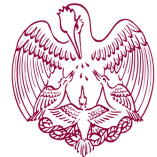


# January / February 2025 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

20 Feb	NT Live Screening - 'The Importance of Being Earnest'	13 March	Year 11 Geography Hunstanton trip
27 Feb	Year 8 Report 2 issued	19 March	SE Schools' Cheerleading Competition
28 Feb-1 March	Year 11 Geography London trip	20 March	Year 7 Report 2 issued
5 March	Year 11 Exams Information Evening	26 March	Year 10 Drama trip - 'Blood Brothers'
6 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening	27 March	NT Live Screening - 'Dr Strangelove'
7 March	ABRSM exams	27 March	Year 11 Report 3 issued
9 March	Year 9 Options submission deadline	28 March	West Road Concert
11 March	Year 11 Group Photograph	2 April	Gym & Dance Display
13 March	Year 10 Report 2 issued	3 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening
		4 April	Spring term ends



We are nearing the time when the planners will determine whether or not, and in what form, the plans for the regeneration of the site will be realised. We are hopeful that, following the public consultation, most concerns and queries will have been addressed, paving the way for final approval. Should this happen, we are anticipating

the lived experience of being a learner, whether adult or child, at the College. The current plans will create new spaces: a refurbished Marven Centre as a reinvigorated performing arts and cinema space with increased capacity; a new Dining Hall with views to the fields, airy and seating for twice as many pupils; new changing facilities, an upgraded swimming pool environment and refreshed Sports Halls; a new, safer bus bay; a brand new building housing nine departments; and, relandscaped outdoor spaces including a new netball pitch, outdoor seating, bike racks and car park. In short, a school site fit for future generations.

*'We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.'*  
Winston Churchill.

Mr Russell, Principal



The brand new building will house nine departments.

work to commence late in the summer term. By the new academic year, we will have a very clear sense of the different phases of the works and how these will impact on the daily operational functions of the College and Sports Centre over the next two years. Inevitably, there will be temporary changes to the way staff, parents and pupils use the site but we are determined that there will be no disruption to learning or to our enriching extra-curricular provision. We are working very closely with the DfE to consider all aspects of the plans.

Our campus is the 'silent teacher'. By design, Henry Morris wanted the buildings to inspire and impact positively on



## Computer Science Update

In January I took five pupils to Cambridge University's Department of Engineering, to compete in the First Lego League Challenge. To prepare for this, the team had to come up with an Innovation Project, identifying and designing a solution to a real-world problem. They had to build a Lego robot, various other Lego kits and write code to control the robot to achieve certain missions. On the day, the pupils did Sawston Village College proud, impressing the panel of judges when presenting their Innovation Project and achieving all of the missions they had set out to in the Lego Robotics matches. A very well done to Chloe, Eva, Jasmine, Arjun and Tom, with an extra thanks to Siddharth!

If you are interested in joining the team, please come to CS1 on Friday lunch times.  
Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



## Maths Update

It's been business as usual in the Maths department. Year 9 sat end of key stage 3 Maths exams in January and are to be congratulated on their maturity, resilience and hard work in preparing for their milestones. They have since been learning about different aspects of Financial Literacy, always a topic that engages a great deal of interest. From tax and national insurance to mortgages and pay day loans, we hope that the pupils are better informed to make sensible monetary decisions as young adults.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



## Sawston Adult Learning



Our weekly Spring term courses are now up and running, and attention is now focused on our Saturday workshops which will be held on Saturday, 8 March.

For your garden, this term, we will be offering courses focusing on Seed Saving and Sowing for all plants and how to grow them organically, and a Willow Plant Support making workshop, which only has a few spaces left, so early booking is advised.

For your stomach, we are offering an Indian cookery workshop or the chance to learn how to make authentic Thai food, which proved to be very popular last term.

Please visit our website or contact the office for further details or to book. Visit our website [www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning](http://www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning), email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org) or phone **01223 712424**.



Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



Exercise4Fun is a 12-week free active lifestyle programme taking place at Sawston, Melbourn, Histon and Impington, Cambourne and Linton leisure centres.

**Exercise4fun** is for adults (age 18 and over) with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or above (in ethnic minority groups it is lower at 23.5 or above), and inactive.

Anyone who takes part will be currently inactive (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week), and not an existing member of a leisure centre.

Register for the Exercise4fun programme 24-25

Each 12-week programme could consist of group activities including: wellbeing walks, yoga, swimming, a motivate and inspire session, cricket, football, badminton, new age kurling, and boccia. The activities will be chosen by the group in consultation with the qualified instructor at the first group session.

If you are interested, please email [fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk](mailto:fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk).

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Next up at Sawston Cinema on 20 February at 7.00 pm is *The Importance of being Earnest* presented by NT Live. For tickets and to see what else is coming up, check out our website: [www.sawstoncinema.org](http://www.sawstoncinema.org)



Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



## Update from Geography

The Spring term has seen the start of new topics for our KS3 pupils. Year 7 pupils have impressed with their engagement with their Climate Emergency topic, showing great interest and care about the climate crisis facing our planet at the moment. Year 8s have begun their mini enquiries into Russia, Asia and Middle East. Pupils explored the biomes of Russia and used their knowledge about climate change from Year 7 to explain how it may impact Russia's biomes and landscape. Year 9s have started a newly planned topic 'Fragile Environments', exploring ecosystems and thinking about how their fragility may be threatened by human and physical factors. We hope to focus on Tropical Rainforests and Antarctica as part of this topic. We are looking forward to teaching the rest of the topic!

We are also looking forward to our upcoming London trip with our GCSE pupils to support their understanding of their case study of the city and regeneration of the Olympic Park.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



## Update from the Library

The Library is always a busy and exciting place to be, but has felt particularly so over the last few weeks. With multiple new displays, book sales, Book Club guest speakers, and our regularly scheduled Library lessons, it can mean that the space is anything but quiet! I am also pleased to report that a new cohort of Pupil Librarians recently undertook their training. They have been welcomed by a very conscientious bunch of returning Pupil Librarians across Years 7-10; some of whom have been helping since they were in Year 7! Their dedication to keeping the Library looking like the welcoming space we know it to be will be particularly appreciated in the coming weeks as plans for Book Week develop.

Book Club will also be eagerly awaiting our return to school after the break, as the Carnegie Medal for Writing longlist should have arrived for us, and we can begin our shadowing process in earnest.

Ms Allen, Library and Resources Manager



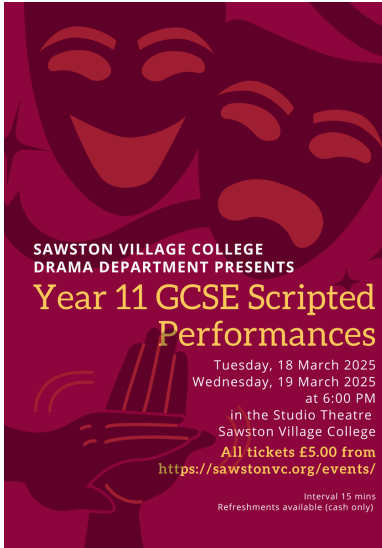
Some of the pupil librarians busy with the books!



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



## Drama Update



It has been a busy and creative half term in the Drama department, with pupils across all year groups fully engaged in exciting projects.

Rehearsals for the Year 11 Scripted Unit are well underway, with pupils working hard in preparation for their upcoming performances on 18 and 19 March. We can't wait to see their hard work come to life on stage! The Drama Club for Years 7 & 8 has been a fantastic success, with great attendance and plenty of fun had by all. Year 7s have also been showcasing their creativity by writing hilarious parodies in rhyming couplets.

Meanwhile, Year 8s have been exploring Greek Theatre, producing some impressive Chorus performances, and Year 9s are delving into Shakespeare, gearing up to choose plays to stage. Finally, Year 10s are making great progress with their Devised Unit and have begun exploring their set text, Blood Brothers. Exciting performances ahead – watch this space!

Mr Bell, Head of Drama

## Update from Music

After the busyness of Christmas, the Music department has had a slightly quieter start to this half term. Year 11s are nearing the end of their GCSE course and have been studying the world of film music. Their second compositions and ensemble performances will all be recorded during the next half term.



**E**

The class, plus some friends, put on a wonderful evening of music at Michaelhouse in Cambridge to raise money for the Leavers' Ball. Bravo to all involved! Year 10s have jumped into looking at the Baroque period and performed their first concerto grosso together; do ask them about it. Year 9s have been composing djembe drumming pieces with some excellent syncopated rhythms being produced. Year 8s have continued exploring pop and rock music through composition and ukulele. Whilst Year 7s have gone back in time to the Renaissance period and have been playing and composing music for the court of King Henry VIII; but will it be in duple or triple metre? The extracurricular life of the department is busy getting ready for the West Road Concert on Friday, 28 March. Details to follow after half term.

We are also taking a group of singers to perform in Jonathan Dove's new opera about climate change 'Uprising!'. We had our first full choir rehearsal yesterday at Saffron Hall and can't wait. Tickets can be bought here <https://www.saffronhall.com/whats-on/view/uprising>. Thank you for all your support and encouragement of our fantastic pupils.

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

**C**

## Art Update

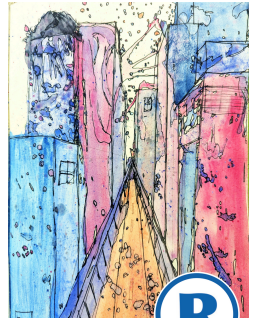
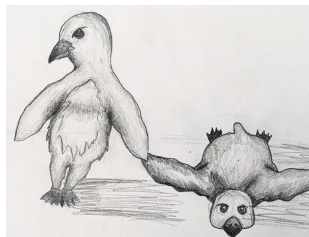
The Art department welcomes a new curriculum. Year 7 is being introduced to the fundamentals of drawing, proportion and tonal values by studying paintings by one of the most significant artists of the Dutch and Flemish Renaissance, Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Year 8 is learning anatomical drawing and portraiture by studying Michelangelo's masterpiece of Italian Renaissance sculpture, David. Year 9 is discovering the world of perspective drawing. Starting with one-point perspective, they will soon master two- and three-point perspective to recreate the irrational constructions of Maurits Cornelis Escher. Finally, Year 10s are finishing their paintings on canvas before investigating Johannes Itten's 7 Colour Contrasts, while Year 11s are embarking on their final GCSE journey.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art

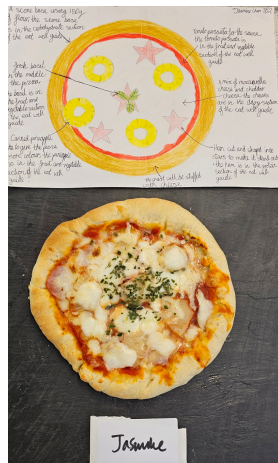
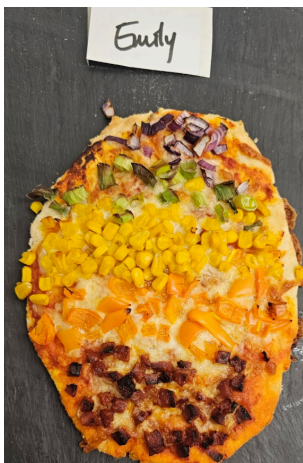
**A**



Well done to all the pupils whose work is featured here.



**R**



## Healthy Eatwell Guide Pizzas

This half term, our Year 7s have been learning about the Eatwell Guide and the importance of healthy eating. For their milestone, they were challenged to design and make their own Eatwell Guide pizzas, incorporating ingredients from each food group. They carefully selected toppings, such as spinach, reduced-fat cheese, red onions and chicken, to make their pizzas both colourful and nutritious. The results have been impressive, with pupils creating pizzas in fun shapes like that of a cat, dog, dinosaur, umbrella, rocket, and heart! Pupils made a great effort to work independently and demonstrated confidence throughout the practical. Well done to Year 7s for their hard work and creativity!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food

**E**





## Professional Learning

This term Mrs Morris has continued to lead work in our areas of Special Educational need and the ordinarily available provision within our classrooms. Then we have also just had a very successful joint training day with our colleagues from Linton Village College. The day saw us come together to look at areas of our inclusive classroom initiatives. We heard from a range of outside speakers, including Bradley Busch and Peps McCrea, who are leading voices in the area of educational psychology and educational research. The day also contained a number of workshops run by staff from Linton and Sawston on areas of classroom practice. All in all, it was a very productive and successful day.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



## Update from MFL

It has been another busy half term in MFL, and pupils have worked very hard. Year 7s have been practising key verbs (such as to have, to be and to do) and related vocabulary and are starting to be able to build a wider range of sentences.

Year 8 pupils have been focusing on building different tenses and are starting to be able to use the future tense.

Year 9 pupils are now juggling three tenses and increasingly complex grammatical structures.

Year 10 and 11 pupils are covering the GCSE themes, revisiting key stage 3 concepts and furthering their knowledge of tenses and grammar while extending their vocabulary knowledge.

Well done to all pupils for their hard work. We wish you all a restful half term break. Why not find a foreign film or series on a streaming platform and watch it with your child with English subtitles?

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



## Science Update

British Science Week is being celebrated at SVC during w/c 10 March 2025, and this year's theme is 'Change and Adapt'. The Science team is starting to plan activities which we will run during lunch time and we'd love to invite some external speakers into the College. If you work in scientific research, industry or simply have a passion for science which you'd love to share with our pupils, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Armsby Moore ([sarmsby@sawstonvc.org](mailto:sarmsby@sawstonvc.org)), Head of Science, to discuss how you can help us celebrate science.



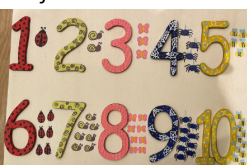
The Science department is also launching a new-look Junior STEM Club after school on Tuesdays after half term. Mrs Lloyd has shared a Google form, via Google classroom, with all Year 7 and 8 pupils. We invite pupils to apply to attend Junior STEM Club and work collaboratively to complete a nationally recognised CREST award. Pupils should speak with their class teacher if they have any questions.

Mrs Armsby Moore, Head of Science



## Educational Toy Brief in Design & Technology

Pupils In Year 10 were given a brief to design and make an educational toy. The toy could be for children or adults as long as it was educational. Here, Year 10 pupil Zenab Usman writes about her experience of this: *'I decided to make a wooden number puzzle for my 3 year-old cousin, who is learning to read and recognise numbers. First, I made a mood board with similar puzzles to come up with a design that would appeal to children and make them actually want to play it. Also to help with the ergonomic features like the child's comfort when holding the pieces and making it easy to store. Then I drew my design up and completed a design specification to make sure all of the details were correct.*



*For this project I enjoyed using the laser machine and designing the pieces online because it was something new I hadn't done before and I also really enjoyed painting my puzzle because it was nice to think about the best ways to make my puzzle appeal aesthetically to my cousin.'*

Well done to Zenab and the other Year 10 pupils on their fantastic designs.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



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[www.sawstonvc.org](http://www.sawstonvc.org)



ANGLIAN LEARNING

## House News

It might have been cold and dark this half term, but our pupils came back from the Christmas break bright, energised and ready to go.

We have been thinking about respect and what it means to belong in our assemblies, as well as having a focus on Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBTQ+ History Month and Children's Mental Health week. Our pupils continue to strive to be the best they can be and are brilliant ambassadors for our CARE values.

We look forward to longer days after the break and to all the opportunities and successes that next half term will bring.

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



## Update from Religion and Worldviews

This half term, the Year 10 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) in Philosophy is well underway. Pupils have now decided on what their personal research question is, completed their project proposal form, regularly updating their activity log and have started to write up their examined essay. This course is examined and their first opportunity to be able to achieve an assessed grade that will be added to their post-16 applications. We were fortunate enough to have Mr Syposz from the Oakes Sixth Form to talk with the Year 10s about the benefits of such a qualification. His key messages hopefully helped pupils to see how this can lead on to supporting their applications for sixth form and university/apprenticeship courses. The key deadlines you will need to be aware of are shared in the Google Classroom. Pay particular attention to the deadline for all paperwork (proposal, activity log and the essay) on Monday, 31 March. It is important that these deadlines are met, as any projects handed in after this date cannot be submitted to the exam board for moderation. If there are any questions, please speak to your class teacher or pop by to the drop-in support sessions on Thursday week A lunchtimes. Well done for all the hard work and dedication so far. I am really excited to see the outcome of all these wonderful questions.

Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and Worldviews



## PE Update - Netball Fixture

A huge well done to both our Year 8 and Year 9 Netball teams, who played against Bottisham Village College on 29 January 2025.

In the Year 9 match, Sawston took an early lead, with some fantastic attacking play. However, Bottisham came back fighting and we entered the final quarter, two goals down. Despite a relentless defensive effort, we couldn't quite force the turnovers needed, leading to an 8-13 loss. Our POM goes to Arianna Ward for her patience on the ball and for consistently supporting the play in the centre court.

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 team, who comfortably won their game 11 goals to Bottisham's four.

Our POM goes to Annie Sillence for her movement in and around the attacking D, as well as her shooting skills. I would also like to give a shout-out to Sophie Christmas and Victoria George Grajales, who worked superbly in partnership to progress the ball up the court with ease.

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



## And finally...

We wish everyone an enjoyable half term break. School begins again for everyone on Monday, 24 February 2025. We look forward to seeing pupils and staff then.