

# May / June 2023 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

<b>5 June</b>	School opens after half term
<b>8 June</b>	Sawston Cinema - NT Live: Best of Enemies
<b>15 June</b>	Sawston Cinema - NT Live: Fleabag
<b>11 - 16 June</b>	Year 9 Dalguise trip
<b>12 - 16 June</b>	Activities Week
<b>12 - 23 June</b>	Year 10 Work Experience
<b>21 June</b>	Jubilee Cup Athletics
<b>23 June</b>	Year 7 Report 3 issued
<b>28 June</b>	Year 6 to 7 Induction Day
<b>28 June</b>	YKS3 Music Concert

<b>29 June</b>	Year 6 to 7 Induction Evening
<b>30 June</b>	Year 9 Report 3 issued
<b>30 June</b>	Year 11 Leavers' Ball
<b>30 June - 3 July</b>	Year 10 Hastings Trip
<b>6 July</b>	Year 10 Business Studies Trip
<b>7 July</b>	Year 10 Report 3 issued
<b>7 July</b>	Fountain Court Outdoor Concert
<b>10 July</b>	Year 10 Art/Photography Trip
<b>13 July</b>	Year 9 Geography Hunstanton Trip
<b>13 July</b>	Cinema Club: Film Premiere Showcase
<b>19 July</b>	Summer Term Ends



## From the Principal

The industrial action of recent months has seen too much disruption to pupils' learning. Across the country, NEU teachers will have grappled with the difficult decision to strike or not to strike. No-one will have taken it lightly because they want to be teaching young people, they recognise the impact of Covid loss learning and they

know that pupils learn best with inspiring, passionate specialists in front of them. We need professionals who love what they do, care deeply about the pupils and feel valued. To achieve this, we need an education system funded fairly and properly resourced to tackle the increased level of needs.

It is concerning to learn this month that there is a 25% drop in the number of people signed up for teacher training courses in the East of England from September. This, combined with the current national recruitment and retention crisis, is putting a real strain on schools. Whatever the reasons for this national malaise,

it is important that we keep hold of what makes teaching and working in schools so special. It is when pupils show curiosity and wonder at the new learning they experience; it is when pupils show pride in what they do and respect for the people who work hard to support them; it is when pupils are polite and courteous, when they smile and when they laugh; it is when pupils adhere to the code of conduct and accept consequences with good grace; it is when pupils support each other to be kind, to be generous and to be inclusive, celebrating difference and rejecting hate; it is when pupils seize the positive opportunities placed in front of them and see the value in education, in learning, in giving of their best. It is the pupils of today who will make the teachers of tomorrow and, hopefully, secure the future for this honourable profession. They are the best recruitment advertisement that we have.

*'If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.'* - Chinese proverb

Mr Russell, Principal

## Cheerleading Success

On Saturday 13 May the Level 1 and Level 2 Cheerleading squads made their debut performances of the 2023 season, competing in a regional Cheerleading Competition in Crawley. The routine

incorporated an exciting blend of gymnastics and dance, with disciplines such as tumbling and stunting. Both teams put in an excellent performance, scoring over 75% in their respective categories. Our Level 2 team 'hit zero' (a clean routine with no falls), earning 2nd place, and our Level 1 team achieved a 1st place win! Congratulations to all of the pupils involved!

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



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Email: **office@sawstonvc.org** | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Adult Learning: **01223 712424** - **www.sawstonadultlearning.org**

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

## Business Studies Update



Just before Easter Year 10 pupils embarked on an assignment to make contact with businesses that they have a particular interest in. Pupils wrote business letters to their chosen organisation in the hope of getting a response. Some pupils have received responses from Cambridge United, Pokémon and Tom's Trunks, and some also sent free gifts, such as a discount voucher and signed merchandise. Year 11 had their Paper 1 exam last week, meaning that the focus is now on Paper 2. Pupils are reminded to use the resources on their Google Classroom, Satchel:One and the Pupil Drive to help prepare them for their next exam. I would like to wish them the best of luck in their examinations. It has been a joy to see them grow in confidence in this subject over the last two years.

**Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies**

## Geographers visit Iceland



At the beginning of the Easter holidays 44 Year 10 and 11 GCSE Geography pupils visited Iceland, our first international trip since 2018. Pupils had the opportunity to experience the amazing landscapes that Iceland has to offer, supporting their understanding of what they have learnt in the classroom. Highlights of the trip included the Kerio Crater, the black volcanic sand beaches at Reynisfjara and the spectacular waterfalls of Gullfoss, Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss. Pupils also visited the Lava Centre to learn more about tectonic activity in Iceland. Pupils conducted themselves brilliantly on the trip, even in the face of some pretty bad weather at times! Check out the Sawston Geography Department Twitter for more photos from our trip.

**Miss Evans, Head of Geography**



## Update from English



Year 7s began a new play this term, *Salem*, which meant choral reading of this play rang around the English block! Year 8s have been studying an abridged version of *Jane Eyre*, exploring a sense of belonging, and Year 9s have been exploring Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*, in particular looking at descriptive writing and creating setting and characterisation. Year 10 marks the beginning of pupils preparing for their Spoken Language GCSE exam, and Year 11 pupils are now into exams proper! We wish them all the best of 'vaulting ambition'!

**Ms Goodbrand, Head of English**

## History Trip



54 Year 11 pupils enjoyed a residential trip to the South Coast at the end of the spring term in support of their History GCSE. Pupils were exposed to a range of fascinating sites linked to their study of the Norman Conquest, from the Tower of London, to Battle Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. Pupils enjoyed trapeze and archery in our residential base, a PGL site in Hailsham, and also enjoyed the experience of laser tag on the final evening. The History department will also be taking Year 10 historians on the same trip later in this academic year from 30 June to 3 July in hopefully warmer weather.

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



## Update from Maths



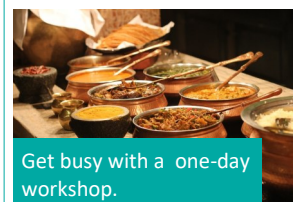
This term, Mr Slade and Mrs Goodwin accompanied two teams of brilliant mathematicians to the AMSP Maths Feast, hosted by Linton Village College. Competing against schools from across Cambridgeshire, our pupils had to collectively solve unusual and challenging mathematical problems against the clock. They did exceptionally well, winning one of the challenges and a prize for consistency. We are proud of



## Sawston Adult Learning

Our summer courses are now up and running.

However, there are still places available on some courses so there is still time to enrol, especially if you fancy trying something new for a few weeks without committing to the full



Get busy with a one-day workshop.

course. If you think that you might be interested, please do get in touch.

We also have

spaces on two of our one-day workshops planned for Saturday, 17 June; Indian stuffed breads and Drums for Beginners.

Visit our website:

[www.sawstonadultlearning.org](http://www.sawstonadultlearning.org),

email: [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org),

or phone: 01223 712424.

**Mrs Hayes,**

**Adult Learning Manager**



## ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

Here at Anglian Leisure Sawston we have been busy

preparing for half term. We have lots on offer, including group and private swimming lessons, trampolining, and a new Holistic self defence class called Shinjitae. We will also be offering extra family swim sessions on Wednesday, 31 May and Friday, 2 June 2.00-3.00pm. We will be closed on Monday, 29 May for the Bank Holiday. If you would like to book any of the activities on offer, please email: [fharrower@sawstonvc.org](mailto:fharrower@sawstonvc.org).

Wishing you all a lovely half term break!

**Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager**



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

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

their achievement and how well they represented the College.

**Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths**





## Update from Drama

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Joseph Morris, in Year 9, for being accepted by the National Youth Theatre this summer. We are so proud of him, and he so thoroughly deserves this exciting opportunity. Bravo Joseph! In other



Years, our fabulous 10s devised, wrote and performed their own, original works for family and friends; the Year 9 prospective GCSE actors took a trip to the Globe, in all its original glory, to see a spectacularly funny adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Next up is

the Year 8s and their own version of the same play, but with a team of talented designers, artists, musicians and technicians, all collaborating to produce a play in just four days. We do hope to see some of you at this and we thank you, as ever, for your supremely gifted children and your invaluable support.

**Ms Russ, Head of Drama**

## Farewell to our GCSE Food Pupils



As our remarkable Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils bid us farewell, we reflect on their two-year GCSE course. Throughout Year 11, they completed two coursework pieces

and have one Food written examination remaining on 20 June. The final practical lesson allowed them to have fun making a dish of their choice at Sawston Village College. They have also acquired skills in accommodating special diets, learning about the science behind cooking and mastering high-standard decoration. May they carry this knowledge and enthusiasm into their future culinary endeavours, impressing others with their exceptional cooking skills. Farewell, Year 11, and best wishes for the journey ahead!

**Mrs Shaw, Head of Food**

## Update from Art

It has been a busy term for pupils in the Art department. Year 7s are now concluding Part A of their Arts Award project, completing a cultural unit studying the style of the Ndebele people of South Africa. Year 8s are completing a self portrait, where they are reflecting on how they see themselves on the inside rather than their outside

appearance, and Year 9s are concluding a unit of work looking at street artists and the processes of screen printing a stencil.

**Mrs Day, Head of Art**



Artwork by:  
Top right: Zofia Zmija  
Top left: Grace Ormerod  
Bottom right: Storm Clapp  
Bottom left: Emily Yau

## Music Update

The Music Department have just waved goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 GCSE Music class. They have been a fantastic group and contributed in so many ways to the department. Thank you to them all and best of luck for all your musical future endeavours. This term has seen lots of pupils learning steel pans, Year 8s have been broadening their minds by exploring the question 'what is music?', and Year 7s have been creating their own Carnival of the Animals pieces. Year 10s have completed their first GCSE-style exams, and their results will be with them shortly. Well done to them for their hard work. Year 10 Music Tech pupils are also two thirds of the way through their course, with one final presentation to complete.

Ensembles are working hard preparing for the upcoming KS3 Concert and the Outdoor Gig. Please check the school calendar for more details and come along. ABRSM exams will be taking place at the end of the school year. Good luck to all pupils involved in these. There are lots of musical activities happening over the summer in Cambridge. Do look out for information about what to get involved in.

**Miss Irwin, Head of Music**



Pupils recently enjoyed the practice expedition for the Silver DofE.

## Computer Science Update

It has been a busy half term in Computer Science, with both the Creative iMedia Cambridge National and the Computer Science GCSE being assessed prior to the half term break. Fingers crossed!

Years 8 to 10 have been able to participate in a group game coding project, called FXP, which is run annually. They have to create a game based around the theme of 'Nikola

Tesla' (absolutely nothing to do with the cars and Mr Musk). We are currently putting together a more structured approach to utilising the computer rooms at break and lunchtime so that they can be used for homework completion and also for clubs which will enhance pupils' computing skills. Watch this space.

**Mr Kelly, Acting Head of Computer Science**



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard



## Professional Learning

In the first half of the summer term we have been continuing our work on developing reading across the whole curriculum. Ms Jackson-Buckley and Mrs Vincent have continued to deliver a number of sessions aimed at our subject departments, to evaluate and extend the reading that is happening across their curriculums. Our Excellence in Teaching team has also delivered further sessions on our Inclusive Classroom theme looking at the Stages of Practice aspect of Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. We are now looking to evaluate the work that has been completed this year, ahead of developing the Professional Learning programme for the next academic year.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



## Update from Languages

As well as saying goodbye to our amazing Year 11s this half term, we have said goodbye to our two wonderful foreign language assistants. Gabriel and Lisa joined us at the beginning of October and worked closely with Year 10 and 11 pupils on developing their listening and speaking skills in Spanish and French respectively. Pupils have valued the opportunity to work in smaller groups and to develop their conversational skills with native speakers and they have enjoyed finding out more about the culture of Spain and France in the process. We will be welcoming new assistants next academic year.

We wish the Year 11 pupils the best of luck for their GCSE exams and would like to congratulate them all for their hard work.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



## House News

As we reach the end of the first half term of the summer term, we look back at what we have achieved. We have enjoyed an extra Bank Holiday, completed Year 10 exams and started GCSEs as our field opens during social times, adding to the wellbeing of our pupils. Assemblies have covered a range of areas such as Diversity, Courage and 'Owning' ourselves, and we celebrated Diversity Week with a range of mentor time activities. As ever, we remain very proud of all our pupils as they try their hardest every day to be the best person that they can be.

Mrs Wombwell, Head of Mandela House and Year 10 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



## RE Update

While Key Stage 4 tackle pertinent GCSE topics like the ethics of Genetic Engineering or Peace and Conflict, pupils in Year 7 have been extending their knowledge of Dharmic religions by learning about the beliefs and practices of Buddhism over the past weeks. The Year 7s have been partaking in stilling exercises to deepen their understanding of meditation practice and have been considering the design of prayer flags as a way of learning what is important to Buddhists.

A huge well done to Year 7s for their work this term and good luck to those awaiting results over the summer!

Miss Gordon, Trainee Teacher



## Good Luck to our Leavers

Year 11s have successfully completed their coursework and are well into their revision schedule. The DT exam is one of the longest, with a whopping 120 minutes allocated for the paper.

We have been bringing the fun to revision sessions by using Blookit and Kahoot. They are both web-based quiz game platforms for group competitions. We have a packed schedule which includes topics like DT in the modern world through to Smart Materials, Electronics and Mechanical systems.

We would like to wish the Year 11s the best of luck in the exam and we also wish them the best of luck for their next educational chapter.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

**Year 8s perform  
A Midsummer Night's Dream at the  
Marven Centre**



**Friday  
16 June 2023  
Start: 1.45pm  
Finish: ca 2.45pm**

Tickets from:  
<https://sawstonvc.org/events/>

In Activities Week Year 8s will be working hard to rehearse, sing, dance, design and perform a short adaptation of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

## And finally:

We wish everyone a relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday, 5 June 2023.



## Junior STEM Club makes pinball machines

This half term in the Science department Junior STEM Club has been working on making some fully functional pinball machines.

Over the course of four sessions, 20 STEM club pupils put their engineering and team working skills to the test by making these machines out of cardboard, plastic tubing, and rubber bands using glue guns, drills, and scalpels. The Club managed to produce six machines, all of which worked, as well as decorating these and adding obstacles to them. This was the first project spanning four hour-long sessions, and Junior STEM Club rose to the challenge! Well done STEM Club!

Mr Williams,  
Trainee Teacher

