

# The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine

  
Sawston  
Village College  
Autumn 2022  
Issue 70



Above: The wonderful design submitted by Emmeline Lock, Year 8, for this year's Christmas Card Design Competition

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# Geography Bake Off

The Geography and Food departments recently worked together on the 2022 Geography Bake Off for which pupils were invited to create a cake which celebrated Britain's iconic features and landscapes. In the run up to the event, the Food department offered two workshops focused on cake making and cake decorating. On the day of the competition, an impressive array of cakes was delivered to the Food department, which made judging very challenging. Well done to everyone who took part. Keep baking!



# Welcome



Colours, like feelings, follow the changes of the emotions, as Pablo Picasso once said. It's a good job that this magazine is in colour; our pupils' creativity sings through the pages in vibrant hues. Colours radiate from the page in various forms from festive Christmas cards to scrumptious cakes to exhibited art work. The powerful connotations evoked by colour are also evident in the way pupils made a stand against racism in October. We may have passed from the intense sunshine heat of the summer with its bright yellow palette to the sombre greys of November skies and, latterly, the resplendent white of crystalline snowflakes but what has not left us is the creative energy of our young people.

The Fountain is edited and produced by our pupils with the help of our Arts Development Lead, Ms Morgan. Each year the new Senate members take the helm and they always come up trumps. We have long been proud of our pupils' creative imagination and the technical skills they are developing in their execution of their ideas. This edition speaks to the sense of pride and joy pupils have shown in their work. Much like the Koh-i-Noor diamond, their expression shines from the pages within.

*'Colours are the smiles of nature.'* Leigh Hunt, poet.

**Mr Russell, Principal**



## Greetings from the Senate Ambassadors



Anna



Will



Lucy

We are Anna, Will and Lucy, and we are the school's Senate Ambassadors.

As part of this role we are also the pupil editors of the Fountain Magazine. We have put together a packed edition for you this term, with updates on everything that has been happening here at Sawston Village College.

We are proud to showcase so much of the talent here at Sawston and excited to share all the events that have taken place during this first term of our academic year. We hope you have enjoyed the term and got involved in lots of activities too.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and we send our best wishes for the holiday period to everyone. We hope you have a restful break and wish a very Merry Christmas to all those who celebrate this!

# Update from the Senate Forums

## sports forum

This term the Sports forum has helped raise money for Children in Need by organising a "beat the goalie" challenge against Mr Sutton and a staff vs pupils volleyball match. Looking ahead to the new year we are looking at how to make sure everyone continues to feel as if they can be actively involved in PE lessons and extracurricular activities, as well as making sure the sports that pupils want to see here are easily accessible to them. **Alex, Joel and Grace, Co-Chairs of the Sports forum**

## later forum

So far in the year, brilliant progress has been made towards the rejuvenation of the School Map, with our forum meetings detailing the new design as well as input from our attendees; we anticipate that the map will make a physical presence in the upcoming year. Moreover, we are currently aiming to raise awareness of the different religions practised and display messages from pupils from a range of backgrounds in the school so we, as a community, can celebrate the diversity of the pupil body. **Tommaso, Sara-Sophie and Oishani, Co-Chairs of the International forum**

## arts forum

So far this year we have been part of several projects, including the Christmas card competition, allowing pupils to show off their creative art skills, and the Christmas shoebox decorating, which is also a competition between mentor groups. We also aim to put on an open mic night in the new year as a prom fundraiser, and we are looking to get contributions from pupils to help us update the artwork displays around the school so that people are able to show off any work they have done that they are particularly proud of. At our forum meetings we ask for input from fellow pupils so that we can find ways to make the arts the best they can be for everyone in school. **Joanna, Liv and Sophie, Co-Chairs of the Arts forum**

## ethos forum

This term in the Ethos forum we have been working on Christmas fundraising. This has included collecting food donations for Jimmy's and John Huntington's, as well as taking part in the shoebox appeal for CHS. We have asked each form to fill a shoebox by bringing in donations and, at the end of term, these will be collected for CHS and judged by the Arts forum for best decorated. (See page 21 for pictures relating to this project.) **Iris, Millie and Mollie, Co-Chairs of the Ethos forum**

## wellbeing forum

This term in the Wellbeing forum we have been focusing on improving access to indoor spaces for pupils during the cold weather, and we have been discussing how we can ensure that the uniform policy accommodates for harsher weather conditions; these changes also aim to tackle the issue of pupils staying in the toilets at break/lunchtimes, because they now have access to warm areas inside **Amy, Edith and Oliver, Co-Chairs of the Wellbeing forum**

## animal forum

## eco forum

We have been busy this term with various events, one of which was the Cambs Youth COP27 which we helped to host here at Sawston Village College. To read our full report on this event, please go to page 14. **Ellen, Ryan and Rachel, Co-Chairs of the Eco and Animal forum**

## equality & diversity forum

This year, we have been working on creating pronoun badges for pupils to wear in order to express their personalities. In our latest forum meeting we also discussed changes we could make to the school curriculum to ensure that all pupils feel represented in their lessons, and what pupils feel is missing to make sure the curriculum is fully representative. We discussed raising awareness about gender neutral bathrooms around the school to make sure that those who wish to use them are comfortable doing so. We are also planning to create slides in the bulletin for the upcoming LGBTQ+ History Month to inform pupils about the importance of LGBTQ+ history being taught in schools. **Lois, Ivy and Kirsten, Co-Chairs of the Equality & Diversity forum**

# A message from the Heads and Deputies 2022-23



## Heads of Senate



Prachi

Archie

This term has been intriguing as each Senate member has experienced their first term of this academic year within the Senate. Each forum has begun planning and carrying out separate projects, with the help of staff members and the pupils who come along during the forum fortnights.

As Heads and Deputies we have also attended numerous forum meetings to express our ideas and to support each forum's projects.

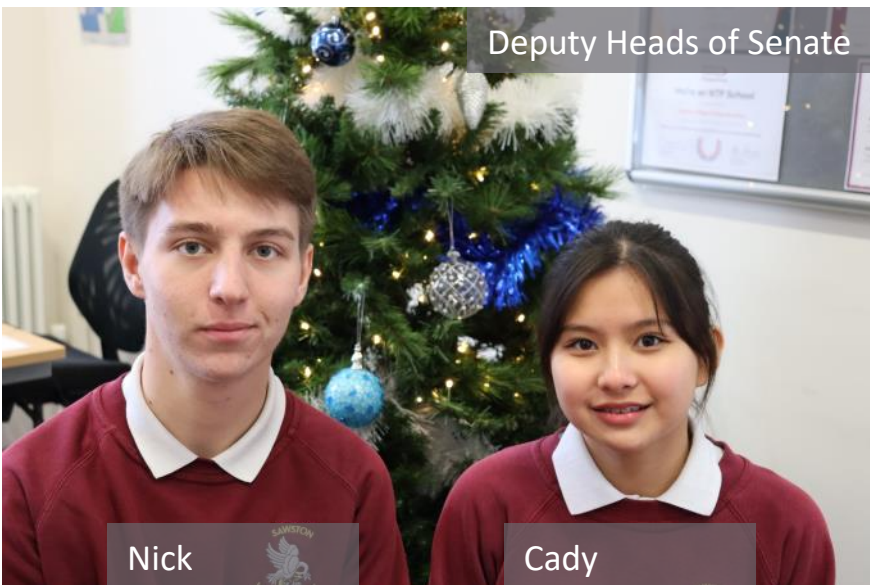
We got involved with the SVC Open Evening in October. To prepare for the grand event, we revamped and updated the Senate noticeboard, which is located near the Henry Morris Hall. During the Open Evening, we, and other Senate members, guided and told families about Sawston Village College's facilities and the endless opportunities available to pupils. We also had opportunities to speak to parents about our school at this year's Engage event, which was a chance for us to tell parents what Sawston brings to the table as a school and why we think it is great.

Finally, we have also begun organising projects of our own, such as establishing a suggestion box which pupils can use to give their suggestions for improving our school.

We send our best wishes to everyone for the Festive Season.

**Prachi Patel and Archie Meikle, Heads of Senate, and Nick Mada and Cady Canda, Deputy Heads**

## Deputy Heads of Senate



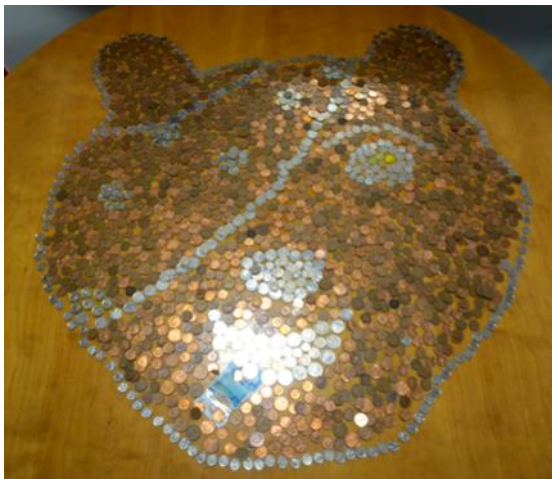
Nick

Cady

## Children in Need

A huge well done to all the pupils and staff who were busily engaged in planning, delivering and supporting activities in school for Children in Need. We raised a whopping £1,037.51 for this fantastic charity. Our thanks to everyone on this great effort.

See the table below for the activities that took place.



Senate members celebrate completing their 'Pennies for Pudsey'.

Day	Activities	Donation
Monday 14 Nov	Beat the Goalie against Mr Sutton	50p for 3 shots Mr Sutton will match this donation if you score all 3.
Wednesday 15 Nov	Pupil Dodgeball Competition - prize for the winning team!	50p per person (£3 per team)
Thursday 16 Nov	Staff vs Pupils Volleyball Match (including Mr Slade and Mr Barnett!)	£1 to watch





SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD

Towards the end of October, pupils wore red and had a non-uniform day to support 'Show Racism the Red Card', raising £585.01 for this good cause.

Show red to racism



## English Milestone - Year 8

### The Bus Stop

The blue from the darkening sky faded away, leaving just a coral hue in its expanse. White clouds framed the scene above. The dark silhouette of a few trees scattered along the pavement, browning leaves clinging onto bare branches. A gust of wind blows cold air through the street, and many of these leaves are thrown to the cold pavement. At the bottom of the trees lay a few thorned bushes shrouding insects and litter in their leaves.



I approach the bus stop. A red-brick rectangle that usually stands out against the foliage of the street; however, in this light, it is almost indistinguishable from the dark

silhouettes of the plants around it. Inside, the cobwebs of dead spiders, dead or moved, stick to the darker corners of inside the stop. Some have newer prey caught in them, unlucky enough to stumble into the web and doomed to be forever caught in it. The webbing sometimes falls onto the benches, which are slightly rotted and with gum stuck under them. I sit down on one of them and put down my bag on another, beginning my long wait for the evening bus home.

~

Around a year ago, I did the exact same thing, except there weren't quite as many spider webs in the corners of the stop, and there weren't as many pieces of gum under the benches.

I was going home after a late club from school, and although I had tried to leave early, I still ended up missing the bus. I sat down at the stop by myself and waited for the bus to arrive.

At the time, it was already the peak of winter, already getting dark. The air had turned cold and crisp, my breath was visible in the air, so I decided to put my coat on. I thought of the heat that would be waiting for me at home, and quietly waited for the bus, watching cars go by as the lampposts across the street lit up one by one.

~

Now however, it was not quite that far into winter yet, not near enough to the solstice. You could not see your breath in the air and the streetlamps did not need to turn on yet. This time, I did not miss the bus. This time, it was an older, more dirty bus than the one I planned on getting a year ago. Its doors creaked open and I got my wallet out, ready to pay the fare. The doors slammed shut behind me and as the bus started moving after I sat down. The bus stop was soon out of sight.

**Emmeline Lock, Year 8**



## Julius Caesar at the Shakespeare Schools Festival

After two months of rehearsals, Years 8-9 took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival in Bury St Edmunds with our performance of Julius Caesar. We got there at around 10.00 am, and we had our tech and dress rehearsals a couple of hours before the show started at 7.00 pm. Our version of Julius Caesar was creative, funny and tragic all in one; we may have used Capri-Sun for wine but the acting during the death scenes and the pain in the characters' voices during heated arguments (especially with tricky Shakespearean language!) were exceptional for such young people. This performance included lots of handmade props, a solo and self-choreographed dance, clever staging and more - so much effort was put into making the show the most enjoyable for not only those watching it, but also for us as performers. For some of us, it was our first time performing on a professional stage and to have the opportunity to do so was a privilege. Everyone was fantastic, and we couldn't have done it without the help of Mrs Meikle. Thank you!

Evita Quijano, Year 9 performer



The cast on stage in the Apex Theatre

We performed Julius Caesar at the Apex Theatre in Bury St Edmunds on 21 November 2022. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The rehearsals were hard work but, in the end, it was amazing.

The play is a mixture of love, hate, death and conspiracy, which makes for an interesting combination.

We highly recommend doing extracurricular Drama as the end result always makes an outstanding impact.

Isaac Arena (Julius Caesar), Year 9

Gabriella Ward (Calpurnia), Year 9

Below: Pupils enjoyed their visit to Bury St Edmunds.



# Moi! - Year 7s write about themselves in French

**Moi!**

Salut! Je suis Yusya et j'ai 12 ans. Je suis un garçon et je suis très gentil. Mon père est très gentil et mon mère est très gentille. Je suis très gentil et je suis très gentil.

Mon oncle est très intelligent, vraiment et drôle et gentil.

Ma mère est très gentille et elle est très gentille.

Mon père est très gentil et il est très gentil.

Yusya A

Ma mère est gentille et généreuse. Elle n'est pas très grande mais petite.

Mon père est content et gentil. Il n'est pas de passion.

**Moi!**

Je suis Sia!

Je suis anglais mais je ne suis pas français. Je suis curieuse et gentille. Je suis aussi polie. Je ne suis pas très contente et drôle.

Mon frère est poli et curieux mais il n'est pas vraiment calme. Mon père est aussi assez gentil.

Ma mère est intelligente et petit. Il s'appelle Bobby. Il n'est pas calme mais il est très content.

Sia Nair

**Moi!**

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Mia. Je suis assez polie et curieuse. Je suis aussi très généreuse mais je ne suis pas vraiment branchée. Mais je pense je suis drôle. Je ne suis pas triste et je ne suis pas grégon.

Bonjour! Mon oncle est très intelligent! Mais elle est assez drôle.

Ma mère est très gentille et elle est très gentille.

Mon chien mon chien est drôle et il est assez gentil.

Mia Woodcock Yr 7

**Moi!**

Bonjour. Je m'appelle Ellie. J'ai onze ans et je suis très branchée. Polie et assez intelligente.

Je ne suis pas triste. Je ne suis pas grégonne, et je ne suis pas vraiment très curieuse.

Mon frère s'appelle Bertie, et il est très drôle, assez gentil et assez intelligent. Il ne pas très petit, branché ou généreux.

Ellie Stephenson

**Moi!**

et ma famille!

Mon frère est très grand et assez calme mais il n'est pas curieux.

Je m'appelle Lada. Je suis contente et assez intelligente. Je suis aussi grande. Je ne suis triste et méchante.

Ma mère est très calme et gentille mais elle n'est pas méchante.

Mon père est drôle et intelligent mais il n'est pas triste. Il s'appelle Mike.

Lada Gosteva

**Moi!**

et ma famille!

Mon frère est très grand et assez calme mais il n'est pas curieux.

Je m'appelle Lada. Je suis contente et assez intelligente. Je suis aussi grande. Je ne suis triste et méchante.

Ma mère est très calme et gentille mais elle n'est pas méchante.

Mon père est drôle et intelligent mais il n'est pas triste. Il s'appelle Mike.

J'adore le français!



## Film Review - No Time to Die

★★★★★

I think *No Time To Die* is an exciting and dramatic motion picture, a classic spy film with a modern touch. However, the scenes about Bond's domestic life, and the melancholy ending were a bit unnecessary and not really James Bond. Having said that, I really enjoyed the action sequences and Ben Wishaw as Q. It was filmed brilliantly, yet the music was a bit boring, including the opening theme song. However, I think fans of Daniel Craig's Bond will love this film.

Arthur Meredith, Year 8





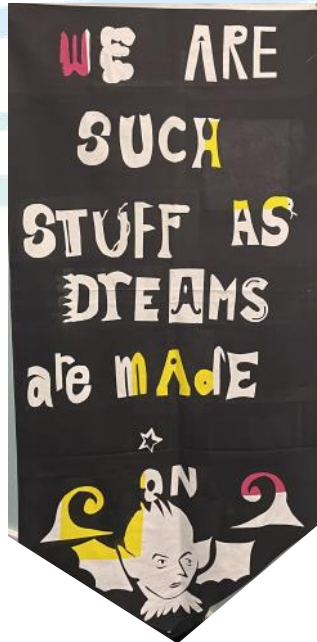
## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We have a group of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who have been trained by the Diana Award to help promote Anti-Bullying in school. Our ambassadors have currently set up an email address for any pupils who may have concerns about bullying and feel they cannot go to a member of staff (for peace of mind, this email is monitored by the three members of staff who are also ambassadors). They have also set up a Safe Space on a Thursday lunchtime for any pupil who feels they would like to pop in for a chat or some support. They are currently organising a 'Feel Good Friday' stall where they will be selling Christmas treats and crafts. After Christmas they will be promoting their campaign to encourage people to be 'Upstanders' to try to eliminate bullying occurring in school.

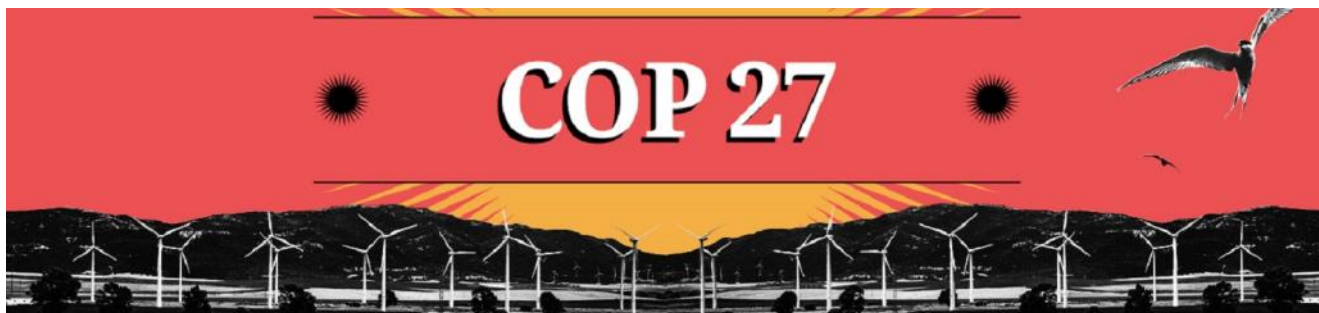


## Platform 22 Art Exhibition

The Art department was delighted to take part in Platform 22, an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning's secondary schools and sixth forms. The exhibition was held in the Michaelhouse Café in Trinity Street in central Cambridge and took place over two weeks at the end of November. Congratulations to all the pupils whose work was in the exhibition.



Some of the Sawston work in the exhibition



## Cambs Youth COP27

Sawston Village College organised and hosted a climate conference for Cambridgeshire schools to tie in with the talks taking place in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Dr Simon Morley, a researcher from the British Antarctic Survey was the keynote speaker at the conference and explained how BAS research informs what actions are required to protect the Antarctic. 14 schools took part and had the opportunity to represent different countries for their own mini COP-style conference. They also attended presentations by Natural England and Babraham Forest Garden project, planted trees and engaged in a Climate Change debate on key commitments and objectives to take away from the event and then deliver as part of their schools' climate change objectives. Principal Jonathan Russell said, 'We were delighted to host this event. In bringing together young people who are passionate and committed to making a difference, we believe this provided an opportunity for connection and change at a local level in the face of a global crisis. We hoped to inspire young people and be inspired by them, by their creativity, by their energy and by their determination to help all schools take small steps towards a greener future.'



**A REPORT:** This term the Eco forum helped to host the first

Cambridgeshire Youth COP27 which took place on Wednesday, 16 November 2022. 14 different schools, with their Eco clubs and forums, were invited to Sawston Village College to gather together and have our own 'Conference of the Parties' (COP). Throughout the day we had several talks, workshops, debates and ballots. We started with a talk from the British Antarctic

Survey. Here we learned about the effects of human activities, from the start of the twentieth century, on the environment and landscapes like the Antarctic Peninsula. Our next activity was the first schools' debate. This was when each school represented a different country from the real COP. These countries included: Saudi Arabia, India, China, Indonesia and the Marshall Islands. Each school shared a short presentation on what their chosen countries would do with the £100 billion climate budget. Then, we all voted on the top five countries we would spend the money on.

After this, we had a break where we could meet the other Eco forums/clubs and share ideas and discuss how we would improve our school's environment.

Then we split into three different workshop groups for tree planting and talks on rewilding schools and a forest garden project.

After lunch we grouped back together for a final discussion, except this time we represented our own schools. We ended the day agreeing to organise more interschool eco events and creating a series of pledges on how we would improve our schools in the future. All in all it was an inspiring day.



Above: At the conference and tree planting

## Staff in the Spotlight



**Mrs Riondino**  
**Year 8 Lead**

### **What are your main hobbies or interests?**

I love travelling and am currently completing the A to Z of countries to visit. I have 6 letters to complete, excluding X as there is no country that meets the criteria. I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I love going out to eat and also exploring new places and learning. We have National Trust and English Heritage membership, and regularly visit different places to explore and walk.

### **What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I'd gone to a concert in London with a friend and the plan had been to get the last train back home. Upon exiting the concert, my friend looked at her watch and proclaimed that we'd missed the last train home. Luckily, my sister lived in

London so we jumped on a tube to her house to stay the night and catch the first train back in the morning. Whilst at my sister's house, my friend said my sister's clocks were wrong, and then proceeded to change them to match her watch. (This was pre mobile phones!) An alarm clock was 'set' and we went to bed. The next morning came, the 5:30 am alarm blared, and my sister drove us to a tube station that would allow us to get to Liverpool Street quickly. Upon arrival, we found the tube station was closed, so we drove to another one, which was also closed. It transpired that my friend's watch was faulty and it was actually only 4:50 am, which also meant that we could have made the train the night before, and all my sister's clocks were now wrong in her house!

### **What's your favourite part of your job?**

Getting to see pupils flourish at Sawston Village College. Having the privilege of supporting pupils on their journeys as they navigate their teenage years. Seeing pupils succeed on a daily basis. The opportunities that are available at Sawston with extra curricular activities and CARE pledges are phenomenal. The team I work in - I get to work with remarkable people. I'm proud to work in such a caring and successful school. I really love my job and enjoy coming to work.

### **If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?**

This would have to be a draw between a lawyer (I was accepted to do a law conversion, but turned it down) or a forensic psychologist, I love a good crime investigation.

## King's College Carol Service

On Tuesday, 6 December, a group of Year 10 and Year 11 pupils went on a trip to King's College Chapel in Cambridge. We had the pleasure of listening to the choir's practice performance, in preparation for their famous carol concert which is watched by millions of people globally. It was amazing to sit inside such a beautiful venue, and it was such a privilege to be able to hear the world's best choir singing, an experience that I'm sure I will never forget. It was an especially special experience as we were preparing for the annual Great St Mary's carol concert, and being able to hear such high calibre choral singing encouraged us to try

and replicate that at Great St Mary's. We were also able to hear two of the carols that will be sung by the four-part choir at Great St Mary's, allowing us to take inspiration from them and hear a great performance of these pieces.

Some of us were able to sit next to the choir which, as well as enjoying the amazing acoustics, made it feel even more magical. The level of professionalism shown by the choir was incredible, and the sound that they made was absolutely fantastic, especially during the solo at the beginning. All in all, it was a fabulous event and to call it a treat would be an understatement.

**Thomas Hobro and Olivia Lancaster, Year 11**

## Memories

I strutted along the coarse concrete road which felt pleasantly warm beneath the naked soles of my feet. I turned a corner of the warm grey road and came to a halt just before the eclipse of sand and concrete. I froze, looking around at the magnificent scene. The sky was an ombre azure colour with faint smokey clouds suspended in the sky. I followed the sky down with my eyes to the horizon of the deep, blue abyss. Adjacent to the wide ocean were the fresh, white sands of the beach, populated by hundreds surrendering themselves to the burning rays of the sun.

The only smell that hung in the air was the stench of sea salt, evaporating from the scorching beams which glared down on the beach. The only sounds I could hear were the shouts and screams of the young children splashing around in the ocean. However there was one sound so distinctive from the rest, so unique from the shouts of the children; it was the waves.

The crashing of the waves took me back to when I was younger. I remember tip-toeing across the oven hot sands to the ocean wanting to play in the towering sea myself. I remember watching my parents take refuge under a tree from the hot sun and waiting for my brothers to join me in the ever-crashing blue. We would all run into the sea side by side before being enveloped in an intimidating arc of water.

One thing that I could remember so clearly was being under the water. I could only hear the gentle rush of water flowing past my ears, However, apart from that it was only silence. You would then be tumbled back to shore so fast it would force your eyes open making the salt sting them. Under water the only thing that was visible was the blurry darkness of the sea. I would feel myself stop, the sea retracting as water seeped through my fingers. The water made my lips incredibly salty and my fingers like a raisin.

Now all of that was gone, the waves only ebbed and flowed calmly. The sky was no longer a brilliant ombre but a painted lilac colour with only the first stars visible. The beach was no longer populated with people; the only people left was a mother attempting to usher her kids up the worn wooden steps that led down to the beach. Being reminded of my memories made me feel warm and calm. I then slowly swivelled on my heel turning my back on the beach, the sun setting behind me.

Joey Sample, Year 8

## Visit from Theatre Centre

This term the Drama department enjoyed a visit from Theatre Centre with 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 Year 10s studying Drama that focused on an actor's approach to textual analysis.



Pupils enjoyed the workshop after the performance.



A graphic of a spotlight beam shining from the top left corner onto the text.

## Staff in the Spotlight



**Mrs Wombwell**  
**Year 10 Lead and Head of Mandela House**

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I always saw myself as teaching/working in a school and often played "schools" with a blackboard and chalks!

**What are your main hobbies or interests?**

I love spending time with my family, especially as I have seven grandchildren! I also really enjoy gardening.

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

Only too recently I fell on some stairs in a garden centre!! Thankfully, not too many people witnessed this event!

**What's your favourite part of your job?**

It has to be seeing all you pupils progress, whether that is academically or emotionally...it's what we are here for - so rewarding :)

**If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?**

I can't really imagine doing anything else but I guess it would be working with plants or in a tea shop with lovely cakes!

## Remembrance Day

The 11th November is Armistice Day, which marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918. In common with tradition, the College paused for a two-minute silence to remember those who lost their lives in time of war. In the lead up to the Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday commemorations, each year group attended a Remembrance Assembly, which focused on three former pupils of the College who were killed during the Normandy Landings of 1944. The names of Robert Chapman, Victor Froste and Alfred Mackay are all commemorated on the College's War Memorial and on the newly created British Normandy Memorial, which was unveiled in Normandy last year. The idea for the Normandy Memorial originated with the Normandy

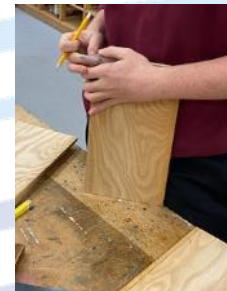
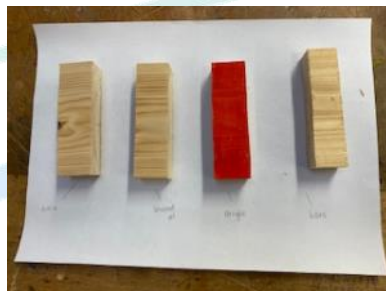
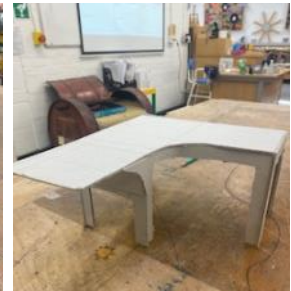
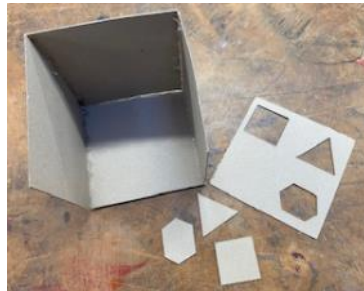
Veteran, George Batts, who died recently at the age of 97, and was in part paid for thanks to the fundraising efforts of another Normandy Veteran, Harry Billinge, who also died earlier this year. It is comforting to know that three of the College's former pupils, who fell on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944, have their names recorded at this place of serene beauty where people will gather to remember and reflect for generations to come.

**Mr Reed, History Teacher**



# Rapid Prototype modelling in Year 11

Year 11 GCSE pupils are currently involved in rapid prototype modelling. They are using a combination of CAD/CAM and traditional hand techniques to model ideas before going into production. The models will help give a sense of scale, proportion, and aesthetic and ergonomic considerations which will be discussed with the client before the next steps. Some fantastic iterations are being developed. We look forward to seeing the realised prototypes in the new year. Potential final prototypes include a Greek influenced sustainable wall hanging, a recycled artist's cabinet, and a Dutch railway strategy game.



## Staff in the Spotlight



**Mrs Fink**  
**Year 7 Lead and Head of Turing House**

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I was passionate about film, theatre and animals so I struggled to decide. I thought about being a vet, or a horse riding instructor, a guide dog trainer or an actress.

**What are your main hobbies or interests?**

I like doing anything creative. I like playing guitar, writing music, screenwriting and just finding new approaches to making things. Aside from that, I like to push myself to try new things. Skydiving and archery are the most recent.

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I can't really think of one particular moment. Life is full of little embarrassing moments. I find it's easier to laugh it off and not take yourself too seriously.

**What's your favourite part of your job?**

I like the job itself - it's varied and interesting, but being able to help pupils and support them is probably the bit that makes me most happy.

**If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?**

I have no idea. I suppose I would still be working in Film and Theatre.



Year 8 pupils enjoyed a recent trip to Bedford to visit a Gurdwara, a mosque and a church.



## The Koh-i-Noor Diamond - what does it reveal about the power of its possessors?

### Essay 1

The Koh-i-Noor symbolised different kinds of power to each of its possessors. For example, after securing the diamond from the family of Bikramjit during 1628 (the first recorded possessors of the diamond), Shah Jahan presented the Koh-i-Noor in one of the two ornamental peacocks on top of his throne, making the diamond difficult to see viewing from the ground - despite its great value. As the fifth ruler of the Mughal Empire - it had been a long tradition that rubies were to be valued over diamonds hence why the French jeweller Augustin Hérissant (an elite craftsman; creator of the throne) encrusted the Mughal's beloved rubies, including the Timur Ruby, on the front panel. However, it wasn't all about wealth to Jahan, as he incorporated religious and spiritual elements into the throne: for example, his depictions were inspired by King Solomon, King of Israel. Furthermore, the artist included a halo within his portraits, thus proving he incorporated religion into his art. This shows that the Koh-i-Noor was valued by Shah Jahan for its religious power. It also represented financial power as shown by the fact that a diamond deemed 'priceless' was in a barely visible place - a huge flex of his wealth since he was able to do that.

As another example, approximately 200 years later, the East India Company (an influential trading group selling spices and dyes) obtained the diamond by manipulating the Sikh Empire and colonising India. The British heavily influenced the 5-year-old emperor, Duleep Singh, of the Sikh empire to meet their list of demands in return for their "protection", essentially meaning that he was a

dummy ruler. His mother, Jindan Singh, did attempt to stop the British but was imprisoned for doing so. At the Treaty of Lahore in 1849, Duleep signed away many components of his empire, including his land, fortune and the Koh-i-Noor. Lord Dalhousie was soon tasked with returning the diamond to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. After surviving many dangers along the way, the monarchy of the British Empire had



the Koh-i-Noor in its possession – where it would remain up to today. Soon after, the Koh-i-Noor was presented at the Great Exhibition, causing disappointment from the public for its imperfection - as a result, Albert had the diamond recut from 190.3 metric carats to 93 metric carats in 1852, costing him almost 1 million pounds in today's money. Queen Victoria then presented it in a brooch which she wore for duties. Eventually the diamond was set in the Crown Jewels. This shows that, for the British Empire, the Koh-i-Noor was valued for its military and imperial power because it showed how the British had defeated an Empire for this influential diamond and what the military was truly capable of. They also valued its cultural power because it was grandly displayed at Prince Albert's Great Exhibition to gain popular support. However the diamond was not so much valued for its financial power, unlike Shah Jahan, as they prioritised presentation over worth because King Albert had the Koh-i-Noor recut to under half the size. It became unrecognisable to those who had once beheld the Koh-i-Noor, such as the previous possessor, Duleep Singh.

Harry Sample, Year 9

## Essay 2

The Koh-i-Noor symbolised different kinds of power to each of its possessors. For example, Ranjit Singh went to great lengths to get the diamond. He tried everything to get it off Shah Shuja, from appealing to him to threatening him and torturing his family. Once he had the diamond, he was extremely paranoid about it being stolen, and had it kept in a very secure treasury when it wasn't being worn. The British, however, got it in 1849 by taking advantage of the young Duleep Singh. Once Prince Albert got it, he put it on display. In 1852, he got it cut down to almost half the original size to make it fit British ideas and expectations around the "beauty" of the diamond. This shows how the Koh-i-Noor was valued by Ranjit Singh for the influential power it represented because of the effort he put into getting it. He could have put that effort into taking more land, getting more followers or overthrowing other powerful people around him. Instead, he devoted the time, money, resources and troops to obtaining the Koh-i-Noor. This shows how he

thought that the diamond represented the same amount of power in terms of his influence and authority over people. Whereas, for the British Empire, it represented imperial power because it had been the property of all the powerful empires around India, and the British had got it. They had it shown off in an exhibition of things they had looted from places all over the world. This exhibition was a demonstration of the extent of the British Empire, and the diamond was the centrepiece. When the diamond was cut down, it showed the British were discarding all the culture and history that the Koh-i-Noor held. Additionally, to Prince Albert specifically, the diamond represented reputation and status. He was unpopular among the British, due to his German background. Albert hoped that the diamond would make people like him more, and tried his best to make it look as pretty (by British standards) as he could. This led to the cutting of the diamond.

Neri Emerson, Year 9

## CHS Group Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The Ethos and Arts Forums would like to thank all Mentor groups for contributing so generously to the CHS group charity Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

The charity was delighted to accept our collection, and, as can be seen from the pictures here, had great difficulty fitting it all into one car.

The shoeboxes were also judged, and the best decorated were chosen and are shown here. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Below: the best decorated shoeboxes



# Christmas Card Design Competition

There were so many good designs this year that it was difficult to choose a single winner. So, instead, a selection of winners was chosen and incorporated into this year's school Christmas card. Well done to those whose design was chosen - full designs are shown below. And a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part.



Season's Greetings  
from  
Sawston Village College

Safi Hull TH06

Sara-Sophie Mansat-Bhattacharyya MH06

Alena Neesam DH06

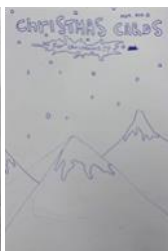


Lada Gosteva DH02

Samuel Lewes TH07

Lia Aju MH09

# The other fantastic entries to this year's competition



Cards from top (left to right) by: Grace Ormerod, Dasha Gomeniuk, Emmeline Lock, Gabriella Ward, Elphie Ferreday, Christina Mitchell, [Jessica Pegram, Lily Parsons, and Anna Riederer], Matthew Chan, Deona Jojo, Anjali Sreejul, Sia Nair, Charlotte Falconer, Leeya Anil, River Gilbert, George Royall, and Max Fell.



## Entering the Christmas Card Design Competition

A slide appeared in the bulletin for entries to take part in the 'Christmas Card' competition this year. As soon as I saw it I thought I would give it a go as I had my design chosen as runner up last year. I got together with my grandma and we brainstormed what I could do for this year's design. I wanted to focus on something which reflected Sawston Village College. I made a sunset with the pastels I got as a prize last year. I added a silhouette of the school in black paper over this. On top of this I added the pelican from the school crest in white paper and the CARE values at the top of the card. The mother pelican is feeding the CARE values to her chicks, which are perched on their nest made of brown paper. I was very emotional when I found out I was selected as a winner. It is lovely to see it displayed in school and to collect an Amazon gift voucher as a prize.

Alena Neesam, Year 8



## The Nutcracker

At the end of this autumn term, on 13 December, over 100 pupils and their families went to see the performance *The Nutcracker* at the Cambridge Junction. Although straying (rather far) from the original story from 1816, the show was packed with music, song and dance, all performed by the four actors. What was particularly impressive about this show was how inclusive it was for everyone to watch. There was a BSL interpreter who was always on stage but still involved in the festive fun, and there were moments throughout which catered for those with sensory issues, which meant that they could enjoy the show properly along with everyone else. Despite the performance being aimed at younger-aged audiences, it was thoroughly enjoyable, full of life, and definitely a festive way for Drama pupils and some of their families to end this term.

Anna Clark, Year 11



Waiting for the show to begin at the Junction



## Narrative writing inspired by an image



The clouds hung awkwardly heavy against the colourless atmosphere. Tendrils of fog oozed down from the sky, like a mass of vines, designed to trap and enclose. The headstones sealed the fog like an envelope, their gracious hands desperate to bruise the greying sky. Rippling through the grass was a sort of murky wind, biting at ankles and nipping at arms. It was a grey day, and a grey place. An anxious female voice sliced through the thick air. "Sarah?" the mother hollered, maternal pain ripping through her words.

The pink shiny raincoat didn't belong. The trees seemed to bristle and whisper at this, and the girl was reminded of hatred. Her small fists were curled together, white with cold. Puffs of breath came out in white clouds. One pink pigtail ribbon was blown away, flexing and getting caught onto the corner of an embellished, proud cross. Sarah's bottom lip jutted out, her torso shivering and missing the warmth of her mother. She was quiet, as if instructed to be respectful. The wind sang her name jokingly, as she clutched the flower in her hand tighter. A memoir from earlier, its pale white petals now haunting. She looked for her mother; an instinct. She had run too far in hide and seek, and her mum had fallen behind.

A shaky breath, enclosed in a white ribbon as it left her mouth, then another. She slowly turned around, plump feet tucked neatly into pink buckled shoes. Something bright caught her eye. Perhaps it was the absurdity of the bright colours, but her eyes lit up as they latched on the haunting flowers leant against the largest headstone.

It seemed to stand alone from the others, away from the sombre crowd. Its shadow sank into the ground, human soul blackening the colourful earth. The absence of death from its aura attracted the young girl, lulling her in. It was directly in front of her. She didn't stop to think that when she had stumbled into the graveyard by chance, the flowers were nowhere in sight.

Little legs moved forward, her hands reached out in front of her. The dew from the morning crunched and cried for her to not go any further. Even the wind seemed hesitant to usher her forward. But her mind was unfortunately her own, and she admired the flowers. The headstone was much taller than her, looming condescendingly. It was stained with darkness and something in Sarah hesitated. But then her eyes were drawn to the flowers, and they brightened again.

Pretty.

The clouds hummed in anger and the wind whistled pleadingly. Nothing could break the flowers' alluring gaze. The trees sighed as if they had been struck by a distant memory. The daisy her mother had gifted was trampled now, under a small, pale foot. Her hands tingled to touch just one petal; even pick it up, get away from the sense of death. The air was cursed by the smell of roses, its thick scent capturing the girl effortlessly. She reached out a trembling hand, an animalistic sense of pride creeping down her back of showing her mother the flowers later. Of making her smile. The headstone stared down from above her, its shadow creeping over her pale skin, as her hand got closer, and closer. Dainty padded fingers reached for the rose, a wrinkle between her eyebrow at the stretch it was. She wiggled her fingers once more; itching to be closer, the thick scent still aggravating her brain. She touched it, smile igniting for a few seconds as the wind sighed in relief.

Her vision shuddered. She shook her head, curls bobbing up and down. The world twisted, then turned. It was all so quickly over she almost sighed a breath of relief. Almost.

Utter panic consumed her too late, and she tried to move her legs, to shift her arms. It was like she was set in stone. Her lungs burned as she tried to inhale a gasp of breath. Her mouth was full of soil, its weight burning down, as if the grave above was pushing into her. Eyes were pressured shut and there wasn't even enough space for a tear to slip down her cheek. Curiosity killed the cat.

"Sarah?" Her mother's call was lost to the mourning wind.

Rafa Wilkinson, Year 10

## Staff in the Spotlight



**Mr Davis**  
**Year 9 Lead and Head of da Vinci House**

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**  
A writer.

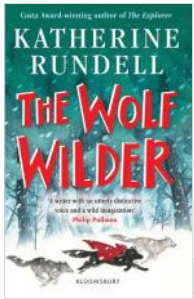
**What are your main hobbies or interests?**  
Family life.

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**  
Flying through the air over my mountain bike handlebars, in front of a traffic jam packed full of onlookers.

**What's your favourite part of your job?**  
Watching pupils reach new heights.

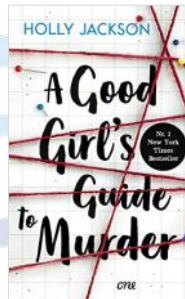
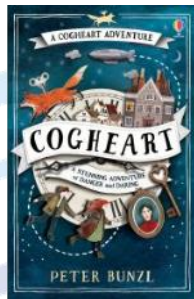
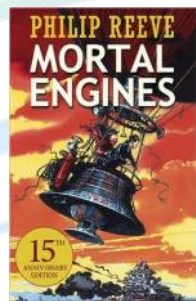
**If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?**  
Children's Author.

## Book Club



At Book Club this term we have been talking about our current reads, sharing favourite authors, recommending books to each other and (in the friendliest way!) arguing over the merits of certain characters or book endings. Basically we share our love of reading! Among our must-reads this term, certain authors have come up time and time again: Katherine Rundell, Manjeet Mann, Philip Reeve, Peter Bunzl and Holly Jackson.

We've just signed up to shadow the YOTO Carnegie Awards, which means we'll be reading all the short-listed titles when these are announced in February. We will then submit a vote for our favourite, which helps decide the winner in the Schools Choice Category.



Enjoying so many (or all!) of the titles on the SVC TOP 20 Book List gave us the idea to create a TOP 20 extension book list (think of it as an expansion pack for your reading!) This will be aimed at Years 7 - 8, and we plan to publish that for the start of next term.

Newcomers are always welcome: we meet in the library every Wednesday at 1:30pm. See you there!



Year 7s enjoyed their singing workshop.

## National Youth Choir Workshops

The Music department was delighted to welcome in two practitioners from the National Youth Choir to lead workshops with different year groups recently.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 who are involved with Music groups in school enjoyed their sessions, while all our Year 7 pupils could be heard singing enthusiastically from the Henry Morris Hall in their workshops.

We are grateful to the Arts Society and the Arts Society South Cambs for their funding support in making these workshops possible.

Below pupils share their thoughts on the workshops:

I enjoyed the singing workshop as it was entertaining and interesting to sing in a large group. I learned a lot of good skills, such as a new way to warm up. It was also good to know a bit about what the singers had done. It would be nice to have more opportunities like this in the future!

Reuben Belcher Soame, Year 10

The singing workshop was very enjoyable, I especially liked the warm up and getting our voices ready for the difficult songs. My favourite part of the warm up was the clapping and chanting warm up because it was fun and it made you feel joyful. The best part was when we 'stamped our feet to the beat' because you could feel that everyone was joining in and enjoying themselves.

Matthew Russell Year 7

## Jazz Band

I recently joined the school's Jazz Band and I have

thoroughly enjoyed it. The pieces we play are really fun, and some of my favourites are *Birdland* and *My Funny Valentine*. We also take part in many exciting opportunities.

One of my favourite performances was the Jazz Festival. The other school (Comberton Village College) performed first, and set a high standard. We performed next, and I think it was one of our best performances. We then took part in a workshop with the other school where we were encouraged to improvise as a whole band.



I learned a lot about how jazz is written and how to improvise. Most recently, we played at the Christmas fair at Stapleford Granary. It may have been freezing, but we didn't let that dampen the mood. As well as our usual songs, we played three new Christmas songs: *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Good King Wenceslas*, and *Jingle Bell Rock*. The shoppers at the market loved our playing, and it was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Martha Owen, Year 11

## Year 10s make Chocolate Roulade

**Sophie Abell:** On Tuesday, 8 November, we made chocolate roulades. We started off making the chocolate run-outs by piping melted chocolate in patterns on a baking sheet and putting them in the fridge. Next, we made the roulade cake batter by carefully folding flour and cocoa powder into the whisked eggs and sugar. We had to be careful when folding in the dry ingredients so that we didn't knock the air out of the sponge. After the sponges had come out of the oven and were still warm, we rolled them gently using a damp tea-towel and greaseproof paper, so that once they were cool we could roll them tightly around the filling without any cracking. We then spread half of the whipped cream on the cooled sponge after unrolling it, and sprinkled on a layer of fresh fruit, before carefully rolling the roulade. For the plating, we used our chocolate run-outs on top of the remaining cream which we piped on top of the roulade. Lots of people chose to use fresh mint, fruit and cream to decorate the plate the roulade was presented on, which looked very effective. The roulade tasted very nice, and the sponge was light and soft.



**Will Cousins:** I really enjoyed making the chocolate roulade because it was extremely rewarding. My favourite part of making it was piping.

**Elliot Cook:** I enjoyed the practical assessment of making the chocolate roulade a lot. However, it was very stressful at times. My favourite part was decorating, and the hardest part was rolling it up.



**Georgie Bridgeman:** Making the chocolate roulade was very enjoyable. It wasn't stressful as I was given plenty of time. It was very easy to make and it was a fun experience. My roulade ended up looking amazing. I was very happy with

the results. The teacher was also there if I needed any help.

**Lauren Purcell:** I enjoyed making the chocolate roulade a lot, especially decorating and designing the plate and roulade. However, it was quite stressful because of the time limits and my wanting to get a good grade.

**Daisy Smith:** I really enjoyed making chocolate roulade although it was a bit stressful. My favourite part of making it was decorating the plate. Making it was a tough challenge, but I tried my best.

**Tilly:** I really enjoyed making my chocolate roulade because I learned new skills, and it was a fun dessert to make. My family loved my roulade as it was presented well and tasted good. I was very happy with my grade and I love doing Food GCSE.

**Demi Geer:** I liked doing this practical but it was quite stressful. The best parts of the whole thing were creating the chocolate run-outs, the piping of the cream, the designs and decorating.

**Alex Nicholson:** I loved making the chocolate roulade, I had a lot of fun but it was a bit stressful. I found the chocolate run-outs a little bit difficult but my family enjoyed it. It looked really pretty and I got a great grade.

**Isobel Whitton:** I really enjoyed making my chocolate roulade. It brought me challenges and taught me how to compromise and work through challenges. But the product in the end was worth it!



**Keira Collinson:** I really enjoyed making chocolate roulade. My favourite part was decorating it with cream, raspberries and chocolate run-outs and getting some flowers from the DT herb garden. I didn't enjoy it when I had to roll the cake because I was scared it might crack. Overall, I was really impressed with my chocolate roulade.



**Saffi Russ-Czerwik:** I loved making chocolate roulade as I learned a lot of valuable skills and tips for baking. It was very challenging though! Lots of multitasking and tidying as you go, and adapting to time limits. However, the experience was brilliant and I have learnt so much in my Food GCSE lessons so far.



**Keely Cole:** I always really enjoy my cooking lessons but making the chocolate roulade was my favourite. This was a challenge for me but the end result was the best thing I have ever made. My family loved it as they thought it was presented beautifully and tasted delicious. My grade for this roulade was the best grade I have ever got, which made me happy.

## Reports from PE this term



Above: Sawston's Year 7 Girls Rugby Teams

### Year 7 Girls Rugby Success

Our Year 7 girls had a fantastic time at their recent Rugby Festival, which was hosted by Shelford Rugby Club. They showed amazing character, determination, teamwork and skill levels, despite the extremely cold conditions! The College had two teams in the event, and both teams performed wonderfully throughout the afternoon, showing brilliant enthusiasm and scoring plenty of tries too! All the girls showed that they have been working hard recently in their PE lessons, and their tenacious defence and speed in attack proved too much for the opposing teams. Well done to all the girls involved, who were a real credit to the school throughout the afternoon of sport.

## Cambridgeshire Inter Schools Cross Country Competition

A fantastic result from all of those involved in the recent Cambridgeshire Inter Schools Cross Country Competition. A gruelling hill for those to scale each lap meant for a tough and muddy route for all to conquer. Some star performances came from Natalia Smith, Torin Jones and Oliver Seaborn, who all qualified for the next regional round in St Ives. Sawston's top performance goes to Matthew Smith (Year 11) who came 3rd in the Inter Boys 4500m race.

Below: Sawston's Cross Country Runners



## Hockey Tournament Report

Match report from the tournament against St Bede's, St Mary's and Soham Village College on 29 November 2022

A massive well done to our Year 9 girls in their first hockey tournament this year. They had incredible amounts of team spirit and showed support and resilience throughout each match. A huge shout out goes to Emma Russell and Ceiba Itzel Zurita for volunteering to be our goal keeper for the last two games - you both showed brilliant perseverance and determination in the goal.

Player of the Match goes to Tyrihana Johnson!

Well done Sawston!



Above: Sawston's Year 9 Hockey Team

## U16 Mixed Hockey Match Report

Sawston Village College U16 Mixed Hockey team played against the Netherhall School in a very intense and close match on 23 November. The skills and decision-making from members of both teams were so impressive! Our Player of the Match went to Josca Brown, who showed brilliant control over the ball and was able to break down Netherhall's defence and play the ball on to our forwards. In the first quarter our goal was scored by Ben Journeaux, who had brilliant speed and determination in the D to beat his defence and find the back of the net. After a hard fought second half, the final score was 2-1 to Netherhall. Everyone in the team played extremely well; bring on the rematch!



Above: Sawston's U16 Mixed Hockey Team



Above: Sawston's U14 Girls Football Team

## Girls Under 14 ESFA Fixture (Round 4)

A fantastic result from the U14 girls, who won their fixture against Crowell Community College in Chatteris. A 4-2 win puts them through to the fifth round of the English Schools Cup where we look to be playing against teams from the Midlands in our next match. Strong performances throughout the first portion of the match kept Cromwell from creating any chances. Strong linking between Mia Diaz David and Bryony O'Connell helped to create multiple chances, giving the girls confidence in their performance. An unlucky penalty scored by Cromwell gave the girls the boost they needed to get the ball in the back of the net, with Amaleigh Feary scoring an equaliser. Soon after, we had Bryony score an amazing goal over the top of the keeper from outside of the box, a true masterpiece. Annie Sainson again contributed towards the scoresheet before Cromwell managed to scrape another goal

(3-2). As the game progressed and the girls maintained their classy performance, Libby Unwin managed to tank the ball into the back of the net, solidifying their performance. A star performance in defence were Bella Seymour and Bea White.

## Year 7 Boys Rugby Fixture Report

The boys' first fixture against Bottisham was a great success, with a score of 35-15 taking them to gain their first win of the year. Strong communication and movement across the pitch allowed for many opportunities to charge through the defence of the opposition, allowing us to gain many tries. Humphrey White (4) alongside Oscar Karpuk (1) generated strong drives through the defence of Bottisham to score themselves a handful of tries with the support of the team. Torin Jones (1) and Will Sweeting put in a series of great runs also to gain points for the team. A star performance goes to Flynn Darby for his exceptional leadership and consistent involvement in attacking and defensive plays.



Left:  
Sawston's  
Year 7  
Boys  
Rugby  
Team

# Sawston Village College in the Community

Sawston Village College is delighted to run an Adult Learning programme, Sawston Sports Centre and Sawston Cinema for the community. Please check the relevant website for current programme and activity updates.



**Sawston  
Adult  
Learning**

## Sawston Adult Learning

Please check [www.sawstonadultlearning.org](http://www.sawstonadultlearning.org) for up to date information.  
You can also email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org).



**ANGLIAN  
LEISURE  
SAWSTON**

## Sawston Sports Centre

Please check [www.sawstonsports.com](http://www.sawstonsports.com) for up to date information. You can also email [awilson@sawstonvc.org](mailto:awilson@sawstonvc.org) and follow Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SawstonSportsCentre> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SawstonSports>.

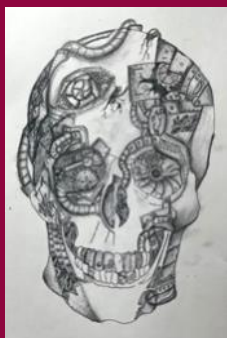


**SAWSTON CINEMA**

## Sawston Cinema

Please check [www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk) for up to date information.  
You can also email [cinema@sawstonvc.org](mailto:cinema@sawstonvc.org).

## Artwork from Year 9 pupils



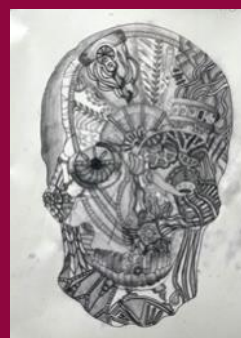
By Hannah Pulford



By Cillian Megy-Rowland



By Eliza Bowring



By Milena Udraite



By Catrin Arthurs



**Sawston  
Village College**



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard



**PART OF  
ANGLIAN LEARNING**

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