

January / February 2024 Newsletter



**Sawston
Village College**

Dates for your Diary:

19-23 Feb	Half term	12-13 Mar	Year 11 Scripted performances
22 Feb	Cinema Screening: NT Live: Vanya	13 Mar	AL Trust COP Event
29 Feb	Year 8 Report 2 issued	14 Mar	Year 10 Report 2 issued
1 Mar	ABSRM exams	14 Mar	Year 7 Parents' Evening
5 Mar	HPV vaccinations (Year 8)	16-17 Mar	Spotlight Showdown Cheer Competition
6 Mar	Year 11 Exam Information Evening	21 Mar	Year 11 Report 3 issued
7 Mar	Year 11 Hunstanton GCSE Fieldwork	21 Mar	Cinema Screening: NT Live: The Motive and the Cue
7 Mar	Year 7 Report 2 issued	22 Mar	West Road concert
7 Mar	Cinema Screening: The Great Escaper	25-26 Mar	Year 10 Gold Arts Award Play Performance
12 Mar	Year 11 group photograph	27 Mar	Gym & Dance Display
		28 Mar	Spring term ends



From the Principal

We were delighted to be able to share the site regeneration plans proposed under the DfE's School Rebuilding Project at our recent launch. It was three years ago this month that we were named in the first fifty schools to benefit from the scheme but it has clearly taken many steps to reach this final stage before submission to the

planners. In all of the conversations and development of the plans, we have been mindful of four key drivers: providing the best possible curriculum space for our pupils now and in the future; improving the safety of our young people and community users; achieving net zero carbon in operation; and, significantly, staying true to the original vision and values of Henry Morris.

The latter includes ensuring that the campus itself is a 'silent teacher' inspiring and facilitating learning, with courtyards and open spaces in which pupils can thrive. All involved closely in the project are committed to achieving a design that complements the beauty of the original buildings and works in harmony with the culture and ethos of the College. As important, has been securing the future of the site for the use of our community, both through

creating a vibrant learning space for our future generation of village children and in enabling community events, clubs and groups to make full use of improved facilities. The Marven Centre serves a unique function in the College and deserves this investment to secure its future; a new performance space with enhanced seating, improved access and, hopefully, recovered heritage features such as the original gilded ceiling, will breathe fresh life into this much loved building. Something the College alone could never have achieved.

We are hopeful that, with the support of our community and parents, the site plans can be realised and that work on this two-year construction project will start by the end of the year. Whilst we will need to plan carefully the logistics of such a large scale build so as not to impact on pupils' learning and opportunities, the College will continue to deliver the same curriculum and co-curricular programme during and after the work is done. This is an exciting chapter in our history and one which we believe will honour the memory of Henry Morris and strengthen the concept of Village College education.

'The village college... would not only be the training ground for the art of living, but the place in which life is lived...' Henry Morris

Mr Russell, Principal

Update from RE

We started the term with a visit from a Christian organisation called Ignite. They visited our Year 9 pupils, providing them with a workshop focusing on the topic of 'Marriage and the Family'. The department and Ignite were impressed with the level of engagement and the willingness to ask challenging questions. Year 10 Full Course pupils went on their trip to Walsingham, focusing on the importance of pilgrimage and healing for Christians. They too demonstrated the utmost respect for their tour guides and great maturity throughout. As a department, we are aiming to provide more opportunities like this to all year groups, so watch this space for future events.

Year 7s have spent this term focusing on what it means to be a

Muslim, whilst Year 8s have been looking at the importance of Jesus for Christians. Year 11s have had the challenging task of debating the ethics around conflict and whether it is ever justifiable to go to war. All year groups have worked amazingly well this term. Well done to all!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



Above: Year 10 Full Course pupils on their trip to Walsingham



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

Update from English



It has been a creative half term in English. As Maya Angelou, a glorious human, once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." So, we have been learning how to craft texts in order to make our readers FEEL. Year 7s have been writing poems and performing them about an important moment in their lives or a defining relationship that they have had, Year 8s have been exploring *The Arrival*, a

graphic novel by Shaun Tan to write their own piece of narrative writing about the main character's immigration for a better life, and Year 9s have been exploring Shakespeare's tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, and how Shakespeare uses the perfect simile and metaphor to describe the power of first love. Year 10 and Year 11 continue the march to GCSEs. Year 10s are currently reading Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Year 11s are getting ready for their last mock exam covering *An Inspector Calls* and poetry. It has been a busy one!

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English

Business Studies Update



Year 11s are developing their examination skills with lots of exam-style questions. They are nearing the end of the curriculum content and will start to do revision and examination techniques in preparation for the Paper 2 mock they will sit during lessons. Letters have recently gone home about revision guides that can be purchased from the department. Year 10 pupils are deepening their understanding of how small businesses start up and have recently been covering concepts such as external influences on business like the different stakeholder groups, technology and legislation. All pupils are reminded about the resources available to them on the Pupil Drive, especially the virtual classrooms which are a useful revision resource.

[Year 10 - Theme 1](#) [Year 11 - Theme 2](#)

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Geography Update



It has been a busy half term with KS3 pupils studying new topics. Year 9s have been looking at 'Dark Tourism' and whether it is something that should be encouraged. Pupils have enjoyed learning about sites including Auschwitz, Pompeii and Kibera in Kenya, focusing on slum tourism. Year 8s have been exploring Russia, Asia and the Middle East. In Russia, pupils learned about the different biomes across the country and how they could be affected by climate change in the future. In Asia, they have turned their attention to megacities, which have populations of over 10 million people! And our Year 7 pupils are investigating 'Is there a climate emergency?' which has introduced them to the causes and effects of climate change. Pupils have asked some fantastic questions about climate change so it is great to see young people so concerned about the future of our planet.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

History Update



We were delighted to welcome former pupil Professor Tom Lawson into school at the end of January to help us mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Professor Lawson, Deputy Vice Chancellor at Northumbria University and a Historian of the Holocaust gave talks to GCSE pupils and Year 9 pupils. In mentor time pupils reflected on this year's theme: 'Fragility of Freedom' and wrote pledges for display on our Holocaust Memorial Day plinth.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History



Professor Tom Lawson

Update from Maths



It has been business as usual in the Maths department. Year 9s sat end of Key Stage 3 Maths exams in January and are to be congratulated on their maturity, resilience and hard work in preparing for their milestones. They have since been learning about different aspects of Financial Literacy, always a topic that engages a great deal of interest. From tax and national insurance to mortgages and pay day loans, we hope that the pupils are better informed to make sensible monetary decisions as young adults.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Sawston Adult Learning

Our weekly spring term courses are now up and running, and

attention is now focused on our Saturday workshops which will be held on 9 March.



We are very pleased to be able to offer a brand new workshop this term, which focuses on collecting, saving and effectively

growing seeds from your garden/allotment - a great course for spring! We are also offering Willow Plant Support Wigwams, Sketch-booking and a new menu for Indian Street Food. Please visit our website for further details 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

Our Exercise4Fun scheme is proving very popular. This is a 12-week free

active lifestyle programme with 3 formats:

- Adult (age 18 and over) programme
- Adult (age 18 and over) disability programme
- Family programme for children aged 11 to 16 and accompanying parent/guardian.

The adult programme is for participants with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or above (in ethnic minority groups it is lower at 23.5 or above) and inactive. Both the adult disability and the family programme are for those who are inactive and concerned about their weight.

Those taking part will be currently inactive (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week), and not an existing member of a leisure centre.

Activities will be chosen by the group in consultation with the qualified instructor at the first group session.

If this sounds like something of interest to you, please email:

fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk.

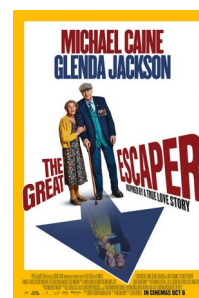
Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



We have a great programme coming up: NT Live's *Vanya* on 22 February, *The Great Escaper* on 7 March and *The Motive and the Cue*, another NT Live feature, on 21 March.

To see our full programme, visit our website:

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Update from Drama

Another half term has flown, and we are very excited about all the forthcoming performances for our budding, young actors. First up will be the Year 11 play extracts in March, with contemporary and classical pieces from a full range of plays for a live audience and a visiting examiner. On the very same week we have the professional company, Theatre Centre, visiting us with their brand new two-hander, *'Wish You Weren't Here'* for our Year 10s in the Studio Theatre. The play is a heart-warming comedy following teenager Mila and her mum Lorna as they take a seaside holiday together as a single-parent family. In April our NT Connections piece will be performed here before the cast heads to the Garage Theatre, Norwich in May to perform their show, *'Shout'*, an ensemble piece with lots of interesting chair action. The same month hosts the Year 10 devised pieces, and we will be taking our Year 9 GCSE Drama pupils to a matinee of *'Much Ado about Nothing'* at the Globe as an enriching and inspirational treat for the day. Our Drama and Music collaboration, *'Alice'*, starts rehearsals after half term and we are about to get started on that, too.

A plethora of performance opportunities await, and we look forward to seeing you at one or all of these celebratory events. Our thanks, as ever, for your supremely gifted children and your ongoing support of Drama.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE
DRAMA and MUSIC Departments
Welcomes years 7, 8 & 9 to audition for

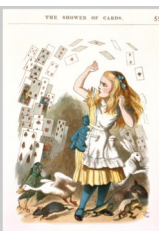
ALICE

A musical play in two acts

Wednesday 24th 3:15 - 5pm
D1 (Drama Studio)

No preparation necessary.

[More information on the Drama Notice board](#)



Music Update

Renaissance dancing, pop song composing and djembe playing have all featured in the Key Stage 3 curriculum this term. At KS4, Year 10s have been learning about the development of the concerto as a musical form in the Baroque and Classical periods. They have done some super performances as a class, (thank you to Mr Davies for being our audience) and have tackled their first GCSE listening questions. Year 11s had a visit from Vaishu (Year 10 pupil) who performed a superb Bharatanatyam dance for us to support our study of North Indian Classical music. Thank you, Vaishu! The world of film and games music awaits once their final compositions are handed in. Outside the classroom, our Year 11s treated us to a wonderful evening of music at Stapleford Granary; a huge thanks to all at the Granary for their support in putting on this concert. All of our groups are also now preparing for our annual concert at West Road Concert Hall on Friday, 22 March. The week after half term holds a fantastic opportunity to sing evensong alongside Selwyn College Choir. Keep practising everyone!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

Exploring the Science of Baking



This term, our Year 9s delved into the science of baking. Pupils were keen to investigate the best raising agent in cakes, exploring questions such as 'Why do cakes rise?' and 'How do raising agents affect taste and texture?'. Pupils were busy baking, bringing science to life in the kitchen. They experimented creating cupcakes with different types of raising agents to see which

they preferred. They especially enjoyed being creative whilst piping intricate meringue kisses and loved rolling Swiss rolls. Well done to all our Year 9s, who should feel very proud of their finished bakes.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Year 9 pupils enjoyed piping intricate meringue kisses.

Update from Art

The Art department has hit the ground running across the year groups as our first milestones are completed. Year 7s complete their natural form and under the sea studies. Year 8s finish a compelling series of impressionist paintings, and Year 9s polish off their steampunk inspired portraits. Meanwhile, across KS4, Year 10s have recently completed their first major project paintings which are the strongest the department has seen! We congratulate Year 11s on the completion of component 1, worth 60% of their GCSE, and wish them luck into their exam phase. Likewise, in Photography we also proudly celebrate our frontier cohort on the completion of their component 1 coursework and wish both Year 11 and Year 10 success for the future as they enter the 'Beyond the Frame' competition run by Norwich University of the Arts.

Mr Unsworth,
Head of Art and
Photography



Work by (Top) Emma Griffin Y9, (Above L to R): Giovanni Granato, Y7, Elizabeth Abell, Y8

Computer Science Update

Computer Scientists have been exploring a wide range of topic areas this half term. Year 7s have investigated their Computing Heroes and are ready to present what they have learnt. Year 8s have teamed up with the Drama Department to create some fantastic Silent Movies. Year 9s are getting started with understanding computer components and how these affect overall performance, after designing some really creative animations. Year 10s have made brilliant progress in understanding how data is represented, and Year 11s have been discussing different threats within the Cyber Security field, and how to prevent these. The LEGO Robots are really coming together now; well done to all those involved. Build a PC Club will be starting a new project after half term. Look out for the notice in the Bulletin.

Mrs Cane, Head of
Computer Science

Fantastic LEGO robots



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 continued to lead on the whole school initiative focusing on developing creative thinking. This term she has been working with a number of other subject areas to investigate this across our wider curriculum. This is part of a national project running throughout a number of Anglian Learning schools. The whole of the teaching staff has also come together to continue our work on developing *Reading* across our subject areas and the de-escalation of difficult situations.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Football Success for Year 10 Boys

Congratulations to our Year 10 boys, who won their first district cup match against Netherhall School on 7 February 2024. With a 4-1 win, they have shown a strong team effort going into the next round.

After going 1-0 down in the first 5 minutes, Sawston quickly returned an equaliser, with Ned Jones scoring a fantastic goal to get the boys back in the game. Then, shortly after receiving a free



Year 10 Boys Football Team

kick 10 yards outside the box, Lucas Hernandez Velasco scored an exceptional goal which landed top right. With the boys up 2-1 and ecstatic from the quick set of goals, they played fantastic football. Finley Walker led the team, with support from Eddie Pyner, to clear the ball into brilliant attacking opportunities. Winning a penalty, Eddie added another to the score to put the boys in a comfortable 3-1 lead. Lewis Jones and Nic Alfred put plenty of pressure on many of Netherhall's players to prevent any attacks and, with a through ball from Finley, we found Sawston getting another goal from Barnaby Freshwater.

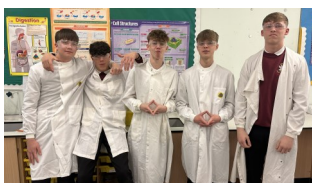
The team have made a strong start for their first fixture of the year, and have shown that they can work superbly as a team.

Mr Trent, PE Teacher



Update from Science

This half term has been busy in Science. Junior STEM club have been completing numerous projects: most recently having fun building some rather inventive marble runs. Senior STEM are also busy investigating air quality: using a donated sensor we are logging and monitoring air quality inside different classrooms to investigate how it varies across school and to identify what affects it most. As well as using the donated sensor, Senior STEM are building personal air quality sensors for a competition to design and build a personal health care device based on



Budding microbiologists in Year 9

a Raspberry Pi. At the same time, our regular lessons have included their usual mix of theory and practical investigations - the photograph shows budding microbiologists from Year 9 getting ready to test out the effectiveness of different antiseptics.

This half term we also welcomed the National Space Academy who led a workshop focused on the Artemis mission for 40 Year 8 pupils. Pupils had a great time exploring how rockets are propelled and learning about fuel cells.

Mr Barnett, Science Teacher

House News

After the Christmas break we welcomed our pupils back for a new year and a fresh start. They returned with focus and were reminded of our CARE values. Assemblies then gave messages about the power of word choices, learning from mistakes, adopting positive character traits and considering the impact we each have on Community. We have interviewed and selected an incredible group of new House Ambassadors and look forward to working with them. New Peer Mentors have also been appointed and will begin supporting young people in the next half term. We look forward to welcoming more daylight to our days and to another successful half term.

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



Focus on Speaking Skills in MFL

Congratulations to the Year 8 French and Spanish cohort who have just completed a role play speaking task and the Year 9 Spanish pupils who have focused on reading aloud and answering questions on the topic of work. Speaking assessments can sometimes feel the most daunting for pupils but it is also a really important ability to develop. As a result, our curriculum is built in such a way that it allows pupils to gain confidence as they progress through Key Stage 3 and feel equipped to face the GCSE speaking exams in Year 10 and Year 11.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



Educational Projects in DT for Year 10

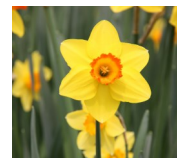
The Year 10 Design and Technology classes have completed a project centred around designing a product for a client. The given brief was to design and make an educational toy. The pupils have analysed the brief, found a client, produced a specification and thought carefully about the impact of the toy on the environment. We have had some incredibly creative iterations which have now been realised. The final stage is to develop their prototypes through CAM. Great work Year 10!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



And finally:

We wish everyone an enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday, 26 February 2024.



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