

3 November 2023



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up

Pupils have returned brightly, even though it has been a stormy return to College with the darker nights, wind and rain. We will keep the field open for social time as far as possible but the saturated ground probably means it will need to close soon for the winter. At least this will save on the laundry for some! Y11 pupils have been working hard during their mock exams and we wish them well for the rest of the exams next week. Thank you to all Y10 parents who were able to attend the Y10 Information Evening which set out what to expect at KS4, offered advice and signposted resources. If you missed it, you can find the information here: <https://sawstonvc.org/information-evenings/>.

NEW Staffing News

Mrs Greaney, Assistant Principal, has started with us, replacing Mr Hunt who left for family reasons in the summer. We have also been joined by Ms Horlock, SEND EHCP Officer, Mrs Ravn and Mr Sears, Teaching Assistants. Mrs Day has returned from her travels to join the DT department whilst Mr Dawson is on parental leave. As part of our inclusion work we have also commissioned Mr Bacon to support the work of Mr Priestley for a day a week to help further those pupils who struggle with mainstream education.

NEW Remembrance

As usual, we will mark Remembrance Day on Friday next week. Following two minutes silence, our Heads of Senate will lay a wreath as another pupils plays the bugle. We will also hold assemblies. Poppies are available for pupils to buy at reception and members of the public may lay tributes underneath the Birdsong sculpture in front of the College gates should they wish. You can read more about the sculpture below.

REMINDER School photographs

A reminder that Y7 school photographs ordered from Tempest photography are available for collection in school reception. Y9 individual school photographs will take place on Thursday 23rd November.

REMINDER Uniform

Please can we ask that pupil clothing is clearly labelled, particularly coats now that we are entering colder weather.



NICE TO KNOW More about our WW1 commemorative sculpture

Our Birdsong sculpture was designed by pupils and built by former pupil Neil Jones as part of a heritage project looking at WW1. The project took place in 2015.

Pupils taking part in the project visited an exhibition of First World War art at the Imperial War Museum in London and were particularly struck by Paul Nash paintings of stark barren trees and the desolation and dehumanisation of war that they conveyed. This set them thinking about basing their sculpture on a tree.

Their tree would, however, suggest hope by having regenerative leaves at the top. Also, the trunk would be formed of the names of all the local people who had died in this conflict. For this, the young people also decided to use first names only, personalising the commemoration by addressing those who lost their lives as they might have been addressed by their families. Each name appears only once on the trunk and branches of the tree so, for example, where the name William might occur 6 or 7 times on local war memorials, it will be found once on this sculpture and, in this way, becomes representative of all the Williams who died.

At the top of the tree there is a bird, giving the sculpture its name, '*Birdsong*'. This, again, looks to regeneration and also references the reports from soldiers of the time of hearing birdsong above the noise of battle.

Pupils worked in the Art department to create the designs, which Neil Jones then used to make the full-size sculpture.

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Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Jonathan Russell