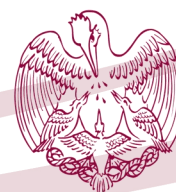


September / October 2023 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

30 Oct - 14 Nov	Year 11 mock exams
31 Oct	Year 7 Rugby Tournament
2 Nov	Geography Bake Off
2 Nov	Sawston Cinema: A Man Called Otto
9 Nov	Year 9 report 1 issued
9 Nov	Sawston Cinema: NT Live The Book of Dust
16 Nov	Year 7 report 1 issued
17 Nov	Staff Training Day
21 and 22 Nov	Year 8 Faith Tour trips
23 Nov	Year 9 photos

23 Nov	Year 8 report 1 issued
23 Nov	Sawston Cinema: NT Live Skylight
30 Nov	WEX information evening
30 Nov	Year 11 report 2 issued
30 Nov	Sawston Cinema: Vermeer Exhibition
7 Dec	Year 11 Parents' Evening
7 Dec	Year 1 Report 1 issued
7 Dec	District Cross Country
7 Dec	Sawston Cinema: The Railway Children Return
18 Dec	Pupil Christmas Dinner
19 Dec	Great St Mary's Carol Service



From the Principal

As we end this half-term, Storm Babet approaches. By naming big storms, the Met Office thinks it will make people more aware and more alert to how dangerous the storms can be. Narratively, you can also track the progression of winter marked by how far in the alphabet

we have reached, hoping that Z will never come. Thankfully, Z can never arrive because Q, U, X, Y and Z are always missing, as we are in line with the US National Hurricane Centre naming convention. This year Walid would be our final storm, should we be unlucky enough to reach that end.

One of our aims at Sawston Village College is to help pupils better prepare, metaphorically, to weather any storm. We seek to build their resilience to help them overcome adversity and to give them tools to navigate their way through: a goal-orientated focus, empathy and perspective, a moral

compass. As we settle into the year and the winter evenings draw in, our pupils will meet different demands and challenges, moments where it is a little harder to find the strength or motivation when things don't quite go the way they had planned. Life lessons, if you will. Whether in friendships, class work, exams or competitions, or anything else besides, we cannot expect instant success. Helping pupils to keep a positive mindset, to reflect on what has gone well and how to improve where things have not, to appreciate and value what we have and to seize new opportunities when they present themselves are all such valuable qualities and skills.

The start of term has been so wonderfully positive in so many ways. We know that Ciaran, Debi and Elin will arrive one day but, together, we will ensure that should Walid ever arrive, our pupils will be ready.

'Never regret a day in your life: good days give happiness, bad days give experiences, worst days give lessons, and best days give memories.' Richard Feynman, Physicist

Mr Russell, Principal



Successes in Computer Science

The Computer Science department has seen great successes this half term. We have been very impressed with the programming skills that so many of our pupils hold; they have been working on a



By Jack White, Year 7

wide variety of projects, from quizzes, adventure games, to creating graphics with the Turtle. Year 7s are settling well and have shown lots of enthusiasm within

lessons. Pupils in the Image & Video Editing Club have created some wonderful graphics, using multilayering and masking tools in Photoshop. We have set up more clubs, to officially start running



after half term. These include: KS3 & 4 Code Clubs; Build a PC and Lego Robotics. Please keep an eye out on the bulletin, or ask your Computer Science teacher for more information.

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science

Left: by Thomas Langevin, Year 9



**Sawston
Adult
Learning**



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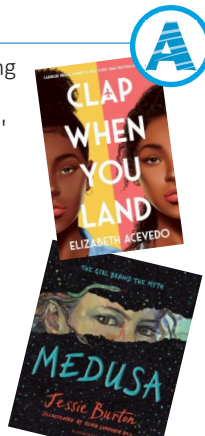
Anglian Leisure Sawston: **01223 712555** - **www.sawstonsports.com** | Sawston Cinema: **01223 712825** - **www.sawstoncinema.org.uk**

Update from English

Year 7s have begun the year with studying 'Medusa', the beautiful novel by Jessie Burton that gives Medusa's story a new voice. Pupils will get to rewrite an existing Greek myth to create a different perspective as Burton does. Year 8s have been reading Acevedo's verse dual narrative novel 'Clap When You Land' in order to model for them how to write evocatively about a place: their milestone this half term. Year 9s are in the depths of Miller's 'A View from the Bridge', exploring the representation of masculinity in the

play. Year 10s are starting their GCSE course with Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and narrative writing, whereas Year 11 are full into their revision of 'A Christmas Carol', 'Macbeth' and Language Paper 1 skills, readying themselves for their first set of mocks in November.

Ms Goodbrand,
Head of English



Above: the Year 7 and Year 8 books

Business Studies Update

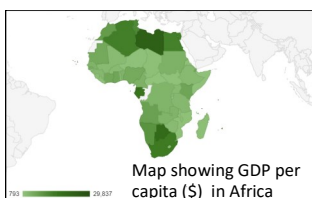
Year 10s have had a really positive start to their studies in this subject and have been starting some interesting discussions in light of current affairs. This is fantastic to see, and I hope they continue to keep up with events in the news. They have been set a research challenge over the half term holiday to investigate into businesses that were once on our high streets but have now closed. (Parents/carers, they might need your help with this.)

Year 11s have been looking into ethics and the business environment. This has meant looking at current affairs and how environmental issues may impact upon our supply chains. They have also been given time to work on their examination technique in preparation for their mock examination, for which I wish them all the best of luck.

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Meaningful insights in Geography

Pupils have made a positive start to their first Geography topics of the year. Year 9s are currently exploring the topic of 'Our Unequal World', looking at development and our perceptions of what it means to be a 'developed' country. Pupils have made some



meaningful insights so far. They have also used GIS (Geographic Information

System) to investigate development across Africa, presenting data on life expectancy, GDP and HDI. Following creating their maps, they analysed what they showed. We are looking forward to embedding more GIS opportunities into the Geography curriculum.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

History Update

This academic year, the History department have launched a brand new History GCSE club which runs on Thursdays from 1.30pm-2pm. We are encouraging any pupils who would like extra support with the course, or help with homework tasks, to attend. Likewise, we will be on hand with interesting articles that pupils can discuss to enrich their knowledge of History outside of the GCSE. This may be particularly beneficial for any pupils who want to take History A-level. Please encourage your child to attend if you think they would benefit from the extra support offered.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History

Update from Maths

In September, the new Year 7 cohort were asked to research a group of mathematicians who have positively impacted the way that we live today; from Katherine Johnson, the first African-American woman to work as a NASA scientist, to Al-Khwarizmi, the man who is considered to have written the first book on algebra.

The work produced was really impressive. We are enjoying getting to know the pupils individually and learning how we can motivate and support them to achieve their full potential in Maths.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



We are currently in the process of updating our website so it should soon be very easy to see what's on and to book tickets. In a new venture, we are showing the Vermeer exhibition on film on 30 November. Do come and join us!

To see our full programme, visit our website:
www.sawstoncinema.org.uk



Sawston Adult Learning

Due to external issues, our phones were not working earlier on in the

term; we apologise if you tried to contact us, but were unable to get through. Our Autumn courses are now up and running, and some are now full, which is wonderful!

However, there are still some spaces available on most of our courses

and, should you wish to enrol, you would still be very welcome! This term our Saturday workshops will be taking place on 25 November and include Indian Dancing, Sketch-booking, Indian Cookery and Willow Christmas Decorations.

For further information or to book: visit our website: www.sawstonadultlearning.org, email: community@sawstonvc.org, or phone: 01223 712424.

Mrs Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

With the warmer weather

disappearing fast, why not exercise in the comfort of our fully equipped fitness suite. We have a wide range of cardiovascular and resistance machines, and a great selection of free weights and kettlebells.



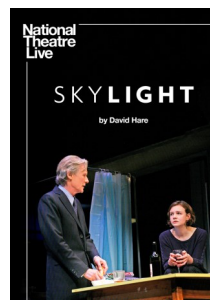
One man who has certainly been making the most of the facilities is Mike. He has been taking part in our 12-week Exercise4Fun scheme and has achieved excellent results. In just 6

weeks he lost 9kg and nearly 6% body fat! His BMI went down from 31.3 to 28.6, taking him out of the obese category. He also increased his muscle mass by 3%.

For more information on membership or Exercise4Fun, please email:

fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Update from Drama

Another busy, theatrical start to our term with a visit from Kat Mary productions and their physical and immersive production of Kafka's 'Metamorphosis'. No fewer than 53 Year 10 Drama students made us proud with their full commitment to the workshop and final production, in which 20 of our actors performed, using techniques by practitioners such as Brecht, Artaud and Berkoff. NT Connections is up next, with rehearsals starting soon for our new play entitled 'Shout'. The Year 10s, again, will be treading the boards at The Garage theatre, Norwich in April. A recent trip to see 'Frankenstein' at The Arts theatre was much enjoyed by all 90 of our GCSE pupils, and we look forward to our Sawston community Christmas show, 'Hansel and Gretel' at The Junction in December. Lastly, we would like to shout out a huge "thank you!" to our wonderful Drama helpers for their performance energy and enthusiasm on Open Evening. They had our Year 6 visitors up playing games and improvising scenes. We look forward to seeing those budding young actors in Drama club, and much more, next year.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Pupils in Metamorphosis with Kat Mary productions



Excited to Cook

Our eager new Year 7 pupils have been busy cooking in the Sawston kitchens, under the supervision of Mrs Shaw and Mrs Bucciarelli. They have successfully prepared some beautiful and vibrant fruit salads, demonstrating their understanding of chopping and presentation, and they enjoyed the fruit salads at home with their families. This term, the Year 7s have been gaining a range of practical experience, also making pizza toasties, vegetable soup and savoury muffins. Throughout this, they have been evaluating their dishes and improving their knife skills, finishing techniques and knowledge of equipment. With their progress, they have made a great start in their culinary journey.

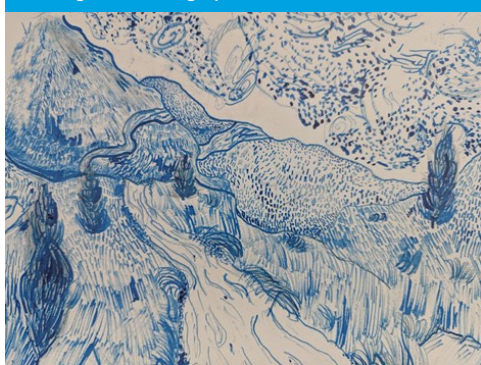


Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

Update from Art

Pupils in the Art department have started the new academic year with exciting projects to develop and strengthen their creative drawing skills. Year 7s are becoming familiar with the building blocks of art, currently enjoying using chalk and charcoal to create tonal values. Year 8s are learning about the importance of the first modern movement; Impressionism, whilst Year 9s are developing a body of work in the style of 'Steampunk'. We look forward to seeing how their work progresses in the coming half term. Meanwhile our Year 10 pupils embark on their first GCSE project and Year 11 pupils prepare for the much anticipated refined outcomes in their mock examination.

Van Gogh Ink Etching by Elizabeth Abell, Year 8



Pupils studying photography in Year 10 have completed their introduction to DSLR camera features, as well as the use of Photoshop editing tools to create a bold series of images, whilst our Year 11 pupils continue to impress with their detailed coursework documents and experimental portrait project.

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art

Music Update

The Music department have started the term with lots of noisy and enthusiastic pupils. We have nearly 200 pupils having instrument and singing lessons at the moment and have welcomed lots of new starters. At the moment we are on the look out for our next oboe, bassoon and trumpet players. If your child would like a taster lesson please get in contact. Lunchtimes and after schools have seen our choirs and ensembles up and running. Senior Band, Samba and Jazz Band have had their first 'gigs' at Open Evening and played very well indeed. In the next half-term Jazz Band will be playing at Cambridge Jazz Festival on Sunday, 12th November, then on Tuesday, 19th December we will hold our Carol Service at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge. All brass players, Junior Choir (Years 7-9) members, Madrigal singers and Madriguys will be taking part. If your child wants to take part, they must come along to rehearsals the week after half-term, there is much to prepare! We look forward to seeing many of you there. KS3 classes have been composing, performing and listening to music from Dua Lipa to Stravinsky. Years 10 and 11 have settled into their Music and Music Tech courses. By the time this newsletter reaches you, Year 11s will have completed 15% of their course via their first composition. Bravo tutti!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Performing at Open Evening

Update from MFL

Although we have only been back a few weeks, we have been busy in MFL. Congratulations to our Year 11 linguists who have completed their speaking mock exam, worth a quarter of their grade. We have just welcomed our two foreign language assistants for this academic year. Lola will be working with our Year 10 and Year 11 French classes whilst Inés will be supporting our Spanish cohort. Many thanks to the Inter Forum for organising a wealth of activities and competitions for the European Day of Languages, including a trail to find idioms all around the school in different languages and a poster competition to celebrate the languages spoken at the College.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

The focus for Professional Learning this year for our teachers will continue to be on developing inclusive classrooms for all of our pupils. This will again be underpinned by the findings of Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. This year though, the emphasis will move to responsive teaching. Looking at how our teachers assess within a lesson how well their class have taken in a certain piece of learning or activity, then how they can then use this immediate assessment to shape the remainder of a lesson or inform planning of the next lesson for that group. We will also continue our work on Reading across the curriculum, led by Ms Jackson-Buckley and Mrs Vincent. A further strand will be looking at how teachers manage challenging conversations about sensitive topics with a whole class.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



House News

We have started the new term "actively", embracing the start of our amazing Year 7 pupils, who we hope are settling well into their new school. A range of activities has enabled them to get to know their new fellow mentees, and most are now confidently making their way around the school site. We have had our "Active Week" and "Black History Month" foci, along with some fun and challenges for the European Day of Languages. All in all, a packed few weeks and well done to all involved!

Mrs Wombwell, Head of Mandela House and Year 11 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



KS4 Mixed Hockey

Well done to all who took part in the KS4 mixed hockey fixture recently, which resulted in a 2-2 draw against St Bede's. All players contributed consistently, and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to play against a strong side. Faith Leader worked hard to use the wings and get the ball into attacking scenarios, and Harry Johnson, alongside Dom Hines (1), worked well to support these attacking chances to gain our first goal. Our defence worked hard to maintain possession and drive towards the attacking half of the pitch. Ben Journeaux (1) had many excellent plays in both attack and defence, which opened up many opportunities in the box and led to

KS4 Mixed Hockey Team



a goal from him. Man of the match was Harry Chatwin, with an unbelievable save in the last 30 seconds of the game which kept Sawston at a draw. Well done all!

Mr Trent, PE Teacher



Left: Pupils follow a mentor-time workout led by Mrs Harvey, Head of PE, during Active Week.

RE Update

We have had an excellent start in RE this term. There have been lots of discussions around what we mean by the term 'sacred', is it ever acceptable to take a life?, what does a Philosophical argument look like?, what is the purpose of punishment? and many more. The debating club is also well under way, where we have begun with playing games to help build confidence and oracy skills and are now looking towards planning our first staff vs staff and staff vs pupils' debate. After half-term, we are looking forward to our first trip of the year, where Year 8s will have the opportunity to go and explore three places of worship. An excellent and exciting start to the year, with plenty more opportunities for pupils to engage in next half-term.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



STEM Clubs busy in Science

In Science, our Junior STEM club has been busy with its weekly programme of investigations and activities. Over in Senior STEM (now also open to Year 9 pupils) we have started the term building resources to use in classrooms (see photo here of their marvellous DNA model) before we embark on our now regular highlight of building an autonomous robot for the Hills Road Robocon competition.

This year will also see Junior and Senior STEM clubs entering teams to compete in a challenge to design a product based around a Raspberry Pi that helps individuals improve their health and wellbeing.

Mr Barnett, Science Teacher



Year 7 makes a great start in DT

The new Year 7 cohort have made a superb start to their Sawston Village College careers. They have covered important areas, including the importance of health and safety in DT, designing for a client, how to iterate and creating inspirational mood boards. They have further started developing their products and are now ready to realise them in the workshop.

We are all looking forward to getting involved with the practical after half-term. Mr Bär, our technician, will be continuing to give out house points for outstanding practice in the workshop. Great start to all!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



And finally:

We wish everyone an enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday, 30 October 2023.

Have a good break!



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