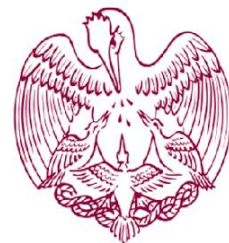


12 July 2024



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up

Today, we say goodbye to our Taiwanese exchange pupils who have spent two weeks with us. They have had a great time and cannot speak highly enough of their buddies. Thank you for making them feel so welcomed. In another busy week, our House Prize Giving saw 144 prizes given out to deserving recipients from a huge pool of staff nominees. We look forward to celebrating more young people in assemblies next week. Chess and Board Games Evening had players enjoying a variety of activities last night in their summer celebration. Congratulations also to the wonderful cast of Alice whose performance last night was joyous, leaving the audience in wonderland; good luck for the remaining performances. Well done to all those who participated in Y9 Olympics Day – it's particularly great when people are willing to be brave and courageous running in front of their peers and cheered on to success. Art and Photography trips to London were inspiring and Business Studies had an excellent visit to Stansted Airport, too. We hope those on our History trip to Hastings have a similarly super experience. And so to the last week of the year...when the sun will finally come out.

NEW Attendance Update

As we reach the end of another year, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the many pupils who have been entered into the prize draws each half term and have received certificates to recognise their 100% attendance. We are delighted that 49 pupils have achieved 100% across the entire academic year, a significant achievement, and those pupils will also be recognised next week along with our usual certificates.

The Department for Education issued a new guidance document for school attendance back in February and this will become statutory on Monday 19th August. This will therefore be in effect when we return from the summer break in September. There are some changes that parents, carers and pupils need to be aware of. [This letter](#) outlines the main changes in relation to penalty notices for term time leaves of absence and also the processes to support pupils whose attendance at school is irregular.

If you have any questions about the new guidance, please do get in touch in the new term.

REMINDER Last day of term

To enable staff farewells and preparation for the year ahead, College will close to pupils in the afternoon on Friday 19th July. Pupils will be dismissed after our inter-house summer quiz and the announcement of the House Cup winners at 12.15pm. Buses will leave the playground at 12.30pm. Those catching the public bus will be escorted to the bus stop on Cambridge Road opposite the police station.



REMINDER FSM Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Summer HAF Programme. Eligible pupils, in receipt of benefits-related FSM, can attend participating schemes for 64 funded hours. All participants will receive a meal and take part in enriching experiences. An eligibility voucher was issued by the LA via email and text to parents/carers on June 10 and reissued weekly if not opened.

REMINDER FSM Summer Vouchers

The LA will once again be running a FSM voucher scheme for the summer holidays. For each eligible pupil, they will be issuing two supermarket vouchers for a total value of £75. They are continuing to work with Wonde (E-voucher) as the voucher supplier. Eligibility remains the same in previous rounds including support for those pupils who have now left in Y11. Every eligible pupil will receive two vouchers, each for £37.50, one by the end of the day on Saturday 20th July and the other by the end of the day on Saturday 10th August. We have sent letters home.

NICE TO KNOW Goodbye to our Taiwanese visitors

Today we say goodbye to our Taiwanese visitors. For the last two weeks we have welcomed 20 students from Blessed Imelda's school in Taipei, co-ordinated by our new Inter Forum team, Izzy Young, Emily Yau and Alexandra Hovsepyan. Sawston buddies have enjoyed sharing Sawston school life with their Taiwanese peers. This afternoon we held a celebration event to mark the last day of their stay, where our Inter Forum leaders bid the group a formal farewell. There was also dancing from Evita Quijano, songs performed by Eesha Bharatham and Lily Liu-Child, as well as a violin duet from Alexandra Hovsepyan and Amy Cletheroe. In return, all of the Taiwanese students took part in a final group dance performance to give thanks to their SVC buddies. Sawston pupils have made the most of this year's opportunity to enjoy their buddies' company and learn about a very different school system and culture. We look forward to many more visits from Blessed Imelda's in the future.

NICE TO KNOW Year 7 Enterprise Day

On Thursday, we were joined by visitors from a range of industries who worked with our Year 7 pupils for a full day of activities designed to simulate the process of starting a business. Working in teams, pupils started the day by considering local and global problems, before coming up with ideas for a product or service which would address one of these issues. They developed their ideas, considering aspects such as funding, manufacturing, branding and marketing for their business, and bringing it all together for their final pitch. Winners were selected from each class for Best Class Pitch and Most Innovative Idea, with these teams invited to compete in the final pitch to all of our visiting professionals. The overall winners were Team NDS - Autumn Herbert, Poppy Melbourne, Jessica Collings, Naomi Warrington, Elyse Walston and Samantha Brown - with their idea to create a natural disaster warning system including an app, in-home box and alert bracelet.

Other products which made it to the final included a fingerprint padlock system to prevent underage vaping, mascara tubes made from bamboo to reduce plastic waste, and airborne biodomes to protect plants from pests and provide food in areas where it is difficult to grow crops. Well done to all of our Year 7s for their excellent engagement, teamwork and creative thinking throughout the day.

NICE TO KNOW Food masterclass

Our Year 10 Food GCSE students thoroughly enjoyed attending a masterclass with chef lecturers Jake and Graham from CRC. They prepared soured and blowtorched mackerel with triple-cooked chips, fish velouté, and courgette and carrot ribbons. This experience provided our pupils with a glimpse into post-16 catering courses and will be invaluable for their Food GCSE and future cooking.

NICE TO KNOW Banner celebrating the Arts

Year 8 pupil Arts Ambassadors marked coming to the end of their time in office by working with a professional print artist to make a celebratory banner this week. They began by discussing what the arts meant to them and then, inspired by their discussions, screen printed slogans and symbols to make a colourful and attractive banner which will go on permanent display in school.

NICE TO KNOW Anglian Learning Dance Festival

Well done to Sia Nair and Alyssa Bruce in Year 8 for representing the school at the Anglian Learning Dance Festival at Bottisham Village College this week. Not only did the girls choreograph a beautiful dance piece which they performed, but they also choreographed a piece for Year 3 and 4 pupils at Stapleford Primary School and taught this dance to the children.

COMMUNITY U25 Bus Pass

Enjoy unlimited travel within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for just £1 per trip. This pass, for individuals under 25, makes travel more affordable and accessible, whether visiting friends, heading to work, or getting to school, college or university. No Application Fees: applying won't cost you a penny. Enjoy unlimited travel within the Combined Authority Region for just £1 per trip. Visit cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare. 2. Fill out the online form. 3. Upload your photo and proof of age.

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Wishing you (and the England team) a successful weekend,

Jonathan Russell