



Prospectus
2024-2025



“Sawston is a great school. Our children are happy here and have a promising future ahead of them that builds on the foundation that SVC has given them.”

Parent Survey, 2023

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted that you are considering Sawston Village College for the education of your child.

At Sawston Village College, we are committed to maximising the potential of every single child who is part of our community - whether that is through GCSE examinations, involvement with extracurricular activities or via the wealth of leadership and personal development opportunities that we have on offer. We recognise that not only are we building the foundations for study, employment and training beyond 16, but that we also have a duty to develop the whole child, enabling them to take their place in our communities as positive, purposeful and fulfilled citizens. We aim for our pupils to leave as kind, caring and considerate young adults, ambitious for themselves and supportive of others.

We are also committed to providing an exciting range of opportunities for our young people - to open their minds to new challenges, new ideas and broaden their horizons in ways that make both teaching and learning come alive. This prospectus can only give a brief glimpse of all that we have on offer at Sawston Village College, in and out of the classroom.



Mr J Russell, Principal

We are driven by the need to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work - in high expectations for pupil achievement and behaviour, in our outstanding care and support for young people, in the quality of our staff and the partnerships they form with parents and others in our community. Our pupils deserve nothing less.

We look forward to meeting your family in person at our College Open Evening or on a personal tour in the daytime. We will do our best to share with you what makes Sawston Village College such a special place. Please do not hesitate to contact the College.

For information on our admissions policy, please see:
<https://sawstonvc.org/information/admissions/>



"Sawston is a welcoming, friendly and caring school. Leaders and teachers share high expectations of what pupils can achieve."

Ofsted, May 2023

Our Aims, Vision and Values

Our mission at Sawston Village College is to:

- unlock potential
- create opportunity
- achieve excellence

in all aspects of our work, an ambition that applies equally to pupils and staff.

As a result, we expect all learners to leave school having:

- achieved to their highest academic potential;
- embraced all available opportunities;
- learnt how to value, respect and care for each other;
- taken responsibility to support their school and the wider community, and developed the essential skills, personal resilience and confidence to be successful in education, employment and life.

This vision underpins all of our work, setting out the purpose of education as we see it if we are to create prosperous and successful people who will contribute to our society.

To achieve this, pupils conduct themselves with kindness, generosity of spirit, politeness, humility, compassion and respect. At the heart of our expectations are the CARE values we hold dear:



Community - we are stronger when we thrive together;



Ambition - we reach further when we believe in ourselves and each other;



Respect - we are better when we look out for each other;



Endeavour - we achieve more when we apply ourselves fully.

We are proud to be part of Anglian Learning, a highly successful multi-academy trust of fifteen academies that have come together to provide outstanding education and learning for our communities. Together, we believe education can play a transformational role in the lives of children and the success of our young people.



Remember
HENRY MORRIS
1889-1961

*Pioneer of Community Education
Originator of the Village Colleges
of which this, the first, was
opened 30th October
1930*



"I think the school is wonderfully led, the staff team deeply committed, the range of clubs and opportunities exceptional, and the experience for my children has been second to none."

Parent Letter to Ofsted, May 2023

Our unique place in history – the first Village College

Sawston Village College opened in 1930, having been founded by education pioneer Henry Morris.

His vision was for a school which would nurture a lifelong love of learning for people of all ages, in an environment that offered inspiration. The original Grade II listed buildings reflect these ideals, based as they are on Cambridge University courtyards. These values are still at the heart of our work over 90 years later.

Today, the College's campus encompasses some 30 acres of classrooms, state of the art laboratories and extensive sports facilities, providing a stimulating environment in which to learn. We anticipate a major refurbishment of facilities by 2026, enhancing the accommodation yet further and substantially reducing our carbon footprint.

We continue to maintain a vibrant adult learning programme, and we operate a cinema with live satellite broadcasts, as well as our own commercial Sports Centre. This means we have up to 1,500 members of the local community visiting the school every week, reinforcing our message that learning is for life, in keeping with Henry Morris's original vision.





“The school is rightly proud of its enduring tradition of strong music and performing arts provision. Many pupils also take full advantage of the wide variety of other enrichment activities and visits available.”

Ofsted, May 2023

Unlocking Potential

We are very proud of our achievements in public examinations. Pupils at all levels make good progress.

44% of all grades in 2023 were at grade 7+, continuing our fine tradition of high performance, particularly in all EBacc subjects. Our pupils achieved excellent results and have secured the very best progression routes to sixth form schools, colleges and apprenticeships.

This performance is recognised in *The Sunday Times Parent Power* guide, where we are listed in the top ten best state secondary schools in the country without a sixth form.

Our success is based on a firm belief that all pupils, whatever their starting point, have the right to an education that meets their needs and provides them with the opportunity to realise their full potential. The curriculum offered at Sawston Village College reflects this ambition.

All pupils follow a three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum before having a free choice in option subjects at the end of Year 9. We have a vibrant STEM offer and we are strongly committed to the Arts, offering Dance, Drama, Music, Art and Music Technology. The vast majority of pupils opt for at least one EBacc discipline to complement their core subjects, which, for many, includes Triple Science.



We also provide breadth in the curriculum through subjects such as Photography, Engineering and Hairdressing, to accommodate a wide range of interests.

Where pupils may have had difficulties with literacy at primary school we will work hard to boost their reading and writing through additional support - our ambition is to ensure that no child falls behind in their learning.



"Our thanks to all the tireless, kind and dedicated teaching staff who've taught our daughter - we've hugely valued how well she has been supported, taught and cared for. Many thanks also to the senior leadership team, all the support staff and office reception staff (whose endless help, patience and friendly approach has been greatly appreciated)."

Parent Survey, 2023

Creating Opportunity

One of the strengths of the College is the breadth and depth of opportunities on offer to our pupils.

Our provision in the Arts is truly outstanding: we hold Arts Council England's prestigious Artsmark Platinum award. All Year 7 pupils are given the opportunity to complete the Bronze Arts Award, a nationally accredited qualification, and they are able to draw on the high quality experiences offered in Music, Drama, Art and Dance to do this. Filmmaking is also offered as an extracurricular activity. Our strong links with Sawston Youth Drama and other similar organisations also open up further exciting opportunities for our young people.

Pupils are encouraged, wherever possible, to develop their leadership skills, for example, by joining one of our pupil-led forums, or through becoming House Mates, House Ambassadors, Peer Mentors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors or Sports Leaders, working with younger pupils and in our primary schools. Pupils are also able to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, including at Silver level, and Arts Award is also further offered at both Silver and Gold levels. In addition to this, pupils also regularly take part in regional Science, Maths, Geography and Technology competitions, with a strong track record of success, while the normal range of lunchtime and after-school opportunities is extensive, with something for everyone.



Add to this the full return of residential trips to Hastings, Iceland, Germany, Spain, France and Scotland, as well as fundraising events, environmental projects, Activities Week, Work Experience and much more, and it is clear that the College offers wonderful and stimulating opportunities to support the personal development of our pupils.



"All three of my children have benefitted hugely from the vast range of clubs and opportunities on offer at SVC and grown in confidence as they have participated. The concerts and other events are always well attended by staff, not because they have to be there, but because they go to support one another, which I think says a lot about the culture of a school and speaks volumes to parents."

Parent Letter to Ofsted, May 2023

Achieving Excellence

We aim to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work. Our teachers work hard to ensure their practice remains fresh and inspiring with many involved in delivering professional learning to other schools. Our practice is informed by evidence and strongly aligned to the principles of cognitive science and developing young people's long-term working memory.

In addition to the quality of teaching, we also seek excellence in the quality of support we give to our pupils. We are a warm, friendly and welcoming community, with a team of staff who care deeply about the progress and wellbeing of all the children in the College.

Central to this is our House system of mentoring and support. All pupils are placed in one of four Houses, creating a family within which there are smaller mixed-age mentoring groups, each overseen by two mentors. Pupils quickly form positive relationships with others across the year groups, while the mentors and non-teaching Year Leads/ Heads of House can review academic progress and respond quickly to any concerns, providing a much more personalised experience.

We have high standards for pupil achievement. We also have high expectations regarding behaviour, demanding of our pupils good manners and respect towards each other, staff and other adults in the College at all times. Our CARE values drive our approach, with **Respect** at its core.



Da Vinci



Earhart



Mandela



Turing

Furthermore, we expect pupils to take care and pride in the quality and presentation of classwork and homework, to wear the correct uniform and to support the school and local community, implementing the College's aims and values at all times as active, positive citizens.

The College is committed to achieving excellent outcomes for its pupils and creating an environment where they are safe and happy. This can only happen where there are high standards of behaviour, mutual respect and adherence to our code of conduct. We do not tolerate bullying. In this we look for and expect parental support.



"I've really enjoyed my time here at Sawston Village College, and will take away some wonderful memories. I've been so well supported throughout my 5 years, and have taken advantage of all the fantastic opportunities available to pupils. I'm delighted with my GCSE results and can now go forward to sixth form with confidence."

Year 11 Leaver, 2023

Preparing for the Next Step

Working in close partnership with our local primary schools is the key to ensuring a smooth transition to Sawston Village College. In addition to the taster days and joint projects between our core departments and Year 6 teachers, senior staff visit all prospective pupils to find out about their interests, skills, ambitions and concerns, to place them in the right mentor group, House and teaching group. Parents are also given a personal appointment with their child's mentor before school begins in September, to ensure the best possible start and to form that all-important relationship between home and school.

For those pupils about to leave the College at the end of Year 11, we provide a very strong programme of Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) to enable pupils to progress successfully to post-16 education and training. 90% of pupils continue their academic studies at local sixth form colleges or schools, with the overwhelming majority securing their preferred place of learning.

All pupils receive careers guidance and are supported in bespoke lessons to complete their application to post-16 providers. Alongside this, all pupils complete work experience and have the opportunity to visit employers and undergo face-to-face mock interviews to prepare for the world of work. When they finally leave College, we hope that our pupils will continue to stay in touch with us through our Alumni Network - <https://sawstonvc.org/about-us/alumni/> -



so that we can follow their continuing education and careers, and for the benefit of the next generation of young people who will join the College.

Whatever stage your child is at in their education, we aim to make sure that their progression is as smooth as possible, setting pupils up to succeed in their next step.



"Thanks to the Head for leading a highly effective senior and staff team, to all of the senior leadership and every member of staff for their unwavering dedication, commitment, and going above and beyond in making SVC the nurturing, vibrant, welcoming and aspirational community it is - my child has thrived since the moment they started at SVC and speaks highly of their interactions with their teachers and all staff."

Parent Survey, 2023

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ANGLIAN LEARNING