

3 February 2023



**Sawston  
Village College**

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round-Up**

Last night, we enjoyed a marvellous concert at the Stapleford Granary performed by our Y11 GCSE musicians. Congratulations to all those involved for the wonderfully eclectic programme. We also hosted our Y10 meet the mentor evening and it was nice to hear that so many pupils are enjoying the step up to the challenges of KS4. This week, our mathematicians took part in Maths Challenges and those in the Rubik's Club have not just been solving the puzzles in record time but enjoying creating pixel art with their 90 mini cubes, too. Next week, the Berlin trip departs on Thursday for what is always a highly engaging and moving exploration of the city's history. We hope they enjoy the trip.

### **NEW Children's Mental Health Week, February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Pupils have already begun to think about this over the past couple of weeks through entering our 'Be Kind' Poster competition and nominating others to be celebrated for being supportive friends. The focus this year is 'Let's Connect' - we are encouraging pupils to consider how they can connect with others and how these positive connections can boost their wellbeing. In mentor time next week, we will be getting creative and playing games around this theme and our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be hosting a Feel-Good-Friday event during lunchtime next Friday. To find out more information visit the [Place2be](https://www.place2be.org.uk/) website. If you have concerns about your child's mental health, [keep-your-head](https://www.keep-your-head.org.uk/) is a local website for finding out about services. You can also contact your child's mentor or year lead for further signposting and support.

### **NEW Marven Centre drainage works**

Work will start on February 13<sup>th</sup> until May 5<sup>th</sup> to fix the drainage system by the Marven Centre. This should stop the Marven Centre flooding after heavy rainfall. It will involve significant groundwork and excavation on the car park in front of the Marven Centre. It will also mean that pedestrian access to the Marven Centre will only be via the side entrance. There will be no car parking available at the front of the Marven Centre and parents should avoid using this as a drop-off point. The Marven Centre drive will not be affected and will still be used as the main exit for the site.

### **NEW Year 11 Statement of GCSE Exam Entries**

Next week, Year 11 pupils will receive a statement of their GCSE exam entries for this summer. Please can we ask that these are checked carefully, signed and returned by February 28<sup>th</sup>. More detailed instructions will be enclosed with the statement.



### **NEW SYD's 'Singing in the Rain'**

The SYD Seniors production of 'Singing in the Rain' is being performed at the Marven Centre on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for Saturday are sold out. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets can be bought at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sawstonyouthdrama>

### **NEW Industrial Action, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

Thank you for your patience and understanding on Wednesday. We recognise that many families will have been disrupted by the industrial action; we are grateful to you for supporting your children to complete the online work. Y11 and the pupils who attended our vulnerable and critical worker provision really impressed in their attitude, politeness and focus on what may have been an unsettling day for them. They demonstrated great maturity and we would like to thank them for this.

Below is a statement from Sawston's NEU Rep which represents his members' position on the industrial action they undertook:

*'Our members took the difficult decision to join teachers going on strike across the UK. By not providing funding to schools for a pay adjustment, the government is hiding cuts to school budgets. The long-term impact of this will be fewer teachers, support staff and resources. This is on top of a decade of austerity, the Covid-pandemic and a retention crisis in our profession. If we want what is best for our pupils, we must stand up now and demand proper investment for our schools.'*

### **NEW Reduce-Reuse-Recycle**

The school now has a [donations](#) section in the new Going Greener section of our website. Please take a look at the suggested items we are looking for, which include anything from Pringles tubes, loom bands to scrap wood. Pupils can drop off any smaller items at the relevant departments. Please contact the school regarding the donation of any larger items.

### **NICE TO KNOW Maths Challenge**

Forty four pupils had the opportunity to participate in the UKMT intermediate maths challenge on Thursday the February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The UKMT is a charity which promotes the many benefits of having a good understanding of maths, not just in the classroom, but in the wider world. The maths challenges are designed to promote problem solving. Pupils at Sawston have, in the past, performed extremely well in these challenges, which can lead to the pupils participating in follow-on challenges and even the possibility of taking part in a summer school. We eagerly look forward to receiving our results in the next few weeks.

### **COMMUNITY Workshop: Online Safety and Your Child**

i3 are holding a workshop 'Online Safety and Your Child' on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Please follow [this](#) link for more information.

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Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell