

18 October 2024



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up

It's a busy season for the Duke of Edinburgh Award but our final expedition over the weekend saw 93 Y9 pupils successfully complete their expedition component of the Award. Congratulations to all involved. This week we hosted an Anglian Learning event for CEO, Headteachers and other leaders from across the country and they could not speak highly enough of the pupils they met and the curriculum offer we are able to provide. The Senate members proved to be particularly impressive tour guides. In a very long term with the weather turning, we tend to see an increase in pupil and staff absence. We do all that we can to mitigate staff absence but we appreciate your understanding and patience where we have had to use additional supply cover. Pupils who missed the flu jab can attend a catch-up clinic in half-term should you wish this for them. It was lovely to see so many young people wearing red today, to support the educational charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

NEW Platform 24

Platform 24 is a [joint exhibition](#) of artwork from pupils across Anglian Learning's secondary schools and sixth forms. The exhibition will showcase the inspiring work taking place in our art departments and include work from across the age ranges, covering a variety of techniques and media, including painting, textiles and photography, in both traditional and more abstract styles.

This year's exhibition runs from the 11th to 23rd of November at Michaelhouse Café in central Cambridge. The café opens from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday (12pm to 4pm on Sundays) and has an estimated 2,000 visitors a week, so is a first-rate venue in which to share our pupils' creativity. All are warmly invited to visit the exhibition

NEW Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week pupils marked Mental Health Day in mentor time by exploring the stress bucket analogy and taking part in a collaborative project with each mentor group offering their own self-help strategies.

Maintaining positive mental health is crucial to young people's overall state of wellbeing. If you are concerned about your child's mental health or wellbeing, please do contact your child's Mentor or Year Lead. We would like to raise awareness of a range of brilliant [organisations and charities](#) that can offer advice and support for young people and families in supporting mental health, further details can be found here.



NEW Flu vaccination catch-up

Vaccination UK is running a flu vaccination catch-up clinic during October half term. If your child missed the flu vaccination in school this week, please follow the link below to make an appointment for your child. The clinic is appointment only, from 10am - 2pm on Tuesday 29th October at Trumpington Pavilion, Paget Road, Trumpington CB2 9JF
<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/book>

NEW Medication for minor ailments

With the cold season upon us, if you wish to leave medication, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, in school for your child, please contact the reception office for the relevant form. Medication should be in its original packaging and labelled with the pupil's name. There is also a form that can be completed if you wish your child to carry their own medication. Please contact the office for further information.

NEW FSM October holiday vouchers

The Local Authority will be running a FSM holiday voucher scheme for October Half Term. For each eligible pupil, they will be issuing a £15 supermarket e-voucher via Wonde. Parents of eligible pupils will receive their voucher by the end of the day on Saturday 26 October.

NEW Reading Rulers

Following an assembly launch on Thursday, we have given each Y7 pupil a reading ruler. These are widely used in the school, especially in reading lessons in KS3 English, but we would like to encourage even greater use. Reading rulers help pupils to avoid skipping a line of text and can help with reading more accurately. It may also be easier to read as black text on white background can be hard to read for some. Studies have shown that reading rulers increase reading speed by 30% or more. You might like to use them at home, too.

REMINDER Non-uniform day: wear red to 'Show Racism the Red Card'

Today, pupils and staff have shown their support for the educational charity 'Show Racism the Red Card' by wearing red to school for a non-uniform day. This charity aims to combat racism through education and enabling role models to present an anti-racist message to young people. Parents and carers are invited to make a donation of £1 via WisePay if they would like to support the fundraising efforts for this excellent cause.

REMINDER School Photographs

Tempest Photography orders of Y7 and Y11 individual photographs have been delivered to school. Pupils may collect these from the reception office at break or lunchtime.

NICE TO KNOW Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to the 93 pupils from Y10 who successfully completed the expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Thetford Forest last weekend. Qualifying expeditions are never easy, but a combination of heavy rain during the day on Saturday followed by freezing temperatures from Saturday night through to Sunday morning, made this a more challenging experience than many would have anticipated. The expedition assessors were very impressed by the teamwork and respectful attitude of our pupils so congratulations to all for displaying the grit, determination and resilience to succeed. As the

expedition section is now complete, we wish our Bronze participants well with their ongoing work towards completion of the volunteering, physical and skills sections of their award.

...

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell