

2 February 2024



**Sawston  
Village College**

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round Up**

Congratulations to all involved in the wonderful Y11 concert held at Stapleford Granary last night. It was a good way to celebrate the end of an exam week and all profit will go towards the Y11 Ball. Well done to our Mathematicians who entered the Intermediate Challenge on Wednesday; we look forward to finding out your results. Please don't forget to have your say on the new site plans; the consultation closes on Monday.

### **NEW GCSE Exam Statements of Entry for this summer series 2024**

Letters and statements of exam entry will be distributed to pupils next week during mentor time. Please check the statements of entry carefully, making any amendments if needed. Pupils and parents/carers are required to sign the statement to confirm the exam entries, and these must be returned to the Exams Office via the box in Reception by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.

### **NEW Mobile Phones and Social Media Safety**

Mobile phones are ubiquitous but young people need to understand the responsibilities associated with having such a powerful tool at their fingertips. Over the last couple of weeks, we have seen a rise in safeguarding concerns relating to the sharing of images across social media where permission to share the images has not been sought. At its worse, this is cyber bullying and, potentially, becomes a criminal matter; it leaves young people feeling vulnerable and is harmful. We do not expect pupils to be using phones at any time on the College grounds between 8am and 3.30pm.

Before Christmas, our assemblies focused on social media and their responsibilities. In PSHE lessons this term, we have also been raising this. We strongly encourage all parents/carers to talk to their children about their phone usage and to check their child's phone regularly to ensure that they are keeping themselves safe. There are some very useful resources available to help you support your child; those listed below are a good place to start. Please do contact us if there is anything further we can do to help or support.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



### **NEW Attendance and Punctuality Update**

We are pleased that so many pupils are achieving 100% attendance every week and are therefore entered in the draw, which will take place on the first day back after half term break. We are reaching the point in the term where tiredness can lead to pupils feeling under the weather and therefore we are offering a double entry incentive for next week. Every pupil who achieves 100% attendance next week will receive two entries into the prize draw giving them an extra chance of winning. We would also like to remind you about the importance of punctuality as there are a significant number of pupils who are frequently arriving late to school in the morning. Whilst buses are beyond our control, if your child comes to school by any other means, please ensure that they leave home early enough to be on the College site by 8.25am in order to be on time for their mentor session at 8:30. Thank you for your continued support.

### **NEW Mental Health Update- Counselling**

As you will be aware, we work with a number of counselling providers to support mental health (and we have some in-house mentoring support, too), one of which is Centre 33. In school there is a great deal of demand for counselling and all of our providers currently have a waiting list, some of which are quite long. We wanted to make sure that parents and carers are aware that it can often be quicker if your child needs support to approach Centre 33 directly via their website ([www.centre33.org.uk](http://www.centre33.org.uk)) then choose 'worried about someone?' then 'parents and friends'. The website also features an on-line wellbeing toolkit and other information to support young people with their mental health. If your child does access some counselling outside school, please do let us know.

### **REMINDER Sawston Regeneration Plans – Feedback Closing February 5<sup>th</sup>**

If you would like your say on the plans for the site then please be aware that the closing date for the public consultation is February 5<sup>th</sup>. The plans are available online [here](#) and include a computer generated animation [here](#). You can submit feedback [here](#).

### **REMINDER Y9 Options Process**

Further to the launch events last week, there is an opportunity for parents and pupils to access online videos outlining each options subject via the school website [here](#). Please encourage your sons/daughters to watch these and to seek out subject teachers, during the school day, for further information in advance of the Y9 Parent Consultation Evening on 8<sup>th</sup> February and the Options Interview that you will be invited to thereafter.

### **REMINDER Immunisations**

The School Aged Immunisations Service visited today to administer Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal ACWY vaccinations to those Y9 pupils with consent (plus older pupils who previously missed this vaccine). For any pupils who missed the vaccination today, there will be a drop-in clinic at the Grafton Centre on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 9.00 am - 2.45 pm.

They will also visit on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March to administer the HPV vaccine to Y8 pupils. Please see [here](#) to complete the online consent form.

## **COMMUNITY Great Shelford Community Awards 2024**

Great Shelford Parish Council wish to celebrate the contributions of the unsung heroes from their village. The awards are designed to recognise the difference residents have made to members of the community. In its third year, there is an award for anyone under 18 years of age who has overcome personal difficulty or made a stand to improve their life or the lives of others.

*Just some examples may be coping with bereavement, bullying, disability or medical conditions, or someone who has supported others who face such problems.*

Nominations close on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February with awards presented at their Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-awards-2024/>

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Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Jonathan Russell