

# The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine

  
Sawston  
Village College  
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Issue 74



Above: Year 7 pupils enjoy Food Practicals

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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

## Success at Science Competition



Congratulations to Year 10 pupils Emma Russell, Lily Liu-Child, Wensea Lee, and Shan Malik, who recently won The Perse Science Quiz. Read about their experience below.

### Lily comments:

We four Year 10s went to The Perse School for a local Science Competition against

other Year 10s from local schools. There were three rounds: Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Each round consisted of a quiz, a hands-on practical activity and a bonus question. We started with Chemistry having:

- a 22-question quiz (A great start from all the team.) - scoring up to 30
- to list as many scientists as we could who have their name on the periodic table. (Wensea was throwing them out full pelt.) - scoring up to 10
- to create as many different isomers of  $C_5H_{10}$  (Fantastic handiwork from Emma and her knowledge of shapes.) - scoring up to 10

In this round we scored 21, 10 and 8 respectively.

The next round was Physics. We had:

- a 24-question quiz (incredible facts from Shan helped us enormously.) - scoring up to 30
- to list how many SI units of measurements were named after scientists (Incredible show from Wensea here.) - scoring up to 10
- to carry out a practical to see how far a bottle could lean without falling at different water levels - scoring up to 10

With a massive thanks to Emma in the practical, we scored 20, 10 and 8 respectively.

At this time, the current results were revealed. We were shocked to find that we were in the lead with 77 points but closely followed by The Perse on 74 and Impington VC on 72.

We moved on to the final round - Biology, where we had:

- a 24-question quiz (Wonderful teamwork shown by all.) - scoring up to 30
- to list how many species of primates were still alive (Shan and Wensea combined their incredible knowledge and withdrew 15 different species!) - scoring up to 10
- to try and solve what different specimens were, combining our knowledge and our sense of smell. (Emma helped us with her extensive knowledge of herbs and beans!) - scoring up to 10

In this round we gained 23, 10 and 6 respectively.

We came 1st, with 116 points, 6.5 ahead of Heritage School. We were also very proud to beat The Perse School, who scored 104. Thank you very much to Mr Barnett and The Perse Science Team who made this happen. It was a wonderful experience, and we wish the best of luck to next year's Year 10 in this.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We pooled our knowledge together with wonderful facts from everyone I could never have guessed. Did you know that there is an element named after a Scottish village? (Strontium is named after Strontian, Scotland.) I really enjoyed working as a team and trying to solve all the problems. I am also really proud of my little mole (Dudeoji-mole!) that we got for winning.

### Emma comments:

The Science quiz was great fun. It was great to be able to share knowledge as we each had different strong suits and areas of expertise. I was amazed at how my teammates knew the answers to some of the very obscure questions. Overall, it was a lovely experience and so interesting. We are all really proud to have brought home the trophy for Sawston Village College!

### Wensea comments:

The quiz itself was based on very random and somewhat obscure facts. These are some of the questions that came up: "Which planet does Triton orbit around?" and "Give the chemical formula for the cyanide ion". I think one of the reasons we managed to succeed was we all had different areas of knowledge. It was very interesting and fun to compete, drawing on our diverse and broad areas of knowledge. If you think you would like to participate in this next year, the best preparation is probably just to observe and remember facts around you - I knew one of the answers because I had seen it on a health poster in the library.

# Welcome



It is our mission to unlock potential, create opportunity and achieve excellence. Fine words, indeed, and an ambition shared, no doubt, by all schools in the UK. All schools want the best for their young people and want to provide opportunities in and outside of the classroom in which they can thrive.

We are fortunate at Sawston to have staff who are committed to the cause and who will give of their free time to run trips, activities, clubs, residentials, tournaments, competitions, sports and all manner of extra-curricular events. Achieving excellence wherever possible because of a belief that young people will aim for the best if given the chance to do so. That we have also created a culture in which young people have ambition for themselves and seek opportunities is further testament to the dedication of the staff. However, it is the pupils who inspire us to work with them: their creativity, their willingness to try and their appetite for success.

The Fountain is a collaborative effort between staff and pupils, ably led in this, her final edition, by Phoebe and the Senate. We thank her for her contribution to the life of the College and to all in pupil leadership positions who do what they can to make sure all voices

are heard. Whilst we have resources to do so and the staff and means to make things happen, we will always remain committed to creating opportunity and ensuring fine words are realised.

*'Youth is the opportunity to do something and to be somebody.'* - Walter Raleigh

**Mr Russell, Principal**

## Welcome from the Senate Ambassador and Pupil Fountain Editor

Being the Senate Ambassador for this year and having responsibility for The Fountain has been a great pleasure, and I am very thankful for having had the opportunity to work alongside Ms Morgan to produce this magazine. I have very much enjoyed being involved in this process. I am also thankful to all of the Forums for the amazing work they have done across the year, both individually and also collectively, raising money for charities and for our Year 11 Leavers' Ball. We have gone from bake sales and non-uniform days to sports competitions and leg waxing!

I am very proud of everyone's hard work.

This term we have produced another bumper edition of The Fountain, and I hope you will enjoy reading about the trips and activities pupils have been up to both within and beyond the school.

I will now be handing over to the new Senate, and I wish whoever takes on this wonderful role the best of luck going forward. Thank you for your support this year.

**Phoebe**



**Phoebe**

# Update from the Senate Forums



This year, in the Eco Forum, we have done various things to raise awareness about the environment around us at school. Firstly, we helped out with a plant, crafts and bake sale at the beginning of term, raising money for the school garden that the Garden Club has

been developing every week. This was a very successful event; lots of people helped out and we had a lot of fun doing so, selling all sorts of great plants, cakes and recycled, eco-friendly crafts. We then began planning for this year's school COP event, but unfortunately it was recently cancelled. We know that a lot of people who attend our forum were keen to take part in this, so all we can do is hope that it will go ahead next year. Moving forward, we plan to make the most of Earth Day which is coming up in April, and use the whole week to raise awareness about our planet, focusing on this year's theme, 'Planet vs Plastics'. We're excited to solidify our ideas for this week in our upcoming forum meeting!

Faye, Anna and Enna, Co-Chairs of the Eco Forum



This year in the arts we have achieved many things, including the virtual art exhibition which proved to be a great success with some lovely outcomes shared.

Another successful event was the Year 11 Granary

Concert: pupils performed brilliantly and really showed off their musical talent. As a forum we also led on Arts Week with a series of art, literary, drama and musical activities completed in mentor time. We are now also looking forward to 'Salvatore', a pupil-led performance for the Gold Arts Award. It will be a definite must-see event so please get yourself a ticket if you haven't done so already.

Oscar, Sunny and Yoav, Co-Chairs of the Arts Forum



So far, as Wellbeing Forum, we have spoken with pupils at our forum meetings to hear what they think impacts pupil wellbeing the most, and

how we can improve our school to the best of our ability to make sure everyone feels safe, comfortable and happy at Sawston Village College. We are now planning to utilise our school's new garden to offer an after school planting session for pupils at a charge of £1.00, to raise money for further projects, and to provide pupils with the chance to decorate the school's benches, to help pupils relax and also to work as a team to brighten up our school.

Autumn, Saffi and Phoebe, Co-Chairs of the Wellbeing Forum



## equality & diversity forum

This year as a Forum we had an incredibly successful bake sale for Carnival Week and raised over £100 for both the Year 11 Leavers' Ball and the *Show Racism The Red Card* charity.

The bake sale was great. So many people brought in food and bought the food, and overall it was a really good way of celebrating the diversity of culture we have at Sawston. We really hope the bake sale can become an annual event and become even more popular in the next few years. We are hoping next year's Co-chairs will be able to pick up our idea of having a Culture Day and implement it. Good luck with this!



Rachel, Harmony and Monica, Co-Chairs of the Equality & Diversity Forum

## ethos forum

So far, in the Ethos Forum, we have been working towards fundraising for charities and the Year 11 Leavers' Ball. Recently we ran the Comic Relief 2024 fundraiser, which raised £194.60 from spare change alone, as well as £894 so far from

the non-school uniform day payments. In the near future we are going to have further fundraising for the Leavers' Ball, such as an Open Mic Night and a leg waxing event.



Atticus, Matilda and Joe, Co-Chairs of the Ethos Forum

## inter forum

Inter Forum has made great progress this year. The mural in the languages block is now finished, after weeks of painting every Friday after school.

Our big project this term was the celebration of 'Carnival around the world', which was on for the whole week before February half term. Pupils in the Inter Forum created bulletin slides showing carnival celebrations around the globe, and we organised a Samba and Steel pans parade to get a taste of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and Trinidad and Tobago respectively.

As the highlight of this celebration, we arranged an international bake sale in collaboration with the E&D Forum, with loads of foods from the countries included in our diverse school community - ranging from fried rice and chow mein over tortilla and falafel to German Speulatius biscuits and Indian Gulab Jamun. It was held for two days at lunch under the canopy; we also went into the HMH to make special sales to Years 7 and 8 - it was great fun. And lastly, the German exchange is now confirmed to happen: SVC will expect around 30 German students in June; our current Year 10s will visit Germany in September. Planning is currently underway - we all look forward to hosting the German students, even though the Year 11s will be on study leave by then. It has been a great year, with lots of our ideas being put into practice. We've truly enjoyed working with all the pupils and with Ms McIntyre and Ms Gelder, to whom we owe special thanks.



Shihua, Sophie and Charlotte, Co-Chairs of the International Forum



This year as a Sports Forum we have achieved multiple different things. We have held two Staff versus Pupil matches, one netball and one volleyball, which has raised lots of money for charities and helped raise funds towards our



Year 11 Leavers' Ball. Additionally, we've also discussed and set in plan fundraising to purchase a Veo Sports camera which we think will hugely benefit those taking GCSE PE, by helping to gain footage of fixtures efficiently and effectively. Also, to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle, we created a festive advent calendar which involved multiple activities from lunges to star jumps that were completed in mentor time.

Emma, Jack and Lily, Co-Chairs of the Sports Forum

## A message from the Senate Heads and Deputies

### Heads of Senate



Abbie

Aymeric

At the core of the Senate we have been working hard on making changes to Sawston and our legacy. Most prominently, Aymeric and I are preparing for our first ever Sawston Village College Spelling Bee, which entails three rounds of stimulating words to stretch a multi-aged set of pupils! The first round will be held on Friday, 22 March in a classroom environment. From there, we whittle down our competitors until our final round after Easter, a verbal spelling bee with a live audience! With help from our enthusiastic English department, we hope to keep this event alive and turn it into a tradition for the future generations of Sawston pupils.

Furthermore, we are diligently helping to plan our Year 11 Leavers' Ball and memoirs, including all the fundraising events and logistics of the ball (so keep your eyes peeled for some hilarious leg waxing and beat the goalie!).

Abbie Wightman and Aymeric Tsyarov-Bodounov, Heads of Senate

### Deputy Heads of Senate



Isobel

Dante

As Deputies we have been prompt in helping to organise events which the Heads and Forums have suggested in our weekly Senate meetings. Working closely and cohesively, we have been able to achieve a range of events which I'm sure you'll read about. To name a few, we have had the Year 11 Granary Concert, Comic Relief, bake sales and so much more. More recently we were excited to organise leg waxing, 'beat the goalie' and a Staff vs Senate Volleyball Tournament. In addition to this, we have introduced a new competition to Sawston in the form of a Spelling Bee, for which the Heads and Deputies have been working hard to organise.

It goes without saying that the Year 11 Ball is soon approaching and, as Heads and Deputies, we have also been eager to organise this!

Isobel Whitton and Dante Izuogu, Deputy Heads

# 'Wish you weren't here'

## - Performance Review



On 4 March SOHO Theatre and theatre/schools tour visited our school to perform, 'Wish you weren't here' by Katie Redford.

This production was an emotionally thrilling and heart-warming performance about a single mother, and her teenage daughter. I found the piece incredibly relatable as the daughter, Mila, had recently got her GCSE results. As a result of this her mum had planned a weekend

trip away to celebrate Mila's achievements, even though she had not yet shared the grades she had received. It was clear that she wasn't hugely content or proud of her results, which again I found to be quite relatable, as I understand the pressure Mila must have been facing.

Throughout the play we experienced changes and developments in Mila and her mum's relationship. For example, at the beginning of the play, Mila was quite shut off and she kept to herself. It was clear that she didn't want to be there, which was shown extraordinarily well by Olivia Penelow, as she used physical gestures to close her body off and turned herself

away: she was always looking down at her phone, and she rarely spoke more than a few words, apart from when she was arguing with her mum.

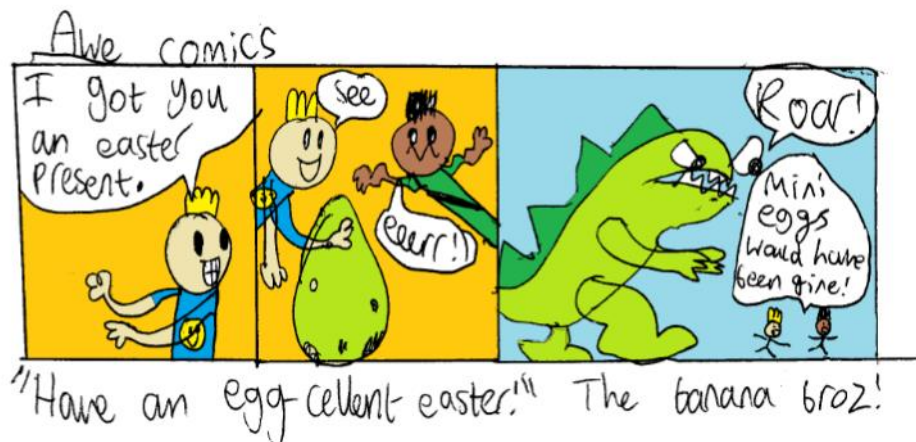
However in the middle of the play we saw Mila opening up more, talking about the difficulties she was facing, and seeking advice. Within these conversations, the audience was able to gain a deeper understanding of Mila and her mum's relationship. Although not all of these conversations were civil, and some of them were heated, the audience could still relate to them, as no relationship is perfect.

Towards the end of the play, Mila and her mum developed a deeper connection with each other, and it was clear to the audience that there were many things they did not know concerning one another's lives. I thought this was particularly heart-warming as both of the actresses showed through their body language that they were more comfortable with each other and available to each other.

After the play, we were lucky enough to have a Q&A, with the actresses and the technician. One question I found particularly interesting was asking the actresses how they were able to form such a deep connection with each other in such a short amount of time. They said they used many warm up games to break the ice and that allowed them to be comfortable with each other.

In my next drama class, we tried out some of their exercises, and I found it helped my class in connecting within their groups in their devising projects.

Lucy Pryor, Year 10



Oliver Ives, Year 7

# Cooking Practicals for Year 7

Year 7s share their thoughts on their Cooking Practicals below.

**Dillon Hopkins:** I really like Food Tech because it prepares me for the future when I'm an adult. Making things is very satisfying.

**Aaliyah Stampe:** I enjoyed doing the cutting in how to cut fruit. Especially kiwi fruit. It looked really pretty. The taste was really nice as well, and I love learning new cutting skills. It took a while, but it was worth it.

**Jamie Price:** I loved making fruit salad because the cutting was satisfying. I'm always excited for Food Tech practicals.

**Shreya Kumar:** We made toasties on 12 March. I love cooking with my cooking partner. For pizza toasties, we used red and yellow peppers, spring onions, cheese and mixed herbs for the topping. We used English muffins for the base. When we made pizza toasties and fruit salad, we used the claw and bridge method for cutting things. I hope to have more amazing lessons in the future.





## At Boscombe Beach

As I walked down the steps on to the soft, warm sand, every grain glittered beautifully in the sun's gaze. I looked over to my dad. He was sitting next to the grill where steaming hot burgers were sizzling, the hot air rising up into the sky.

I noticed a family on the sand. A little child was running, scrabbling to get away from his dad as he struggled to put a drop of sun screen on the little kid. The child dipped and weaved, slipping through his parent's giant hands, and getting down to the sea with his little floats.

As I started changing into my swimming trunks and grabbing my board, a memory hit me. I thought about how the crashing waves glided through the water with me riding on top as they brought me to the sand. I looked over to finally see my brother slowly walking over to me. He started adjusting to the temperature of the waves and then I splashed him. I remember laughing so hard then finding myself under the water as he pushed me in.

I remember drying off than rushing over to my dad, pushing my

two brothers back, trying to get first in line for the burgers. I grabbed one and steadily walked over to my mum, trying not to drop it. I sat down and enjoyed the juiciness of the meal and the crunch of the lettuce as the tomato sauce ran through my fingers down on to my elbow.

I snapped back to reality as I heard my mum calling me over, getting me to help unpack. My brother and I grabbed the wind break. My brother licked his finger and held it up when he just needed to look at which way my hair was flying. We slammed the last pole into the sand. My brother had already walked off so I grabbed a towel, laid it on the sand and crawled on to it. I closed my eyes and let the warm sun spread across my body as I drifted off.

Ted King, Year 8



## My Home - Lisbon

I was born and raised in Lisbon, this subtropical magical city with palm trees and exotic birds flying freely in the clear blue skies. I can still remember late at night, possibly at 1.00 am, being in the left back seat of our old rusty car and going through the hot misty streets of Lisbon, coconut trees covering the poverty-ridden houses, and I saw the ocean. Blue to be exact. Navy blue as it was night time. However, in the day it was a beautiful light cyan colour.

I go to Lisbon every year to visit my grandparents and, every time I go, I get a great sense of nostalgia from that same street: the palm trees still in the same place covering the poverty-ridden houses and the glittering ocean still awaiting my



presence, almost like speaking to me, whispering in my ear, 'Just do it'.

Every year I go to a place in Lisbon

where there is a famous tower called *Torre de Belém* in Portuguese (Belém Tower in English). It is tall with rocky and sandy walls and it is one of my favourite places. The bottom of the tower is fully submerged under water when the tide comes in and in its earliest days bad people would be locked in the tower and, when the tide started to rise, water would flood through the cracks in the walls and the prison bar windows, drowning anyone inside. However, that was later banned, and it is now used as a museum which my family and I visit every time we are there.

Back when I was about three or four, when we were driving past the ocean and the tower at night, I saw a man and his three sons, natives to Portugal with dark brown skin, and they were picking coconuts from the coconut trees and putting them in a trolley. Then I didn't think much of it but now I realise that these ten year-old boys were picking coconuts from trees day and night to earn a scrap of money to survive. I believe that the phrase 'third world' really is an unfortunate truth of the world, and it is so sad.

Gabriel Salina, Year 8

## Under the Night Sky

The stars twinkled in the night sky, illuminating the streets below. Amongst the stars was a crescent moon that beamed on to the rooftops of pubs and closed cafés. The cross on top of the church towered above all the people walking down the streets. Cars sped past into a dizzying blur, splashing sludge on anyone nearby as they went.

As I walked past the pub, the smell of freshly grilled burgers and vinegary fish and chips wafted through the open and welcoming doors. I could hear happy and excited chatter and singing from all the joyful souls wanting to stay warm and away from the bitter and unforgiving December air.

I continued through the busy streets filled with Christmas displays visible through icy window panes. My friends and I were catwalking in our bobble hats and big coats, which were littered with snowflakes. Once we got to the quieter park, one of my friends chucked a snowball at me. This then erupted into a full on war that left us both soaking and frozen to the core.

But for some strange reason we continued, with the snow growing heavier by the minute.

As we finally sat down on one of the benches covered in snow I looked out at the sky glittering with snowflakes falling on the already blanketed grass. I felt that if I died then, I wouldn't mind as my brain was at peace. It was starting to get slightly late, and the sky had turned a beautiful orangey pink, making the snowflakes look as if they were made of solid gold. They looked as if they were prima ballerinas in a festive show, twirling and prancing across the calm, serene sky.

As the hours ticked by, I found myself alone underneath the midnight sky. The once calming silence had been replaced with an eerie quiet that held my grief and sadness in a sickening grip. I looked down at the bench beside me where my friend had once sat but which was now covered in water as the snow turned to raindrops. I stood there once again accepting my loneliness and sat down waiting for a morning that wouldn't arrive.

Greta Owen, Year 8



A huge well done to all the pupils who took part in the West Road Concert.



West Road Concert



Look out for a full report in our next magazine.





# Hunstanton Geography Fieldwork Trip



On Thursday, 7 March, we went to Hunstanton on our Geography fieldwork trip. When we arrived, it was cold and grey. We were investigating tourism in Hunstanton, as well as beach management strategies. We interviewed the public to grasp their opinion about the impacts of tourism, and they were very accepting of the Sawston pupils. We descended down onto the beach and measured the height of the groyne. Groynes are the wooden barriers on a beach which block

longshore drift. If the groynes are working, the sediment on one side should be lower than on the other. We measured each side of five different groynes to see how effective the groynes were.

Thanks to our teachers for this great trip. We love Geography!

Atticus Whitehouse and Toby Woodcock,  
Year 11 Geography pupils



Isaac Arena, Year 10



The cast in rehearsal

## Salvatore

Congratulations to Isaac Arena for writing a play as part of his work towards the Gold Arts Award.



## Berlin Trip

In February, Year 11 History pupils were given the fantastic opportunity to visit Berlin for several days, during which we not only learned more about the Nazi Germany part of our course but were also able to explore the city and take part in a great range of activities.

One part of the trip which I was particularly impressed by was the way in which the trip was planned to manage the more sensitive areas of history so well. For example, I really appreciated the way that we were able to balance the heavy topics with much more relaxing, enjoyable activities in the evenings. I think this aspect of the trip is what really allowed me (and I'm sure many other pupils) to find enjoyment in what had the potential to be a rather depressing, upsetting experience. Throughout our time in Berlin, we really seemed to get a sense of all parts of the city, from the dark history of Nazi Germany when we visited sights like the Holocaust Memorial and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, to the art showcased on the Berlin Wall. At other moments, we were able to explore the rich cultural aspects of the city like the Reichstag building, and the iconic TV tower; not to forget the Olympic stadium used in the 1936 Olympics as well as the 2006 World Cup. I especially believe that the teachers who organised and came with us on the trip played such a key role in our experience, allowing us to feel comfortable and supported during our time away.

Overall, our time in Berlin was incredibly valuable, not only in terms of giving us a new insight into the history which we have already studied but also as a way for us to connect with each other and have the chance to discover a fascinating city, rich in history and culture.

Jessica Scott, Year 11



**HENRY MORRIS**  
Memorial Trust

## Henry Morris Memorial Trust

Many of the pupils who applied to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust for funding for exciting projects often involving travel have heard that they have been successful. This includes two Year 10 pupils who have been awarded £300 each towards a trip to Crete to explore the archaeology and history there, and another Year 10 pupil who will go to Glasgow for a bagpiping course. Well done to everyone who applied!

If anyone wasn't successful this year, please do consider applying again next year.

## Grand Union Orchestra visits Sawston Village College

On 15 March, around 35 Music GCSE pupils from Years 10 and 11 welcomed five visitors from the Grand Union Orchestra, who are (as their name suggests), an ensemble with the most diverse musicians that I've personally ever encountered: from China, over to Bangladesh, to Uruguay, just to name a few. They showed up with a most unusual combination of instruments, ranging from woodwinds and electric guitar to Chinese flutes and tablas. I initially wondered how these different instruments were going to fit together and create coherent music, but after hearing them play, I saw that they indeed were able to do so. They used the strength of every one of their instruments, adapting them whilst still maintaining the instrument's character, so to say.

After all, that's what the Grand Union Orchestra is about - to explore how "different communities can work together", create mutual appreciation and widen each other's horizons. This is an attitude that I think we can all benefit from adopting; it not only applies to music, but to our daily life, too. The main part of the workshop was to learn and play a Classical Indian composition by one of the visiting group's members - Yousef, a Bangladeshi tabla player. The Grand Union members taught us Yousef's piece step by step, and we had to learn it by ear - a relatively new experience. Despite that, all of us managed to play it well within 1.5 hours; some of us even got to improvise a few solos, as is tradition in Indian Classical music. Even though Year 11 had learnt about North Indian Classical music as part of their curriculum, playing this style of music is a whole other level. The amount of detail that can only be learnt by playing Indian Classical is immense, so I'm glad to have had this opportunity.

The Grand Union musicians were visibly enjoying themselves, as were we. Essentially, us 40 or so musicians in MU1 became another 'Grand Union' (or 'Petit union', perhaps?), with everyone unified by this peerless experience of playing traditional music with a mix of modern and traditional instruments.

All in all, this workshop was a truly unique and enhancing experience. It pushed me beyond familiar boundaries and taught me a great deal about music, and what it really is about. I believe that I can speak for all of us, pupils and teachers, when I say that we will walk away as more mindful musicians and richer human beings.

**Shihua Zhao, Year 11**



## YEAR 11 GCSE SCRIPTED PERFORMANCES

Throughout the past few months, we Year 11 Drama pupils have been working on our GCSE scripted performances, which we finally performed on 12 and 13 March. To do this, each group chose their own play to perform two or three extracts from, which we rehearsed regularly with the directorial help of our teachers until the night of our performance.

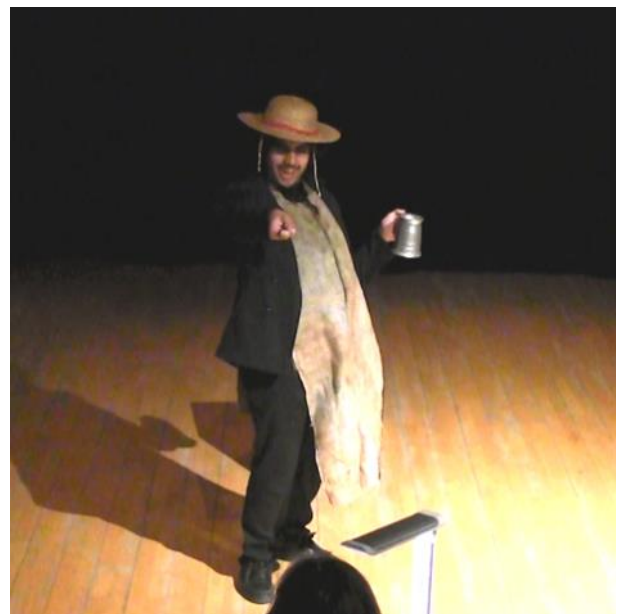
My group chose to do a play called 'The Pillowman' by Martin McDonagh, a black comedy about a writer, Katurian, in a totalitarian state, being interrogated by two police investigators, Tupolski and Ariel, about the gruesome content of her short stories and their similarities to a number of child murders happening in her town. This, we found, was a really interesting and dark play to dig into, and a real challenge as actors to tackle, but I had so much fun working on it and performing it and, although it was quite nerve wracking, I wish we could do it all again!

Some people chose to work alone on this component, performing some (really incredible!) monologues. Others, including myself, worked in groups, which I found to be a great experience; I think my group of three worked really well together, and we worked hard to develop a final piece that we were all so proud of. There were some challenges, of course, such as worrying that our piece wouldn't be ready in time and the last-minute pre-performance panic, but overall this has been such a positive experience, and navigating our way through our first real scripted performance was a great challenge and steep learning curve for us as actors.

The much-anticipated night of the performance was actually a brilliant one despite the nerves - I was really blown away by everyone else's performances and was struck by the wide range of plays everyone did and how they showcased their skills. I was also really proud of my group's performance, and was relieved that we were able to do it all smoothly on the night in front of the examiner and an audience. I'm glad we managed to end this really enjoyable part of our course on a high, and I'll really miss it moving forward.

A big thank you from all of us to Ms Russ and Mrs Meikle who made it all possible!

**Enna Kobayashi-Booth, Year 11**



# How to tackle CLIMATE CHANGE

Use renewable energy sources such as wind, biomass and water.

**FOSSIL FUELS**

If you chop down trees, the big companies that committed deforestation should plant more trees as there they get more work, and trees still convert CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen.

Use electric or hybrid vehicles, as these do not create exhaust fumes.

Design effective carbon-catchers that reduce the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, in the long-term cooling down the planet.

Recycle objects and don't buy single-use plastic as this is often dumped into the ocean. Reduce the amount of waste you create. Recycle things you no longer want a use for, or give them to charity.

Then M.

# Saving the world !!!!!

## Cycle

cycle more drive less

## Hike

Walk more drive less

## Avocado

eat less avocados

## No meat

eat more plant based foods

## Greenhouse gases

lower your carbon footprint

## Electric cars

use less fossil fuels

Leonie S.

## Is there a Climate Emergency?

Year 7s have been working hard on their topic 'Is there a climate emergency?' It's a really important topic where pupils examine the evidence and the causes of climate change, as well as the effects of climate change on people and the environment. Here are some recent examples of homework where pupils created a poster to describe what actions we can take to combat climate change locally.

Then  
VS  
NOW!

Phoebe Griggs 7D2

# HOW TO SAVE THE EARTH

**Plant more trees**

If we plant more trees once we've cut them it won't cause any issues

**Use less electricity**

If we aren't using an electrical object we can turn it off at the wall to save

**reduce, reuse, recycle**

Reduce means less Reuse means keep using Recycle means make into something else

**cycle or walk not driving cars**

Using cars causes CO<sub>2</sub> to go into the air which is a greenhouse gas

**keep our homes cosy [insulation]**

The government could for example insulate walls, floors and ceilings

**reduce meat and dairy**

If we reduce meat and dairy products or even go vegan we could provide plant-based products

**overfished oceans**

Oceans absorb a large amount of carbon dioxide but it's used for oil and gas drilling





## A Winter's Day

The sky was a divide. On one side was a stormy cloud that raged forward, pushing the clear sky out of my view. On the other side of the divide was an endless stretch of nothingness. The only things in the nothingness that I could make out were a few wispy crisp-white clouds. The rooftops and high cherry blossoms were all covered in a soft white fluff that was snow. Even the floor had been overrun by the snow that my sister and I loved to play in. This invasion of snow was like weeds spreading everywhere.

Snow encompassed the floor. Small crystals of the cold white fluff popped up from where people had stepped. The crows' cries could be heard in the early morning: cawing and cawing, flying and flying they swept around the snow. All I could smell was the freezing air that was all around me. The snow was like bacteria; it multiplied until everything was covered. To me it seemed like the earth was nothing apart from ice cold snow. But there are good and bad bacteria. And as I felt the soft icy snow collapse on to my feet, I remembered how good the snow used to be.

I remembered that winter day, years ago. I'd woken up to the realisation that it had snowed, my heart pounding. I put on some boots and immediately leapt outside, and flew into the cold powder. An icy chill flew up my spine and into my brain. As I shivered if off, I stood up. That entire morning I did snowballs and snow angels with my friends and family. I enjoyed myself to the fullest extent and I hoped the snow would never leave. Then I saw a snowman. He had sticks for hands, a carrot for a nose, and my favourite bit about him: he had a long black top

hat that stretched above his head. But I thought to myself: he was missing something. I picked up some snow and I crunched it, churned it and turned it in my hand. All I could hear was the sharp crunch of snow. I did this until I made a little ball. I did it again, crunched it, churned it and tuned it until I made another ball. I did it again and again until I had made eight balls of snow. I placed them at the bottom of the snowman, making a snow octopus.

Now, the storm was closing in. The raging cloud edged closer. I didn't have time to dwell on my thoughts. The rain was going to evaporate the snow, but I knew that it wasn't the snow that mattered but the memories we make with it, the memories that are important to us, the memories we don't forget.

Arthur Cezard, Year 8



KS3 Cyber  
Explorers  
Club



Cyber  
Explorers  
Cup

Picture this: Cyber City is under threat, and your school has the chance to save the day. Herbert the Hacker, enroute to prison, has cunningly left behind a trail of intricate digital puzzles within the city. These mysteries hold the key to saving Cyber City and its citizens. The question is, is your team up for the challenge?

Club launch: 3.05 - 4pm on Weds 6th March in CS1

## Cyber Explorers Cup

The Cyber Explorers Cup was really fun, and we may not have had the resources for the first time but it was exciting learning how to convert binary code and making friends with other people who went. We turned binary numbers into decimals and then used cryptography to shift the alphabet to reveal the answers to a question, which was extremely fun and difficult. We also had fun after with the resources and then we whizzed through the questions and we got lots of points and had so much fun. I look forward to the next one.

Elliott-Ashton Romero-Watt, Year 7

## World Book Day / Week

This year, World Book Day was celebrated across the country on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. Not wanting to do things by halves, the whole week at Sawston Village College was dedicated to celebrating all things book-related. The festivities were spear-headed by the school librarian, Ms Allen, whose goal was to increase school-wide engagement with the library by both staff and pupils, and to draw attention to libraries as being vibrant, diverse spaces, that are more complicated than just rooms full of books!

### Mentors in Wonderland

The week began first thing on Monday morning, with a week long mentor time activity with an appropriately book-ish name. Mentors and mentees were tasked with working together as a form to create a well-known, and recognisable aspect of a popular book. This could have been transforming their mentor room into a famous book setting, creating a quintessential costume, or making their own book-based prop. The aim of the game was to use materials readily available to them, rather than turning to Amazon for too much help.

The volume and breadth of entries was undeniably impressive. An exhibition of all the creations was held in the library on Friday lunchtime, which created an excitable, and healthily competitive buzz as everyone checked out each others' designs. Ultimately, a winner had to be chosen: one from each house, and an additional winner picked by Ms Allen's pupil librarians. In the end, the mentor groups that claimed prizes entered with literary interpretations including a poetry tree, and tableaux from Alice in Wonderland, Harry Potter, and the Wizard of Oz.

### Creative Writing

With an event held every lunchtime in the library, Monday kicked off with some creative writing opportunities for pupils to drop in on. Prompts included opening line ideas, plot ideas, and resources to have a go at blackout poetry. Pupils wishing to submit their work to a creative writing competition are eagerly awaiting the results, which will be announced shortly!

### Library Treasure Hunt

Tuesday lunchtime saw the return of an event from last year which proved to be very popular. After picking up a sheet from Ms Allen, pupils answered a series of questions to help them get to know the library space better. Lots of questions focused on the non-fiction side of the library, which is currently undergoing a big transformation, as the non-fiction texts on offer are updated and improved. Many pupils took advantage of the opportunity to provide feedback on what they would like to see in the library space, be it books, or other resources. Please continue to make these requests – the library is your resource, and should be shaped by you!

### Zine Workshop

On Wednesday, Ms Allen led a zine workshop which saw pupils learning a little bit about the history of zines, before having the opportunity to make their very own. Using a plethora of craft paper, glue, and creativity, the result was a variety of hand-made, mini magazines, with a 'hyper-local' focus.

### Book Pub Quiz

One of the main events of the week was the book pub quiz on Thursday. A mixture of staff, and pupil teams battled it out to prove who had the best literary knowledge. Rounds ranged from SVC library-specific questions, to general book-based quizzing. After an enthusiastic 40 minutes, a team of 5 Year 8 boys claimed the title of winners, much to Ms Goodbrand's dismay!

### Book / Bake Sale

The week was rounded off on Friday lunchtime with a book / bake sale held in the library, alongside the exhibition of Mentors in Wonderland entries. Pupils and staff visited to buy a book that had been retired from the main library shelves, a cake generously baked by some of the pupil librarians, and weigh in on who they thought should be the winning mentor group. This raised £70, to be invested directly back into library stock: thank you very much to anyone who participated in this fundraiser!



# Computer Science Trip

On Thursday, 21 March, we were all very lucky to go to the Google offices in London. We spent the day having a tour of the amazing offices from some of the lovely Google staff. We also got to have a go at debugging and creating our own web browser and server system, as well as hacking it too. It was a fantastic experience and we learnt a lot. It was so interesting! A big thank you to Adrian Taylor and his fellow Googlers for showing us around. We had a great time.

Report compiled by Year 10 pupils:

Emma Russell	Georgie Lancaster
Riley Boyce	Neri Emerson
Wensea Lee	Vaishnavi Badiger
Jayden Lam	Yuemeng Xing
James Butler	Lukas Ponstingl



# Year 11s complete their Practical Food exams



# WORLD CUBE ASSOCIATION COMPETITION

## Sawston pupils compete for fastest speedcube solves



Speedcubes come in all shapes and sizes!

The World Cube Association (WCA) governs competitions for mechanical puzzles that are operated by twisting groups of pieces, commonly known as 'twisty puzzles'. The Rubik's Cube is perhaps the most famous of these but they come in all shapes and sizes (see picture). Members of Sawston's Rubik Club attended a WCA competition in Stevenage in February to solve a variety of speedcubes against the clock. Mr Slade, who runs the Sawston Rubik Club, said, "We are really proud of our pupils, who got some fantastic results. Solving the standard 3x3 Cube in under 20 seconds is already an incredible achievement: to do so in a competitive environment is something else."

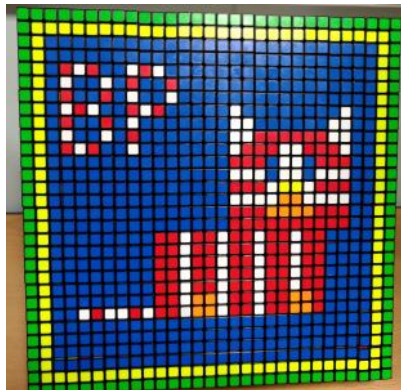
Rubik Clube is every Wednesday lunchtime and open to all. Never solved a cube before? We will demystify it and teach you the secrets!

Below: The results of Sawston pupils at the Stevenage WCA competition

Name	Year	Mentor	3x3 Best Seconds	3x3 Average Seconds
Felix Hincks	8	EH02	7.57	8.33
Wensea Lee	10	TH06	13.50	14.99
Ray Lee	10	EH03	14.62	16.93
Joe Shelton	10	MH03	15.25	17.14
Kyle Kwok	10	DH05	15.37	24.24

### ★ Special Mention

Felix Hincks improved his personal best time at Stevenage with an incredible *average* solve time of 8.33 seconds. As a result of this performance, **Felix is now ranked 36 nationally**, which is a phenomenal achievement.



### Pixel Art

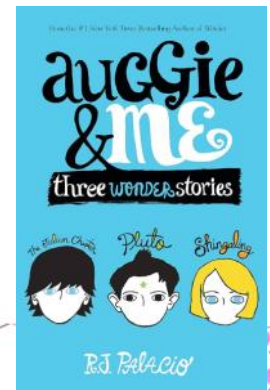
At Rubik Clube, pupils turn 100 mini-cubes into pixel art. So far this term, we have made Stewie Griffin and Bagpuss.

# A Peek at 7S1's Reading Journals


As per their KS3 English homework, 7S1 have been reading a wonderfully wide roster of books. In addition to reading itself, once a fortnight KS3 pupils select from a menu of journaling tasks that allow them to respond to their reading in a thoughtful and creative way.

7S1 have produced some absolutely standout reflection tasks in their reading journals. Here is a glimpse at a few of our favourites.

Emily read *Auggie & Me* by RJ Palacio.




Book: *Auggie & Me* by RJ Palacio  
Character: Summer Dawson





Dear diary, Sleepover!!! 😊 

Today Ximena invited me and Charlotte over for a sleepover! To be honest, I was pretty surprised because although she's been so much nicer lately she's never actually invited me over to hers before. Her apartment was amazing and HUGE. We met her babysitter Luisa (who's Spanish) and her little brother Eduardito who's 4.

It's strange, because Ximena's so nice to her brother and yet all twitchy around August. Really, though Eduardito's got Downe syndrome but Ximena doesn't seem bothered by this at all - and that's great! - but she's super funny about Auggie's face! I mean, it's not so different when you think about it - and anyway Auggie's face is actually totally fine and not so shocking AT ALL when you get used to it. Literally, I sit and eat lunch with Auggie every single day!! and after a while you just don't notice his face and just have fun. Like my mom always says, it's

what's on the inside that counts! Ximena needs to learn that. Anyway where was I? Oh yes, the  sleepover. It was so much fun - I could tell Charlotte and Ximena enjoyed it too. I mean sure, Auggie and Jack are great, but it was kind of nice being with the 2 girls. I don't have sleepovers with the others, and Auggie and Jack would never paint their nails or watch *Les Misérables* like me, X and C did.




We had paella which is a Spanish seafood dish for dinner, then we stayed up until midnight chatting and giggling. It was amazing, snuggled up in our sleeping bags in the dark, with the pink fairy lights all around the room giving it a lovely <sup>had pillow fights and</sup> cosy atmosphere. We played Truth or Dare and I ended up telling them about how my dad died. It felt - well, sort of sad and achy, but a relief at the same time, like a huge weight off my chest. The only other person I've told is Auggie, but it felt good to share. Anyway, it's gone midnight now so I'd better finish off there.





  
 Summer  xoxo 

Emily Ford, Year 7

## Letter writing

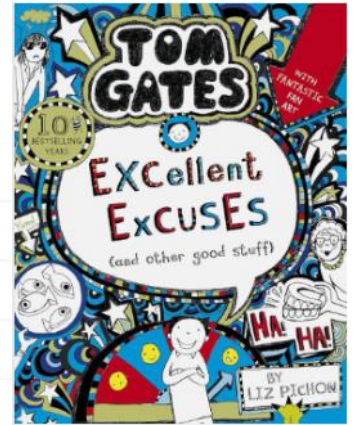
Dear Marcus,

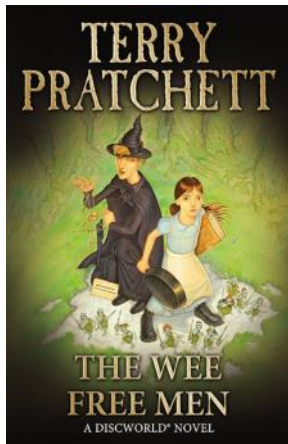
Stop snitching on me for  doodling as it is uncool and Mr Fullerman is keeping a close  on me because of it. Now I can't finish my doodle of you getting eaten by a donut  without getting caught.  ← donut

Mr Fullerman said he is starting to get annoyed with your snitching, so most of the time he will just ignore you. Also, you didn't have to  $\Rightarrow$  move your chair  away from me because I had peas stuck on my shoe, I know you like things clean  but really? Although I may have to do it more  as you can't see me  doodling.

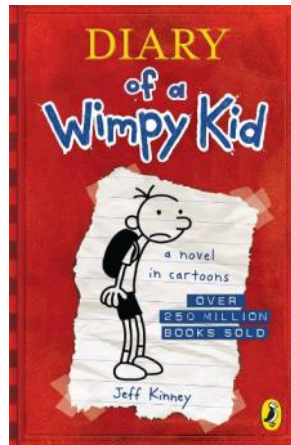
From the one and only,  
Tom Gates

Aiden read Tom Gates  
Excellent Excuses  
by Liz Pichon.

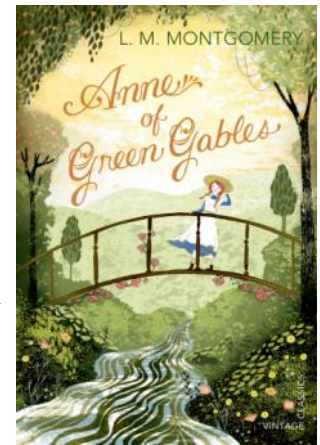




Reuben read  
The Wee Free  
Men by Terry  
Pratchett.



Vaibhav read  
Diary of a  
Wimpy Kid by  
Jeff Kinney.



Beth read Anne of  
Green Gables by  
LM Montgomery.

### Playscript

#### **Wee Free Men – Terry Pratchett**

#### **(Extract from Chapter 3)**

*Feegles move out quickly from their hiding place behind the curtains.*

Tiffany: You were the people who filled the water buckets?

Feegles: *(foot shuffling and coughing)* Aye!

Tiffany: And the wood box?

Feegles: Aye!

*Tiffany glares at the Feegles.*

Tiffany: And what about the sheep?

*Feegles all look down.*

Tiffany: Why did you steal the sheep?

*Feegles mutter and nudge each other. One of the tiny men removes his rabbit-skull helmet and twiddles it nervously in his hands.*

Helmet Twiddler (Rob Anybody): *(muttering)* We wuz hunger mistress. But when we realised it was thine, we did put the be: back in the fold.

Tiffany: *(taking pity on him)* I expect you wouldn't have stolen you weren't so hungry then.

*Feegles look astonished.*

Helmet Twiddler: Oh we would mistress.

Tiffany: *(surprised)* You would?

*Twiddler looks around at his colleagues for support and they all nod.*

Helmet Twiddler: Yes mistress. We have tae. We are a famously stealin' folk. Aren't we lads? Whut's it we're famous for?

Feegles: Stealin'!

Helmet Twiddler: And what else lads?

Feegles: Fightin'!

Helmet Twiddler: And what else?

Feegles: Drinkin'!

Helmet Twiddler: And what else?

*Slight pause whilst Feegles are thinking.*

Feegles: Drinkin' and fightin'!

Helmet Twiddler: And there was summat else. Ach, yes. Tell the hag, lads.

Feegles: *(cheerfully)* Stealin' and drinkin' and fightin'!

Helmet Twiddler: Tell the wee hag who we are lads.

*Feegles draw swords and thrust them into the air.*

Feegles: Nac Mac Feegle! The Wee Free Men! Nae king! Nae quin! Nae laird! Nae master! We willna be fooled again!

Reuben Webster, Year 7




**GREG**



Age: 12  
DOB: 2000

**RODRECK**



DOB: 1996  
Age: 15

**MANNY**



Age: 3  
DOB: 2007

**SUSAN**



Age: 40  
DOB: 1972

**FRANK**



Age: 42  
DOB: 1970

**GRANDPA**




Age: 68  
DOB: 1944

**GRANDMA**



Age: 66  
DOB: 1946

**ROWLEY**



Age: 12  
DOB: 2000

Anne of Green Gables - L.M. Montgomery

Date completed 28/02/24

Top trump cards

**A  
N  
N  
E**




Creativity -92	Patience -87
Kindness -97	Reliability -83

**M  
a  
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a**




Creativity -90	Patience -81
Kindness -84	Reliability -98

**M  
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Creativity -87	Patience -91
Kindness -98	Reliability -72

**D  
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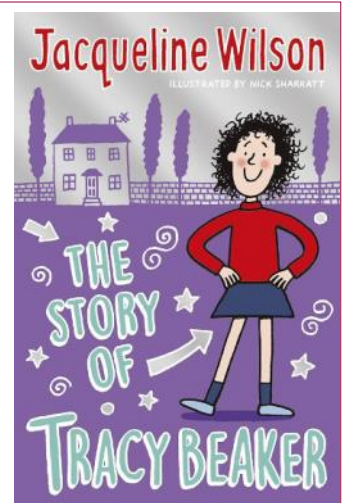
Creativity -91	Patience -87
Kindness -96	Reliability -85

Anne - a girl that got adopted  
 Matthew - the adoptive <sup>guardian</sup> father of Anne Shirley  
 Marilla - the adoptive guardian of Anne Shirley  
 Diana - Best friend of Anne Shirley

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Persuasive speech

'I, Justine Littlewood, am here today to explain to you why Tracy Beaker should have got more punishment for punching me in the nose! Yes, I did provoke her but she didn't have to lash out quite so viciously! Maybe I shouldn't talk about how her mum never visits her or call her names but my dad doesn't always visit me ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> she ~~calls~~ <sup>she</sup> calls me names too! I just can't believe that the only punishment she got was cleaning the Dumping ~~ground~~ <sup>Ground</sup> and the school hall floor! Weedy Peter even got us to help her clean the Dumping Ground! Yet, she STILL got to keep her place as the main part in our Christmas play! It's so unfair! How come, when Tracy punches someone in the nose, she still gets to be part of the Christmas play whereas if I did that I wouldn't be Marley's ghost (my part in the play)?! Anyway, what I'm trying to say is ~~that if Peter tries to get you to~~ that you should NEVER be friends with Tracy Beaker and should trust me.'



Hannah read The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson.

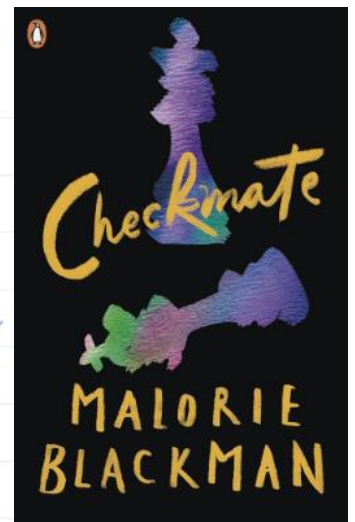
Hannah Jameson, Year 7

## Checkmate - Diary Entry

Dear Diary,

I can't tell anybody. Not even Mum, Nana Meggie or Nana Jasmine. If they find out that I know Jude and have done for years, that I'm in the Liberation Militia and what I'm going to do to myself and Grandad Kamal tomorrow it will destroy them. However it is so hard to act like nothings wrong when what's going to happen will devastate them anyway. But they'll just stop me and I need to do this for the sake of noughts and crosses universally. It will make headlines but take my life. Is that what I want? It will do so much good but I don't know how I'm going to bear saying goodbye to my family knowing I'll never see their sweet faces again. Killing Kamal Hadley will change the world. Except I won't be able to enjoy it. And neither will Mum.

- Callie Rose



Grace read Checkmate by Malorie Blackman.

## SAWSTON YOUTH DRAMA performs *Les Misérables*

Sawston Youth Drama (SYD) recently enjoyed a sell-out run and some wonderful feedback on their stunning production of *Les Misérables - School Edition* in the Marven Centre. One person who reviewed the show was Decia Ranger from NODA East. (NODA is the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.) In her review she commented on the well designed set, and the energy and superb singing of the cast, also saying,

“It was apparent that these young people, as well as oozing enthusiasm for performing, had received excellent direction and musical coaching, enabling them to tackle even the most difficult songs and harmonies with apparent ease. As a sing through the show is reliant on the lyrics to tell the story. This calls for good diction and projection, both of which were evident throughout, enabling the audience to hear every word.

“All the solos were beautifully sung and the large supporting cast not only added depth to the amazing chorus numbers but stayed in character the whole time. The band provided excellent accompaniment. I found the violin quite mesmerising at times.

“My congratulations to the creatives and everyone else involved in this show.”

We would like to add our congratulations to the cast and everyone behind the production, and we are already looking forward to the SYD Junior production of *Frozen Jr*, set to come to the Marven Centre stage on 5 and 6 July.





## STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Ms Blois, Lead Practitioner in English

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was really young, I wanted to be a doctor, but I realised I don't handle blood and gore well, so I decided I wanted to be a teacher or a social worker when I was a teenager.

**What are your main hobbies or interests?**

A predictable response but: reading. I love running too, and yoga.

**What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I have fallen over in front of classes many, many times. I can't tell you my most embarrassing moment outside of teaching!

**What's your favourite part of your job?**

Getting to know the young people that you're teaching and their insightful, impassioned views on certain topics or debates. Also, witnessing the lightbulb

moment when something finally clicks for a pupil is another favourite part, if I can have two?

**If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?**

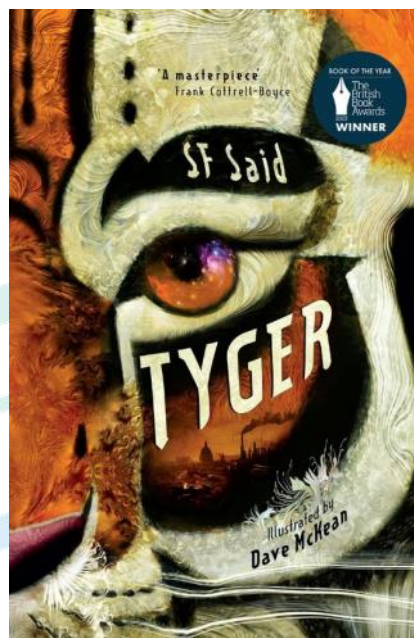
Perhaps working for an examination board, or some kind of marketing or PR job. Running a library is the retirement dream!



## A Visit to Walsingham

Our Year 10 GCSE full course pupils went on a tour of the Shrine at Walsingham, learning all about the importance of pilgrimage and healing for Christians. They demonstrated the utmost respect for their tour guides and great maturity throughout the trip.

## Update from Book Club



## The yoto Carnegies

Just before half term Book Club took receipt of two magical boxes: our delivery of the YOTO Carnegie Longlist for Writing titles. Such was everyone's sense of anticipation that there was an impromptu drum roll as the books were lifted out! Since that moment we have all been busy reading the longlisted titles, and adding our thoughts to a wallboard in the Library which we are using like a giant scrapbook, to gather everyone's thoughts and reflections on each new book they read. Every single reader gets their own individual vote when the judging deadline nears, but the real joy is in sharing our delight (or disappointment) over a given book, and embracing controversy! One title - *The Little Match Girl Strikes Back* by Emma Carroll - is already the front-runner for a 'Marmite' response: some are thrilled by the narrative's inventiveness, while others are less impressed! Most in demand so far (and being read at the fastest pace) are *Greenwild* by Pari Thomson, *Tyger* by S.F. Said, and *Boy Like Me* by Simon James Green. Hence much bartering and negotiation. Overheard in the Library one lunchtime:

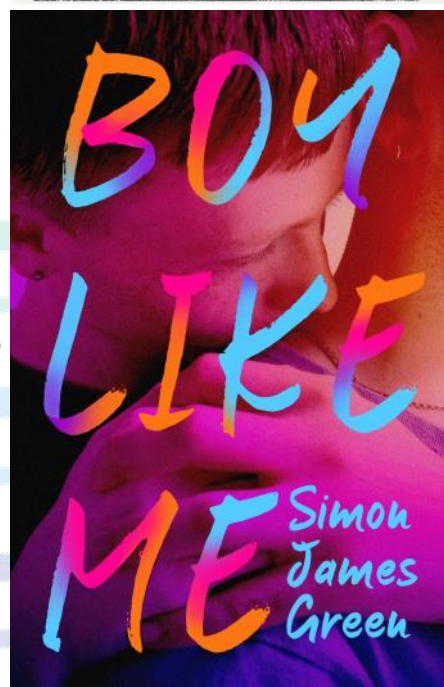
- "If I let you take *Tyger* now will you be able to finish it by tomorrow lunchtime?"

- (doubtfully) "Maybe..."

- (with a stern tone) "Then no. You have to wait."

The awards conclude in early June. We'll let you know in the summer edition of *The Fountain* if we agreed with the judges' decision - and what our top reads proved to be!

Ms Dean, Ms Allen, & Members of Book Club



## Year 8 reports on the “Charles River Laboratories” visit during British Science Week

On Tuesday, 12 March, Izzy and Lis from Charles River Laboratories came to visit our lesson to talk to us about drug investigation. This is where they find a potential new drug to use as a medicine for diseases. What surprised me was the fact that from discovering a new drug to it being in a pharmacy is a process that takes approximately 12 years! In our lesson, Lis and Izzy prepared a practical where we had to use a pipette to put some dye into different compounds on a microplate. Some of these compounds changed colour, signifying that the compound could be used in further investigation. I found it interesting to learn about the process of making medicines for people and I also learned that to start testing a medicine on people, you have to get a licence for the medicine which shows that it should be safe to test on people.

**Miriam Flewitt, Year 8**

During Science Week, three people from Charles River Laboratories came to the school and taught us about their job. We did a practical on testing compounds for reactions after mixing them with pH indicator made of red cabbage. If they turned pink, it was an acid and if it turned green we knew it was an alkaline. If the substance was neutral, the colour would stay blue. In real laboratories they would test very large amounts of substances and probably only get a few reactions that they could expand upon. We got small trays with compounds in them and filled them with pH indicator to see



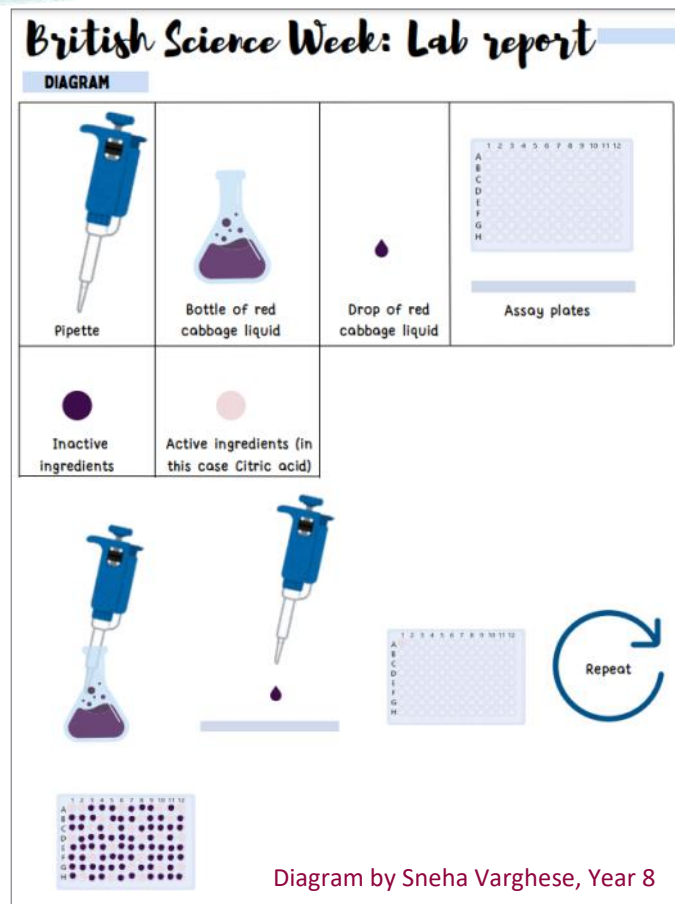
which would react. Some turned pink, some turned green and some stayed blue out of the many we tried.

After the practical, we had a Q&A on their jobs. We learned that they

have machines to test compounds, and we also learned about the process of getting a drug into the market. First, they find what reacts and research and test that compound to find any possible side effects, or its effect on different people. They then make the compounds go under animal and laboratory testing to see if the substance is safe. It then goes into Clinical Research which is when a drug is tested on people to see if it actually works. It is given to ‘healthy’ volunteers, then a small number of people with the condition, then a larger number (usually several thousand) of volunteers with the condition. They then have to get it through the FDA.

This was a very interesting thing to be taught, and I hope more things like this happen in the future.

**James Spenceley, Year 8**



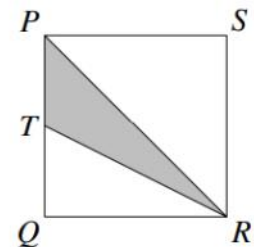
**Diagram by Sneha Varghese, Year 8**



## Pupils take part in Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place in the fantastic surroundings of the historic Henry Morris Hall on 31 January 2024. Despite the weather being cold outside, the pupils eagerly made their way into the warm hall for one hour of challenging mathematical problem solving. We had 44 participants from a variety of year groups. As the challenge started, it could be clearly seen from the expressions on the pupils' faces that they were deep in concentration and also enjoying themselves due to the challenging nature of the mathematical questions. While the pupils were participating, I decided to try some of the problems myself. Would you like to try some too? Below are two of the questions:

1. The diagram shows the square  $PQRS$  and  $T$ , the mid-point of the side  $PQ$ . What fraction of the area of the square  $PQRS$  is shaded?



- A  $\frac{1}{4}$                       B  $\frac{1}{3}$                       C  $\frac{1}{2}$                       D  $\frac{2}{3}$                       E  $\frac{3}{4}$
2. The ages of Grannie's seven grandchildren are consecutive positive integers. The youngest three grandchildren have a mean age of 6. What is the mean age of the oldest three grandchildren?
- A 8                      B 9                      C 10                      D 11                      E 12

You can find the answers at the bottom of page 33.



## My Poem

Remember that little seed?

That little seed you planted way back then.

The weeds that sprouted,

The vines that grew,

You wouldn't hear my shouts if I was isolated, if weeds and vines blocking the light, wouldn't accept my words if I didn't want your pity.

No.

I was just a play that you were watching, 'ooh' ing and 'aah' ing at the right moments.

I was confined to the understanding that I was a disgrace. Tendrils of shame curling around me.

You wouldn't let me stand for fear that I would fall,

Wouldn't hear that anything except anxiety was making me sick; vines obscuring your judgement.

You wrapped me in swathes of bubble wrap, just to pop it all.

When visitors arrived, I was the main exhibit, an animal in a circus ring.

Curling vines, twisting my words into knots, strangling my voice and muting it.

I was masked and made to act, when I wanted to shrink into the shadows.

Vines were fixing my feet to the ground and every step was like walking through drying cement.

Then I was set free, after my wings had been clipped, and told to fly.

My waking hours became a nightmare, my sleep taken away by poisoned ivy.

But I will take those vines,

Those hateful vines

Those strangling weeds,

And I will prune them into a masterpiece

I will shape my own life into a wonderful, radiant flower.

*I will* cut down that beanstalk,

*I will* defeat my giant

*I will* plunder his riches

*I will* get through it,

*I will* slay my dragons,

*I will* see the light.

**Abbie McGregor, Year 7**

Section of an artwork by Joanna Doncaster, Year 7

ANSWERS: 1. a)  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the square 2. c) 10.

# Shrovetide Week

(This was a slide in the daily pupil bulletin.)

Shrovetide (also known as the Pre-Lenten Season) is the Christian period of preparation before the beginning of Lent. The UK celebrates it on Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day.

Shrovetide is celebrated in Christian countries all over the world. Throughout this week, Inter Forum will be putting slides on the bulletin to show how just a few of these countries celebrate Shrovetide: Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, Germany, and Poland.

As a way to further celebrate this event, there will also be a Samba parade during lunchtime this Wednesday, as well as a Steel Pan band performance on Tuesday to get a taste of Brazil, and Trinidad and Tobago's celebrations.

Inter forum are also collaborating with Equality and Diversity forum on an International Bake Sale this Monday lunchtime, so please come along !



A few other countries that celebrate this event:

- Spain
- Belgium
- Slovenia
- Bolivia
- USA (New Orleans)
- UK

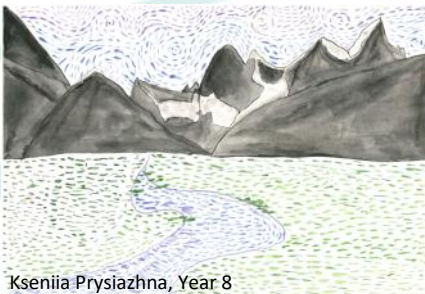


inter forum

As a part of the run up to Easter, Inter Forum and myself put on a week of activities, celebrating Shrovetide (the festival period before the beginning of Lent). Alongside the celebration of this event in the Christian calendar, Inter Forum's aim for this week was to educate on how different countries celebrate it in different ways. Our week included a Bake Sale in collaboration with the Equality & Diversity Forum, a Steel Pans performance and a Samba performance. These activities were massive successes, and we were all thrilled at how involved people were.

A massive thank you to the Music Department who played such a key role in our performances. The Samba performance in the playground was a wonderful thing to be a part of, with pupils forming an audience whilst eating, dancing and chanting alongside teachers, as the rhythms picked up. There was brilliant audience participation, especially in the grand finale and with the applause. We were so glad everyone had a great time, as we all did as well. On the next page Emma writes about her involvement in the steel pans performance.

Izzy Young, Year 10



Kseniia Prysiashna, Year 8



Lena Kiss, Year 8



Sophie Allen, Year 8

These artworks are by pupils in Year 8.

# Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago!

## How did it originate?

- ◆ Started in the late 18th century when French plantation owners organized balls and masquerades before Lent.
- ◆ The slaves, who couldn't take part in Carnival, formed a parallel celebration called "Canboulay" (from the French words for burnt cane)

## How is it celebrated?

Aside from the parades, music, such as calypso music and sacho music, are essential to the celebrations. Costumes, often bright, warm colours like orange or yellow, are worn for the parades. Stick fighting, often done alongside steel pans music. Limbo competitions are also held.

## J'ouvert

French for "Break of day", J'ouvert marks the official start of the two days of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago. This celebration involves participants dousing themselves in oil, mud and powder while they dance to calypso music through the streets. It also features many satirical costumes and characters.

## When?

The Trinidad and Tobago carnival is held on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, so this year, it falls on the 12th and 13th of February.



# Senior Steel Pan Band perform for Shrovetide/Carnival Week

Earlier on in the year Izzy approached me with her brilliant idea of having the senior steel pan band perform for Shrovetide/Carnival week. So, on Pancake day, the steel pan band performed some of our favourite pieces. All of this was to celebrate and show the culture of carnival in the Caribbean, specifically the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, which is where steel pans originated from. Steel pans are traditionally played during carnival as a way to lift everyone's spirits and bring joy, so we thought it only right that SVC should get its own dose of steel pan spirit too! We played lots of famous pieces and were really pleased that so many pupils came to support us. It was great to be able to spread the music of steel pans, and a big thank you to Ms McIntyre for supervising us. All of the steel pan band did amazingly well, and it was a great experience in advance of our performances in the summer term!

Emma Russell, Year 10

# Carnival in Brazil

The Brazil Carnival, known as "Carnaval," is a world-renowned and vibrant festival celebrated across Brazil. Taking place in the weeks leading up to Lent, typically in February or March, it is a grand spectacle featuring elaborate Samba Parades, lively street parties, and exuberant music and dance.



Characterized by colorful costumes, infectious rhythms of samba music, and a spirit of joyous celebration, the Brazil Carnival is a cultural extravaganza that attracts millions of revelers from around the globe. With different states contributing their distinct traditions and attire, the overwhelming experience is as diverse as the celebration itself.

The Brazilian Carnival is renowned for its flamboyance, showcasing the nation's passion for music, dance, and artistic expression.



Oliver Ives, Year 7

## Year 9 Carpentry Module

The focus of this Year 9 project was predominantly on practical skills. Pupils investigated jointing methods and softwood. They produced a test piece before going on to make their final piece. Most pupils used finger joints to assemble the carcass. The lid is either butterfly hinged or push fit. Lid designs were either done by hand or by using the CAD/CAM. All that's left to do is tidy up, apply a finish and take them home for Easter.

**Great work Year 9s!**

**Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT**

My inspiration for my box was just my initials in the old English script. The most difficult part of making the box was connecting the joints and making sure everything fitted. It was a bit difficult at first but it was really fun making the lid and engraving the initials. Mr Bannister was helpful and showed us how to make the joints and engrave the image on the lid.

**Ibraheem Mulla**

The box that I made was inspired by sea life. I wanted to incorporate the sea by staining the lid blue and laser printing a whale shark. There were some challenges: I had troubles finding a good picture that the laser printer would accept and making the wooden pieces fit together though it was fun overall. The things I most enjoyed were staining the lid and putting the hinges on the lid, as well finishing the final product. Mr Bannister was a huge help while making my box and giving me something to do if I had finished something and was waiting for my box to dry.

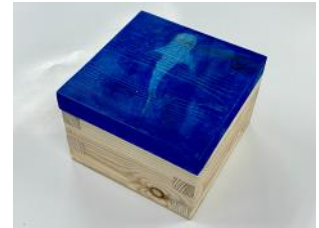
**Dasha Gomeniuk**

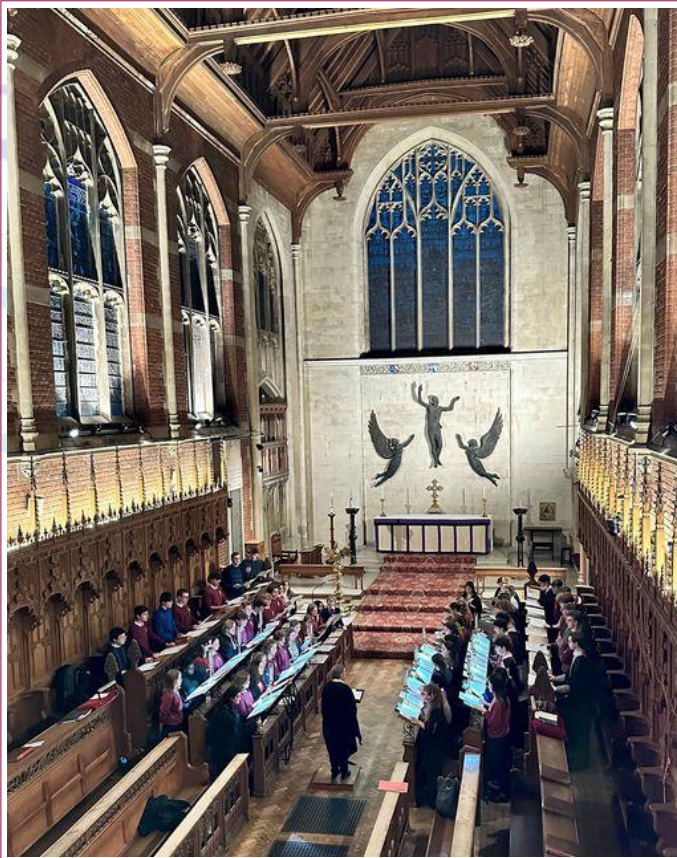
This year in Design Technology our main practical project was making a wooden storage box. The first thing we had to do was to make the sides of the box, joining them together with castle joints. Then we sanded it down and then made the design for the lid on a piece of softwood pine in the laser machine. The design I chose was the England rugby logo because my dream is to be a professional rugby player and play for England. Then we added the butterfly hinges to connect the sides and the lid. After that we added the base with glue. My favourite part was using the laser machine and my least favourite thing was - well, nothing - because I enjoyed it all.

**Lewis Johnson**

Whilst making my box this year in DT I enjoyed doing the laser machine because I was allowed to do the picture I was inspired by. Something I found difficult was doing the castle joints because it required a lot of cutting. Also I found doing the sanding difficult because it took a long time to sand against the grain. I found this topic interesting because it was fun to have a picture of what I like on top of the box.

**George Sweasey**





## Singing at Selwyn

On 29 February, Year 10 and 11 choir members from Sawston Village College were invited by Sarah MacDonald (Director of Music at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge) to sing as part of Evensong alongside members of Selwyn College Chapel Choir. After the service, we were invited for pizza and ice cream, and had the opportunity to talk with Selwyn students and find out more about studying at Cambridge University. This fantastic opportunity allowed us to explore the possibilities of singing in a choir at university. It was a great success, and both Sawston pupils and Selwyn College Choir members sang brilliantly. I am sure that it has inspired many Sawston pupils to take their singing more seriously and to continue with it after secondary school.

Sophie Nuin Jones, Year 11



## Pupils attend Physical Education & School Sport Conference



Congratulations to our pupils who attended the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Physical Education & School Sport Conference. Our pupils assisted Mrs Harvey in delivering a Cheerleading workshop at this event, helping to demonstrate best practice. We received lots of positive feedback from the PE teachers who participated in their session; well done! A great success.

Our pupils also had the incredible opportunity to meet triple Olympic Gold Medalist, Max Whitlock. On the day, Max led a Gymnastics workshop and ran a Question & Answer session, which our pupils got involved in. They asked some insightful questions, including 'What strategies can you use to help you get over a mental block?' and questions about his current training plan ahead of the Summer Olympics in Paris, 2024.

# Spring Term Sports Round-up

## Year 7 Boys Football - 24/01/24



Congratulations to the Year 7 Boys who on their first fixture for Sawston won 6-1 against Bottisham Village College. A fantastic first goal by Archie King saw Sawston go 1-0 up and was quickly coupled with another from Sawston, with some lovely play amongst the midfield to support. A 2nd goal by Archie made it 3-0 and a strong lead was established. A goal by Bottisham had the scoreboard at 3-1 as we entered into the first half of the match. William Crump, outside the box, pelted the ball top left to quickly get one back for the team again extending our lead. Shortly after, again, Crump rocketed the ball from outside the box to hit the crossbar and go in. King scored a third giving himself a hat trick for the day, a sensational contribution to the team. The boys ended up winning 6-1 and some stand out performances

came from Dima Sears and Joel Mapulanga. Well done boys!

## U16 Netball Fixture against Bottisham VC - 24/01/24

A massive well done to our U16 A & B Netball teams who both won their debut Netball matches on 24/01/24.

In the B team match, Sawston took an early lead against Bottisham. After some incredible accuracy under the posts from Libby, Annie and TJ, and tight defence from Natalie, the team grew their goal difference, finishing 23-12. Our stand out performer, receiving Player Of the Match (POM) goes to Keira Collinson for her defensive rebounds, intercepts and constant pressure on her attacker.

The A team match also played a brilliant match against fast and powerful opponents. Patience was the key in this match; our ability to remain composed under pressure and slow down the play to execute quality decisions led Sawston to the victory, with a score of 27-11. Our stand out performer, receiving Player Of the Match (POM) goes to Emma Quinnell for her patient captaincy and outstanding accuracy under the hoop. She sank almost every shot she took. Well done to all involved!



## Year 9 Netball Fixture against St Bede's - 31/01/24



Our Year 9s had their first Netball fixture of the season. After a challenging first quarter against some very strong St Bede's players, our attackers started to break through their defence and Ashleigh added two goals to the score sheet. Despite some incredible runs from our centre court players and excellent support around the D from Chloe and Libby, Sawston were not quite able to break through St Bede's defence to work the ball close enough to get another shot on goal. The game finished 2-6 to St Bede's. POM goes to Martha Barlow for her outstanding defensive work. Following several well timed intercepts, she was able to turn over the possession on multiple occasions and patiently found the best option to play the ball back into the centre court. Well done to everyone; you should be proud of your first performance, we certainly are! Onwards and upwards...

## U16 Football Fixture against Soham - 02/02/24

A massive well done to our U16 girls Football team who won their first fixture in the County Cup against Soham Village College.

Against a tough side after a defeat against them last year, the girls put in a superb performance to win 2-0. With a home game and support from the school, we were able to demonstrate some class performances and plays. The first half was very even, with some fantastic defence from Tilly Barker and Molly Smith blocking any attacks by Soham. Lots of attempts back and forth by both teams left us ready to battle for a second half win.

As we entered the second half, Mia Diaz David pinged the ball towards the goalie. As the wind carried it top right of the goal from just inside the halfway line, this would be a goal to remember. In high spirits, the team began to move the ball confidently around the pitch with some great plays by Bryony O'Connell and Keely Cole keeping the goalkeeper busy. Alex Shelford gave a super run from the wing and managed to strike the ball past the keeper, giving us a 2-0 win. Well done to everyone involved, we have plenty to look forward to with this team as they progress further.



## Year 7 Football Fixture against Soham - 02/02/24

Well done to our Year 7 girls who played in their first fixture against Soham Village College last week. With an unfortunate result, the girls were able to take many positives from the experience.

Some stand out performances from the team gave them the opportunity to learn how they all play with one another and will put them in great stead for the future. Laila Day has some fantastic moments throughout the game and gave fantastic support to the team as the girls worked the ball around the pitch. Sophie Christmas added to the scoreboard for Sawston.

Well done girls! We look forward to your future games for Sawston.



## Year 10 Football Fixture against Netherhall - 07/02/24

Congratulations to our Year 10 boys who won their first district cup match against Netherhall School on Wednesday. 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 us back in the game. Shortly after, receiving a free kick 10 yards outside the box we had Lucas Hernandez Velasco score 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 around the field. Finley Walker led the team with support from Eddie Pyner to clear the ball into brilliant attacking opportunities. Winning a penalty, we had Eddie add another to the score to put us 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. We look forward to the next set of matches they play.



## U16 Netball Fixture against Netherhall - 07/02/24

Congratulations to both our U16 teams who played last Wednesday against Netherhall. Both teams dominated the courts and took early leads, which kept spirits high.

Communication, team work, set plays and driving forward were just a few of the skills that we saw when umpiring the games.

Our B team saw an impressive win of 28-4 and our POM has to go to Ruby Chater for her impeccable shooting in and around the attacking D. Our A team doubled our opponents' score and ended up winning 32-16, and our POM goes to Isobel Smit for her fantastic defensive work and patience on the ball.



## Year 11 Football Fixture against Northstowe - 12/02/24



Congratulations to our Year 11 boys who have won their first fixture in the district cup against Northstowe Academy.

A slow first half kept the boys at 0-0 with plenty of momentum going back and forward between the teams. Going into the second half, we saw Ollie Maltby knock the ball over the keeper to get the boys on the scoreboard. An ecstatic reaction from the team put them in a great headspace ready for another goal delivered into the net from Tommy Gilmore. Some strong attacking plays made from Ben Page and Ben Journeaux kept the tempo high to open up Rafael Bidston for a goal for Sawston. Finishing up with a second goal, we had Tommy smash the ball towards the goal which ricocheted off their defender into the net. A very successful first game of the year. Well done to all involved!

## Year 8 Football Fixture against Comberton VC - 14/02/24

Well done to our Year 8 boys who have won their first fixture in the district cup against Comberton Village College. Sacrificing their Valentines Day evening, the boys put in a huge effort to win 4-3 against a tough opposition.

Easing into the first half, there were plenty of high tempo plays from both teams, leaving the ball in all corners of the pitch. Max Crump (2) saw the first goal which was closely followed by a second, giving us a 2-0 lead. Comberton played some excellent football, determined to compete, leading to a strong goal. Luke Warner and Miles Horton battled relentlessly, preventing many chances from unfolding for Comberton. Going into the second half, Taddy Fouda (2) scored a brilliant goal against the keeper that again was returned with a goal from Comberton, putting it at 3-2. The consistent pressure from the opposition gave Sawston no opportunity for rest. A second for Taddy in the final 5 minutes alleviated the pressure of a draw but again, Comberton returned with a third. Playing hard into the final seconds, Torin Jones made a fantastic save, preventing an equaliser, and Oliver Prior knocked the ball away to finish the game.

As the final whistle blew, relief came over the boys and we could celebrate our win. A successful first game of the cup. Well done to all!



## U16 mixed Netball Fixture against Linton VC - 14/02/24



Well... yet another amazing set of results for both our U16 Netball teams against Linton Village College!

Firstly, a massive well done to both teams for keeping excellent composure and maturity in what were quite challenging games.

Phoebe Herbert and Annie Sainson are our POMs. Phoebe showed off her effortless defensive skills by helping to block out many attacking plays which made it increasingly difficult for Linton to score (end score; 26-9 to Sawston).

Annie showed brilliant control and patience in our attacking D, allowing her to shoot and score multiple goals, with ease and efficiency (end score: 17-13 to Sawston). Well done everyone!

## Year 11 District Netball Tournament - 07/03/24

Although we were down a few players due to illnesses and school trips, both our teams did not let this affect their play on the courts. Our two teams entered the tournament with confidence that our clean slate this year would put them in a good position. Our B team stormed their tournament and did not lose a game. Everyone understood their role on the court and offered each other support. Anna and Ruby were on fire in our attacking D, combining a score of 35 goals over the tournament! Our opponents, St Bede's and St Mary's put up a good fight and did not let their heads drop (even with 19-1 to us).

After a frustrating start against an experienced Cottenham side. Sawston grew in confidence, and our players switched on to earn themselves a well deserved draw against Netherhall and a win against Bassingbourn VC. This energy was maintained in our final two matches against St Bede's and St Mary's. Lotte Brown is our player of the tournament. She was dynamic in her movements on court, creating space and attacking options for her team.



## Year 8 District Cup against Melbourn VC - 12/03/24

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 and 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 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 opportunities for Melbourn, we were able to increase our lead with a third 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.

## Year 9 District Cup against Bassingbourn VC - 22/03/24

Year 9 have flown into the next round of the district cup with a 4-1 win against Bassingbourn Village College. A steady beginning to the match found the boys playing solid football and building momentum, leading to our captain Ollie Chaloner scoring a fantastic goal to put us in the lead. Shortly after, an unlucky deflection left the opposition back at even, leaving us 1-1 at half time. A constructive first half led to a quick second goal for Sawston by Senan Cordan over the keeper. Stand out defending from Alfie Plant kept the defence solid, with plenty of long drives for Sawston to play onto. Ted Silk utilised plenty of through balls and eventually struck the back of the net, extending the boys' lead. Harry Hutchings scored our final goal, cutting in from the wing, perfectly lofting the ball over the keeper from outside the box. Some exceptional performances from Oliver Seaborn and Noah Harradine throughout created many attacking plays for the team. An exceptional performance from the boys, we now look forward to their next fixture after Easter, which will be against Netherhall.



# Sawston Village College in the Community

Sawston Village College is delighted to run an Adult Learning programme, Anglian Leisure Sawston and Sawston Cinema for the community. Please check the relevant website for current programme and activity updates.



**Sawston  
Adult  
Learning**

## Sawston Adult Learning

Please check [www.sawstonadultlearning.org](http://www.sawstonadultlearning.org) for up to date information.  
You can also email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org).



**ANGLIAN  
LEISURE  
SAWSTON**

## Anglian Leisure Sawston

Please check [www.sawstonsports.com](http://www.sawstonsports.com) for up to date information. You can also email [awilson@anglianleisure.co.uk](mailto:awilson@anglianleisure.co.uk) and follow Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglianLeisureSawston/> and Twitter: [https://twitter.com/al\\_sawston](https://twitter.com/al_sawston).



**SAWSTON CINEMA**

## Sawston Cinema

Please check [www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk) for up to date information.  
You can also email [cinema@sawstonvc.org](mailto:cinema@sawstonvc.org).

### ARTWORKS

Here are two of the wonderful artworks which pupils entered into the VIRTUAL EXHIBITION which took place this term. See more on page 34.



Lilac Brown, Year 8



Phoebe Stiles, Year 8



**Sawston  
Village College**



**Community**  
Take part



**Ambition**  
Aim high



**Respect**  
Be kind



**Endeavour**  
Work hard



**PART OF  
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