

March / April 2024 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

15 April	Summer term begins
17-18 April	GCSE Photography exam
18 April	Cinema screening: <i>A Haunting in Venice</i>
18-19 April	NT Connections performances
25 April	Junior Maths Challenge
25-26 April	GCSE Art exam
22 April	1 May - Year 10 exams
2 May	Cinema screening: <i>One Life</i>
3 May	NT Connections Festival, Norwich

5 May	Schools Out Cheer Competition
7-8 May	Year 10 Devising Theatre Showcase
9 May	Cinema screening: NT Live: <i>Nye</i>
12 May	Sawston Fun Run
16 May	Year 8 Report 3 issued
17-19 May	Silver DofE practice expedition
21 May	Year 10 Rounders Tournament
21 May	Year 10 Oracy Workshop
16 May	Year 7 and 9 Athletics fixture
24 May	End of half term



From the Principal

Seeing young people enjoy themselves and develop must be one of the greatest privileges in education. Whether this is in the classroom or the lab, the kitchen or the workshop, on the sports field or elsewhere, the delight is the same. There is something about their energy and vitality and, perhaps above all, the likelihood of future growth and further promise.

In the Friday parent communication we reflect on some of the highlights each week. There will have been many things missed out. Not least the seemingly inconsequential moments that happen every day: the first time a pupil truly understands a concept; the conversation between adult and child that leaves the pupil a little more reassured; the pass that was made to set up the goal. In these moments, iteratively the promise grows. However, we also know that all good things require effort and rarely happen by chance.

For those lucky enough to have been at West Road for our annual music concert, you will have seen first-hand, how practice, commitment, leadership and joie de vivre combine to make something magical. We are fortunate at Sawston Village College, to have a vibrant, flourishing music department, one that affords



Performing at the West Road Music Concert

young people an opportunity to showcase their talents on stage to an appreciative audience. The work of our instrumental teachers and our music teachers is outstanding.

One of the greatest pleasures is to see those in Year 7 and Year 8 play and sing alongside more senior pupils, and for all to delight equally in each other's success. In this as in all that we do, we try to encourage good role models and foster a supportive and celebratory culture. Almost all pupils subscribe to this, which gives us all hope and a promise of even greater things to come.

'Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.'
– John F. Kennedy

Mr Russell, Principal



Update from Drama

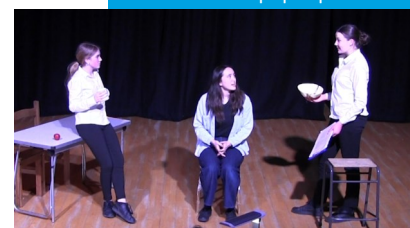
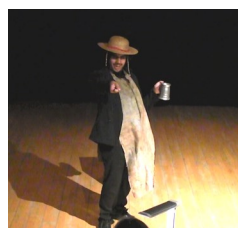
So, another extremely busy time in the Drama department with last week's visit from the AQA Examiner and a packed audience for our brilliant and gifted Year 11 actors. We could not have been prouder of every young person on that stage, and to perform an exam live is no mean feat! They rose to the occasion, professionally and with great composure. Bravo, Year 11s! Now onto the Year 10s who are in rehearsals for their Devised works showcase in May. We also have our NT Connections piece, 'Shout' in full swing once again this week with dates in April to be announced very soon. Our KS3 school production of 'Alice' has started music calls, and we look forward to transforming the

Marven Centre into a weird wonderland for an immersive experience for all to enjoy.

Happy Easter to all and we would just like to thank you, hugely, for ALL your support.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

Below: Year 11 pupils perform



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

Update from English



Creative writing has been our focus in Year 7 and Year 8 this term, particularly encouraging cognitive empathy. We want our pupils to be able to consider a different perspective from their own and to this end Year 7s have been writing from the perspective of Julia in *Julia and the Shark*, a 2021 novel by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, and Year 8s have been responding to Shaun Tan's 2006 graphic novel *The Arrival*. Year 9s have been exploring poetry and the poetry of protest reading poems written

about apartheid in South Africa. Year 10s, however, are busily preparing for their Year 10 exams. They have been practising analysing short stories for their Language paper and finishing *A Christmas Carol* for their Literature paper. Year 11s are now really on the final stretch; we have finished the course and using knowledge from their recent mock exams. Teachers are targeting areas that still need work, be that reading skills, writing skills or reexploring our Literature texts.

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English

Business Studies Update



Both year groups have been working hard on completing their relevant course content and we are now focusing on revision and examination technique. Pupils are reminded to keep up to date with their Google classroom news feed for revision advice and current affairs. They are also advised to use the resources available to them e.g. [Y10 Virtual Classrooms](#) & [Y11 Virtual Classrooms](#). Year 11s have the opportunity to attend revision sessions every Tuesday lunchtime in G2.

Mrs Nesam, Head of Business Studies

Geography Update



This half term saw our Year 11 Geographers completing their fieldwork for their Geographical Application exam in the summer. Pupils conducted two enquiries on our trip to Hunstanton. Firstly, pupils investigated the effectiveness of coastal management by completing Environmental Quality Surveys of the groynes and sea wall. They then measured the exposure of the groynes on the beach to see whether they had been effectively trapping sediment from longshore drift. Pupils then turned their attention to tourism in the town and the impacts that it has - positive and negative - conducting questionnaires with the public and a land use survey. A fish and chip lunch was reward for all! We are now spending time in lesson presenting and analysing our data.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



History Update



As both GCSE exams for Year 11s and Year 10 mock exams are coming up, we thought we'd share a reminder of the resources available to our pupils on the KS4 Google classroom. Pupils can get access to the revision packs with the summaries of each of the key questions they are likely to get asked in an exam, revision videos for each of the questions, and also past exam papers. Pupils are automatically added to the Classroom if they do GCSE History but if they are struggling to locate it, they are very welcome to speak to their class teacher who will help them find the resources they need.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History

Update from Maths



Pi Day is celebrated on 14 March around the world. Pi (not the apple variety), is the symbol used to represent the number of times the diameter of any circle fits into its circumference. In school, Year 8 pupils used string and rulers to measure lots of circular objects. They discovered that this value is always a little over 3. They were surprised to hear that Pi has been calculated to over 50 trillion digits and continues infinitely without repetition or pattern. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for maths enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi. How would you get on?

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Sawston Adult Learning

It's Spring! So, if you are interested in organically growing your own produce or increasing the yield on the plot you already have, now is the ideal time to enrol onto our new 'Grow your own fruit and veg' weekly evening course. In addition



to this, we have several other new courses on offer, including Acrylic painting, Mandarin and a

Thai food Saturday workshop.

All of our courses for the summer term are now on the website and are available to book by visiting the website or contacting the office. Visit our website:

www.sawstonadultlearning.org,
email: community@sawstonvc.org,
or phone: 01223 712424.

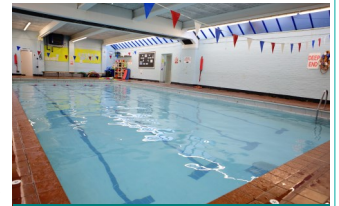
Mrs Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

We are currently busy preparing for the Easter holidays.

Our programme of activities will include intensive swimming lessons, trampolining, junior life-guarding and soft play! We will also be offering extra family swimming sessions during the day. Please see our website: sawstonsports.com for further details.



Intensive swimming lessons and family swimming sessions are on offer over Easter.

Please note that we will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday.

Also, our swimming lessons will be open to new swimmers from 2 April. Our lessons are suitable for children aged 2 and upwards, right up to advanced lessons for secondary school children.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



We have enjoyed a fantastic programme this half term and have a great offer coming up, including: *A Haunting in Venice*, (18 April), *One Life* (2 May) and NT Live's *Nye* on 9 May.

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



Update from RE

Another busy half term in the RE department. Year 7s have been exploring Hinduism through examining one of the largest ancient epics in world literature, the Ramayana. Year 8s have explored what is meant by having a worldview and studied examples of those who have been inspired enough to put this view into action. Year 9s have moved on to studying Christian beliefs, looking at the different views around the trinity. Year 10 short course pupils are working hard on finalising their examined Philosophy projects. Year 10 full course pupils have moved on to studying Islamic beliefs, looking at the similarities and difference between Sunni and Shi'a beliefs. Year 11s have now finished their course content and are getting prepared for their first exam in May. There is a voluntary drop-in session available for all Year 11 full course pupils during lunch every Wednesday week B in RS2. Well done to all pupils for their hard work this term and wonderful engagement!

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



Music Update

A trip for our older singers to Selwyn College to sing joint evensong, a day of improvisation workshops with the Grand Union orchestra followed by a concert for all of Year 7, trips to hear EACHO perform glorious concerti and a West Road concert to look forward to this Friday. It's definitely been a busy term in the Music Department. We also write in the middle of Arts Week where our Arts Forum members have been advertising their wonderful instruments and the ensembles we have at school. All pupils are warmly invited to consider instrument lessons and we offer free tasters on a variety of instruments. At the moment we are on the hunt for our next oboe and bassoon players as some fine Year 11 players leave us at the end of the year. If you are interested in trying out these fantastic instruments please contact Miss Irwin, Head of Music, cirwin@sawstonvc.org. Please don't let finance stop you, there are funds we can direct you towards for support.

In the classroom we have enjoyed Renaissance dance music composition from Year 7, Pop and Rock performances from Year 8 and are currently being soothed by the gong sounds of Indonesian gamelan in Year 9 with some fantastic playing from pupils. Year 11s have some final ensemble performances to record and Year 10s are exploring the virtuosic world of Romantic music. Well done to all of our pupils and see you at the concert on Friday!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Successful Food GCSE Practical Exams

The Food Department has been bustling with activity during our Year 11's challenging practical exams, in which students had to cook three dishes within three hours. Utilising fresh, seasonal ingredients, they showcased dishes of restaurant-quality standard, which required thorough

organisation, dedication, and culinary skills. Examples of such dishes included chicken goujons with summer slaw, sausage plaits with caramelised onion chutney, and lemon meringue pie with fruit coulis. Pupils had diligently practised at home to excel in their final menu. Throughout this term, they made various initial dishes, which helped them to prepare for the big day. We are so proud of our Y11 pupils for all their hard work. Their success would not have been possible without the great support of both parents/carers and staff.

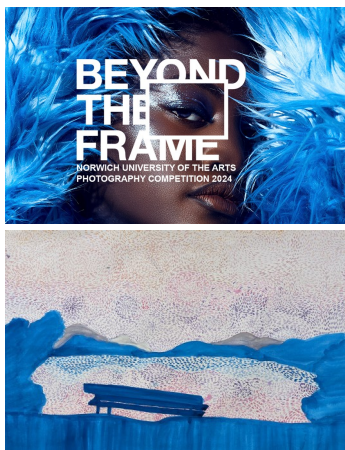
Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Update from Art

This term we have been able to showcase and celebrate the skills of our pupils beyond the gates of SVC. Alice Woodcock and Martha Barlow were selected for the Cambridge Area Young Artist Competition exhibition, which took place at the beginning of March. Alice's impressionist landscape showed fantastic painting skills, and Martha Barlow was awarded the coveted Drawing prize for her steampunk pencil portrait. We are also pleased to announce Abbie Wightman, Eric Russ-Czerwik, Louisa Martin (all Year 11) and Samidhi Fernando (Year 10) have all been shortlisted for the international photography competition 'Beyond the Frame' organised by Norwich University of the Arts. Over 650 pupils applied from across the world and our pupils' work was selected among 50 young photographers' work to be displayed in the exhibition at Norwich University of the Arts from 28 March until 27 April. We look forward to celebrating the success of more of our young creatives as the year progresses, and we wish our Year 11s all the best of luck with their final exams after Easter.

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art and Photography



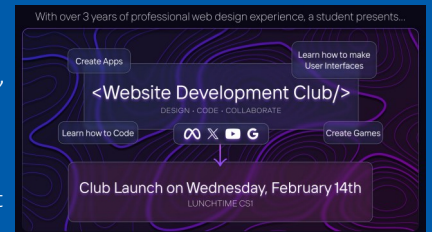
Above: Artwork by Alice Woodcock, Year 8

Computer Science Update

Another term has whizzed by! Year 11 are at the end of the teaching content; well done to all for your efforts. The pupils have worked hard on exam-style question practice in the past few months, with lots more practice ahead. Please do utilise the theory and practical intervention sessions on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times. Year 10 pupil, Blake, has been hosting a Web Development club on

Wednesday lunch times, which has been a great success so far. Well done and thank you, Blake, for your time and efforts with this. A group of KS3 pupils participated in the Cyber Explorers Cup last week, where they were given cryptic clues to try and solve computer-science related puzzles. This was fantastic fun and I look forward to the next one!

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

The major element of Professional Learning over the past month was a very successful training day, which we hosted with our colleagues from Linton Village College, focusing on a range of areas around 'Developing our inclusive culture'. We had the pleasure of listening to a number of external speakers and participated in a range of workshops that focused on different elements of educational need. The keynote speaker was Gareth Morewood, starting the event with a talk on the inclusion of young people with complex needs. During the day we heard from Amjad Ali and Caroline Spalding around the areas of inclusion and disadvantaged pupils. It was a very successful day that all staff valued and took elements of back to their classrooms to reflect on their practice.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



House News

We have had an exciting array of events this half term. World Book Day sparked imaginations, celebrating literature across the school. Arts Week ignited creativity, showcasing pupils' artistic talents and fostering a love of expression. Red Nose Day brought laughter and unity, with a non-uniform day raising funds for a worthy cause. Year 9s have been exploring their Key Stage 4 options, paving the way for their academic journey ahead. Year 11s dazzled audiences with gripping drama pieces for their GCSE exams, showcasing theatrical prowess and dedication, while SYD's Les Misérables performance left the audience in awe. It's been a term filled with creativity, compassion, and academic exploration.

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



Year 8 District Cup

Well done to our Year 8 boys with yet another win for them this year. A superb result ending with a 3-0 win against Melbourn Village College played here at Sawston has put them into the semi finals of the District Cup. A first goal from Taddy Fouda stood the boys in good stead towards the end of the first half and ended the first portion of the match



Year 8 Football Team

on a high. A constructive start gave the boys plenty of confidence as they worked the ball around the field with some star plays from Luke Warner and Joseph Richardson. The second half began with an early penalty in Sawston's favour where Keanan Burns planted it in the back of the net, giving us a 2-0 lead. As the boys progressed and prevented plenty of opportunities from Melbourn, we were able to increase our lead with a 3rd and final goal from Max Crump, which was delivered exceptionally from Taddy.

The boys gave a class performance, well captained by Oscar Karpuk, and we look forward to their progression in the next round. The team has shown plenty of development over the year and has showcased many of the positive qualities we uphold at Sawston.

Mr Trent, PE Teacher



Update from MFL

In Languages, Year 10s are completing their first formal speaking exams, which will count for a quarter of their grade in their Year 10 exams. Well done to pupils for their hard work to prepare for this and thank you to Inés and Lola, our Spanish and French assistants who have helped them practise.

Year 11 pupils will be completing their final speaking exams – worth 25% of their final grade just after the Easter holidays and are busy preparing and revising too. We wish them the best of luck with this (and lots of practice during the holidays!) It is important for pupils to practise regularly to increase their confidence and fluency and perform to the best of their ability in their exam. Good luck and happy revising!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



Update from Science

This term, British Science Week (March 2024) provided pupils with an opportunity to engage in extra scientific activities. Mr Koria organised mentor time activities, including science quizzes, discussion topics and information about scientific careers. The department led lunchtime practicals centred around the theme of 'Time', including escape rooms and an opportunity to build a tellurion. We also had a visit from senior scientists at Charles River Laboratories, who gave some Year 8 and Year 9 classes an insight into the process of drug discovery. Pupils enjoyed learning about the HTS (High Throughput Screening) process and pipetting into assay plates. This week, Mr Barnett took a team of capable Year 10 scientists to the Perse Science Quiz. Working as a fantastic team to answer some tricky questions, we beat 8 other schools to win the competition!

Pupils were busy in British Science Week

Miss Armsby, Head of Science



Year 9 Carpentry Module in DT

The focus of this Year 9 project is predominantly on practical skills. Pupils have been investigating jointing methods and softwood. They have produced a test piece before going on to making their final piece. Most pupils have used finger joints to assemble the carcass. Lids were either butterfly hinged or push fit. Then it was time to for lid designs, either by hand or by using the CAD/CAM. All that is left to do now is tidy up, apply and finish and take home for Easter. Great work Year 9!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



And finally:

We wish everyone a Happy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday, 15 April 2024.



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