

31 January 2025



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up – January 31st

We hope that pupils have made the most of their day off and enjoy their three day weekend. Our joint training day with Linton Village College has been very productive; speakers, with national profiles in education, led sessions and colleagues shared expertise in how to better engage, support and encourage learners. It's been a very full day but extremely valuable. Earlier this week, our superb Y11 musicians put on an excellent concert to raise money for their Y11 Ball. A huge thanks to all involved. We wish our filmmakers creative success this weekend. The school will become a Hollywood studio as our budding Spielbergs shoot their latest creation. Next week, we look forward to hosting senior Omani teachers as they visit the UK to seek out best practice. It is also our Y9 Parents' Evening on Thursday and a further chance to consider KS4 Options.

NEW Parent EBSA Coffee Morning

On Friday 7th February, the SEND Department are holding their termly coffee morning and would like to invite parents and carers of pupils with SEND or who have children who are finding attending school challenging.

The coffee morning will include a one hour workshop delivered by Emily Childs (Trainee Educational Psychologist) and Hayley Chadwick (Assistant Educational Psychologist) to help parents and carers whose children are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing EBSA (emotionally based school avoidance) explore what EBSA means for their child and how best to support them going forward.

The event will be held in the Student Centre at 9.30am, we would ask that you arrive for 9.15am. If you are interested and would like to attend please contact Mrs Grigoli on mgrigoli@sawstonvc.org

NEW Punctuality

In the second half of the Autumn Term we focused on punctuality to ensure that pupils were in the right places at the right time and ready to learn. Whilst our focus has continued and we are applying sanctions when pupils aren't in the right place at the right time, we have noticed an increase in the number of pupils arriving late to school in the morning. Whilst we understand that there can be mitigating factors, generally pupils should be able to be in school for 8:25am in order to be on time for their mentor session at 8:30am.



Particularly where pupils walk or cycle to school, we would really appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils leave home with enough time to reach the school site punctually. Thank you.

NEW Night time Routines and Sleep

Our Pastoral Team has had a number of conversations with parents over the last few weeks regarding home routines and sleep patterns. It's possible that some pupils are not getting enough sleep. This can be due to a lack of routine in the evenings, gaming and social media and sometimes just through going to bed very late. Research shows that teenagers need a minimum of 8 hours sleep, with some needing as many as 10 hours. We are aware that bedtime and sleep can be a tricky subject to broach, therefore parents and carers may find [this](#) leaflet from the Cambridgeshire NHS Community Services website helpful to support a conversation. Our main tips are to make sure there are no distractions in bedrooms once it is time to sleep (removal of all electronic devices including phones and games can help), that young people stick to a regular routine and that an hour before bedtime devices are switched off to give time to relax before trying to sleep.

REMINDER 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. 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 classes.

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.

REMINDER FSM February Half Term Vouchers

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run its holiday voucher scheme for February Half Term using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions and the additional funding provided by the Council. Each eligible pupil will be issued a supermarket voucher for £15. They are continuing to work with Wonde (E-voucher) as the voucher supplier. Eligibility remains the same and further information was sent out to eligible families today. Vouchers will be delivered by email or text by 9.00 pm on Saturday

15th February. All vouchers must be claimed by 3.00 pm on Friday 21st March 2025. Unclaimed vouchers cannot be reinstated after this date.

Please contact holidayvoucherscheme@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with any questions about the scheme.

Details of how to apply for income related Free School Meals can be found [here](#) – there is a simple application form which only requires a few details for an instant eligibility check.

COMMUNITY Looking to become a pool lifeguard after your GCSEs?

The Sports Centre will be running a course from Monday 7th to Friday 11th July, with an assessment on either Saturday 12th or Sunday 13th July. You must be 16 years old at the time of the assessment, with the opportunity to apply for a job after completing the course. SVC pupils will be able to attend at a discounted price of £240. There are only 12 spaces available. For more information or to book, please contact the Sports Centre reception or email sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk.

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Wishing you a restful weekend,

Jonathan Russell