

November / December 2023 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

4 Jan	Spring Term begins	1 Feb	Year 10 Meet the Mentor
15 Jan	Year 11 individual photos	1 Feb	Cinema screening: Documentary: Pure Clean Water
16-17 Jan	Year 9 exams	1 Feb	Year 9 Report 2 issued
18 Jan	Year 11 Business Studies trip	1 Feb	Year 11 GCSE Music concert
18 Jan	Year 8 Parents' Evening	2 Feb	Year 9 Men/DTP vaccinations
22 Jan	Year 10 Walsingham RE trip	8 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
25 Jan	Year 9 Options Evening	12 Feb	Year 7 Cambridge Mosque trip
25 Jan	Cinema screening: NT Live Dear England	15-20 Feb	Year 11 Berlin trip
		16 Feb	Staff Training Day



From the Principal

At this time of year, our pupils are generous and think of others. Many have contributed to our Sawston Give campaign, filling boxes of gifts for CHS, Jimmy's and John Huntingdon's Charity. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors ran a festive Treasure Hunt to raise money for

charity and £1,141 was raised for Children in Need. The Ethos Forum continues to think of ways to support those less advantaged, and many young people are giving of their time to help their local communities, families and others.

It is heartening that two of our key values, respect and community, are so keenly felt by most of our pupils. The number of house points accumulated for both is testament to the regular positive contributions and the decent-minded nature of most young people. The quiet majority embrace all that the College has to offer and take each opportunity to treat others with kindness, empathy and respect. Sadly, unkind

words and thoughtless, unkind actions make much greater noise. This is something well understood in the wider world beyond the school gates, but something most of us would not want for our own children.

We want our children to be happy, to be free from the hurtful even discriminatory actions of others. We teach them to be kind, to talk to each other without prejudice, without intolerance and without raising our voices. We support them to find their voice but to use it wisely. Those who do so should be proud of all they achieve and who they are; they should know that their quiet endeavour, their unselfish actions and their thoughtful words will drown out the noise of the few. The greatest gift we have is to treat all others with kindness and respect.

'My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are. And continue to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness.' Maya Angelou

Mr Russell, Principal

Update from RE

It has been a busy half term in the RE department. Year 7s have been exploring Jewish beliefs through stories, Year 9s have begun questioning the purpose of marriage within society and Year 10 short course have been working hard on their first Philosophy research projects. Year 8s have been exploring how equality is shown within Sikhism, with our first trip of the year to Bedford, where they had a tour around a Church, Mosque and a Gurdwara. All pupils were excellent, engaging well and asking some insightful questions. Year 10 GCSE pupils have been exploring a range of ethical issues, such as abortion and euthanasia. And Year 11 GCSE pupils have been learning about the history and significance of the five pillars of Islam. We wish

our pupils a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing them again in the New Year.

Mrs Clover,
Head of RE
and Ethics



Above: Year 8 pupils on the Faith Trip in Bedford



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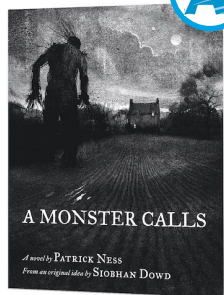
Anglian Leisure Sawston: **01223 712555** - **www.sawstonsports.com** | Sawston Cinema: **01223 712825** - **www.sawstoncinema.org.uk**

Update from English

We have studied a mixture of novels this half term: *A Monster Calls* in Year 7, *Jane Eyre* in Year 8 and *Billy Elliot* in Year 9, examining what makes us human, what makes us feel connected and what it is to be powerful and powerless. Year 10s are finishing their first literary text: *Macbeth* and are about to sit their first practice Literature milestone, and Year 11s are completing their final literature

text: the fifteen poems in the Poetry and Conflict poetry anthology. We have been analysing great literature and appreciating powerful messages.

Ms Goodbrand,
Head of English



Above: the Year 7 novel



Sawston Adult Learning Here in Adult Learning, we are already looking forward to

January. Our Spring term courses are now on the website and are available to book via the website or over the phone. We are very excited to be able to offer two brand new evening courses; Painting in Acrylics and Grow your own fruit & veg, which is perfect for the run-up to spring. We are also offering a new Seed saving & growing Saturday workshop in March.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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

Business Studies Update

The Year 10s have been developing their understanding of business concepts, focusing on the financial documents that are needed to support the start-up of small businesses. They have recently been asked to design a branded snowflake, and these will be used to decorate the Business classroom.

Year 11s did a fantastic job on their charity Christmas card production line, making just over 200 cards for the organisation, Cards for Bravery, which is dedicated to brightening the days of hospitalised and seriously ill children through the distribution of uplifting handmade cards. This makes a huge difference to these children through tough and isolating times.

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies



History Update

Aethelstan was recently labelled the greatest monarch in British History by the Rest is History podcast. However, many people have never heard of him! Why is this? This half term in History, Year 7s have been exploring our new enquiry 'Why has King Aethelstan been overshadowed by the memory of Alfred? to help pupils understand the difference between 'the past' and 'History'. Pupils are exploring why some people are remembered more than others. We have been looking at the reasons why this can happen, by looking at the role of sources, but also later historical interpretations, like the popular song like Rule Britannia! (written to glorify Alfred the Great).

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History



Update from Maths

It's been a very busy term for our Year 11 Further Mathematicians as they continue to plough through the GCSE Further Maths course. Miss Cook has been really impressed by their commitment to attend extra lessons after school, made harder by the cold, dark evenings. The course is aimed at pupils who are expected to achieve the top grades in GCSE Mathematics and are likely to progress to A-level study in Maths and possibly Further Maths. We will be inviting the next cohort of pupils from Year 10 to apply for a place on the course next term.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Here at Anglian Leisure Sawston, we are feeling festive, and are looking forward to Christmas! We have also started to think about the New Year, and what we can offer to new and existing customers.

If you are thinking of joining the gym in January, you can benefit from our buy one, get one free offer. If you join in January, you will receive the whole month of February for free.

If you are already a customer here, we will be offering you the chance to attend unlimited pay-as-you-go classes for one month for just £15! Please visit sawstonsports.com to take a peek at the classes that are available.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager

Geography Bake Off

November saw the return of the Geography Bake Off, with a theme to celebrate the 'Wonders of the World'! We had some amazing cakes created by pupils. They took us on a journey from the Pyramids in Egypt to the Colosseum in Rome and across the ocean to The White House in the USA. Pupils showed an exceptional level of skill in the design of their cakes and some fantastic geographic knowledge. A huge well done to all those pupils that took part and congratulations to all our winners. We are already looking ahead to next year's competition where we hope to see more pupils from all the houses taking part!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Elyse Walston Year 7 won Geographical interpretation.



We have a great programme to kick off the new year, with NT Live's Dear England coming up on 25 January. We are then showing Pure Clean Water in association with 2G3S, the winning documentary about our water supplies.

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



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Update from Drama

We're at the end of yet another, busy half-term with lots to share! Firstly, a huge CONGRATULATIONS to the Year 8 cast of Grimm, who performed Carol Ann Duffy's adaptations of 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Snow White' for friends and staff in our theatre studio this week. Both stories were crafted with narrative confidence, skill and sensitivity. We hope this will lead to a yearly, in-house mini production for years to come. Bravo to our Year 8s!! NT



Connections update: and our Year 9s and 10s are impressing us with company cohesion, commitment and impressive physical strength with all the chair shifting and re-shaping. So far, we have a forest, an ocean, a school classroom, interpretive dance, an admissions office, and, occasionally, the actors get to sit down! Another theatre trip, this week, took us to see the New International Encounter's latest adaptation with a supremely gifted ensemble company as they took us on their own 'Hansel & Gretel' odyssey, with music, dance, song, special effects and puppets. It is always a joy to invite families along and to warm up for the holidays together. Lastly, our KS3 production of 'Alice' will be auditioning in the new year, and we hope to see lots of budding young actors along for a fun, workshop audition. Exciting stuff! Happy Holidays all!

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

What does it take to make the best biscuits?

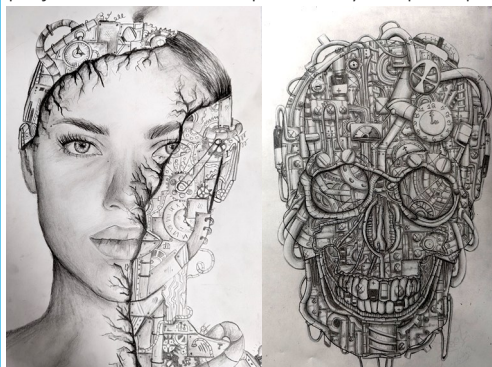
Our Year 11 Food pupils have been working diligently this half term, eagerly experimenting to discover the best biscuit recipe for their GCSE coursework assessment. They took this very seriously, working meticulously to ensure a fair test and applying their relevant scientific knowledge from lessons. As a reward, all our pupils enjoyed tasting the fruits of their labour.

Year 10s have also been challenged by baking Christmassy chocolate roulades for their milestone. This technically complex dish requires precise piping and dazzling decoration. Our pupils rose to the challenge, creating impressive and beautiful bakes of which they were rightly proud. (Pictures on the right.)

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

Update from Art

Over this autumn term the quality and standard of pupil outcomes has gone from strength to strength. Year 11 Art and Photography pupils are adding the final touches to their component 1 coursework ahead of the January deadline, for which we wish them the best of luck. Year 11 Photography pupils have celebrated their first exhibition under the title of Disguise, which was well attended. Year 10 Art and Photography pupils have set a new high standard for coursework development under the titles of personality and identity (Art) and close ups (Photography). Pupils have adjusted well to the expectations of KS4 and relished the challenge of extension tasks to further support their classwork. Years 8 and 9 are well underway with their final milestone outcomes for their projects. I have been impressed by the pride pupils have shown in their



outcomes. Year 7s have begun their first extended project on 'the language of art', researching influential artists such as Cesar Manrique. I am proud of the culture of hard work our current pupils are building in Art and Photography.

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art and Photography

Work by (L to R): Martha Barlow, Year 9, and Paris Asinas, Year 9

Music Update

This half term has seen lots of performances, compositions, trips to concerts and now we are deep in rehearsals for our Carol Service on Tuesday, 19 December at Great St Mary's church. Year 7s have been composing pentatonic winter pieces and reviewing their creations for the first time. Year 8s are fully immersed in chord progressions and have learnt how to play ukulele. Their recent class performances of Seven Nation Army linked all their learning so far. Their milestone tests will check to see how well they can apply this knowledge to new pieces of music. Year 9s have finished a project on the Rite of Spring which really challenged them to answer the question 'what makes it sound like that?' and have finally watched the ballet. We had some excellent listening work, well done to them all. We are now learning about djembe drumming and have composition work to look forward to in the new year. Year 10s held their first class concert and are getting to grips with the Renaissance, culminating in singing some 3 part imitative polyphony by William Byrd (ask them about it!). Year 11s have now completed 30% of their GCSE with some fantastic compositions and performances. Well done to them all!

We are so looking forward to the Carol Service and welcoming back our alumni. It is set to be a wonderful evening, and our pupils have already been working incredibly hard in rehearsals. Thank you to them all and keep up the good work. It will all be more than worth it!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Perfecting biscuits in Year 11 and making roulades in Year 10

Update from Computer Science

Well done to all pupils for another fantastic half term: Year 11s achieved magnificent Mock Exam results; Year 10s have been working hard on various programming challenges; Year 9s are mid-way through designing and developing a mobile application; Year 8s have forensically investigated Cyber Security issues and Year 7s have discussed a wide range of e-Safety themes, whilst logging their learning into their own Google Sites.

It has been wonderful seeing so many pupils engaging with the clubs on offer, and we look forward to seeing new faces in the New Year!

Merry Christmas from Mrs Cane and Mr Kelly.

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

We have had a number of elements of Professional Learning running through this half term. Miss Evans has launched a whole school initiative focusing on developing creativity across our curriculum. This is part of a national project that is running throughout a number of Anglian Learning Schools. The whole of the teaching staff have come together to continue our work on managing discussions around sensitive topics that may arise in our classrooms. Alongside this Ms Jackson-Buckley, Mrs Vincent and Mr Barnett led a very insightful whole staff training session on adaptive teaching, which is our main strand of development that will be running throughout this academic year.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal

All years Cross Country competition

A wet and windy day at Netherhall set for a challenging day for those representing Sawston Village College. However, with many top performances from our cross-country team, we found plenty of success across all year groups, with many of them going on to the next round of competition.

- Well done to James Linzell (Y7) who came 2nd in the Minor Boys race, an incredible success to get him into the next round.
- Torin Jones (Y8) and Oliver Seaborn (Y9) both achieving a solid result with a Torin placing 10th and Oliver 8th for the Junior Boys race.
- Caitlin Bullock (Y9) also found herself through to the next round



Our Cross Country runners

of the competition with a strong result in 10th place. With all races having well over 100 runners, Sawston found themselves in many top placements, which was fantastic. The names above will be representing the school at a weekend event in Peterborough in the new year, and we look forward to hearing how they get on. Good luck and well done to all!

Mr Trent, PE Teacher

STEM Clubs busy in Science

The Junior and Senior STEM clubs have had a busy term launching two different projects that are both based around Raspberry Pis. The first is our now regular participation in the Hills Road Robocon competition to design and build an autonomous robot. Our second project is an entry into a competition run by PA Consulting to develop a product that helps improve personal health and wellbeing. Our Senior STEM team aims to develop a personal, portable air quality monitor that people with asthma or other breathing difficulties could carry around to monitor their environment. We've teamed up with the Computer Science department at school and it will be exciting to see how these projects develop over the next term.

Finally we now have a group of Y9 Science Ambassadors, who are working out how to lead this new programme. Their ideas so far include organising visits to share their enthusiasm for Science with local primary schools, and raising funds to allow us to carry out more dissections. This will give budding future biologists and surgeons an opportunity to try a greater range of dissections than we would normally have opportunity to do in lessons.

Mr Barnett, Science Teacher

House News

The first term has been a resounding success, marked by active pupil participation in all facets of school life. Numerous House activities and competitions, such as the Geography Bake Off and the Christmas Card Design competition have kept the atmosphere vibrant. We take immense pride in our pupils, and seeing them succeed has been a particular highlight of 2023. Throughout this half term, our focus has centred on the celebration of the Community strand of our CARE values.

As we approach the holiday season, we extend our best wishes for a time filled with joy, peace, and well-deserved rest for everyone. Merry Christmas!

Mrs Riondino, Head of Turing House and Year 9 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House

Feliz navidad / Joyeux Noël / Frohe Weihnachten

Well done to all pupils for their hard work in their French, German and Spanish lessons this half term. The Year 11 pupils are working towards finishing the course and getting ready for their GCSE examinations whilst Year 10s have made a great start to the key stage 4 modules.

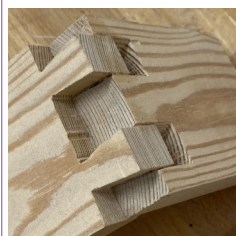
Key stage 3 pupils are working at increasing their confidence in their core knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and phonics and applying this in a wider range of contexts.

Over the Christmas break, why not relax and watch a foreign film or series on your favourite streaming platform with your children? There is a wide range of media available in different languages (with English subtitles) which would support your child's learning whilst allowing the whole family to spend time together.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages

Year 9 Carpentry Skills

Over the last term Year 9 pupils have been getting to grips with their carpentry module. Understanding the importance of simple things like having a sharp pencil or working in mms is beginning to sink in. The focus of the practical lessons has been centred around accuracy and quality of finish. As the practice joints start to come together, pupils are turning their attention to joint selection. Will they choose a dovetail joint or a castle joint to feature in their carcass? I have been particularly impressed with their attention to detail, and I look forward to seeing their products evolve in the spring term.



Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



And finally:

We wish everyone an enjoyable Festive Season and we look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Thursday, 4 January 2024.

