

7 June 2024



**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round Up**

This week we remembered the fallen soldiers of 80 years ago. Robert Chapman, a pupil at Sawston Village College, aged 19, was killed on D-Day and he has a plaque to honour his memory at the British Normandy memorial. To have the College's name on the plaque is a real privilege and, hopefully, will be a permanent connection between the brave men and women who fought for our freedom in 1944 and our current and future pupils. You can read more below. Thank you to the host families supporting the German exchange visit that starts with their arrival this evening and good luck to all those involved.

#### **NEW D-Day**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June we marked the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with a presentation, delivered to all pupils during mentor time, focussing on the importance of this pivotal day and the impact this had on our local community. In particular, our focus was on the story of Robert Henry Chapman, a young man from Whittlesford and former pupil of Sawston Village College, who was killed approaching the Normandy beaches on D-Day. Robert Chapman was in service with the Royal Marines and died at the tender age of 19. His grave is in Bayeux and he is commemorated on both the British Normandy Memorial and our own College Memorial. In addition, we used this as an opportunity to remember Alfred Arthur Mackay and Victor George Froste who were killed during the subsequent Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944 and are also commemorated on both memorials. If you wish to view the slides from the presentation you may do so [here](#).

#### **NEW Staffing News**

We are saddened to share that Mrs Vincent will be leaving the College at the end of next week. Starting her new career in publishing, Mrs Vincent has been an excellent teacher of English and champion of Literacy for the College. She leaves with our best wishes and will be replaced by Mrs Woods from September. There will be some timetable changes after Activities Week as a result. Mr Hamlin, our outstanding Premises Manager, has been promoted to a senior position within the Trust and will leave us on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. We are recruiting for his replacement, as we are for Teaching Assistants and a Cover Supervisor.



### **NEW FSM Summer Holiday Activities and Food programme**

The HAF programme, funded by The Department for Education, is offering free holiday scheme places this summer to primary and secondary school pupils in receipt of benefit related free school meals. Eligible pupils can attend a HAF registered holiday scheme for up to 64 hours, subject to availability when booking. A wide range of fun, interesting experiences and a nutritious meal are offered. A voucher will be sent to parents/carers on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, by email and/or text, from 'hello@holidayactivities.com'. This will include a booking code and a 'view activities' link to the Summer directory of holiday schemes which is available from 10<sup>th</sup> June. We have sent a letter out today informing those families already in receipt of FSM.

### **NEW Co-Op in the village- no pupil access in school hours**

We have been working with the Co-Op to try to address the issues they have had with shoplifting, large pupil groups and rudeness to their staff. Whilst individuals have been sanctioned, some issues still persist. It has also been drawn to our attention that some pupils are accessing the shop during school hours when they should clearly be in school and this may also be adding to their lateness in the morning. Therefore, we have agreed that pupils in uniform should not be in the shop 8.25am-3.05pm. However, we have asked the shop to allow Y11 pupils in uniform for the next two weeks whilst exams are in process as they will be starting and finishing at different times whilst on Study Leave. The shop can of course have its own policy. Any pupil in uniform with an accompanying adult should also be allowed as they are likely there to pick up medication, or on their way to or from appointments. Thanks for supporting pupils to be in school during school hours and on time for the mentor period at 8.30am.

### **REMINDER Taiwanese student visit**

After a successful visit last year, St Neots English Centre is once again liaising with us to bring a group of Taiwanese pupils, aged 13-17 years old to SVC from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July (in school for the weeks beginning 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July). A letter from St Neots English Centre with details of paid hosting opportunities can be found [here](#). Queries about this should be addressed to them directly.

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Wishing you an uplifting weekend,

Jonathan Russell