

20 May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up

The first full week of exams has gone well with lunchtime and after-school revision sessions proving extremely popular. Considering all they have gone through in the last few years, it is real credit to our Y11s to see them embrace the exams with such confidence, determination and resilience. We continue to wish them well for the rest of the series and look forward to saying a formal goodbye next Wednesday on Leavers' Day.

NEW Parent Survey

Yesterday, we launched our new annual parent survey. This was sent via in-touch (email). If you have not received the link, please contact reception. We have tried to make it as easy to use as possible and quick to complete. We look forward to your feedback. The deadline for returns is Monday 6th June.

NEW Our library and encouraging reading

Our library is now open 24/7 through our new library website and ebook app. You can find it through the Parent tab on the school website. There you can browse all the amazing resources we have in the library. You also see our exciting 'Top 20' reading lists. These books have been carefully chosen for each year group to encourage students to read a vibrant and diverse range of texts.

Pupils can login using their school sign in to reserve books, manage their accounts and leave reviews from home or school. They can also now download ebooks through the website or via our app - perfect for holiday reading. Instructions for the ebook app are on the library website. The font, colour and text size of the ebooks can be adjusted, which makes them wonderfully accessible. This exciting new resource has been fully funded until September 2023 by the wonderful book week fundraising!

NEW The Big Plastic Count

Thank you to everyone who is taking part in the count this week. Remember to keep counting until Sunday evening when your results can be uploaded to your child's unique mentor group link. They can access this via their school email account. The results will go towards helping to influence Government policy on plastic use and recycling in the future. Your efforts can make a real difference. The links will stay live until Tuesday 31st May so there is plenty of time to log everything once you have finished your counting.

NEW FSM vouchers for half-term

The Local Authority will be issuing £15 vouchers to all eligible families in receipt of Free School Meals. Vouchers will be sent on the 27th May. For any voucher queries, parents should email winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

NEW Y11 Support for Prom dresses

We have been made aware of an organisation, Promally, who help families who may be finding it difficult to afford prom dresses. Their link is here: <https://www.promally.co.uk>

NEW Anti-social behaviour in Sawston

A few pupils are engaging in anti-social behaviour on Lynton Way recreation ground and in the Deal Grove Park area in Sawston. Whilst the overwhelming majority of pupils would never be involved in such poor behaviour and instead uphold our shared values of respect and community, some individuals have been fighting, filming and encouraging others to be deeply unpleasant. These areas are used by young children innocently playing on the park, making the behaviour of a few even more disappointing. We will not hesitate to involve the police if necessary and ask that these pupils are reminded about their conduct out of school.

NICE TO KNOW Thank you to a Good Samaritan

A member of the public has asked us to thank the Sawston Village College pupil who helped them after falling off their bike on Tuesday morning in Shelford. They fell into the road and were in shock by the pain of the impact. Several people came to help, including a Sawston Village College pupil who picked the bike off the middle of the road. It is always nice to be able to report such positive news in the community and serves as a reminder that the good in young people far outweighs the negative, which, sadly, is too often the focus of social media.

NICE TO KNOW Governors' Day and Peer Review Day

We received very positive feedback following our two recent quality assurance days. Our governors spent the day with us on Monday, talking with staff and pupils about the various developments in the College. They were impressed by the pupils they met on various panels and by the focus of pupils in lesson in English, MFL and Humanities. Last week, the head teachers who visited the College remarked on the incredibly calm and purposeful atmosphere of the College and reflected on the strengths of our PE and Maths curriculum. Many thanks to all pupils who have been involved in these recent processes and for your continued support.

COMMUNITY Opportunity for young people this Saturday in Cambridge

The Cambs Youth Panel are hosting an event at St. John's College on Saturday 21st May with lots of incentives for children to get involved. It's a vaccine consultation event, trying to learn about young people's attitudes towards vaccines in the COVID-19 epidemic. As well as Samba band and a Minecraft vaccination world, there will be half hour focus groups rewarded by goodie bags, t-shirts and Amazon vouchers.

If you would like your child to take part in the focus group, they need to be 12 years old, have your consent (using the form [here](#)) and book using Eventbrite. More details can be found in the letter [here](#).

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Wishing you a sunny and relaxing weekend,

Jonathan Russell