

18 November 2022



**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round-Up**

Y11 mock exams finished this week. To celebrate this, we surprised Y11 with an off-curriculum reward on Wednesday afternoon by way of thanking them for their hard work and positive attitudes. Also on Wednesday, we were delighted to run the Cambs Youth COP27, an all-day event discussing climate change, which was attended by 190 pupils from 14 secondary schools. Yesterday was the culmination of a week of activity to mark Children in Need, money raised will go directly to the charity.

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of pupils who understand what it means to be respectful and kind, polite and courteous to all. On a less positive note, some pupils' behaviour is falling far below our expectations, especially in their use of social media and their behaviour in the community, including whilst in uniform. We need parental support in order to maintain high standards and address the poor choices of a small minority of pupils.

### **NEW Y11 PISA exams**

We have been selected to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which aims to understand how well 15-year-old pupils can apply knowledge and skills in mathematics, science and reading in the UK and internationally. The assessments are designed to test how well the pupils master key subjects in order to be prepared for real-life situations in the adult world. PISA provides an opportunity to compare achievement internationally and encourages countries to learn from each other, creating fairer and more inclusive school systems.

PISA will randomly identify 40 Year 11 pupils to complete the survey and assessment, in school, on Tuesday 6 December. They will not need to do any preparation in advance and we will be contacting the selected parents and pupils with full details next week.

### **REMINDER Year 9 Photographs**

Year 9 pupils will be having their photographs taken on Thursday 24 November. Pupils must be in full school uniform, no jewellery may be worn except two small stud earrings in each ear and make-up is not permitted, with the exception of a light covering of skin coloured foundation.



### **REMINDER Positively Supporting Self Harming Behaviours**

Last week we sent out a letter inviting parents to a workshop we are hosting on Tuesday 6 December at 6.30pm: Positively Supporting Self Harming Behaviours. This free workshop is open to all parents; it will be of particular benefit to those who are currently supporting children displaying self harming behaviours or thoughts. With apologies, we have been made aware that some parents have had issues with the organisations booking system. We do not want this to deter parents from attending, therefore you can now also secure a place by contacting Miss Gregg ([mgregg@sawstonvc.org](mailto:mgregg@sawstonvc.org)) or your child's Year Lead directly.

### **NICE TO KNOW Art exhibition at Michaelhouse Café, Cambridge**

Alongside paintings by pupils from all Anglian Learning Trust schools, our pupils' art work is proudly being exhibited at Michaelhouse Café in Cambridge until November 26<sup>th</sup>. At Monday's private launch of the Platform 22 exhibit, Mr Jonathan Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning, spoke of our shared commitment to the arts and expressed everyone's appreciation of the artwork of so many talented young people. The exhibit is free and we would encourage you to pop in if visiting town.

### **NICE TO KNOW Sawston COP27**

Our delegation of 12 pupils participated in the Cambridgeshire Youth COP 27 joining 13 other schools, which we hosted and organised. As well as having a lovely lunch, pupils were inspired by the key note speech by Dr Simon Morley, who heads off Antarctica next to continue his BAS research. They also took part in a mock COP27 debate - role playing countries and trying to reach consensus- and workshops designed to encourage greener spaces and sharing ideas for future collaboration and commitments. Each school also planted a tree on site as part of our wider plan to plant 150 trees this term. Pupils learnt that reaching consensus is very difficult but they did agree to a region-wide Eco Council and for each school to take back some clever environmental ideas to their own schools to share with their peers and put into action.

### **NICE TO KNOW U16 Badminton Fixture**

A huge well done to our year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students who took part in a badminton fixture against Bottisham Village College on Wednesday. Tom Bullock and Tom Unwin made a brilliant team and created a very close match. Bottisham and Sawston both won a game and it came down to the final game, unfortunately Bottisham took the win with a close score of 21-19. Harrison Crabb stole the show with his incredibly quick serves and winning every game he played. A big well done to Brandon Marshall, Dante Izuogu and Petra Moran who played their first competitive badminton games and did so with a brilliant attitude. Well done!

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Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Jonathan Russell