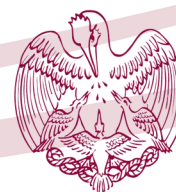


July / August 2024 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

3 & 4 Sept	Staff training days
5 Sept	School open to Years 7 and 11
6 Sept	School open to all years
6 Sept	Year 7 and Year 11 individual photos
12 Sept	Year 7 Freshers' Fair
12 Sept	Cinema Screening: NT Live: Prima Facie
12-15 Sept	Year 11 Silver DofE qualifying expedition
19-25 Sept	Year 10 German Exchange

28-29 Sept	Year 10 Bronze DofE training expedition
30 Sept	Year 11 post-16 conference day
2 Oct	Venice trip information evening
3 Oct	Open Evening for Year 6 families
4 Oct	Staff training day
7 Oct	Post-16 information evening
10 Oct	Year 7 Meet the Mentor
12-13 Oct	Year 10 Bronze DofE qualifying expedition
14 Oct	Flu vaccinations Year 7-9



From the Principal

As ever at this time of year, we have to say goodbye to departing staff. We are fortunate to have staff who provide outstanding care, enriching experiences and excellent education. That we offer so many clubs, activities, events, residential trips, visits, exchanges, leadership programmes and opportunities is testament to their

dedication and commitment to our pupils. However, the relentless pace of education and the growing national crisis of recruitment and retention are added pressures in an already creaking system. Staff leave for various personal and professional reasons but replacing them grows ever harder. The new government will need to double down and address this matter urgently to secure a better future for our young people. Bridget Phillipson, the new Secretary of State for Education, the eleventh since 2010, wrote to Headteachers last week: *A huge part of my role is to understand the scale of the challenges you are facing, and the support needed to fix them. The scar of child poverty, severe financial pressures squeezing all your budgets, high workload, climbing vacancy rates, strain on care, mental health and SEND services, among many other issues, have made your jobs increasingly difficult. This is a tough inheritance – none of these have quick and easy solutions but I will work with and for you to find practical ways forward.* The profession needs words put into action.

In teaching staff, we say goodbye to Mrs Kiggin who has done an excellent job covering for Mrs Dumas-Baker who returns in September. Mrs Ecclestone-Bokor, Art, moves into pastoral support working with sixth-formers, using her creativity in a different way; Mrs Day will replace her temporarily. Dr Ferguson leaves for family reasons having inspired many with his passion for Science; his replacement is Mr Middleton. Mrs Harwood has been deservedly promoted to Head of English at Bottisham Village College; English will welcome Mrs Hagard and Mrs Woods in the new term. Mrs Neesam is heading overseas having established a strong Business Studies department, which Mr Brame will lead from September. Mrs Minett hangs up her apron for good as she makes her final bid for retirement having supported us admirably in Food this past year, after a teaching career spanning 38 years. Mrs Bucciarelli will be using her recipe book next. And finally, Ms Russ, Head of Drama, is relocating to Bristol after nine years of enthusing, directing and energising our budding actors. We wish them all the very best for their future.

In support staff, Mrs Thomas, Exams Officer, is leaving to work for Cambridge University in her dream job. From SEND, Mrs Ferguson, TA, is relocating with her military family and Mr Sears, TA, is beginning his career in teaching. Mr Hamlin has been promoted within the Trust to support estates. Mrs Bishop, who has given 22 years' service cleaning for the College, retires to enjoy her grandchildren and let someone else tidy up.

'They must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom' - Confucius

Mr Russell, Principal



Jubilee Cup 2024

Congratulations to all of our athletes who attended the athletics competition on Wednesday, 25 June at Cambridge and Coleridge track. Your behaviour, enthusiasm, and determination on the hottest day of the year was incredible.

Pupils who received new PBs:

Ned Jones - High Jump 1.65m
William Stephenson - High Jump 1.45m
Victoria George-Grajales - High Jump 1.30m

Evie Park - 1500m 5:53
Charlotte Will - 1500m 5:44
Tyrihanna Johnson - 200m 27 seconds

Miss Stevens, PE Teacher



Pupils with top 3 placings:

Sam Pryke - 1st 800m and 1st discus
Sophie Christmas - 2nd 800m + 1st Long Jump
James Linzell - 3rd 1500m
Archie King - 2nd 200m
Keira Hancock - 1st 200m + 3rd Javelin
Evie Park - 3rd 1500m
William Sweeting - 1st 300m
Emilia Arnold - 2nd 200m + 1st Triple Jump
Caitlin Bullock - 2nd 800m
Oliver Seaborn - 2nd 1500m
Ted Silk - 1st Javelin
Tyrihanna Johnson - 1st 200m + 1st Shot
Ned Jones - 2nd High Jump



Sawston
Adult
Learning



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Email: **office@sawstonvc.org** | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Adult Learning: **01223 712424** - **www.sawstonadultlearning.org**

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

Update from English



Without Year 11, our attention has now turned to Year 10. Year 10s have been performing their speeches to their classes for the spoken language component of the English Language course and are now focusing on the last full text of their Literature course: Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. We will revisit this text again in September as their two weeks of work experience has meant this part of term always seems to disappear! Year 9s are finishing off the academic year with short story writing where we have read different

stories from a diverse range of authors and pupils are ready to write their own, drawing on their own experience. Year 8s are either focusing on Orwell's *Animal Farm* and the art of rhetoric or are focusing on non-fiction persuasive speeches. Year 8 pupils are writing speeches exploring when they have felt that they were treated unfairly due to gender stereotypes and expectations. Year 7s are finishing off their year exploring Caliban in *The Tempest* and his treatment as an outsider. A varied, busy year indeed.

Ms Goodbrand, Head of English

Opportunities in History



This half term saw exciting opportunities for historians. On Tuesday, 2 July 197 Year 7 pupils went to Denny Abbey and Ely Cathedral. Pupils enjoyed seeing the 'layers' of Denny Abbey that they've been learning about in lessons for themselves. Miss Phillips also organised the trip so our pupils could experience some excellent sessions led by museum experts which explored how Ely Cathedral was built, enabled pupils to appreciate how medieval people diagnosed illness and gave pupils the opportunity to smell the incense of medieval pilgrims. Furthermore, Year 9 had further opportunities to hear from experts. On Monday, 8 July our Year 9 pupils were lucky enough to hear from Katie Hawks, a historian who came to speak to them about Mill Road, to support the learning they have been doing in lessons on this topic. She also kindly offered an interactive session for pupils at lunchtime to enable them to engage with local history more closely.

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History

Geography Update



As the year comes to an end, we have enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate fieldwork as part of the National Festival of Fieldwork, led by the Geographical Association. This has included staff reflecting and sharing their fieldwork experiences in school and at university as well as getting pupils involved in some fieldwork across the school site. Year 8 pupils have investigated microclimates in school as part of their Weather and Climate topic, to identify a new social space in school that isn't too exposed to the weather! On Induction Day, Year 6 pupils completed an Environmental Quality Survey of the site and used a map of the school to familiarise themselves with the different parts of the school. Those Year 9 pupils continuing with Geography next year will visit Hunstanton at the end of term to investigate coastal erosion and management. It has been great to get pupils involved in fieldwork again and we look forward to more fieldwork opportunities in the future!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

Business Studies News



In Business Studies, Year 10s have started to work on Year 11 topics, and we have completed one section of the Year 11 content. We have been investigating how businesses make Human Resources decisions.



The highlight this term has been the successful visit to Stansted Airport, where pupils were able to get a behind the scenes look at how an airport operates in terms of Strategy Management, Security, Human Resources and career development. Pupils also got the opportunity to stand on the viewing area that is exclusively accessed by the Aerozone. It has been lovely to hear about pupils' work experience placements and how they have considered some of the theories we have covered over this year. I wish all my Year 10s a restful summer and good luck for Year 11.

Mrs Neesam, Head of Business Studies

Update from Maths



As the school year draws to a close, we celebrate the progress and achievements made by so many pupils in Maths. From mastering a tricky skill, beating a minimum grade or earning a certificate in the UKMT Maths challenge, these successes are particularly sweet for children who have worked hard to overcome barriers to learning.

We frequently remind pupils that ability in Maths isn't something we are born with; it can change over time with persistence and hard work. Maths can even be a source of enjoyment! So in between summer adventures, why not encourage your children to do some recreational maths? It could be as simple as playing cards or a strategic board game. Alternatively, [Transum.com](https://www.transum.com) has suggestions for activities that will keep children thinking mathematically while having fun and learning new skills over the holidays.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Sawston Adult Learning

We recently held our first exhibition, 'Earth &

Water', which showcased some of our Adult Learners' work from our popular Ceramics and Watercolour painting



classes. Our learners exhibited some fantastic pieces of work, and we were delighted to be able to celebrate their

achievements. Despite many learners feeling a little apprehensive about the prospect of displaying their work publicly, the consensus was that it was a hugely positive experience and one that many would like to repeat.

Our autumn term courses are now available to book. In addition to the popular, usual courses, we will also be offering a new Yoga class and the chance to learn Mandarin and Cantonese. For more information about any of our courses, please feel free to contact us in the following ways: Visit our website: www.sawstonadultlearning.org, email: community@sawstonvc.org, or phone: 01223 712424.

Mrs Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



We have had a great programme of film this half

term and there will be more next term. To see our full programme, visit:

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk



ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

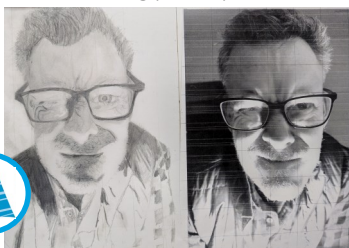
We have been busy preparing for the holidays

and have a put together programme of activities that will keep the children active throughout the summer break! For those wanting to improve their swimming ability, we have private and group lessons available. Or why not book a public swim and enjoy some time playing in the pool with friends and family! Other activities on offer include Nerf Wars, Soft Play, Trampolining, Self Defence, Football Fun Factory, Gymnastics, and Junior Lifeguarding. Pop into the Sports Centre or call us on 01223 712555 for information. Wishing you all a healthy, happy and sunny summer break!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager

Art & Photography News

This term the Art and Photography department celebrates our frontier Photography cohort as they complete the course. We wish the best of luck to our artists and photographers as we celebrate their hard work and courage over the course. Our Year 11s have paved a new and exciting path for future pupils: one which saw competition winners, six foot paintings and trips to London. We hope our current Year 10s will prove to be as ambitious in their projects. We are excited to run our annual trips to London this year, with GCSE Art pupils creating their own mural art in London's famous Leake Street tunnel while Photography pupils take part in a street photography tour of London's Southbank to diversify their portfolios. In KS3 we see our younger artists grow in confidence, demonstrated in Stanley Norton's stunning pencil portrait below.



We wish all our pupils a proactive summer break filled with Art, and we cannot wait to return to new projects and to the anticipated department trip to Venice!

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art and Photography

Computer Science Update

It has been a lovely, varied half term. I was incredibly impressed with the projects that GCSE Computer Scientists were working on during Work Experience. It is great to have them back in school for the final few weeks of the academic year.

Year 7s have unleashed their creativity over the past two weeks, learning about animations and creating their own. Year 8s are getting to grips with web design, and Year 9s are working on their final programming challenges. I hope everybody has a relaxing summer break, full of lots of fun and sunshine.

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



Left: Digital graphic created in one session by Alex B, learning about masking, blending and multi-layering.

Drama Update

As we approach the end of term, 'Alice' has completed rehearsals and had its run of three nights plus a Saturday matinee. The 7s, 8s and 9s have been superb and particularly impressive as an ensemble cast, performing as animals, birds, trees, shrubs, talking cats and computers! I cannot thank our supremely talented costume designer and maker, Eleanor Clapp, enough. She worked tirelessly to create stunning costumes. Another shout out must go to the incredibly talented Helen Day who offered her free time and vision for the set. Of course there are many people to thank, including our brilliant tech team and you super supportive parents for the drop-offs, pick-ups and your applause, whoops and cheers on the night!

Planning for next year will include our entry for the Shakespeare Schools Festival, directed by our very own Mrs Meikle. Do watch this space for a play choice announcement, auditions and letters home. LAMDA is going strong, and we will be advertising for new Year 7s to join, if they wish, to apply for lessons with Corinne, our tutor (and professional actress) who has entered our current LAMDA pupils through two exams. They all achieved merits and distinctions. The Drama department wishes you a very happy holiday and thank you, again, for your brilliant young creatives.

Ms Russ, Head of Drama



Tasty Trifle Triumph

This term our Year 7 pupils enjoyed designing healthy pizzas by following the Eatwell Guide, while the Year 9s explored the science of baking by making rough puff pastry from scratch and creating delicious sausage rolls. Our Year 8 classes learned about factors influencing food choices. They also made summer trifles, which involved learning how to prepare crème pâtissière and homemade jelly, and Oscar impressed with homemade sponge cakes soaked in fruit juice. Trifle-making was a

certainly a big hit, with pupils enjoying the process of layering, piping, and decorating their delicious desserts.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Update from Music

The summer concert season has been a super one in the Music Department. Over the past few weeks we have had the delights of the Singers' Concert, Lower School Concert, Outdoor Gig (which rapidly became an indoor gig!) and the Year 11 thank you concert, organised by the pupils themselves. We've also had musicians performing at induction evening (thank you to our woodwind septet), been samba-ing at Stapleford Fete and the Shelford Feast and taken the steel pans to perform at the Gog Magog golf club. Bravo to all pupils who participated, whether as soloists or in groups; they all did magnificently! This week sees ABRSM music exams, good luck to all those pupils taking exams, and in our production of 'Alice' alongside the Drama department. In class we have been playing more steel pans, samba and composing experimental pieces with Year 8s and putting on our own 'Carnival of the Animals' with Year 7s. Year 10s have been getting all sentimental with pop ballads and are working on their compositions - make sure to sign up for supervision before the end of term! We end the term with an 'open afternoon' for current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to enable them to try out woodwind, brass and string instruments. Do come along and join us. Thank you to all pupils, parents and friends for their participation and support this year! Bravo!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning

The major element of Professional Learning over the past few weeks has been to evaluate and review the progress that has been made over the year and look at developing the priorities for the next academic year. Following this review we will be looking to work again next year on raising the profile of SEND and SEND support still further, with training around ADHD and ASD for all of our staff, as well as further work around assessment.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



France and Spain for Year 8

During Activities Week, Year 8 North band pupils visited France, while Year 8 South band pupils flew to Spain.

In France, pupils visited an orchard and learned how to make apple juice. They crossed the border to Belgium and went to one of the best zoos in the world, Pairi Daiza. They also visited the Parc Astérix Theme Park, tasted snails and saw how Flemish waffles were made. They began the journey back to England via Boulogne-sur-Mer, a coastal town.

Meanwhile, in Barcelona, pupils visited Las Ramblas and the Boquería market. They enjoyed the interactive displays and the submerged forest in CosmoCaixa, the science museum and a whole day trip to PortAventura, a theme park with very impressive rollercoasters. They were also lucky enough to visit a local secondary school and interact with Spanish pupils to practise their Spanish, before relaxing on the beach for the afternoon. They visited the Sagrada Familia Cathedral, the most breath-taking sight, on the final morning before their journey home. All the pupils on the trips were very well-behaved and practised a lot of French/Spanish. Well done to everyone for making it such a great week and for representing the College so well!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages and
Miss Hobourn, Deputy Head of Languages



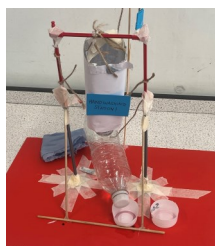
Update from Science

This half term in Science, we have enjoyed opportunities to engage in extracurricular Science activities. Year 9s who were not on residential visits during Activities Week completed the 'Stop the Spread' Crest Award challenge, which involved designing and building a hand-washing device for a Kenyan primary school to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases. Later on in Activities Week, Year 9 also experienced a Rocket Show at the Science Museum, London, and got to explore WonderLab, where pupils especially enjoyed the friction slides and shadow box activities.

More recently, Mr Barnett and I took 14 Year 7s to the KS3 Physics Jamboree at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Pupils worked in one of the undergraduate labs to investigate the stretching properties of two types of sweets before listening to a lecture from Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright, OBE. We were extremely proud of how polite, confident and engaged our pupils were throughout the morning.

Sadly, at the end of this term we say goodbye to Dr Ferguson, who is taking a break from his teaching career to spend more time with his family. He has been a wonderful teacher and a fantastic colleague, with a great sense of humour and a shared love of spreadsheets. He will be missed by all at Sawston Village College.

Miss Armsby, Head of Science



House News

Once again we have reached the end of a very busy academic year with a bumper half term. We said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11s as they completed their exams with a fabulous Leavers' Ball. What an evening of joy! Key Stage 3 have enjoyed Activities Week with a vast range of tasks with which to engage in on site, in the local area, beyond and abroad. All pupils were a credit to the school. Year 10s completed a fortnight of WEX and have much to offer the working world. We are pleased to see them back in school, preparing for their final year. And there's still more... activities involving pupils and staff in further trips to enrich education and a range of wonderful concerts to raise the soul. Our end-of-year Prize Giving and Celebration Assemblies will allow us to do what we like to do best and that is celebrate our amazing pupils!

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



Update from RE

We have spent a lot of this half term focusing on some big philosophical and ethical questions, such as Does God exist? Can the death penalty ever be morally justified? What is reality? How do we know right from wrong?

During some of our year 10 GCSE lessons, pupils were actively performing in a debate and skilfully defending a side of the argument they didn't necessarily agree with. This helped to develop their confidence with oracy and evaluating their ideas in a more active way. We, as a department, have been impressed with the level of thought and discussions all of our pupils have achieved this term and look forward to what the autumn term brings.

Mrs Clover, Head of RE and Ethics



Update from DT - Plane crazy

Activities Week brought about the chance for Year 9 pupils to try something a little different in DT. Flight was the topic and we looked at some aspects of aeronautical engineering. Pupils then designed their own paper planes and eventually used the experience to design and make a glider. There were two categories for success: form and function. The Year 9s got to work with all sorts of marvellous prototypes. The afternoon session was dedicated to the acid test...the flight! There were some wonderful maiden voyages, although comically, some vessels didn't quite survive the flight. The best recorded was a formidable 32m!



Mr
Bannister,
Subject
Leader of DT

And finally:

We wish everyone a happy and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 11 pupils back on Thursday, 5 September, and all other pupils on Friday, 6 September. Staff return on Tuesday 3 September.

