

March / April 2023 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

31 Mar - 4 Apr	GCSE History Hastings trip	2 May	Year 11 group photo
1- 5 Apr	GCSE Geography Iceland trip	7 May	Sawston Fun Run
17 Apr	Summer term begins	9 - 10 May	Year 10 Drama devised performances
20 Apr	Cinema Screening: NT Live - <i>Good</i>	12 May	HPV vaccinations (Year 8)
21 Apr	HPV vaccinations (Years 9 and 10)	18 May	Cinema Screening
24 Apr - 3 May	Year 10 exams	19 May	Year 8 Report 3 issued
26 Apr	Junior Maths Challenge	19 - 21 May	Y10 DofE Silver Award Training Weekend
27 Apr	Cinema Screening: <i>Living</i>	25 May	Cinema Screening: <i>Empire of Light</i>
		25 May	Year 10 Parents' Evening

From the Principal



The Marven Centre drainage project should be complete just after the Easter break. With a new attenuation tank, we should no longer experience the flooding which has caused so much damage to the flooring inside the building. We will be replacing the flooring during the holidays. In the longer term, the Marven Centre is one of a number of buildings scheduled for full refurbishment when the DfE capital

project begins. We hope to be able to share some good news on this front early in the summer term; there's been over a year's delay on the feasibility phase of the project but we are creeping closer to an exciting resolution.

Unfortunately, this term has been disrupted by industrial action. The NEU has been striking for better pay for teachers and, more significantly, for any pay settlement to be fully funded rather than taken from already squeezed budgets. We had all hoped that an agreement could have been reached but the Government offer looks like being rejected by most unions, who are being balloted again this week with the prospect of further strikes in the summer

term. We will do our best to ensure there is minimal disruption to Year 11 classes but this may be even more challenging next time if the NASUWT joins the NEU in taking action. If more than one union strikes, most of our teachers would potentially be involved. Pay and working conditions are having an impact on recruitment and retention in teaching. In addition, there are far fewer graduates coming into the profession, and some subject areas are particularly short staffed. We are not immune to this national crisis and in this post-pandemic world, many more staff are re-evaluating their options, seeking flexible working and choosing different career pathways.

We have a number of leavers this half-term: Mr Morson, Head of Computing, has moved house and has a new post closer to home; Mrs Haque, English, has been attracted back to her old school; Mr West, Teaching Assistant, is heading to Canada to start a new life; Mrs Ginger, Food, is stepping down from her full-time commitments and working part-time elsewhere; and, Ms Whittaker, PE, finishes her short-term contract with us and is replaced full-time by Mr Loveday. We have made a number of excellent appointments for September and we continue to recruit.

'There is nothing permanent except change' Heraclitus

Mr Russell, Principal



Update from Music

Music department write having just held our annual concert at West Road. All pupils performed brilliantly and the breadth and depth of talent on display was fantastic. Well done to all of you, from the Year 11s who were there for the last time (the costumes will never be forgotten) to the Year 7s performing at their first concert. Have a well deserved break over Easter! Thank you to all the staff who attended and helped and all the parents, carers and friends who came along. Ensembles and groups will be welcoming new members after Easter so do get involved! A number of pupils have also taken up instrument lessons over the past term. If there are any pupils out there who would like some taster lessons, please let Miss Irwin know. We currently have spaces for lessons on violin, viola, cello and double bass, trumpet, french horn, trombone and tuba, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone and bassoon. In the classroom

we are finishing up projects this week. Year 11s will have handed in all of their coursework for their GCSE, with final ensemble recordings taking place this week. Year 10s are finishing up their Concerto through Time, enjoying the virtuosity of the Romantic period (Rachmaninov Piano Concerto no.2 is my recommendation for Easter listening). Year 9s are performing, Year 8s are composing and Year 7s are listening and appraising. Well done everyone!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Sawston
Adult
Learning



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

Business Studies Update

Year 11s have been working hard on completing the last few topics of their course and have undertaken a recent mock examination. Pupils are reminded that revision sessions are being held every Tuesday after school which will recap the main themes of the specification. There are additional sessions being provided for some pupils who are still struggling with their examination technique. All pupils are advised to keep an eye out for their sessions on the bulletin.

Year 10 pupils are nearing the end of the Year 10 programme of study and they have been advised of the topics they need to revise for their forthcoming mock examination. They have also just embarked on a little assignment which has sparked some major interest from them. I hope we can share the results of this assignment in future newsletters.

Pupils are reminded that resources are on the Pupil Drive, especially the virtual classrooms which are a useful revision resource.

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

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Geography Fieldwork

This year saw the return of fieldwork for our GCSE Geographers. In March, pupils visited the coastal town of Hunstanton to complete two separate fieldwork enquiries. In the Physical fieldwork, pupils investigated the effectiveness of coastal management along the beach, completing Environmental Quality Surveys and measuring the groynes across the beach. In their Human fieldwork enquiry, pupils focused on the impacts of tourism in the town, completing Land Use Surveys and conducting questionnaires with the public. Pupils engaged extremely well with the fieldwork and collected some excellent data. Pupils are now spending time in lessons presenting and analysing the data, in readiness for their exam in June. The public commented on the politeness of our pupils, which was fantastic to hear! Well done, Year 11!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

Maths Update

This half term our pupils have done us proud in several maths competitions, including the Intermediate Maths Challenge and the Year 10 Maths Feast hosted by Linton Village College. In February, 10 Year 9 pupils earned the chance to attend a workshop about the Maths of Flight. At the Mathworks offices in Cambridge, pupils investigated the effect of wing shape, wing size, and weight distribution on the flight of a paper plane. The final competition saw them put their skills to the test, aiming to

Update from English

Julia and the Shark, a novel recently chosen for the Carnegie Medal's Longlist, has been really enjoyed by Year 7s when they examine the big question of what makes us human. Year 8 has been exploring non-fiction writing and how the patriarchy impacts on the lives of men and women, and Year 9s are examining South African protest poetry in reaction to apartheid. Our Year 10 pupils are finishing *A Christmas Carol* and getting ready for their Year 10 English Language and Literature exams, whilst Year 11s are receiving feedback from their recent mock exams and are beginning the countdown to the real ones!

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English

History Trip to Berlin

68 Year 11 pupils went on the History trip to Berlin at the end of last half term. Pupils went to some fascinating sites to learn about the period of Nazi rule in Germany 1933-45 to support their understanding for their GCSE studies. Our visits included a guided tour of the German Resistance Museum, a visit to the Olympic Stadium and an audio tour of Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Pupils also enjoyed going up the TV tower and the German Parliament Building (the Reichstag) at night for some beautiful views over the city.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History



Pupils visit the Reichstag.

make a paper plane that travelled the farthest distance and a paper plane with the longest flight time. With lots of creativity and great teamwork, we were delighted that both our Sawston teams finished on the podium, with 2nd and 3rd place!

Miss Cook, Deputy Head of Maths



Pupils worked hard at the workshop.



Sawston Adult Learning

With spring just around the corner (I know it doesn't feel like it!), it's an

ideal time to venture out of winter hibernation and try something new. Maybe you could do with a bit of TLC? Try one of our exercise courses, where you can exercise, have fun and meet some new people. All of our courses for the Summer term are now on the website and are available to book by visiting the website or contacting the office.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Visit our website www.sawstonadultlearning.org, email community@sawstonvc.org, or phone 01223 712424.

Mrs Hayes Adult Learning Manager

Why not try Tap Dancing?



SAWSTON CINEMA

Coming up:
NT Live : *Good* - 20 Apr
Living - 27 Apr

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

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Ms Morgan, Arts Development Manager



ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

Here at Anglian Leisure Sawston, we are looking forward to running another National Pool Lifeguard course this summer. If you meet the criteria below and are interested in becoming a lifeguard, please contact: fharrower@sawstonvc.org for further details.

[Lifeguard Course Prerequisites](#)

Every candidate attending a NPLQ course must be 16 years old at the time of taking the NPLQ final assessment and be able to:

- Jump/dive into deep water;
- Swim 50 metres in less than 60 seconds;
- Swim 100 metres continuously on front and back in deep water;
- Tread water for 30 seconds;
- Surface dive to the floor of the pool;
- Climb out unaided without ladder/steps and where the pool design permits.

Course dates: 11 - 15 July 2023

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager

Update from Drama

The Drama department is as busy as ever and with so much to celebrate and look forward to. The Year 11s have just performed their live, recorded GCSE exams to an audience of family, friends and peers. Once again, our young actors made us immensely proud as they performed their scenes with poise and sophistication; play choices that challenged and stretched their skills range. The examiner was in on both nights, and the feedback was extremely positive. Bravo Year 11s!! New news includes two trips for our 10s and 9s respectively, one to The Arts to see 'Of Mice and Men' and the second, an exciting London trip to The Globe to see the new adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' Our KS4 actors will soon be starting rehearsals for the Oscar Wilde comedy, 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. In the same month we shall be gearing up for our Activities Week and producing a play in collaboration with the fantastic Music and Art departments. We, as always, wish to thank parents for their support of the Arts here at SVC and their phenomenally talented children! Bravo!!

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Chow Mein Champions in Food

In Food, our Year 8 and 9 pupils enjoyed cooking delicious vegetarian chow mein as a part of the "Food choices" module for their recent milestone. This helped them to experience a vegetarian meal after studying about different

Below: Work from Year 9
Right: Work from Year 8



types of diets. They continued to hone key knife skills by using professional cuts such as julienne when finely chopping peppers and spring onions, whilst mastering use of a wok. Our pupils took pride in the presentation of their dishes, through using edible flowers, herbs and sauces to achieve a restaurant-quality result. Overall, they had lots of fun and worked hard to show off what they could accomplish; our pupils should be very proud!

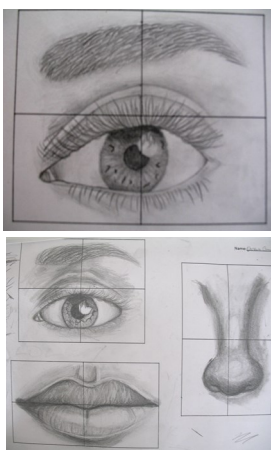
Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

A hive of activity in Art

The Art department continues to be a hive of activity with Year 11s working to complete portfolios and developing artwork for their exam after Easter. Year 9s are engaged in a project which looks at Campaign Art. They have researched the work of Alfred Leete and are exploring the work of street artists around the world. Year 7s have enjoyed using Modroc to complete model houses which will be decorated in the style of the Ndebele tribes from South Africa. Year 8s have been focusing on drawing skills and strengthening their knowledge of portraiture. Early studies have included facial features and understanding where these are positioned on the face. We look forward to seeing these artworks reach their conclusions in the summer term.

Year 8 artwork.
Top right by: Cam Dishaw
Bottom, left to right, by: Charlotte Norman, Dorota Grzegorzczak and Dasha Gomeniuk

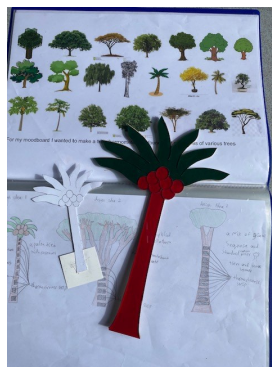
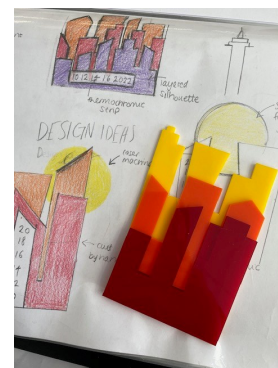
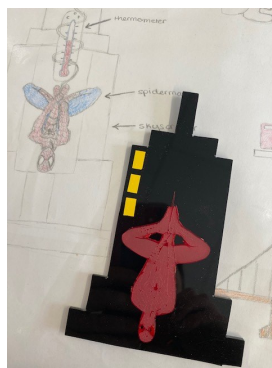
Mrs Day, Head of Art



Brightening up in DT

Year 10 D&T pupils have been enjoying a snappy mini design and make project based around smart materials and plastics. The brief was to produce a colourful thermometer made from acrylic and to include a thermochromic strip. Pupils have been learning to use CAD software, hand cutting techniques and how to operate the laser machine. Some very creative pieces are in development. Learning theory through practical lessons is always the preferred route for the pupils! I shall update on progress in the next edition.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Sawston Fun Run

Sawston Fun Run is taking place on 7 May 2023. Visit the Fun Run website for information on how to enter.

www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk

Computer Science Update

It has been an exciting term in Computing. Year 9 pupils have moved on from programming their text based games in Python and have been developing programs using the visual game development environment called GDevelop, whilst in Year 7 pupils have been programming using blocks of code and famous characters such as Anna, Elsa and BB8 to perform simple algorithms and iteration. Year 8 pupils are learning about the basics of business and all of the elements a business needs to manage, from advertising to finances. Next term there are some exciting topics approaching but I will be relinquishing the subject leader role as I am relocating. To all of the pupils I send my best wishes and hopes for the successes which they deserve.

Mr Morson, Subject Leader of Computer Science



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

During the second half of this term we have continued to develop our thinking around our main focus of 'Inclusive Classrooms'. We completed a number of staff-led sessions to continue our theme of developing reading across our curriculum, led excellently by Ms Jackson Buckley and Mrs Vincent. Our Excellence in Teaching team has also delivered a range of professional learning sessions on questioning and stages of practice. These are aimed at developing our teaching team's understanding and expertise in areas of Rosenshine's principles of instruction.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Let's talk languages

In Languages, we are ending the term with Year 10 speaking exams and have been impressed with the level of maturity and commitment to the subject pupils have displayed on their GCSE course so far. Year 11 pupils will be completing their final speaking exams just after the Easter holidays and are busy preparing and revising too. We wish them the best of luck with this (and lots of practice during the holidays!) Although the speaking element can feel daunting, it is a crucial part of mastering a language and building confidence. The work we have done on phonics at key stage 3 is supporting pupils with their pronunciation in the language(s) they are studying and each year group completes at least one speaking milestone per academic year to refine their skill and pave the way for further study.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



Pupils visit the Science Museum

We took 11 pupils to the Science Museum in London on 14 March. It was a fabulous day for the pupils, who were well behaved and enthusiastic during the whole trip. They really enjoyed the wonderlab gallery and took advantage of the many interactive experiments that were available to them, from friction slides to smoke machines. The pupils then went to the David Salisbury Gallery where they met a real technician who ran an interactive session analysing blood. The pupils really enjoyed the session. They were then allowed to explore the rest of the gallery and simulate the jobs of other technicians, such as marine technician, film lighting technician and many more. They also used the computers to predict what type of technician they would be best suited to as a future career, which they found very interesting and thought provoking.

Mr Korja, Science Teacher



Pupils were well behaved and enthusiastic throughout the trip.

House News

Spring brings so much encouragement, as we begin to see an increased amount of daylight and colour returning to gardens, bringing a real sense of joy around the school. This half term we have enjoyed Book Week with a wide range of activities around reading. Additionally, Science and Arts weeks have sought to engage pupils in these specialist areas, using innovation and creativity to inspire and encourage inquisitive minds. As we come to the end of the term, we will be celebrating our CARE value focus 'Endeavour' and are proud of all of our pupils' successes. Thank you for all your support and encouragement from home.

Mrs Riondino, Year 8 Lead,
on behalf of the Heads of House



Using stories in RE

The use of stories has been a big part of our KS3 lessons this half term. Year 7s have explored the great Hindu epic, the Ramayana, whilst Year 8s have been investigating different anti-racist worldviews through art, language and religious stories. Year 9s have moved towards more ethical discussions, focusing on gender equality and the roles of men and women within society, whilst our Year 10 short course pupils have been working incredibly hard on finalising their Philosophy projects, ready to present in May. Our full course Year 10 and 11 pupils have been revising and preparing for their upcoming exams, showing great dedication and eagerness to achieve their best. We hope all of our pupils have a wonderful Easter break and come back ready to tackle some big enquiry questions, such as: How do Buddhists respond to suffering? Is there an afterlife? Is it every right to test on animals? What is reality?

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

PE - Year 7 and 8 Netball Fixtures

There have been many memorable sporting fixtures this half term. One was the Year 7 and Year 8 Netball fixture against Bottisham Village College, where both Sawston teams were victorious, with Year 7s winning 5-4 and the Year 8 team winning with a score of 12-1!

It was great to see the progression the teams made from their first quarters to their last. For our Year 7 team Lizzie Abell was our POM for her brilliant defensive skills and control on the ball. A special shout out to Ashleigh Burns (Year 8), as her shooting skills were on fire (pardon the pun)! Our POM for Year 8 was Zara Williamson for being a consistent team player and helping to progress the ball towards our attacking third. Well done all!

Miss Stevens,
PE Teacher

The Year 7 and Year 8 Netball Teams



And finally:

We wish everyone a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday, 17 April 2023.



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