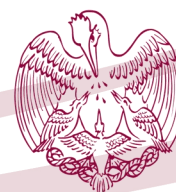


# January / February 2023 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

21-22 Feb	Year 11 Additional Mock Exams
23 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
23 Feb	Sawston Cinema: NT Live <i>Othello</i>
3 Mar	Year 8 Report 2 issued
8 Mar	Year 11 Exam Information Evening
10 Mar	Year 7 Report 2 issued
10 Mar	GCSE Options deadline
13 Mar	Year 11 Group Photo

13 Mar	Year 11 Careers Carousel
14-15 Mar	Year 11 Scripted Performances
15 Mar	Parents' Day
17 Mar	Year 10 Report 2 issued
23 Mar	Year 7 Parents' Evening
23 Mar	Year 9 vaccinations
24 Mar	Year 11 Report 3 issued
24 Mar	West Road Concert
30 Mar	Sawston Cinema: NT Live <i>Life of Pi</i>
31 Mar	Spring term ends

## From the Principal



Life should be an adventure and a journey of discovery. We try our best to provide pupils with ample opportunities to explore different places, to try different things and to embrace different cultures. This term, trips to Walsingham, Bedford's holy centres, and *Science Live!* at Cambridge Corn Exchange have done just that. Further afield, 68 of our Year 11 pupils have visited Berlin and, poignantly,

given we marked Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, Sachsenhausen concentration camp. We have also hosted 24 delightful Spanish exchange pupils, who set about helping our own Year 10s practise their Spanish and compare school experiences. Closer to home, our Year 11 musicians performed at the wonderful Stapleford Granary and enjoyed the chance to play a Steinway. And even closer, but transporting themselves to LA in the 1920s, pupils and ex-pupils alike put on their dancing shoes to sing in the rain in SYD's latest excellent production.

It's in lessons, too, that pupils can find inspiration from different corners of the world or be challenged to be creative, follow their

passions or learn to be curious. Whether it's performing the calming gamelan from Java or the djembe rhythms of Senegal and Burundi or seeking artistic inspiration from the colourful César Manrique or using computing software to understand the Maths of Flight, our pupils are encouraged to travel beyond themselves. Apt then, that Year 8s have been exploring the silent graphic novel of Australian Shaun Tan, whose work, *'The Arrival'*, tells the story of every migrant, every refugee and every displaced person and is a tribute to all those who have made the journey.

Wherever you may be this February half term, we hope you arrive safely and our children enjoy the journey, even if it's one of imagination and wonder in the comfort of their homes.

'You have brains in your head. Feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.' (*Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Dr Seuss)

Mr Russell, Principal



Year 8s have been studying Shaun Tan's work *'The Arrival'*.

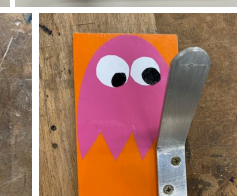
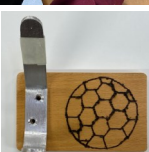
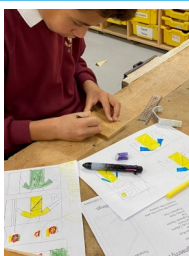
## Budding Engineers (Part 2)

In the Nov / Dec newsletter, we looked at how the Year 7s had approached their Engineering module and promised you would see some of the end results of their hard work in this newsletter.

Once their coat hooks had been produced within the 3mm tolerance, the next stage was to create a backing plate in order to mount the hook.

Continuing with the sustainable schools theme, the backing plates were produced using reclaimed beech hardwood. Pupils then personalised the plate, using a pyrograph technique. They produced some excellent results, combining accuracy and creativity. Well done, Year 7!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Year 7s produced some excellent end results in DT.



Sawston  
Adult  
Learning



ANGLIAN  
LEISURE  
SAWSTON



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

## Business Studies Update

In January, Year 11s had the opportunity to participate in the Business Studies trip to the Snozone in Milton Keynes. They were given an educational talk by one of the directors, which was really interesting, and asked some excellent questions on how the business operated. Pupils were then allowed



some 'slope time', having good old fashioned fun sledging. Year 10 pupils are deepening their understanding of how small businesses start up and have recently been covering concepts such as break-even, cash-flow forecasts and sources of finance.

All pupils are reminded about the resources available on the Pupil Drive:

[Year 10 - Theme 1](#) and [Year 11 - Theme 2](#)

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies



## Update from English

This spring half term has been a varied one in the English department. Year 7s have been exploring poetry and then have been writing their own poems and performing them to their class whereas Year 8s have been exploring the power of pictures and practising their inference skills when reading the graphic novel *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. Following their Year 9 English exam, pupils have been exploring parent-child relationships in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* while Year 10s have begun their second literature set text: Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, along with focusing on transactional writing for their Language exam. Year 11s are now well into the swing of revision ready for their additional mock exams: Language Paper 1 exam and Literature Paper 1 (*Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*).

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English



## Sawston Adult Learning

With weekly spring term courses up and running, attention is now

focused on our Saturday workshops on 11 March 2023. So, if you fancy treating your garden to a willow plant support wigwam – made by you, learning Bollywood dancing, playing the drums, improving your Indian cooking skills or developing your sketching techniques, check out our website. Looking ahead to potential course possibilities for the next academic year, if you feel you have a skill that you could share with others by tutoring a course, please do get in touch; we'd love to hear from you. Visit our website [www.sawstonadultlearning.org](http://www.sawstonadultlearning.org), email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org), or phone 01223 712424.



You can make a willow plant support wigwam.

Mrs Hayes Adult Learning Manager



## Maths Update

This half term we welcomed guests from Cambridge Launchpad and MathWorks to speak to Year 9. MathWorks is a developer of mathematical computing software that provides mathematical support to companies by finding innovative solutions to real life, everyday problems. Pupils have been invited to write a paragraph about why Maths and Science are important for aircraft designers. The best entries will be invited to take part in a project day about The Maths of Flight, later in the term.

Also:



Sawston's speed-cube craze has taken an artistic turn. Using a mosaic board and 100 mini 3x3 cubes, our cubers are making fun pixel art. Do you recognise this character from a popular computer

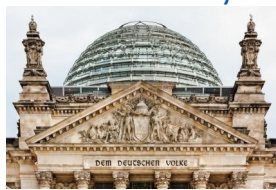
game? (Remember: you can learn how to solve a speed-cube at Wednesday's Rubik Clube.)

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



## Extracurricular opportunities in History return!

This term sees the first trip abroad for the History department



since COVID. 68 Year 11 pupils will be going to Berlin to see amazing sites, including the Reichstag building, the Brandenburg gate and the very poignant Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Pupils will benefit from some expert-led tours and the fantastic guiding of Mr Reed. Later this year, we will be running two more residential trips to Hastings, for Year 11 just before Easter and Year 10 at the end of June after the success of last year's trip.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History



## SAWSTON CINEMA

Coming up:  
NT Live: *Othello* - 23 Feb 23  
NT Live: *Life of Pi* - 30 Mar 23

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

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

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



## ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

With 15 classes per week, here at Anglian Leisure

Sawston there is something for everyone. We have just added Rebounding to the list too! This is a fun workout on a mini trampoline! Our timetable includes the following classes: Zumba, Pilates, Aquafit, Revolutions, Kettlercise, Bootcamp, Yoga, Triplefit and an Inclusive Physical Activity group. Group exercise is an excellent way to motivate yourself and others! Also, starting this month, we have a Weight Watchers class. This will take place on a Monday from 1.00-2.00 pm on the squash court. For further information, please contact: [michelle.allen@ww.com](mailto:michelle.allen@ww.com). We hope to see you all soon!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager

Email: [sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk](mailto:sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk)

Facebook: [anglianleisure\\_sawston](https://www.facebook.com/anglianleisure_sawston)

Twitter: @al\_sawston

Instagram: [anglianleisure\\_sawston](https://www.instagram.com/anglianleisure_sawston)



## Geography Update

Year 7s have just started a brand new enquiry in Geography - Is there a climate emergency? This is a brand new topic this year, and pupils have impressed with their questions and enthusiasm. They have investigated the natural and human causes of climate change and studied the effects that climate change is having across the world, including our shrinking glaciers and extreme weather. Pupils have produced some impressive posters to share the shocking effects that climate change is having. Pupils will be able to use this



knowledge of climate change throughout their KS3 and GCSE learning. What do you think? Are we living in a climate emergency?

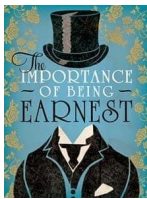
Miss Evans,  
Head of Geography





## Update from Drama

Following the huge success of the Shakespeare Schools festival at The Apex, we are proud to announce exciting future news! After half term it is our LAMDA launch with our tutor in residence joining us every Tuesday to teach and prepare Year 7s for their first exams in the summer.



We will be announcing auditions and dates for our actors in Years 10 and 11 to perform in a production of Oscar Wilde's '*The Importance of Being Earnest*'. In March we have our GCSE exam performance evenings, which present a showcase of extracts from some excellent new dramatists. Finally, to The Junction for a flavour of how the theatre industry works, including workshops such as lighting design and a physical theatre workshop. We continue to be as busy as our ambitious, creative and diligent pupils demand, which makes us a very busy, very happy department.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



## Update from Music

The Music department returned to school in January following a wonderful Carol Service at the end of last term. Congratulations to all the pupils involved, they did themselves and the school proud. Our ensembles have continued to rehearse this term and are working towards our next concert at West Road Concert Hall on Friday, 24 March, more information to follow. On the concert front, the Year 11 GCSE Music class recently performed at Stapleford Granary to raise money for the Year 11 ball. It was a fantastic evening, and they demonstrated what a talented bunch they are. Bravo Year 11! In Music lessons, Year 7s have gone back in time to the Renaissance period and have been playing (and dancing) various Renaissance dances and learning about duple and triple metre. Year 8s have been tracing the origins of pop and rock music and have put together class performances and compositions. Year 9s have been performing the calming and contemplative gamelan music of Java, or getting their hands around the syncopated djembe rhythms of Senegal and Burundi. Year 10s have started their GCSE course and have performed their first Concerto Grosso by Corelli, whilst Year 11 have just begun to look at music for film and games with an exploration of John Williams' Star Wars leitmotifs. Finally, good luck to all Sawston Village College pupils who are performing in SYD Seniors' production of Singin' in the Rain this week!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



## Year 10s showcase their skills with decorative tarts

Over the last half term, our Year 10 pupils have been making some complex-skill dishes, such as profiteroles, mini quiches, decorative Victorian sponge cakes and ravioli made with handmade flavoured pasta.

For their recent milestone assessment, they baked delightful fruit and chocolate tarts as an opportunity to showcase their decorating skills, such as feathering icing, making chocolate shards and using fruit coulis to add a pop of colour. They also garnished the tarts with edible viola and fresh mint from our DT garden, while becoming more mindful of the environmental impact of food miles.

Our pupils have been learning about shortening, the process that enables pastry to crumble and melt in the mouth, and gaining an appreciation of the science behind their dishes.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



## Year 7s impress in Art

The start of a new term is an exciting one in the Art department as first projects come to an end. This half term Year 7s have been particularly impressive. Having studied the work of Yellena James and César Manrique, pupils combined techniques to create their own 'Crazy Fish'. Their colourful designs were a culmination of a term working on understanding the visual elements, with the theme of 'under the sea' and a focus on pattern, shape and colour.



Well done Year 7!  
Mrs Day,  
Head of Art

Crazy Fish by Year 7 pupils.

Clockwise from top left, work by:

Yusha Ahnaf,  
Anjali Sreeju,  
Jacob Frampton and  
Keira Hancock.



## Holocaust Memorial Day

We marked Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January with a filmed introduction to this year's theme: '*Ordinary People*' by Professor Tom Lawson, former pupil, historian of the Holocaust and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Northumbria University. Pupils were then invited to write their reflections on labels for a dedicated display in school.



## Computer Science Update

This term Year 7s have been getting to grips with coding challenges, learning the importance of sequencing in algorithms and how to make programs more efficient. Year 8s have been getting excited about autonomous cars and a question of morality; using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) platform – The Moral Machine – they have been playing out a number of scenarios which programmers face when forcing computers to make moral decisions! And Year 9s have been developing their digital skills using Affinity Photo to create some quite stunning pieces of digital artwork. Pupils in Year 11 are close to completing the syllabus before embarking upon a program of revision.

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 continued to develop our thinking around our main focus of 'Inclusive Classrooms'. We will be completing our second staff development session on questioning led by Miss Cook, Mr Barnett and Ms Blois. Our Excellence in Teaching team has begun to look at an exciting development package that has been put together by Anglian Learning, which brings together the work of the National College and WALKTHRU. These are teacher development materials that have been created by Tom Sherrington and Oliver Caviglioli. The team has developed sets of targeted resource packages from the information and resources that are available on our new Anglian Learning Connect platform. These are then being circulated to staff who have highlighted an interest in that specific area.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



## Update from Languages

It has been another busy half term in MFL as pupils continue to develop their language skills and practise vocabulary, grammar and phonics whilst finding out about foreign cultures. Year 7s have been practising key verbs (such as to have, to be and to do) and related vocabulary and are starting to be able to build a wider range of sentences. Year 8 pupils have been focusing on building different tenses and are starting to be able to use the future and/or past tenses. Year 9 pupils are now juggling three tenses and increasingly complex grammatical structures. Year 10 and 11 pupils are covering the GCSE themes, revisiting key stage 3 concepts and furthering their knowledge of tenses and grammar while extending their vocabulary knowledge. Well done to all pupils for their hard work. We wish you all a restful half term break. Why not find a foreign film or series on a streaming platform and watch it with your child with English subtitles?

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



## Sports Leaders Success

This half term our Year 9 Sports Leaders had their first experience of leading in the community, setting up and leading a mini athletics event for Years 3 and 4 at our feeder primary schools. The leaders showed great enthusiasm and put into practice a lot of the skills and behaviours we have been learning about in our lunchtime sessions.

The feedback from both the primary pupils and their teachers has been exemplary, and we are looking forward to inviting the successful Year 3 and 4s to Sawston Village College after half term for the grand final. Next half term the Year 9s will be leading an event for Years 1 and 2, in which they can develop their skills and experience even further. Well done Sports Leaders!

Mrs Andersen, PE Teacher



Sports Leaders worked with pupils in Years 3 and 4.

## And finally:

We wish everyone a relaxing half term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday, 20 February 2023.



## House News

The first half term after the Christmas break is one of the toughest due to the dark nights and cold weather. However, time has flown, with much to celebrate and warmer indoor social spaces open for pupils. We are looking to extend our support for pupils with regards to their mental health, with a range of mentor time activities available during Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, and we finish this half term, as ever, with our House Assemblies where we celebrate pupils with the highest number of House points, those who have achieved awards and those nominated for their **Respect** towards others and the community.

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



## Trips in RE

It has been wonderful being in a position to offer pupils an opportunity to get involved in trips again this term. We first had our Year 8 trip to Bedford, where pupils explored the religions of Sikhism, Islam and Christianity, and were able to ask lots of questions. Most recently, our Year 10 GCSE pupils went on a tour of the Shrine at Walsingham, learning all about the importance of the town and pilgrimage for visitors. Thank you to all those involved. We hope to be able to continue to offer as many opportunities as we can for others to participate in.

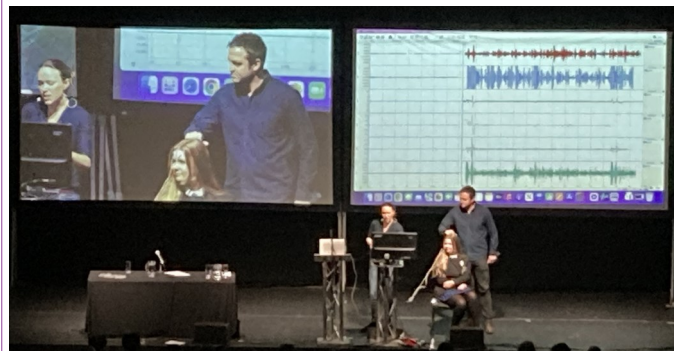


Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

## GCSE Science Live!

At the end of January we had a wonderful time at the Cambridge Corn Exchange at the *GCSE Science Live!* event, with over 1,000 other GCSE students. We heard talks on varied subjects such as 'Obesity: is it a choice?', how our brains work, archaeology, time travel and how the zebra/beetroot got its stripes. We also heard from an AQA GCSE lead examiner on top tips for success in our Science exams. It was amazing to hear from and be inspired by top experts in their field, including: Professor Alice Roberts, Professor Jim Al-Khalili and Dr Hannah Critchlow.

Ms Friesner, Science Teacher



Pupils enjoyed the *GCSE Science Live!* event in Cambridge.



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