

May / June 2024 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

6 June	Year 10 Parents' Evening	27 June	Lower School Concert
13 June	Cinema Screening: <i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i>	28 June	Year 11 Leavers' Ball
14-23 June	Year 9 Ardeche Trip	2 July	Year 9 Business Studies trip
17-21 June	Activities Week	2 July	Year 7 History trip
17-28 June	Year 10 Work Experience	3 July	Year 6 to 7 Induction Day
19 June	Jubilee Cup Athletics	3 July	<i>Earth & Water</i> - Exhibition of Adult Learners' Ceramic and Watercolour work
27 June	Year 7 report 3 issued	4 July	Year 6 to 7 Induction Evening
26 June	Singers Concert	4 July	Year 9 report 3 issued
		5 July	Outdoor Gig



From the Principal

The political dial was turned high in this last week with the announcement of the General Election. What we can hope is that the political debate will include consideration of a fairly funded state education system that addresses the national recruitment and retention crisis, better support for increasing

SEND needs and a constructive accountability system that delivers school improvement whilst properly recognising the amazing strengths of all schools. Perhaps, above all, we can hope that those in the corridors of power will ensure that young voices are heard and even learn a lesson or two from them. Some could argue that, too often, young people are characterised in polarised views and seen as a problem to address rather than a positive force that needs nurturing and celebrating.

Invite our politicians to meet our newly appointed Senate whose measured and considered views at interview shone brightly. Let them see the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditionists whose range of skills were clear to see in Cannock Chase last weekend. Bring them in to share in the joy of 210 Year 11s on Leavers' Day showing their appreciation for a dedicated

member of staff who has given her all to support them. Talk to our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who presented to Year 6 at Icknield. Visit our Wellbeing Garden created by a team of pupil volunteers. Come to any of the seventy clubs and activities run each fortnight to learn where passions are ignited and friendships formed. And in daily interactions, find honesty, curiosity, openness, optimism, ambition and a shared sense of community.

Whilst the political heat will ramp up in the weeks to come – and, we can hope the weather will do the same – we have much to look forward to next half term. Our Year 10s will enjoy their two weeks of work experience, a vital opportunity for them as they consider what the future could hold. Year 11s will conclude their exams and get ready for the glitz and glamour of the Leavers' Ball on 28 June. Prize Giving evenings are a highlight of our calendar in July. The Drama and Music departments will be putting on a performance of *Alice*, SYD will be performing *Frozen*, various music events will jazz up Fountain Court, Activities Week will see trips abroad and fun at home, and much more. Schools can and are places where learning, life, art and community all collide in a kaleidoscope of colour. Surely, that's worth political investment, now and for ever more.

'The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow' – Nelson Mandela

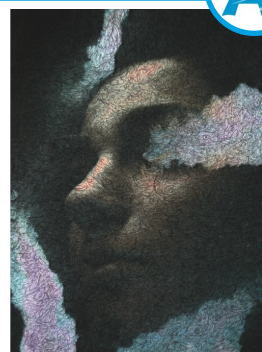
Mr Russell, Principal

Update from Art

This half term there has been one word in the department - **Ambition!** KS3 pupils are currently well underway with their milestone outcomes, with each year group gaining inspiration from the standards set last year. I am proud to say our young people's ambitions are growing, and are reflected in the quality of pupils' personal outcomes in lessons, their passion to continue their work into our lunchtime clubs and, of course, the hours spent perfecting their skills at home. I would like to take the opportunity to share our pride in and respect for our Artists and Photographers in Year 11, who have now completed their GCSE coursework and final exam pieces. It has been a privilege to work

with such dedicated pupils who, through their work, pave the way for the pupils to come. We now look to our dynamic and hard-working Year 10s to continue the ambition, creativity and courage in making within the department as they build their personal projects and prepare for the excitement of guest artist workshops, and national and international trips to come!

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art and Photography



By Louisa Martin, Year 11



Sawston
Adult
Learning



ANGLIAN
LEISURE
SAWSTON



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

Update from English



This half term has seen a busy exam period for both Year 10 and Year 11 as lessons have focused on exam preparation (Year 11) and Year 10 exam feedback. Year 10s will be beginning their last literature whole text - *An Inspector Calls* - and preparing for their Spoken Language assessment - a compulsory speech on a topic of their choice in front of their class.

Year 9s are studying Edith Wharton's novella - *Ethan Frome* - concentrating on their own descriptive writing, and Year 8s are embarking on either *Animal Farm* or our non-fiction unit exploring how the patriarchy impacts the lives of men and women. Year 7s are studying the play *Salem*, and it is fantastic to hear lots of choral reading along the Spicer Wing corridor.

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English

History Update



Exciting new opportunity for Year 7

historians: On 2 July pupils have the opportunity to visit Denny Abbey and Ely Cathedral to enrich their understanding of the Medieval World. Pupils will learn about medieval medicine in the monastery, about Norman architecture and find out more about the incredible life of St Aetheldreda. We strongly encourage all to attend as it will help pupils make meaning of what they are studying in their History lessons.



Ms Jackson-Buckley,
Head of History

Business Studies News



Year 10s have received their mock results and now started Year 11 content. It is hoped that they will complete one section of Theme 2 content by the end of the year. Letters have gone home regarding the trip to Stansted airport in July. If your child would like to go on this visit, please sign up using the link on the letter sent home and use WisePay to make the payment.

Year 11s have sat their Paper 1 exam, meaning the focus now is on Paper 2, which is in June. I would like to wish them the best of luck in their examinations. It has been a joy to see them grow in confidence in this subject over the last two years.

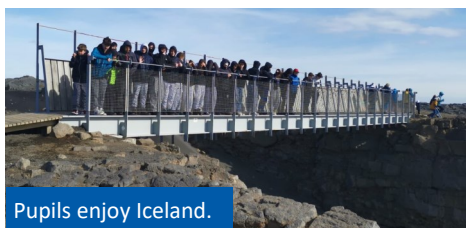
Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Geography Update



During the Easter holiday some of our GCSE Geographers made the exciting journey to Iceland to explore its awe-inspiring landscape. Our packed itinerary included the Solheimjokull glacier; Thingvellir National Park; Geysir and a tour of the capital Reykjavik. Swimming at the geothermally heated Secret Lagoon was a highlight for many, as was a quick stop to feed the famous Icelandic horses! Iceland never disappoints, and we look forward to hopefully returning in the future!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Pupils enjoy Iceland.

Update from Maths



The priority for Year 11 in the summer term is inevitably preparation for the upcoming GCSE exams. We wish our pupils the very best of luck. This year, the first cohort of pupils will also sit Further Maths exams. These pupils have been working diligently through the AQA Further Maths course in additional weekly lessons after school. The course is designed to stretch and challenge high achieving mathematicians beyond the scope of the standard GCSE curriculum and is aimed at pupils likely to progress to Maths and Further Maths at A Level. We are looking forward to offering this opportunity to future cohorts. Pupils are invited to apply in the spring term of Year 10, with successful applicants embarking upon the course after February half term.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



We have enjoyed a fantastic programme this half term and still have more to come, including: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, (13 June).

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



Sawston Adult Learning

We are looking forward to our summer term Saturday workshops

which will be held on 15 June, so please do get in touch or look online if you are interested in: Seed saving/sowing and organic gardening; Vegetarian Indian cookery; Willow basket making; Sketchbooking or Thai cookery.



We are also very excited about our forthcoming exhibition 'Earth & Water', which will showcase some of our Adult Learners' work in Ceramics and Watercolour Painting. This

public exhibition will be held on Wednesday, 3 July (5.00pm-8.00pm). Refreshments will be available, so pop in for a cup of tea, a slice of cake and to see some amazing artwork; we would love to see you!

Visit our website:

www.sawstonadultlearning.org,

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

Mrs Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



Our Exercise4Fun scheme is still going

strong here at Anglian Leisure Sawston. This is a 12-week free active lifestyle programme for adults (aged 18 and over) with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or above (in ethnic minority groups it is lower at 23.5 or above), and inactive. It is a great way to meet new people and to try out lots of new activities. Many of our participants have achieved excellent weight loss results. Those taking part will be currently inactive (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week), and not an existing member of a leisure centre.

[Register for the Exercise4fun programme 24-25](#)

The 12-week programme could consist of group activities including: wellbeing walks, yoga, swimming, a motivate and inspire session, cricket, football, badminton, new age kurling, and boccia.

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

For further information, please contact sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



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Update from RE



This has been a very busy half term, with Year 11s preparing for their final GCSE RE exams and Year 10s completing their first RE mock. Both year groups have worked incredibly hard and shown great determination and resilience through it all. Year 7s have been exploring Buddhism, with their most recent lessons focusing on meditation and calming activities. Year 8s have been considering arguments for and against life after death, with some excellent discussions had. Year 9s are coming to the end of their Christianity topic and will soon be moving on to Philosophy through film, considering questions about personhood and whether the ends justify the means. We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to the final half term, where there will be lots more big questions to explore.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics

Drama Update



A hugely busy and creative time for our young actors at Sawston Village College! Most recently, our devised pieces proved to be a panoply of performances from our 53-strong cohort, from spoof game shows to sinister murder mysteries. We are always so proud of how our actors really connect with their creations for the public performance and are always cheered on by their friends and peers, both present and past! Two evenings of packed houses and very appreciative audiences spurred them on and has prepared them beautifully for next year's Texts in Practice.

Pupils perform *Shout* in Norwich.



journey through an alternative Wonderland.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama

The National Theatre Connections play, '*Shout*' in Norwich at The Garage theatre was a huge accomplishment for our 12-strong cast of Year 9 and 10 actors who, again, worked so impressively as a successful ensemble company. We were particularly proud of how they bonded with the other school there and impressed the workshop leader. Watch this space and please book tickets for '*Alice*', our lower school production taking place at the Marven Centre in July. Rehearsals are now in full swing, and we are proudly collaborating with the Music department for an all singing and dancing

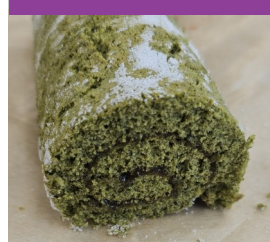


Swirl-tastic Swissrolls!

In their recent 'science of baking' module, our Year 9 pupils experimented with using air as a raising agent to make Swiss rolls. By whisking sugar and eggs, they maximised the incorporation of air to create a well-risen and light cake.

This session also allowed pupils to be creative with different flavours. Mrs Shaw made a mugwort-flavoured Swiss roll, giving everyone the opportunity to taste mugwort powder and its effect on the flavour of Swiss rolls. Pupil

Pupils aimed for perfect swirls in their Swiss rolls.



rolls they managed to produce in the one-hour food lesson.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

Dasha incorporated matcha powder into her cake mixture, while other pupils used cocoa powder, homemade jam, lemon curd, chocolate spread, and more. The highlight of the lesson was the rolling process; pupils felt both challenged and excited to create the perfect swirl. Our enthusiastic pupils were proud of the delicious and beautifully rolled Swiss



Computer Science Update

This last half term has been quite hectic in Computer Science. As well as Year 11 starting (and finishing) their GCSE exams (one pupil's feedback was '*easier than expected*'), we have also had Year 10 Mocks, testing their programming skills. Year 9s have been working on creating a web page using raw HTML, via the magic of Notepad. Year 8s have been designing and creating animations using PiskelApp.com. Year 7s have been introduced to text based programming using Microsoft Small Basic. All of the Key Stage 3 software is freely available to either download or access online so that pupils can practice at home.

Mr Kelly, Computer Science Teacher

The 2023-24 Senate meets the new 2024-25 Senate.



Update from Music

This half term has seen our first teaching of steel pans across KS3. Year 7s have been developing their playing technique and ensemble skills for the first time, whilst Year 9s have been flying ahead with their most challenging piece to date. For other classes, we have seen some weird and wonderful music from Year 8s which 'escapes from the vernacular', imaginative programmatic compositions from Year 7s and energetic samba from Year 9s.

At KS4 we have had more of an exam focus, with Year 10 sitting their first listening exam. Well done to all of them; they have already shown some fantastic potential. We have also just said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11s. What a fantastic group of young musicians they have been! Their coursework (60% of their grade) has all been submitted and they have their final exam (40%) to go. They know exactly what they need to do. Go for it! Extracurricularly we have been rehearsing fervently as we work towards our concerts next half term (three plus samba gigs! Please check the school calendar and letters given to pupils). We have had several new groups emerge; Year 9 singers, who are sounding fantastic; the LSO (Lower School Orchestra) and 4-part choir (Years 10 and 11). Plus, our Junior Choir has been tackling some pop harmonies too. We are really looking forward to our summer concerts, samba gigs (coming to a village near you), ABRSM music exams and of course, Activities Week.

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

DofE

Well done to the Year 10 pupils who successfully completed their Silver DofE practice expedition. They showed excellent planning, teamwork, and map reading skills.



Professional Learning

The major element of Professional Learning over the past few weeks has been all of our staff completing their 6-monthly reviews of their own personal Professional Development objectives. This has led to many teachers collaborating in many aspects of their classroom craft.

Mrs Wagstaff led a whole school training session focused on Assessment and how teachers can best gauge what pupils have learnt within a lesson, and between lessons, to help teachers use this information to shape the rest of that lesson or future lessons. Ms Jackson-Buckley and Miss Evans are also both continuing to run initiatives around Oracy and Creativity with small groups of our staff.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal

Years 7 and 9 Athletics Fixture

On Wednesday, 15 May, we took 32 Year 7 and Year 9 pupils to St Bede's for a district athletics fixture against seven other schools. For their first ever athletics event, our Year 7s took everything in their stride: they took part in their events with such enthusiasm and determination. Everyone from our Year 7 team did us proud, and all contributed to our overall placing in the competition. To our Year 9s, firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to those that came and stepped up to the challenge of trying to do as many events as possible. Some of our Year 9 pupils took part in four! So, a massive well done and thank you!

Overall, Sawston Village College came an impressive 2nd out of seven schools! Some stand out performances from the afternoon were: *Sophie Christmas in the 800m, Ilinca Balanescu in the long jump, Archie King in the 200m, Sam Pryke in the 800m and high jump, Fedor Glushkov in the high jump, James Linzell in the 1500m, Amelia Arnold in the 200m, Caitlin Bullock in the 800m, Oliver Seaborn in the 1500m, and Ted Silk in the Javelin.*

WELL DONE SAWSTON!

Miss Stevens, PE Teacher

Update from Science

Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute

Ten pupils were recently selected to visit the CRUK laboratory in Cambridge by answering the question, "What is cancer?". Their entries were all fantastic and included interviews, presentations, poems and artwork. On the trip, they had the opportunity to meet with STEM professionals and engage in practical and real-world STEM activities. The highlight of the visit was using a newly developed VR headset that will be used by scientists to understand what is happening inside a tumour.

International Biology Challenge

19 Year 10 pupils took part in the international Biology Challenge. The pupils enjoyed answering two online quizzes of multiple choice questions on the natural world, including questions about the eye, DNA, and lizards. We await the results from UKBC.

Dr Ferguson and Mrs Cook, Science Teachers

House News

The sun is finally shining as we get ready to enter the second half of our summer term. Exams are very much underway, and we wish all our Year 11s the very best in achieving their goals.

kooth
www.kooth.com

This term has been a busy one, with an active mental health awareness week where we welcomed organisation Kooth into school to talk with our pupils about the services and support they offer. We also supported the delivery of activities and awareness raising, encouraging our pupils to make more informed eco-friendly choices, and we promoted this in the usual ways of challenges and competitions during mentor time.

As we approach the end of this half term, we look forward to celebrating successes from this term in our House Celebration assemblies and associated events.

Mrs Fane, Year 8 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



Update from MFL

As we embark on our last half term this academic year, the MFL team is very busy organising the trip opportunities for pupils. Some pupils studying German are getting ready to host their German exchange partners. They will do the return visit to Germany in September.

Meanwhile, some Year 8 pupils are gearing up to head to Barcelona or the north of France during Activities Week, and we are finalising fun-filled itineraries which include exciting activities (like a trip to a theme park), as well as cultural visits to the local sights.

This half term is also a time for goodbyes: we wish our Year 11s all the best as they start their study leave. Well done to pupils for their hard work and good luck for their exams! We also say thank you and farewell to Lola and Inés, our wonderful French and Spanish assistants who have worked with key stage 4 pupils on their speaking skills.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages

Update from DT

May half term brings the return of Mr Dawson to the department. A huge thank you to former Head of Art Mrs Day for covering Mr Dawson's absence. The classes have benefited from her artist's eye, with pupils in all years producing some really creative outcomes.

May half term also signals the end of lessons for our Year 11 leavers. The outgoing cohort has been one of our biggest ever, and they have produced some outstanding coursework, with which I hope to create an exhibition when the exam season ends. A huge well done to all of our outgoing Designers and Engineers - we wish them every success for the future.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

And finally:

We wish everyone a happy half term break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday, 3 June 2024.



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