

# November / December 2022

# Newsletter



**Sawston**  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

<b>4 Jan</b>	Staff training day
<b>5 Jan</b>	Spring term begins
<b>12 Jan</b>	Year 11 individual photographs
<b>17-19 Jan</b>	Year 9 exams
<b>19 Jan</b>	Year 8 Parents' evening
<b>19 Jan</b>	Sawston Cinema: <i>The Lost City</i>
<b>26 Jan</b>	Year 9 Options Evening
<b>26 Jan</b>	Sawston Cinema: <i>The Crucible</i> (NT Live)

<b>27 Jan</b>	Year 10 RE Walsingham trip
<b>27 Jan</b>	GCSE Science Live trip
<b>2 Feb</b>	Year 10 Meet the Mentor
<b>2 Feb</b>	Year 11 Art trip - Fitzwilliam Museum
<b>2 Feb</b>	Year 11 Stapleford Granary Concert
<b>3 Feb</b>	Year 9 report 2 issued
<b>6 Feb</b>	Year 11 Interview Day
<b>7-11 Feb</b>	SYD Seniors
<b>9-13 Feb</b>	Year 11 Berlin trip
<b>23 Feb</b>	Sawston Cinema: <i>Othello</i> (NT Live)

## From the Principal



At the end of a very long term, we were presented with the challenges of an early winter freeze and the prospect of school closure. Thanks to the gallant effort of our staff and the patience of families, we were able to keep everything running. Shovelling snow in the darkness of early morning, whilst exhausting, was also exhilarating given the beauty of the site and the camaraderie and willingness of staff to

do what it takes to enable lessons to take place. Schools, like any large organisation, rely on teamwork, and we are fortunate to have so many people working in the background and in the classroom prepared to go the extra mile.

Sadly, this term, we have to say goodbye to some of the team. Miss Farrow, English, is leaving the profession; Mr Bond, PE, is seeking a new post; and Miss Wilson-Owen, our librarian, takes up an exciting opportunity to focus more on her illustrations. We wish them all the very best in their new ventures. Recruitment continues to be a challenge, especially midway through a year, so we will draw upon supply agencies until replacements are found. Thankfully, we

have a new full-time librarian who starts in January, Ms Allen, and we look forward to her developing yet further the reading culture Miss Wilson-Owen has helped foster.



The College blanketed in snow this week.

As demonstrated in these pages, it has been a busy term. There are always things to improve but we can look back and reflect on the outstanding contribution of so many pupils. Whether through their participation in the leadership programmes, through creativity in the arts, their commitment to their studies, their engagement with STEM, and active involvement in clubs, sports and house activities, pupils have lived up to our CARE values. We were especially delighted this term to award the first fully completed Sawston Bronze Pledges. These young people have fully embraced all of the opportunities in front of them.

Now everyone deserves a thorough rest and a joyous Christmas.

*'Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality.'*

Washington Irving

**Mr Russell, Principal**

## Drama update

HUGE congratulations to my brilliant colleague and director, Mrs Meikle, for her innovative and visually spectacular version of 'Julius Caesar', performed by our equally brilliant actors in Years 8 and 9. 'Caesarfest' was produced by a 26-strong cast and tech crew at The Apex theatre in Bury St Edmunds to a packed house of families and siblings from three Cambridgeshire schools.

We believe that experiences like this inspires our young actors to take their Drama beyond the extra-curricular enrichment to opt for GCSE, A-Level and towards a career in the Arts. We are extremely passionate about the Arts here at Sawston Village College and, with other opportunities on the horizon, such as LAMDA speech/performance exams, theatre trips, professional acting workshops and an industry day in the Spring, there is something for all our

pupils to enjoy. We thank you for your support and will continue, with indefatigable enthusiasm, to inspire and promote our pupils' love, not to mention breath-taking talent, for Drama.

**Ms Russ, Head of Drama**

The cast on stage at The Apex, the theatre in Bury St Edmunds



**Sawston**  
Adult  
Learning



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SAWSTON



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

## Business Studies Update

This half term has seen the launch of the Hatchlings Business Studies club for KS3 where we have been looking at the different businesses within the local area. With the help of Year 10s, pupils in the club have designed a Christmas bauble representing most of the businesses on Sawston's High Street. The You're Hired Business Studies club recommences in January when we will discuss the disasters and successes of the popular television

series *The Apprentice*.

Year 11s did a fantastic job on their charity Christmas card production line, making nearly 300 cards for the organisation, Cards for Bravery, which is dedicated to brightening the days of hospitalised and seriously ill children through the distribution of uplifting handmade cards. This makes a huge difference to these children through tough and isolating times.

**Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies**

## Geography Update

We have come to the end of a busy first term in Geography. Year 7s have impressed with their map skills, and Year 8s have enjoyed studying the Japanese tsunami in 2011. Year 9s have explored the concept of sustainable population growth, and the effects of the One Child Policy in China. At GCSE, we have been trialling new planning grids to support pupils with their exam answers, which we hope will prove useful. We also enjoyed the Geography Bake Off with the Food Department. Pupils created some amazing cakes under the theme of Our Island Home - a celebration of famous British locations and culture. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!

**Miss Evans, Head of Geography**



Above: Some of the cards Year 11s made in Business Studies.

## History Update

This half term Year 7s completed their first milestones in History. We have been particularly impressed with the really interesting claims about whether groups such as women and those from the Empire could ever become full Roman citizens. Pupils have been exploring how serving in the auxiliary forces provided a route to citizenship for some, alongside exploring issues of gender. Pupils debated whether women, such as Julia Felix, a bakery owner in Pompeii, had the same freedoms and opportunities as a male citizen in Rome. We were really impressed by the range of evidence to justify pupils' arguments, and it is great to see such powerful writing so early on!

**Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History**

## Update from English

A text-filled half term for English. Year 7s have been reading *A Monster Calls*, Year 8s have been studying poetry written about immigration and displacement, and Year 9 pupils have been exploring working class voices, reading essays and Melvin Burgess' novel *Billy Elliot* based on Lee Hall's screenplay. After finishing *Macbeth*, Year 10s are now learning how to answer the reading section of English Language Paper 1, having covered narrative writing before half term. Year 11s are getting Christmassy (and ready for their GCSE Literature exam) with Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

**Ms Goodbrand, Head of English**



**Sawston Adult Learning**

It has been a very busy autumn term here in Adult Learning. We have

had an excellent take-up of a wide range of courses, which has been wonderful and feels like a real return to normality. Our recent Saturday workshops were a success and enjoyed by all.



Garden Design is one of the courses on offer.

We are already looking forward to next year, and our Spring term courses are now available to book via the website or by phone.

For further information or to book: visit our website [www.sawstonadultlearning.org](http://www.sawstonadultlearning.org), email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org), or phone 01223 712424.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Mrs Hayes Adult Learning Manager**



To see our full programme of screenings,

visit our website:

[www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk).

Next up is *The Lost City* on 19 January 2023. Please come and join us for this.

**Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager**



For those who fancy a swim or gym session over Christmas, we are

open as follows:

Friday 23rd December - Normal Hours  
Saturday 24th December - 8.00am - 1.00pm  
Sunday 25th December - CLOSED  
Monday 26th December - CLOSED  
Tuesday 27th December - CLOSED  
Wednesday 28th December - CLOSED  
Thursday 29th December - 8.00am - 8.00pm  
Friday 30th December - 8.00am - 8.00pm  
Saturday 31st December - 8.00am - 1.00pm  
Sunday 1st January - CLOSED  
Monday 2nd January - CLOSED  
Tuesday 3rd January - Normal Hours

Look out for our January special offer, where you will receive one month of free classes when you purchase an off peak or peak gym membership. There is plenty to choose from, and we will also be adding Rebounding to our timetable shortly.

**Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager**

### RUBIK Clube

Every Wednesday, Lunchtime, 13:20 in M3

- Always wished you could solve a 3x3 cube? We'll teach you!
- Already know how? Try a 2x2, 4x4, Pyramix and more!
- Everyone is welcome. Anyone can learn. That includes YOU.

## Rubik Clube in Maths

There has been a real feeling of excitement in the Maths department this term following the launch of RUBIK Clube by Mr Slade (a portmanteau of club and cube). The Clube aims to teach any pupil how to solve a 3x3 cube as well as 2x2, 4x4, Pyramixes and Skewbs (skewed cubes). The Clube has been so successful, a second club, RUBIK League, has been launched for our more competitive speed cubers. Watch this space!

**Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths**

### RUBIK League

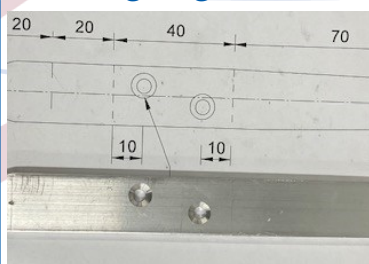
Every Monday, Lunchtime, 13:30 in M3



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## Budding Engineers



This half term has seen the Year 7s being introduced to Engineering. The project involves understanding and following a working drawing in order to manufacture an Aluminium coat hook to within a 2mm tolerance. They are then to design the backing plate. The pupils have enjoyed deciphering literacy starters and learning the names of the engineering

tools and equipment. There are always lots of curious faces when the 'odd legs' are brought out. Classes are nearing completion of the shaping element, and they are close to moving onto finishes and templating. Look out for some fantastic examples of work in the next issue.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

## Year 7 Chefs: Perfecting Pasta

Our Year 7 pupils have been developing basic knife skills, an understanding of kitchen safety and hygiene, and the confidence to use the grill, hob and oven. By making dishes such as fruit salad, pizza toasties, and savoury muffins, they have gained invaluable experience in the kitchen and are on their way to becoming skilled and creative cooks. Recently, they have also enjoyed making fresh, homemade pasta from scratch using a pasta machine, and savouring their dishes. This hands-on learning experience has been a highlight of their food lessons, and we're excited to see more creations in pizza designing and making in the next term.



Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

Year 7s made pasta from scratch.

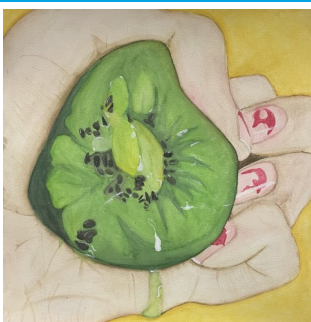
## Platform 22 - an exhibition in central Cambridge showcasing pupil artwork

Pupils from Sawston experienced the thrill of seeing their work exhibited at an Art exhibition in the Michaelhouse Cafe, Cambridge in November. The exhibition was a collection of selected work showcasing Art from the Secondary Schools in the Anglian Learning Trust and was on show to the public for a fortnight, with work selected from KS3 and KS4 pupils. We displayed work from Year 8 and Year 11 GCSE coursework, and these pupils had an opportunity to view their work at a private view before the exhibition opened to the public. The work was much admired, and we look forward to making another selection next year.

Mrs Day, Head of Art



Far left (clockwise from top left): Drawings by Brandon Lui, Sam Herring, William Hobro, Maika Marshall (Year 8). Below left: GCSE work by Aline Denise. Below right: Banner made in Activities Week by Year 8s (now Year 9) pupils.



## Update from Music

The Music Department has been buzzing this term with Year 7s composing their first pieces, Year 8s continuing to unpick pop and rock music, and Year 9s completing a major listening and written milestone. Well done to all! Year 10s are discovering imitative polyphony and we have just heard their first performance. Bravo to all! Year 11s have completed a substantial chunk of their coursework, and we have so enjoyed hearing their performances and compositions. We have enjoyed two jazz band outings to the Cambridge Jazz Festival and Stapleford Granary, and we've even been painted! The visit from the National Youth Choir who worked with all of Year 7 and singers in Year 10 and 11 was a real highlight of the term, alongside our trip to King's College Carol Service. With one week to go, we are working really hard to prepare for our own Carol Service at Great St Mary's. Thank you to all the pupils who are so committed in their work for this, we can't wait to see you all there!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Year 7s enjoying their National Youth Choir singing workshop

## Bronze Sawston CARE Pledges

It is wonderful to see some of our Year 8 and 9 pupils have completed all four sections of their Bronze Sawston CARE Pledges. These pupils will be awarded their badges and certificates during our celebration assemblies before Christmas. I look forward to seeing more pupils taking part, aiming high, being kind and working hard in order to tick off pledges in their passports and earn their bronze badges next term.

Miss Gelder, Deputy Principal

## Update from Computer Science

Computing update at Key Stage 3: pupils in Year 7 have been busy learning about eSafety and presenting this information in their own websites; very timely considering the Government's Online Safety bill. In Year 8 we have liaised with Drama as they are producing a silent movie, and pupils have learnt how to edit this using Shotcut video editor. Some have even used special effects in their tryouts with chroma keying. And Year 9 are making good progress writing their text adventure game in Python, having planned out a series of environments as part of their homework. And the Amazon Alexa Young Innovator challenge is on the horizon.

Mr Morson, Subject Leader of Computer Science



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard

## Professional Learning

Over the term we have been looking to develop a number of areas around our main focus of 'Inclusive Classrooms'. Mrs Wagstaff led a very informative session with all of our teaching staff on Sequencing of Learning and a further session will be led by Ms Jackson-Buckley on the theme of questioning later in the term. Mrs Morris, our SEND Coordinator, has continued to deliver Teaching and Learning briefings highlighting techniques and approaches that will support the work of pupils and our fantastic team of Teaching Assistants in our classrooms. Also, this term our Excellence in Teaching team has been exploring the new Professional Learning platform that has been developed by Anglian Learning to support development across the whole of the College staff.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



## Language Learning Skills

Learning a language requires frequent practice. When it comes to vocabulary learning, little and often is best, with frequent revisiting of vocabulary to ensure it remains in pupils' long term memory. Your children are routinely set vocabulary learning homework and tested in the lesson. We encourage pupils to experiment with a range of techniques and strategies (flashcards, mind-maps, look-say-cover-write-check, to name a few) in order to develop the most efficient method for them to learn. The MFL department also uses the website [Quizlet](#) to help pupils revise in a more fun, interactive way. The app can be downloaded on phones and tablets to practise anytime, anywhere, and so your support in helping your child revise and test themselves at home would be much appreciated!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



## Rugby Festival 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! We entered two teams into this 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.

Mr Bond, Deputy Head of PE

Well done to the Year 7 girls who took part in the Rugby Festival.



## And finally:

We wish everyone a happy and relaxing Festive Season and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Thursday, 5 January 2023.



## House News

As the Christmas holiday approaches we are preparing shoeboxes in mentor groups to give to three local charities, Jimmy's Cambridge, John Huntingdon's Charity and CHS Group. In Houses we have competed in the Geography Bake off, the Maths Challenge and the Christmas Card design competition. This half term our focus has been on the Ambition strand of our CARE values and aiming high with determination and a can-do attitude. We will be celebrating competition entrants and winners, House points, awards and other special achievements in our celebration assemblies at the end of term.

Mrs Fink, Head of Turing House, on behalf of the Heads of House



## Update from RE

We are preparing for our first trip of the year, with a number of Year 8s heading to Bedford exploring a gurdwara, church and mosque. This will be a perfect opportunity to explore the religion of Sikhism further and ask Sikhs their views on equality and their faith. The 'Big Questions' group has been discussing some very topical issues, with our Year 11 pupils taking the lead. It has been wonderful listening to their insightful and well informed discussions. The Year 10 GCSE pupils have recently been exploring the ethical question around the right to take a life, performing their very own mock trial, using evidence, case studies and an array of different beliefs to help formulate their own conclusions. It has been another busy term, and the pupils have all worked incredibly hard. I hope you all have a restful Christmas break.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

## STEM Club Updates

**Junior STEM club** are a lively and enthusiastic bunch. They have enjoyed doing maths puzzles, making snow (look what that caused!!), physics experiments, creating crystals but most of all enjoyed investigating batteries made from fruit (and the odd potato). The idea is that fruits contain acid which participates in chemical reactions that make electrons flow, thus creating electricity. The pupils were given free rein(deer) to try any fruits and metal combinations. Results were recorded and challenged by their peers, all part of the scientific process (just louder than might be expected). A big thank you to the teachers that run the club but most of all to the fantastic science technicians that provide the equipment and chemicals.

**Senior STEM club** have been busy coming up with their initial design for a robot to compete in Hills Road Sixth Form's annual competition. This year imagines we live in a post apocalyptic world run by robots, and we have to design a robotic sheepdog to herd cube shaped sheep around an arena. We are entering two teams of Year 10s and Year 11s who have spent this term prototyping their hardware design and getting the fleas ironed out of the sheepdog's software. Next term we will build the actual robots and look at competition strategies aimed at scoring the most points.

Mrs Philpott, Acting Head of Science

