or siblings in different year groups. The more practice undertaken, the more points and medals awarded! So far, three Year 9 pupils are racing ahead on the leader board. Will they continue to dominate, or will another year group overtake them? A voir! A ver! Mal sehen!

Miss Hobourn, Deputy Head of Languages



Top sports team of the term

Congratulations to our Year 8 and 9 girls who won all of their fixtures this half term! They dominated every game from start to finish, scoring lots of goals and being solid at the back. Top performers were: Bea White who showed tremendous leadership in the back line; Bryony and Imsy marshalled a well-disciplined midfield; Keely Cole demonstrated excellent technical ability weaving in and out of defenders to create scoring opportunities for others. Lastly, player of the season goes to Libby Unwin, scoring over ten goals in three matches! Although, I have not mentioned everybody's name, every girl contributed to an outstanding team effort in the best girls' football team I have coached in nine years. They have one more game left of the season and I have high hopes for them in the National Cup next year. Well done ladies!

Mr Walsh, PE Teacher

Results so far:

Year 8 Girls:
Sawston 3 v 2 St Bede's

Year 8 Girls:
St Bede's 1 v 7 Sawston

Year 8 & 9 Girls:
Sawston 6 v 2 Swavesey

Year 8 & 9 Girls:
Swavesey v Sawston (to be played on 29 March 2022)



And finally:

We hope everyone has a good Easter break and we will look forward to seeing everyone in school again on Tuesday, 19 April 2022.