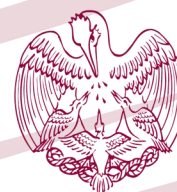


September / October 2022 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

24-28 Oct	School closed for half term	17 Nov	Year 7 Report 1 issued
2-14 Nov	Year 11 Mock Exams	18 Nov	Shakespeare Schools Festival
3 Nov	Year 10 Information Evening	24 Nov	Year 9 Photographs
3 Nov	Sawston Cinema: NT Live: The Seagull	25 Nov	Year 8 Report 1 issued
4 Nov	Geography Bake Off	1 Dec	WEX information Evening
11 Nov	Year 9 Report 1 issued	1 Dec	Sawston Cinema: Cyrano
14-17 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week	2 Dec	Year 11 Report 2 issued
15 Nov	Information Evening	8 Dec	Year 11 Parents' Evening
		2 Dec	Year 10 Report 1 issued

From the Principal



This half term the nation said goodbye to HM Queen Elizabeth II, and many expressed gratitude for her service, her constancy and her commitment to her country. Together with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, they leave a legacy of enduring leadership and a powerful sense of hope and optimism in the younger generation to be a force for good.

Through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, young people are empowered and encouraged to live a life without limits. They develop leadership qualities, work closely as a team, appreciate nature and embrace the freedom of discovery without reliance on screens and the digital world. It seems apt, therefore, that our DofE programme is flourishing in this post-pandemic era, symbolising a rebirth in the full co-curricular programme, accessible to all, that we offer as a College. This half term, we have run three DofE weekends, thanks to 11 staff volunteers, qualifying 156 participants from our Year 11 and Year 10 cohorts combined. In doing so, we have now made up the

gap of a lost year of training in 2020-21 due to COVID and have ensured that the Bronze Award has been offered to each of our year groups.

Such opportunities cannot be offered without the service of others, without staff prepared to forego their own free time to support the development of the next generation. What drives all of us in education, however, is the delight in seeing the growth of young people, in giving them the chance to discover the best in themselves so that they may thrive and flourish in adult life and, in turn, give back to their own communities, families and friends. In all our clubs, experiences, trips, activities and through our lessons - as reflected in the pages of this newsletter - that is our hope for each of the pupils in our care. And, for the vast majority, they seize such opportunities. In doing so they pay respect to all who have come before them.

William Shakespeare: *'No legacy is as rich as honesty.'*

Mr Russell, Principal



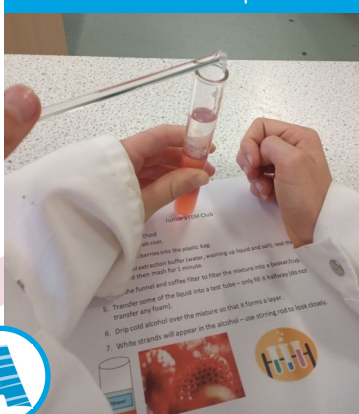
Pupils on a DofE expedition this half term

Junior STEM Club update

On 5 October our Junior STEM Club pupils had the fantastic opportunity to be part of a session led by Rachel Foley, the Study Coordinator for the Young People's BioResource. Our students extracted DNA from strawberries and learned about studying human genetic code for the future of medicine. Our school is one of the first seven schools to take part in the Young People's BioResource - currently transitioning to the name D-CYPHR, the DNA, Children + Young People's Health Resource - with both pupils and staff helping to shape the project. If you would like further information about the project please visit [D-CYPHR \(nihr.ac.uk\)](https://d-cyphr.nihr.ac.uk).

Mrs Lloyd, Acting Deputy Head of Science

Junior STEM Club pupils extracted DNA from strawberries in a special club session.



Sawston
Adult
Learning



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Anglian Leisure Sawston: **01223 712555** - www.sawstonsports.com | Sawston Cinema: **01223 712825** - www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Geography Update



We finally managed to get our new GCSE Geographers out on their first field trip in September after extreme heat in July put a stop to our plans.

The Year 10 pupils had a great day exploring Hunstanton and using their classroom learning about coasts to see how Hunstanton has been affected by erosion and what defences have been put in place to manage it. Pupils also enjoyed a trip out on the Washmonster boat, always a highlight of the trip. And no trip to the seaside would be complete without a fish and chip lunch! We hope pupils enjoyed the day and found it useful. The Geography department is looking forward to running more trips in the future.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

Maths Update



As teachers, we are always looking for better ways to help secure pupil understanding. Over the last few years, the Maths department has been exploring the benefits of a Concrete Pictorial Abstract (CPA) approach to teaching Maths in a secondary context. We are now embedding this practice into our everyday teaching. The idea is that pupils are introduced to a new concept through the use of concrete resources, such as double-sided counters or algebra tiles. When pupils are comfortable solving problems with physical aids, they are given problems with pictures – usually pictorial representations of the concrete objects they were using. Finally, they are asked to solve problems in the abstract. Building these steps across a lesson can help pupils better understand the relationship between numbers and the real world.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

Great start for our newest learners



The new Year 7 cohort has made a fantastic start to their first term. They have covered important areas, including the importance of health and safety in DT, what good design is, how to iterate a design idea and why sustainability must be at the heart of all we do. They have started developing a product for a client of their choice. We are all looking forward now to being able to make the product after the half term break.

Mr Bär, our technician, will be looking to give out house points for outstanding practice in the workshop.

Great start Year 7!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

Business Studies



Year 10s have had a really positive start to their studies in this subject and have been beginning some interesting discussions in light of current affairs. This is fantastic to see, and I hope they continue to keep up with events in the news. There have been some interesting documentaries on television recently about businesses and their rivals. There is a new reality programme starting soon on Channel 4 called 'Aldi's the next best thing', which I hope pupils will watch.

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

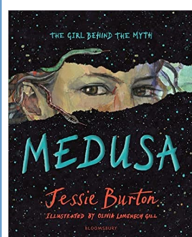
History Update

In the History department this term our Year 9s have been exploring a new unit which tracks the history of the Koh-i-noor diamond from its beginnings as a status of wealth and fashion in the Mughal Empire to the decision to cut the diamond down to almost half its size by Prince Albert after it left people unimpressed at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Pupils are finishing the unit by writing about what the diamond meant to its different rulers, and we are really excited to see what they produce.



Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History

Update from English



September brought a new diverse selection of KS3 texts into our curriculum: Year 7s have been reading Burton's *Medusa* to consider the danger of a single story, and Year 8s have been using Acevedo's *Clap When You Land*, a verse novel, as a starter for their own creative writing about places and how they shape our identity. Miller's *A View from the Bridge* has opened up interesting discussions for Year 9s about the portrayal of masculinity in the theatre, and Year 10s have begun their course with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Year 11s are busily getting ready for their mock exams, with revision lessons for poetry and *An Inspector Calls* well underway.

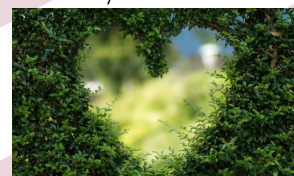
Ms Goodbrand, Head of English



Sawston Adult Learning

It has been very busy in Adult Learning since returning to school

after the Summer holidays. Our autumn courses are now up and running, and quite a few of these are now full, which is wonderful.



Garden Design is one of the courses on offer.

However, there are still some spaces available on many of our courses and, should you wish to enrol, you would still be very welcome. This term, our Saturday workshops will be taking place on 26 November and include Bollywood Dancing, Sketch-booking, Drums for Beginners and Indian Cookery. For further information, or to book, visit our website:

<https://sawstonvc.org/adult-learning/>, email: community@sawstonvc.org, or phone: 01223 712424.

Mrs Hayes Adult Learning Manager



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

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk.

Next up is National Theatre Live's *The Seagull* on 3 November. Please come and join us for this.



Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Did you know that regular physical activity is one of the

most important things you can do for your health? Being physically active can improve your brain health, help manage weight, reduce the risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve your ability to do everyday activities. The fitness suite here at Anglian Leisure Sawston offers a wide range of equipment, including cardio and resistance machines, as well as free weights, creating the perfect environment for exercise.

With monthly memberships starting from £25, you can enjoy unlimited use of the fitness suite to help you achieve your health and fitness goals. Pay-as-you-go options are also available. For more information, please visit our website, social media pages or call our reception on 01223 712555.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



Year 10s enjoy a workshop with Theatre Centre.

Drama Update



A very busy start for Drama with an exciting theatre trip to see the NT production of Arthur Miller's *'The Crucible'*. Our GCSE pupils had a lot of fun exploring the South Bank on a beautiful autumnal evening before seeing the show.

Next up was a visit from Theatre Centre and their new play, *'Human Nurture'*, about two foster brothers who, having lived and learnt, come together to realise how they have grown apart; a poignant tale about friendship, race, allyship and vulnerability impressed with powerful performances and an authentic relationship found and then lost. The company also delivered a workshop for our Year 10s that focused on an actor's approach to textual analysis. Our KS3 actors in Years 8 and 9 are currently in rehearsals for the Shakespeare Schools Festival and will be entering with *'Julius Caesar'* in November. This is such an exciting opportunity for them to enjoy a workshop with a SSF director and perform on a professional stage to a packed house of family and friends. Please look out for more exciting news of events taking place within the department, including more trips, workshops, GCSE performance evenings and a KS4 production.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Update from Music



The curricular and co-curricular life of the Music department has been buzzing since the start of term. We have enjoyed meeting all our new Year 7 classes, who have been playing xylophones, composing ostinati and unpacking the pentatonic scale. Year 8s have been asking the question 'what makes a good piece of pop music?' and have all learnt some drum kit rock beats and fills. The excitement of chords awaits us next. Year 9s have delved into the golden age of early twentieth century music in Paris, studying Stravinsky's the Rite of Spring and asking 'what makes it sounds like that?'. Our new GCSE Music and Music Tech pupils have settled into their courses in Year 10, with lots of singing, composing and a little theory thrown in. Year 11s are preparing to hand in their first compositions and do their solo performances this week; they will have completed 30% of their course by Friday. They are working hard, and we wish them well in their mocks. Choirs, bands and lessons are all up and running. Jazz band heads to the Jazz Festival next month, and we are looking ahead to the Carol Service on Tuesday, 20 December. See you there!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This has been a highly rewarding and successful half term for our Bronze DofE Award participants. In mid-September our Year 11 participants completed their qualifying expedition in Thetford Forest and, earlier this month, our Year 10 participants attended their training weekend in Bedfordshire prior to completing their qualifying expedition in Thetford Forest over the weekend 15-16 October. Participants are now making good progress in their volunteering, physical and skills sections, while four participants from the Year 11 cohort have now completed their full Bronze Award.

Mr Reed, DofE Award Coordinator

Update from Computer Science



In keeping with the KISS model (keeping it short and simple!), Computer Science is starting the new academic year with two new members of staff; myself — Mr Morson (Subject Leader) — and Mr Kelly (Teacher of Computer Science). We are both excited to be joining such a successful school and have already engaged a number of pupils in three lunchtime clubs; Blender (3D design), Digital Imaginings (digital artwork using graphics tablets) and coding (in HTML). I have also sent out emails to parents of Key Stage 4 Computer Science pupils with information about current studies. Further updates to come.

Mr Morson, Subject Leader of Computer Science



Scrumptious seasonal sweets!

Tastier, more nutritious, and better value for money – these are just a few of the many reasons for using seasonal ingredients. To make the most of this year's apple season, our Year 10 pupils enjoyed baking delicious and attractive Dutch apple cakes. In doing so, they demonstrated precise knife skills and excellent presentation skills, and some pupils even used their own home-grown apples. Thanks to Mrs Minett, the Food department has a display board featuring fruits and vegetables in season, with the Dutch apple cake recipe cards also being available for pupils and staff to take away. It has been wonderful to hear about the tasty bakes created by pupils and staff at home. Keep your eyes peeled now for the winter recipe!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Update from Art

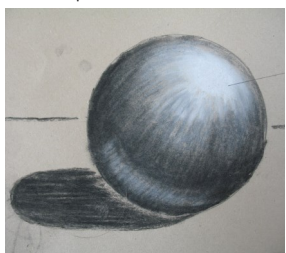
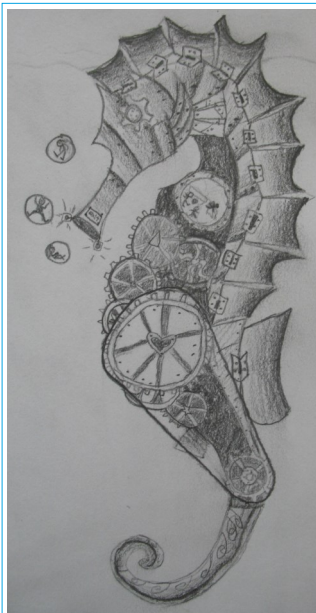


Pupils in the Art department have started the new academic year with exciting projects to develop and strengthen their creative drawing skills. Year 7s are becoming familiar with the building blocks of art, currently enjoying using chalk and charcoal to create tonal values. Year 8s are learning about the history and style of Impressionism, and Year 9s are developing a body of work in the style of 'Steampunk'. We look forward to seeing how

their work progresses in the coming half term.

Mrs Day,
Head of Art

Far left: Drawing by Elspeth Dwyer, Year 9
Left: Year 7 tonal work



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

As we move into a new academic year, we have developed a new focus on 'Inclusive Classrooms' for our development of teaching and learning across the College. This new focus has continued our work on establishing Rosenshine's 'principles of instruction' as a basis for our development of practice within our classrooms. Our Inclusive Classrooms initiative is aimed at bringing our SEND provision to the forefront of our thinking when we are planning and delivering material within our classrooms. To help develop this throughout the year, our SEND team, led by Mrs Morris, will be delivering Teaching and Learning briefings highlighting techniques and approaches that will support the work of pupils with specific needs in our classrooms. Alongside this, another major focus for the year will be different aspects of reading, with Ms Jackson-Buckley and Mrs Vincent leading developments in disciplinary reading across our curriculum.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal

European Day of Languages

Congratulations to da Vinci House who won the MFL European Day of Languages competition for the second year in a row. This year's quiz included identifying languages, general knowledge questions and a national anthem round. Congratulations also to the top scoring mentor groups (DH03, EH12, MH02, TH11 and TH12) in each house!

Well done to our Year 11 pupils who have already completed the first of their mock exams: speaking. We were very impressed by the level of determination displayed by some pupils who revised thoroughly and attended our lunchtime revision sessions, and we were very pleased to see these efforts reflected in their

Sporting Fixtures Update

The U16 Girls Rugby team had a fantastic start to the term in their home 7s fixture against St Bede's. With high quality play, Sawston saw many tries throughout their game. Fantastic running lines allowed the team to navigate themselves towards their first win of the term with a score of 65-20. The following week the U16 Boys playing St Bede's also found success. High paced plays and effective teamwork provided multiple chances that the boys took advantage of, winning 15-10.

Sawston teams have also had some success across their hockey cluster fixtures, with many successful efforts from both the U16 Mixed team as well as the U16 Girls. The Mixed team won their fixture against St Bede's 7-1. The Girls team won two out of their three tournament matches, with a narrow defeat in the third match they played.

Sawston Village College has entered a number of football teams into the English Schools National Cup, a knockout tournament running throughout the year. Our U14 Girls and the U16 Boys won their first leg of this, with their next fixture due over the coming month. The girls won their leg against Swavesey with a 3-2 win, and the boys won theirs against The Priory School in Hertfordshire 1-0. Well done to the U14 boys who also entered the competition but were unfortunate not to make it to the next round.

Mr Trent, PE Teacher

And finally:

We wish everyone a relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on 31 October 2022.

House News

Well, here we are, already at the end of the first half term of the academic year. We have had a fantastic start, welcoming our Year 7s, who seem to be settling well into their mentor groups and the school community. We have already had two focus weeks. Our first was Recycling Week, from which we are collecting creations made from used products. Closely following this was Activity Week, during which we enjoyed a range of activities to motivate more movement for our overall wellbeing. Which House is in the lead so far this academic year...?

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



performance. All the best to all pupils as they continue to revise over half term to prepare for their reading, listening and writing exams.

European Day of Languages Quiz RESULTS



236



157



227



214



Congratulations to Da Vinci ! You have been awarded with 200 House Points !

Da Vinci House won for the second time.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages

BIG QUESTIONS in RE

So far this term, pupils in all years have been getting fully immersed into their RE lessons. We have explored what it means to be sacred, how the world began, who Jesus was and why he was crucified, considering the significance of different forms and purpose of worship and festivals, aims of punishment and whether it is ever acceptable to execute a

criminal. We have also launched our 'Big Questions' club on a Tuesday, which is a combination of the Philosophy and Debating clubs from last year. During these sessions, we have considered the impact religion has had on society, moral decisions and what influences these, and whether actions are more impactful than words. There are lots of opportunities planned for pupils to be involved in this year, with the Year 8 trip to Bedford also coming up before Christmas. Well done for a great start to the new academic year!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



Above: The U14 Girls football team, one of the Sawston teams currently enjoying success.

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