

29 September 2023



**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round-Up**

Each morning this week our pupils have been involved in a variety of challenges for our Active week: team games, dance routines, burpees and walking circuits. All of this to encourage and remind pupils of the importance of exercise and being in the outdoors positively. This weekend, ninety pupils continue this theme by completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition and we wish them well. Our visit by a delegation of Oman teachers and education leaders went very well, with our distinguished visitors commenting on the politeness and focus of the pupils they saw in lessons. Similarly, we have been recruiting for an Assistant Principal and those involved in the process were a real credit to the College. Finally, we would like to remind everybody of the importance of talking with children about their social media use and how to keep safe on-line, ensuring that no harmful content is shared, viewed or downloaded.

### **NEW Training Day, School Closure, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

As per our calendar, the College is closed to all pupils on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October for staff training. This follows our Open Evening which is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm-8.30pm. On Friday, staff will be undertaking performance management reviews and further professional development. \_

### **NEW Open Evening, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

We are very grateful to all pupils who have volunteered to help out at Open Evening next Thursday. Prospective parents always comment on how pleasant, polite and informative they are. Those involved should have completed a consent form and must stay in the areas in which they are being supervised. The site is very busy on the evening and only those pupils who have been asked or volunteered to help should be on site.

### **NEW Online Safety**

The vast majority of young people are accessing the internet on a daily basis. Whilst there are many benefits to this, we also know that the internet, in particular social media, can pose risks to young people. We provide online safety education for all our pupils in school and encourage further discussion around these topics at home. Some helpful resources for parents are linked here:

[NSPCC Guide to help children stay safe on social media](#)

[Young Minds Social Media and Mental Health, guide for parents](#)



ANGLIAN LEARNING



National Support School  
designated by  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

TRINITY  
COLLEGE LONDON  
Trinity Champion Centre 2021-2023



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

A helpful reminder, too, about the age limits on commonly used social media apps:

Whatsapp: 16 years, TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram: 13 years

These age limits are in place to ensure that those using these platforms have a level of understanding and maturity to keep themselves safe and understand the consequences of posting online.

### **NEW Free School Meals**

If you would like to find out more information or to check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please follow this link: [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

### **NEW Cycle safety**

With the evenings turning darker, we would like to remind parents/carers to encourage cyclists to wear helmets, be visible and use bike lights. It is also a good time of year to check breaks, tyres and general maintenance. In addition, many young people do not lock their bikes in school, even though they have locks on their bikes. We would recommend that they do lock their bikes.

### **REMINDER Y11 Post-16 Evening**

Y11 pupils and parents will be aware that our post-16 Information Evening is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. This is an important opportunity for parents to learn more about the post-16 application process and other pathways, as well as pupils and parents meeting all post-16 providers and being able to ask questions about courses. Information about core GCSE courses have also been shared with Y11 parents.

### **COMMUNITY Cricket opportunity**

Sawston and Babraham Cricket Club Junior Section will be holding their winter training sessions on Saturday afternoons at the College. For more information, including details on how to book a place, please follow [this](#) link.

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Wishing you a lovely, sunny weekend,

Jonathan Russell