

1 September 2023



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to College next week. As you will have seen in the news, some schools have been forced to close or partially close at very short notice due to government safety guidance on RAAC. Thankfully, we are not affected by the concerns around this lightweight concrete.

Staff spent today preparing for the term ahead, buoyed by very strong exam results achieved by our Y11 pupils. We are delighted for our senior pupils who must be congratulated for their hard work and determination. We wish them the very best as they start their new post-16 courses and apprenticeships next week.

NEW College Opening

As planned, the new term will start on Monday for Y7 and Y11 pupils. We are closed to Y8, Y9 and Y10 pupils on Monday. College will open to all year groups from Tuesday. Please make sure pupils are in full school uniform and arrive on time, by 8.25am on site. Registration starts promptly at 8.30am. As communicated, Year 7 pupils should arrive at Fountain Court on Monday rather than go to their registration groups. We look forward to everyone returning to College and wish them a successful year.

NEW Information on RAAC – no RAAC at Sawston

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has very recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, which has caused some schools to vacate affected spaces.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. The College will open as planned from Monday for Y7 and Y11 and for the rest of the school from Tuesday.

It is possible that parents may want to understand more about RAAC. You can read more through this [article](#) published by the DfE on the Education Hub.



NEW Pupil access to email and school accounts

Over the summer, for security reasons, Anglian Learning has migrated our ICT infrastructure. We will still be able to access all classwork, files, Google accounts, Google Classroom and such like ensuring no pupil work is lost or affected. However, pupils require a new log-in and will have a new email ending in svcpupils.org. As a result, pupils will not have been able to access emails, Satchel and other school software in recent days. All pupils will be given their new log in details on the first day of school: Monday 4th for Y7 and Y11 and Tuesday 5th for Y8, Y9 and Y10. We are sorry for any worry or inconvenience this may have caused.

NEW Summer exams

We were very proud of our pupils on Results Day, August 24th. The overwhelming majority achieved the grades they needed to secure their preferred post-16 pathways with many individual success stories across the full range of ability. Exceeding national targets and estimates, 64.3% achieved a strong pass (grade 5+) in English and Maths and 44.3% secured at least five grades at 7+. They can be tremendously proud of themselves and we are hugely grateful to the support and encouragement they will have received from home.

...

With our best wishes,

Jonathan Russell