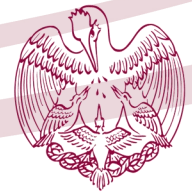


November / December 2024

Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

6 Jan	Spring Term begins
14-15 Jan	Year 9 Core Exams
16 Jan	Year 10 Meet the Mentor Evening
23 Jan	Year 9 Options Evening
29 Jan	Intermediate Maths Challenge
29 Jan	Year 11 Additional Mocks (Core)

30 Jan	Year 9 Report 2 issued
31 Jan	Staff Training Day
6 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening
6 Feb	Year 9 Vaccinations
13-18 Feb	Year 11 Berlin trip
17-21 Feb	Half Term
20 Feb	NT Live screening: The Importance of Being Earnest



From the Principal

It's Christmas! As Noddy Holder might say. After a packed term, we can reflect on a successful year. With some pride, we can say that we were officially named as the State 11-16 Secondary of the Year in The Sunday Times. However, we know that there is much to improve and we will need to develop as the educational landscape continues to

evolve around us.

In the New Year, we will see some staff changes.

Mr Unsworth, our inspiring Head of Art and Photography, is relocating to Buckinghamshire to take up a new post and family life. Mr Unsworth has built on the excellent foundations established by Mrs Day, our previous Head of Art, and has introduced GCSE Photography since he joined us in September 2022. Those lucky enough to visit Michaelhouse Café for our Platform 24 exhibition or who have attended the Photography showcase, or indeed admired the new artwork hung in the Henry Morris Hall, will appreciate the exceptional work created by the department. We thank Mr Unsworth for all that he has done and wish him every success and future

happiness. Dr de Saint Cluque will replace Mr Unsworth after Christmas; a talented artist herself, she brings with her a wealth of experience and an impressive academic record.

Mrs Day, who has taught in Art and DT this term helping the College whilst recruiting for new staff and covering gaps, leaves us for a new challenge in Newmarket post-Christmas. We are so grateful to her for her loyalty, dedication and outstanding caring approach in and out of the classroom since she joined us in 2015. She leaves with our best wishes and gratitude. Miss Murphy has already started with us in Art.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Mr Ridler, our Behaviour Officer, who has established our new Reset Room and helped countless pupils reflect on their choices and regulate their emotions. Taking up a teaching post in Linton with pupils with additional needs, Mr Ridler returns to a role he loves and we wish him great success. In this edition, we also fondly remember David Adams, who recently passed away. A visionary Head of Music at Sawston for 29 years, he was the originator and inspiration behind music at the College. Our Carol Service this year is dedicated to his memory.

'To study music, we must learn the rules. To create music, we must break them.' Nadia Boulanger

Mr Russell, Principal

A Message from the Anglian Learning CEO

As CEO of Anglian Learning, the multi-academy Trust which supports your child/ren's school, I would like to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken in the last few months. These activities have benefitted our pupils, workforce and communities of our Trust.

As a large school trust, we received £1.8 million in government funding to enhance the condition of our schools. While this does not meet all our needs, it has allowed us to prioritise health and safety improvements, essential repairs and the energy efficiency of our buildings. A major piece of work was the [installation of solar panels](#) across all our schools, reducing energy costs and our carbon footprint. The money saved can be allocated to other areas for the education of our young people.

Other important areas we have focused on include:

- Strengthening our IT infrastructure to protect against cyber attacks
- Reviewing safeguarding in all schools
- Introducing a Teaching and Learning Framework that sets out the

principles of excellent classroom teaching to be adopted by each school

- Hosting leadership conferences for headteachers and deputy headteachers on creating strong teams, supporting positive relationships with pupils and much more
- Starting our 'Belonging by Design' strategy to improve pupil attendance, SEND support and mental health, supported by the funding we have received from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Local Authorities.

Finally, in November, we celebrated our secondary school pupils' creativity with the [Platform 24](#) art exhibition at The Michaelhouse Café. The exhibition featured inspiring work from our talented KS3, KS4 pupils and A Level students.

I wish all families a restful break and thank you for your continued support. Also, congratulations to the College for being named 'State 11-16 Secondary School of the Year' by The Sunday Times Schools Guide for 2025. For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Jonathan Culpin, CEO



New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP | Telephone: **01223 712777** | Twitter: [@SawstonVC](#) | www.sawstonvc.org

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

Library Update

It's been a busy half term in the Library. Well done to all our (not so new) Y7s for throwing themselves into the routine of Library lessons and borrowing books so enthusiastically! I've been keeping an eye on classes who engage particularly frequently with the Library, and the following all get a big gold star from me:

Joint 1st: 7N3 + 7N4

Joint 2nd: 8A1 + 7N2

Maths Update

On 11 December, 40 Year 11 pupils visited West Road Concert Hall to take part in a Maths Inspiration Lecture. A new kind of event for many, the pupils weren't entirely sure what to expect. But two hours later, they left feeling engaged, amused and enlightened. The show had three guest speakers, all prominent Mathematicians who you may have seen on the YouTube channel Numberphile. Aylean MacDonald started off by sharing her love of art and explaining the toothpick fractal. Pretty pictures soon turned into some complex Maths. Next up was James Grime who entertained us with his knowledge of code breaking, the Lorenz machine and how messages are sent. Finally, Ben Sparks walked pupils through the Mathematics of Poker and how a few probability calculations can help you understand risk. He also proved that the probability of two people sharing a birthday in a group of 23 people is 50%! The afternoon ended with a Q&A session.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

Update on Religion and Worldviews

Year 8s enjoyed a trip to Bedford this half term, visiting a Mosque, Church and a Gurdwara. It was lovely to see such positive engagement and curiosity from pupils, with many left surprised at how peaceful and welcoming each building was. Year 7s have been looking at a number of stories with Judaism, examining how these can impact beliefs and practices today and the significance they have within the religion. After Christmas, Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to have some guest speakers coming into their lessons to support their learning around Christian beliefs on Marriage and the Family. Year 10 Philosophy projects have begun, which is their examination for the HPQ. Pupils will need to work on this at home and at school, ensuring they are meeting the deadlines set to ensure a smooth submission to the exam board in May. If any pupils need support with this, I will be running drop-in sessions every Week A Thursday lunchtime. Wishing all a wonderful Christmas break.

Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and Worldviews

Joint 3rd: 8D1 + 9N1

It was also so good to see so many pupils at the Book + Bake Sale to fundraise for the Library. I'm pleased to report that this helped raise £158, some of which has already been spent on a few highly requested books. I know many pupils are asking for books for Christmas; you'll have to let me know if there's anything else you think I should put on my shopping list!

Miss Allen, Library Manager

Business Studies News

As the autumn term draws to a close, Year 11 Business Studies pupils were given a taste of what is come in 2025 by sitting their 'mock' GCSE exam.

I was extremely impressed with the high standards which demonstrated the quality of teaching at Year 10 by my predecessor Mrs Neesam, who is now about to take up a Business Studies position in Dubai after a period of supply teaching. Christmas is a time when we focus on the wide range of promotional activities businesses use to get us to spend those extra few pounds. See if you can spot some of the 'emotional branding' techniques used by companies such as John Lewis and Amazon over the festive period.

Mr Brame, Head of Business Studies

Quality Mark for History

The History department is excited to announce that we have recently been awarded the Gold Historical Association Quality Mark. The Historical Association Quality Mark is an award that recognises the excellence of history provision in a school, and the Gold Mark is the highest level of the award that can be achieved. An external assessor spent a day in the school observing lessons, speaking to staff members and pupils alike and analysing our curriculum, extra-curricular provision and results of pupils in the subject. We are very proud of achieving such a prestigious award and will share more details shortly!

Ms Jackson-Buckley, Head of History



Some of the Year 8s who joined the trip to Bedford



Sawston Adult Learning

Here in Adult Learning, we are already looking forward to January.

Our Spring Term courses are now on the website and are available to book online or over the phone. In addition to our usual courses, after a short break, we are very pleased to be able to offer our



Garden Design course again next term, which is the perfect way to plan your outdoor space

in the run up to Spring for any budding gardeners out there.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

For further information or to book: Visit our website:

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

Mrs Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



ANGLIAN LEISURE SAWSTON

Kick start your new year with a membership at Anglian Leisure

Sawston. We will have the following offers available in January:

Existing customers

Refer a friend and you will both get 50% off your first month

New customers

Join with a friend and both of you get 50% off your first month

For more information on our facilities and activities, please visit our website www.sawstonsports.com or follow us on social media.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



We are

looking forward to the NT Live programme coming up. To see what else is we have in store, go to:

www.sawstoncinema.org.uk



Art & Photography News



Pupils 'painted' with light in Venice.

Over this autumn term we have seen our department reach new heights! We celebrated our first international department trip to Venice which sparked new ideas, inspiration and a body of primary

source work for our Year 11 Art and Photography pupils who are adding the final touches to their component 1 coursework ahead of the Christmas deadline, for which we wish them the best of luck. Year 10 Art and Photography pupils have set a new high standard for coursework development under the titles of personality and identity (Art) and close ups (Photography). Pupils have shown great adaptability and resilience under the demands of the KS4 curriculum. Years 8 and 9 are well underway with their final milestone outcomes for their projects. I have been so impressed by the pride pupils have shown in their outcomes, knowing that with patience and a positive attitude to their work they can achieve anything. Year 7s have begun their first Arts Award project on 'Ndebele Art', researching influential artists and African tribal culture to inspire their outcomes.

Mr Unsworth, Head of Art and Photography

Update from Music



From Northern Lights compositions in Year 7 to learning jazz riffs in Year 8 and completing a hefty study of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring in Year 9, we have been really pleased with our KS3 pupils this term. Year 9, in particular, have been working really hard and have just finished their substantial listening milestone, well done to them all. A group of pupils also really enjoyed attending a concert performance of the Rite of Spring at West Road Concert Hall, read Eli's review to find out more. We are now taking a completely different turn and we will be playing djembe for the next half term or so. A highlight of the past few weeks for Year 7 and 8 were our first singing assemblies in many year. What a sound they all made, bravo! Year 10 have been improvising and performing together alongside getting into the detail of musical analysis. Their musical vocabulary grows week by week. Year 11's tour of different musical traditions has seen them Bhangra dancing, playing calypso on steel pans, djembe drumming and exploring the beautiful sound world of North Indian Classical music. They have just embarked on their second composition piece and will be holding a class concert in January, more details to follow. All attention this term has been on the annual Carol Service on Thursday, 19 December at Great St Mary's church. Pupils have been working so hard for this, we hope to see many of you there and enjoying the fruits of their music making and celebrating the season. Thank you to them all for their hard work.

We also take this newsletter to remember David Adams who recently passed away. David was Head of Music at Sawston from 1966 to 1995. He was the originator and inspiration behind music at Sawston Village College, and all that we do in the department today builds on his vision of music education for all. At a time when many were learning about the 'lives of the great composers', David was encouraging pupils to play instruments and compose music for themselves. He really was a visionary music educator.

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

Drama Update

The Drama department has been buzzing with creativity and excitement! GCSE rehearsals for the scripted unit are in full swing, with pupils showcasing their dedication and talent. We eagerly await performance dates from the exam board, expected early in 2025. Year 8 pupils have been embracing their comedic side, filming hilarious silent movies that have brought laughter to our corridors. Meanwhile, the Year 7 Drama Club is spreading festive cheer, preparing

Christmas-themed pieces to delight their peers in the final week of term. Year 9s have been working on the poignant script *Missing Dan Nolan*, and Year 10s have embarked on their devising journey, excited to dive into their set text, *Blood Brothers*. Finally, the cast of *Romeo and Juliet* dazzled once again with a re-performance that left staff and pupils thoroughly impressed. Bravo to all involved!

Mr Bell, Head of Drama

Computer Science Update

Thank you to all pupils who have brought their enthusiasm and positive attitudes to CS lessons and clubs this half term. It has been busy as usual with lots going on in the department across the year groups. A very big well done to Year 11 for your efforts with the Mock Exams and practical programming projects. It has been really nice to see so many of you get stuck into coding



your solutions to a wide variety of problems. Well done to all year groups, we wish you a restful break and a very Merry Christmas. Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science

From Scones to Spaghetti

Our Year 11 Food pupils have been busy perfecting the ideal scone recipe, which involved conducting research, making hypotheses and then performing experiments to test their hypotheses. Meanwhile our Year 10s have been creating chocolate roulades for their autumn milestone and have developed complex skills, such as rolling and piping.

In KS3, our Year 9s made Jewish latkes, Year 8s prepared cinnamon palmiers, and Year 7s baked and decorated cupcakes to support the ABA Christmas fair in aid of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

We also had the pleasure of successfully hosting Year 5 visitors from Icknield Primary School, who made Spaghetti Bolognese in our kitchen. Excitement filled the air, and some are already looking forward to cooking more dishes when they join Sawston in the future!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Professional Learning



As we moved through the second half term we have continued to look at further aspects of our inclusive classroom teaching and learning focus. There has been a theme led by Ms Jackson Buckley and Mr Wallace on different aspects of memory, focusing greatly on how we as teachers can understand and plan for the amount of strain we place on our pupils' memory during a lesson. Alongside this, Mrs Morris and her team have continued to broaden our understanding around developing our support and provision for pupils with an additional educational need. This has included developing the understanding that the staff have of Provision Mapping, our new software package to help support pupils with an EHC plan.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Update from MFL

Feliz navidad / Joyeux Noël / Frohe Weihnachten

Well done to all pupils for their hard work in their French, German and Spanish lessons this half term. All pupils have now completed at least one assessment in the language(s) they study. Whilst Year 7s focused on translation skills, Year 8s completed a grammar and translation assessment and Year 9s a writing test.

Over the Christmas break, why not relax and watch a foreign film or series on your favourite streaming platform with your children? There is a wide range of media available in different languages (with English subtitles) which would support your child's learning whilst allowing the whole family to spend time together.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages

Geography Update



As we come to the end of this term, our KS3 pupils are completing their first topics and milestones of the year. Our Year 9 pupils have been completing a unit exploring 'Our Unequal World' and the differences in development between countries. One of the lessons focused on challenging stereotypes about the continent of Africa, a continent people are often quite wrong about! Pupils explored stereotypes using the 'Band Aid - Do they know it's Christmas' song released in the 1980s, analysing lyrics such as 'where the only water flows is the bitter sting of tears' or 'where nothing ever grows'. They identified problematic lyrics in the song and sought to challenge why the lyrics are incorrect. Some classes were even set the task of redesigning the lyrics, and we received some fantastic efforts! As the song marks its 40th anniversary this year it has been apt to revisit it.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

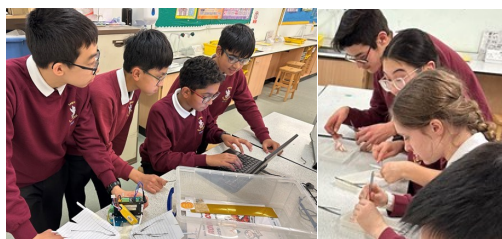
Update from Science



Science has had a busy start to the academic year, from Year 11s completing their paper 1 mock examinations through to Year 7s completing their first formal science test. Outside of lessons our Junior and Senior STEM clubs have continued to be hugely popular with activities every week. If you've not been along to see what happens, why not try next term?

Hill's Road annual autonomous robot competition has been launched, with Senior STEM now busy designing and building their own robot dragon, based around a Raspberry Pi brain. This project will test their design skills, they've also been practising and developing their dissection skills, helping to refine a new dissection practical for our Year 7s to try.

Mr Barnett,
Science Teacher



House News

What a brilliant half term this has been!

We have been thinking about what it means to belong and building to a strong community where everyone feels safe and valued.

We had a great day supporting Children in Need and have enjoyed our Sawston Gives campaign in the lead up to Christmas. The pupils have been amazing and have really exemplified our CARE values.

However you are celebrating over the festive period, we wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas break. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year ready for all of the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

Mrs Watkis, Year 7 Lead and Head of Mandela House, on behalf of the Heads of House



Update from DT



The autumn term is historically a very busy time in the DT calendar. This year has been no different. All year groups are enjoying their practical lessons with some wonderful skills being developed. Year 7s have been involved with designing and making a coaster, Year 8s have started to make their device stands, Year 9s are busy with their carpentry module. Year 10s are deep into the manufacture of their educational toy, while Year 11s are in the process of model making their final GCSE designs. We have also welcomed in the Anti bullying Ambassadors who have been designing and making laser cut keyrings to

raise funding and awareness. Mr Priestley has sought the help of two of our Year 11s to create a Christmas postbox for vulnerable Cambridgeshire families to help spread a little festive cheer to those who may be struggling. Merry Christmas from the DT department.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



Update from PE

Huge congratulations to the pupils who represented Sawston Village College at the District Cross Country Event at The Netherhall School recently. Each pupil ran an excellent race, all coming in the top half against 150 other students. Two of our pupils, Oliver Seaborn and Hari Jugdaohsingh even finished in the top 16 to qualify for a place in the next round of the County event.

Mr Infield Solar,
PE Teacher

Participating pupils were:

Oliver Seaborn
Benjamin Zenner Branco
Joseph Button
Sam Pryke
Freya Pulford
Hari Jugdaohsingh



And finally: Season's Greetings to all!

We wish everyone a happy and restful break, and look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday, 6 January 2025.



New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP | Telephone: 01223 712777 | Twitter: @SawstonVC | www.sawstonvc.org

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