

# July / August 2023 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

1 Sept	Staff Training Day	30 Sept - 1 Oct	Bronze DofE Training Weekend
4 Sept	School open to Year 7 and Year 11 only	2 Oct	Year 11 Information Evening
5 Sept	School open to all year groups	5 Oct	Open Evening
5 Sept	Year 7 individual photographs	6 Oct	Staff Training Day
12 Sept	Year 7 Freshers' Fair	10 Oct	Year 9 Rugby Tournament
14-17 Sept	Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition	12 Oct	Year 11 Report 1 issued
21 Sept	Year 7 Meet the Mentor	17-18 Oct	Flu vaccinations
22 Sept	Post-16 Conference Day	17 Oct	Year 8 Rugby Tournament
26 Sept	HPV vaccinations	20 Oct	Half term ends
28 Sept	Cinema screening (Marven Centre)		



## From the Principal

As ever at this time of year, we have to say goodbye to a few staff. In recent years, especially during and since Covid, nationally and locally, we have seen higher turnover.

Whilst it is always sad and can seem concerning when good people move on, it is often uplifting and validating

to learn of their reasons and to share in their story.

It is fair to say most leave with a heavy heart from what they see as a happy, positive environment, something confirmed in the recent Ofsted report and staff surveys. We are fortunate to have so many staff progress in their careers, taking up promoted posts, embracing leadership and seeking new challenges elsewhere. They have honed their craft so well that their talents are plain for others to see when called to interview. Many have gone on to work for the Trust central services or in more senior positions. Others have retired,

changed careers, sought adventure abroad, relocated, moved closer to home or been forced to make difficult decisions as family circumstances change. However, what unites almost everybody is a strong connection to the College and their colleagues, a fondness for all that we are trying to achieve at Sawston for the pupils and an appreciation of the opportunities afforded to them. They speak of our values, our sense of community and how well they have been supported. We would wish they all could stay, not least to give pupils the stability they crave. But new staff can also bring new energy, build on the outstanding work of their predecessors and inspire young people in different ways. In this regard, Shakespeare may have been right that parting is such 'sweet sorrow'.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and send a huge thank you to everyone for your support this year.

*'There are far better things ahead than we ever leave behind.'*  
C.S Lewis

Mr Russell, Principal



## Year 8s travel abroad

This half term marked our first overseas travel since the pandemic, and it was lovely to take pupils to France and Spain.

Year 8 South flew off to Barcelona very early on Monday, 12 June. We arrived in lovely sunshine and set off for a walking tour around the Gothic quarter. On Tuesday, we explored Park Güell and bought some souvenirs in Las Ramblas, the most iconic street in

the city. Wednesday involved a visit of CosmoCaixa, the science museum, and the pupils enjoyed the interactive Pixar exhibition, before we



set off to Poble Espanyol. On Thursday, pupils visited a local secondary school and we managed to include one last visit on Friday before coming home, having saved the jaw-dropping Sagrada Familia for last.

Year 8 North Band's trip to Paris began with a walking tour around Montmartre, known for its artistic history and the Basilica on the hill, followed by a visit up the modern Montparnasse tower to see the incredible view of the capital. On day two, we took a trip to the Stade de France before heading to a Chocolate Factory and walking around some other famous sites, such as the Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral. On our final day, we climbed up the iconic Eiffel Tower and went on a boat cruise along the river Seine. The weather was incredibly hot, but we had an amazing time. Well done to all the pupils on the trips for making it such a great week.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



Sawston  
Adult  
Learning



New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP | Telephone: **01223 712777** | Twitter: **@SawstonVC** | **www.sawstonvc.org**

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

## Business Studies Update

In Business Studies, Year 10s have started to work on Year 11 topics, and we have almost completed one section of the Year 11 content. We have been investigating how businesses grow and operate on an international scale. The highlight this term has been the successful visit to Newmarket Racecourse, where pupils were able to get a behind-the-scenes look at the industry of Horse Racing, and also the hospitality industry due to the racecourse being a popular venue



for a variety of different events throughout the year. Pupils also got the opportunity to use jockey simulators. It has been lovely to hear about pupils' work experience placements and how they have considered some of the theories we have covered this year. I wish all my Year 10s a restful and enjoyable summer.



If any parents own or work for a business that would be

interested in creating links with the Business Studies department, please contact Mrs Neesam ([eneesam@sawstonvc.org](mailto:eneesam@sawstonvc.org)). It would be great to build up some business links in the local area.

**Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies**

## Geographers busy with fieldwork

We have been fortunate to get our Year 7 and 8 pupils out of the classroom in their last few Geography lessons completing fieldwork around the school site. Year 7s have been focusing on environmental quality as part of their enquiry, with Year 8 investigating Microclimates.

Before the end of term our new GCSE pupils from Year 9 will be visiting Hunstanton to understand more about coastal landscapes and the processes, supporting their learning in the classroom.

We are also planning more extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities for next year! We have just launched the RGS Young Geographer of the Year and summer competitions. Speak to your Geography teachers for more information!

**Miss Evans, Head of Geography**



## Update from English

Unlike the weather we have been having, Year 7s have been studying Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Year 8s have been reading Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Year 9s have been finishing Wharton's *Ethan Frome* and concentrating particularly on their descriptive writing skills writing from personal experience about Sawston's playing fields. Year 10s are finishing their third literature text, *An Inspector Calls* and have been performing their speeches in front of their classes as part of their GCSE course. So many books have been read from our top 20 lists and we all hope that continues throughout the summer. Happy holidays!

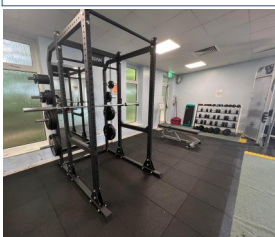
**Ms Goodbrand, Head of English**



## History Update

This year has been a very busy year for the History department as we have run three residential trips. Our latest one was back to Hastings, this time with 90 pupils from Year 10 at the very start of July. This time pupils not only enjoyed warmer weather but also we were able to visit Ely Cathedral for guided tours. Pupils were led by museum staff dressed as Anglo-Saxons who were involved in the Harrying of the North and Hereward the Wake rebellions. Next year we will just be running a Berlin trip for Year 11 and a Hastings trip for Year 10, but watch this space for a new exciting day trip for Year 7s!

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



Left: the newly extended free weights area in Anglian Leisure Sawston.

## Update from Maths

At the beginning of July, Mrs Wagstaff had the pleasure of taking 14 of our Year 9 mathematicians to the Centre for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge, to take part in a Eureka Day organised by Cambridge Maths School. The pupils took part in a range of activities during the day, all designed to challenge them and provide an opportunity to apply their mathematical reasoning, problem solving and teamwork skills. One of the activities was a team quiz, where each pupil was put into a team with 3 others from different schools. This was a great



## Sawston Adult Learning

It has been very busy in Adult Learning so far this term. We have

been able to run most of our Summer term courses, which is wonderful. Learners have also enjoyed a recent basket weaving Saturday workshop, which was a new course and, I am pleased to say, was very successful. Although we are still early in the summer months, thoughts here have been focused on the autumn and the return to school after the summer holidays. Courses for the autumn term, including Saturday workshops, are now on our website and available to book (either online or by phone). 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

What's new at Anglian Leisure Sawston?

We are excited to share the news that we have extended our free weights area, including new flooring and a squat rack. We are also pleased to announce a new class, Wing Chun. This is an elegant, effective dynamic martial art known for its practical self-defence techniques. Email [jlee@sawstonvc.org](mailto:jlee@sawstonvc.org) for further information.

Finally, we have partnered with Serotonin Sessions to offer a free Football for Wellbeing session to the local community. We will be running a session for women here at Sawston on a Monday evening 6.00-7.00 pm starting on the 17th July. Wishing you all a great summer!

**Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager**





## Update from Drama

The Arts Team collaborated successfully, once again, to produce an hour-long adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the Marven Centre for parents, pupils and staff. We had four days to stage the piece complete with choreography, music, costume and stagecraft that included an earthly forest and ethereal fairyland, and our talented Year 8s performed their magic on stage. Our Year 7 pupils have a fathomless enthusiasm for all Drama opportunities: some have been in rehearsals for a Drama Club Showcase and others have been preparing for their first LAMDA speech exams next term. We hope that the 7s, 8s and 9s will take full advantage of a Drama and Music collaboration next year. Also next year, our Year 10s will be studying a new play entitled 'The Empress' that represents and celebrates diversity within our community, combining historical fact with fiction during the reign of Victoria and her controversial relationship with her Indian servant and 'Munshi' (teacher), Abdul Karim. Drama also looks forward to inviting two theatre companies in for workshops and another National Theatre Connections play. Finally, a HUGE thank you for your ongoing support and for your truly gifted and talented children!

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



## Marvellous Milestone Mac & Cheese

Our Year 8 pupils have been cooking up attractive and moreish macaroni and cheese for their milestone this year. With a keen eye for improvement, they examined the original recipe, compared it to the Eatwell Guide and healthy eating guidelines, and produced healthier and tastier versions by incorporating nutritious ingredients, such as wholemeal pasta, sweetcorn, tuna and broccoli. After being taught about garnishing techniques, they were excited to utilise their newfound knowledge to enhance their dishes with tomatoes, classroom-grown basil, and freshly picked parsley from our school garden. Well done to our talented Year 8s for their culinary achievements!



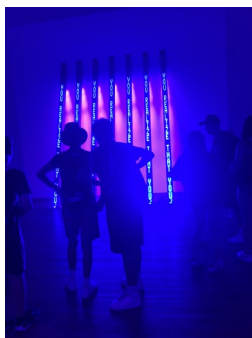
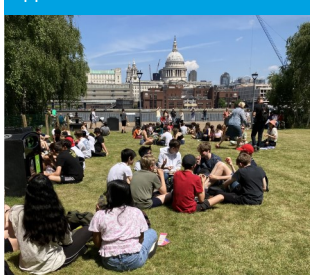
Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

## Update from Art

Activities Week is a highlight of the summer term and this year our Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Tate Modern Art Gallery in London. First stop was the monumental space of the old Turbine Hall, followed by quick visits through gallery spaces where pupils had the chance to see classic paintings by the likes of Matisse, Monet and Lichtenstein, as well as the more conceptual contemporary art. The sun shone as we had lunch by the Thames, before heading along the South Bank to see the Globe Theatre. Back in school, with props made for the production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', pupils were able to spend a day creating their own 'Funky Chickens', which made for a joyous and colourful display.

Mrs Day, Head of Art

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a range of opportunities in Activities Week.



## Music Update

The Music Department have had a busy summer term. We have just finished two days ABRSM music exams. Thank you to Mrs Gilbert for a heroic accompanying effort! In class pupils have been completing their performance milestones on steel pans and Year 10s have finished their Pop and Rock area of study with some excellent presentations on solo artists.

Highlights from this term have included many samba gigs (did you hear us out and about?), leading the parade at the Marleigh Primary arts celebration, fabulous performances from our Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at the Lower School Concert and a sunshine filled Outdoor Gig. We also had an emotional singers' concert when we said goodbye to one of our singing teachers, Ms Julia Caddick. She has taught at Sawston Village College for over 20 years and so many young singers have been inspired by her. Finally, on Friday we held an open afternoon for Year 6 pupils and our woodwind quartet are currently touring local primaries. We can't wait to meet the next generation of Sawston Village College!

Miss Irwin,  
Head of Music



Above: The samba band at Marleigh Primary School.

Below: The audience enjoying the Outdoor Gig.



## Computer Science Update

All Year 11 exams (in Computer Science and Creative iMedia) are now finished and submitted after last minute updates to coursework to maximise grades to reflect pupils' efforts over the last two years. Congratulations! Year 10 mock results are completed and the results look very positive going into Year 11. Lunchtimes in the Computer Rooms have been re-organised so that pupils have specific foci on specific days, for example, FXP Project Mondays and Fridays, Blender Club Wednesday and Digital Graphics Thursdays. Computer rooms remain open for pupils to use to complete homework, but gaming is strictly prohibited. Now that the weather has improved, we are also encouraging our younger pupils to consider the possibility of spending some time outside the computer science department at break and lunchtime: sunscreen is recommended.

Mr Kelly, Acting Head of Computer Science



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard

## Professional Learning

In the second half of the summer term we have been reviewing our work on reading across the whole curriculum. Ms Jackson-Buckley and Mrs Vincent have completed their final session of the year reviewing the work that has been completed by our departments on the development of reading within their subject areas and putting plans in place for the next academic year. Our Excellence in Teaching team has also been reviewing the year and looking at the plan for next year. One of the main foci will be Adaptive teaching, working with staff to adapt to the evolving lessons and reacting to pupils within each lesson to pick up misconceptions in real time during these. We have completed the evaluation of the whole programme that has been completed this year and we are working hard to plan the Professional Learning programme for the next academic year.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



## House News

It is safe to say we have had a very busy term with so much going on, from Activities Week, residential and day trips, work experience for our Year 10 pupils, transition days for our new Year 7s, Leavers' Day, GCSE exams and the Leavers' Ball for our Year 11s as we say our formal goodbyes. We have appointed new Housemates, House Ambassadors and Senate to take on those all-important leadership roles next year. We look forward to ending the term in our usual way by celebrating many of our pupils' achievements in the House Celebration rewards, events and celebration assembly.

Mrs Fink, joint Head of Turing House and Year 7 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



## PGL Dalguise Year 9 Watersports Trip 2023

The week commencing 11 June saw 100+ Year 9 pupils undertake a 6-day 'Adrenaline Adventure' to Dalguise PGL centre; a fantastic forested site overlooking the River Tay, at the heart of Perthshire's 'Big Tree Country'. Pupils had the opportunity to experience a range of activities, including Paddleboarding, Axe Throwing, Canyoning, White Water Rafting and many High Rope activities. Pupils also got to experience some local culture, visiting the beautiful city of Edinburgh. The Year 9 pupils took all of the activities in their stride,



and their character and resilience was fantastic throughout - well done to all involved! If you would like to see more pictures from the event or subsequent PE events, please follow us on twitter or on our Instagram page @SawstonVCPE.

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



## RE Update

The final half term of the year has been dedicated to discussing philosophical and ethical issues within all year groups. 'Does God exist?', what do we mean by reality and truth and how do we know?, Socratic questioning and how do we live a good life according to Aristotle. Year 10 short course pupils have successfully completed their Philosophy certificate presentations and are now focusing on whether it is ethically acceptable to modify human genetics. Full course pupils have been tackling arguments around the issue of whether it is ever acceptable to take a human life, focusing on the death penalty. We wish everyone a restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

## DT welcomes the new Year 7 cohort

Our next cohort visited the department in the final term. Nervous but excited faces came through the DT doors. The pupils very much enjoyed a paper engineering exercise. They spent the session looking at basic design, folding, shaping and assembly techniques and all left with a pop-up card. It was great to see so much enthusiasm in the room with lots of ambitious designs being realised. Well done to all those who visited us for the day. We are all looking forward to seeing you as members of Year 7 SVC in September.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



## New online tool for Science homework

We are pleased to share information regarding a new online homework and assessment tool we are using in Science which is aimed at improving independence and question practice for pupils.

The website is [www.educake.com](http://www.educake.com) and each pupil has their own username and password to access questions that are specific to the course they are studying at school.

Using Educake, pupils are able to answer targeted homework questions from their teachers, as well as setting themselves questions on areas they wish to develop. This will help pupils to prepare for any end of unit assessments or mock exams they may be doing in school.

Educake also produces a report of pupils' strengths and areas for development and we would like to encourage you to ask pupils to show you their report online. As of 3 July, our pupils have already answered over 44,000 questions! A special mention, and congratulations, to our top independent users so far: Goodness in Year 10, Eliza B in Year 9, Isobel B in Year 8 and Oscar W in Year 7. Please speak to your child's Science teacher if you have any questions.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science

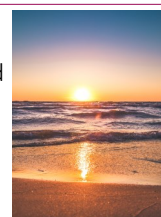


## Congratulations

Well done to all the pupils who submitted work for presentation at our recent Arts Award moderation. 228 pupils in Year 7 and three pupils in Year 8 achieved the Bronze Award, while three pupils in Year 9 achieved the Silver Award.

## And finally:

We wish everyone a relaxing summer break and we look forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 11 pupils back on Monday, 4 September, followed by all pupils on Tuesday, 5 September 2023.



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