

24 January 2025



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up – January 24th

There are certain weeks in the year that remind us all of the speed at which the years fly by and this week is one of those. We launched our KS4 Options for the current Y9s who will now be giving serious thought to their preferred GCSE and BTEC choices for the last two years with us. Most of the staff can still recall Induction Day with them at the end of Y6! During our Y9 guidance interviews with parents and pupils, we begin to explore future pathways and what might come after Y11. Excitingly, it is also a reminder of all that is possible ahead and a world of opportunities for our young people. We wish them all the best with their choices. This afternoon we gave our Y11s a chance to rest and relax ahead of the busy months to come with some fun activities and cake in the Sports Hall. We wish them well with the English Language mock exam next week. Holocaust Memorial Day is on Monday. We traditionally mark this by inviting visiting Professor Tom Lawson, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Northumbria University, to lead lectures with our GCSE and Y9 historians. We are proud to partner with such a distinguished guest and alumnus of the College who delivered his poignant lectures today.

NEW College Closed Friday 31st January 2025

Parents are reminded that the College will be closed to all pupils on Friday 31st January for our last teacher training day of this academic year. This will be a joint staff day with Linton Village College, developing inclusive pedagogy and exploring how we can further support pupils to succeed independently in their learning.

NEW Y8 Careers event - Tuesday 11th February

On February 11th, our Y8 pupils will spend the day finding out about different career paths and options for their futures. As part of this, they will have the opportunity to hear from visiting speakers who will talk to pupils about their jobs and responsibilities.

We would like to extend an invitation to parents and carers who may wish to take part in this event by joining us for the "What's My Line" session. During this session, pupils are encouraged to ask questions to help them to try and work out a visiting speaker's job classes.



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Speakers can only give yes/no answers to begin with but may start to give a little more detail to help steer the pupils in the right direction. Once pupils have managed to guess correctly, guests are encouraged to give a short talk/presentation about the job that they undertake and answer any further questions that the pupils have. Each of these sessions lasts approximately 20 minutes and guests will be asked to repeat this four times to different Y8

Volunteers would need to be on site from 11:00 am until 1:15 pm on the day. All classes will be supervised by a teacher. If you are able to support this event or would like further information, please contact Peter Buncombe at Form the Future, whose details are included on [this](#) flyer. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Wagstaff, Assistant Principal (ewagstaff@sawstonvc.org).

Thank you very much for your support with this event which I hope will be an excellent opportunity for pupils to have meaningful contact with people from a range of careers.

NEW Y9 Options Launch

We launched the Y9 Options process with Y9 pupils, parents and carers earlier this week. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend yesterday's Options Evening - it was lovely to see so many parents in attendance. Earlier today, an email went out to all Y9 pupils, parents and carers sharing key documents from this process. These documents are openly available to all via the [College website](#).

Please watch out for the invitation to Y9 Parents' Evening that has already gone out and the invitations to the additional, Options interviews that will go out before February half-term. The latter will include details of how pupils submit their final options choices, the deadline for which is **4pm on Monday 10th March**.

NICE TO KNOW Marking Holocaust Memorial Day

We were delighted to welcome former pupil Professor Tom Lawson into school today. Professor Lawson is a Historian of the Holocaust and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University.

GCSE Historians joined Professor Lawson over lunchtime for a talk on key turning points in the development of the Holocaust, while Y9 pupils joined him for the final lesson of the day for more general reflections around this subject.

We are fortunate in having been able to have Professor Lawson join us now for a number of years to help our marking of Holocaust Memorial Day. Holocaust Memorial Day, which is on 27th January, marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau this year.

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Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell