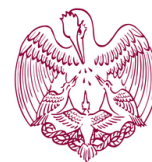


March / April 2025 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

22 April - 1 May	Year 10 Exams	11 May	Sawston Fun Run
22 April	GCSE MFL speaking exams start	13-14 May	Year 10 Drama Devised Performances
23-24 April	GCSE Photography exam	16-19 May	Year 10 Hastings trip
29-30 April	GCSE Art exam	17 May	Cheer City's Summer Games Competition
1 May	Junior Maths Challenge	20 May	Year 10 Drama workshop submission
1 May	Sawston Cinema - <i>Small Things Like These</i>	20 May	Year 10 Rounders tournament
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed	22 May	Sawston Cinema - <i>The Room Next Door</i>
8 May	GCSE exams start	26-30 May	Half term



Spring is a time of renewal. It reminds us of all that is to come and affords us an opportunity to reflect on the winter passed. From the darkest (or wettest, in 2024's case) of winters, spring carries a message of hope and the promise of light. Schools have their own seasons, determined by the terms, a somewhat archaic calendar based on an agricultural past. However, by the time we reach this point in

the year, two thirds of the way through, we turn our attention to the summer. For Year 11, the number of lessons can be counted in days until the exams begin in earnest. For them, this is the time to show what eleven years of education has taught them. We wish them all the best. There is plenty of support at school and always someone on hand to answer a question, offer advice on managing exam anxiety or to provide more practice papers and revision strategies. There is certainly light at the end of the tunnel.

For Year 10, they too have exams, their first chance to test how well they are meeting the demands of KS4 and a formal introduction to a full exam timetable. These internal exams will give a good idea of what areas need greater focus and offer a sense of where pupils may be heading as they begin to think about post-16 options in the autumn term. The best thing they can do is try their best and learn from any mistakes; this will shine a light on their next steps. As will their work experience later in the term, which will help them to think further on life beyond school.

For Year 9, the summer term will see their option choices confirmed and the final foundations laid across the broad curriculum that give them the important skills of creativity, problem solving, curiosity, resilience and communication needed at KS4. For Year 8, it is their chance to show their maturity and their commitment to the CARE values that we hold dear which enable their personal development. And for Year 7, the final term ahead marks a milestone; the first year at secondary school and a chance now to welcome the next and younger cohort.

'Spring is when life's alive in everything.' Christina Rossetti

Mr Russell, Principal

Message from the Director of Secondary Education, Anglian Learning

As our pupils and their families get set for the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken during an empowering spring term.

I begin with a warm welcome to Stour Valley Community School, based in Clare, Suffolk, who joined Anglian Learning alongside Clare Community Primary School on 1 March 2025.

One continued focus across all our secondary schools has been school improvement. Following the appointment of Jonathan Rockey, Deputy Director of Secondary Education, who previously led a successful secondary school and is a serving His Majesty's Inspector, we have been continuing our work to help deliver our academies' Improvement Plans, alongside our ongoing development of Teaching for Creativity (a national Arts Council England project). More recently, there has been a focus on intentionally developing a culture of positive regard within our academies' communities. Both aspects are key to our goal to strengthen and nurture a sense of belonging.

It has been a very busy and productive term, full of focused lessons, exam preparation, applications for post-16, university and apprenticeship places alongside school productions, ski trips, European city visits and our ever increasing opportunities to engage in a wide range of clubs and societies.

I wish all families a restful Easter break and thank you for your continued support. For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website

www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Duncan Cooper, Director of
Secondary Education

Right: Jonathan Rockey
Far right: Duncan Cooper



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Email: office@sawstonvc.org | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Community Education: 01223 712424 - www.sawstonadulted.org

Sports Centre: 01223 712555 - www.sawstonsports.com | Sawston Cinema: 01223 712825 - www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Update from the Library

There's always so much to update you on regarding what's been happening in the Library. The highlight of this half term has certainly been Book Week. There was something new happening every day in the week beginning 3 March; from book quizzes, to making our own zines, to Library treasure hunts. I was so pleased to see pupils across all year groups throwing themselves into all of the events - hopefully it served as a reminder to Year 10s and Year 11s that the Library continues to serve them outside of their Library lessons.

In other news, Book Club recently welcomed in Miss Cook and Mr Slade from Maths, Mr Barnett from Science, and Mr Pike from RE to talk about their love of books. It's been so interesting to hear the perspectives of different departments, and so valuable to reinforce the idea of reading as a cross-curricular endeavour.

Ms Allen, Library and Resources Manager



Update from History

The Sawston History department have updated the History curriculum page on the College website with a new list of extra-curricular activities for each year group that you may want to explore with your child to further develop their understanding of the History they are studying in lessons. There are a range of recommended books for each half term in each year group (sorted into books that are appropriate for all readers and those which are more suited for ambitious readers). Alongside the recommended books for each half term, there is also a range of suggestions for related films or TV shows that can be watched to supplement your child's learning. We also have included, where appropriate, sites and museums that could be visited to further develop your child's interest in the subject. To find these suggested opportunities, you should follow the link below:

www.sawstonvc.org/curriculum/curriculum-rationale/subjects/history/.

Ms Jackson Buckley, Head of History



Business Studies Update

Business Studies pupils in Year 11 completed their work on Finance and are now preparing for the exams in May and June. There is a revision guide available via WisePay for purchase. It is full of great exam practice questions and also includes model answers.

Year 10s are well into their second term of Business and will be sitting a 'mock' exam after Easter. I have been impressed by the engagement of these pupils, coping well with a subject that they have had little exposure to before this school year. It will be interesting to see if their predicted grades have been accurately forecast.

Mr Brame, Head of Business Studies



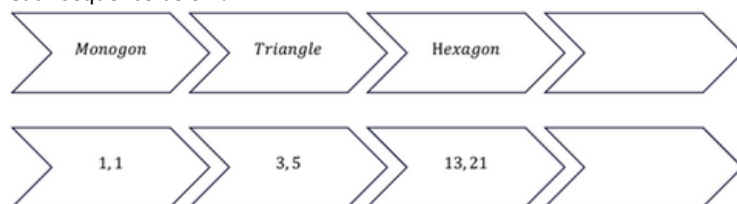
Maths - Year 10 Maths Feast Competition

Recently, eight of our Year 10 pupils spent an afternoon at Linton Village College, where they participated in the local Year 10 Maths Feast competition. Our two teams of four competed against 19 other teams from local schools. They were faced with four rounds of challenging maths questions which required pupils to apply their school maths to more unusual contexts. Our pupils displayed great logical thinking and teamwork skills during the competition. If you fancy your chances with a competition question, then take a look at the questions here!

Miss Cook, Deputy Head of Maths



Inspired by the TV show *Only Connect*, what comes next in each sequence below?



Top Sequence: Decagon (Shapes where number of sides are triangle numbers)
Bottom Sequence: 55, 89 (Fibonacci sequence with even numbers removed)



Sawston
Adult
Learning



It's Spring! So, if you are interested in organically growing your own produce, our Summer Vegetable Gardening workshop could be for you. In addition to our advertised workshops, we will also be offering a Yoga workshop, which will focus on the Summer Solstice which occurs the following week. Learners will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in three hours of deepened



Yoga practice, which will be suitable for all ability levels, so everyone is very welcome! All of our workshops will be held on Saturday, 14 June, so would make a great Father's day gift.

All of our courses for the Summer term are now on the website and are available to book by visiting the website or contacting the office. Visit our website at:

www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning,

email community@sawstonvc.org or phone 01223 712424.

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



We are currently busy preparing for the Easter holidays. Our programme of activities will include intensive swimming lessons, trampolining, and a distance swimming session, where children can earn certificates and badges. Our new activity, laser tag, will also be on the agenda. Extra family swimming sessions will be running during the day. Please see our website

sawstonsports.com for further details and please also note that

we will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday. Also, our swimming lessons will be open to new swimmers from 9 April. Our lessons are suitable for children aged 2 and upwards, right up to advanced lessons for secondary school children.

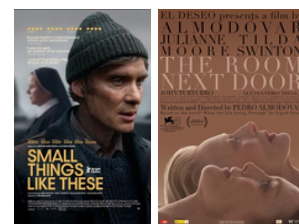
Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Next up at Sawston Cinema on 1 May at 7.00 pm is *Small Things Like These*. For tickets

and to see what else is coming up, check out our website: www.sawstoncinema.org



Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Update from Geography

It has been another busy half term in Geography. A trip to London and the Olympic Park allowed our GCSE pupils to visit areas relevant to their case study, and our Year 11 pupils successfully completed their data collection in Hunstanton. They will be assessed on their fieldwork during their exam in June.

Year 9s have continued to engage positively in their new 'Fragile Environments' topic. Their focus on Tropical Rainforests came to an end with a debate for and against deforestation, with pupils putting forward convincing arguments for both sides of the debate. This activity was designed as part of the exploration into Oracy in the Professional Learning Discussion Group.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



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Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Drama Update

The Drama Department is buzzing, and offered lots of exciting performances and events this spring. Year 11 pupils showcased their scripted performances on 18 and 19 March. Featuring a variety of plays, from monologues to duologues and group scenes, in many different styles, it was an event not to be missed.

Year 10 pupils travelled to Peterborough on 26 March to see a professional production of *Blood Brothers*, offering them an invaluable insight into their set text, a timeless coming of age tale exploring complex social and historical events in a fun and fast paced musical theatre style. They are also gearing up for their Devised Drama performances on 14 and 15 May, with rehearsals intensifying through after-school sessions. Finally, this busy group will enjoy a screening of *The Importance of being Earnest*, bringing this classic play to life on 6 May.

Year 7s are preparing for their fairytale parody performances and making their teachers and staff laugh out loud. While in Year 8 they are hard at work on their *Bugsy Malone* musical theatre unit; some very good work by some seriously 'Bad Guys'. Year 9 pupils are currently rehearsing their unique adaptations of classic Shakespeare plays and we look forward to seeing Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth and Hamlet brought to life in the coming weeks.

It is full steam ahead in the department. Well done to all the pupils who are working so hard and showing real dedication to the subject.

Mr Bell, Head of Drama

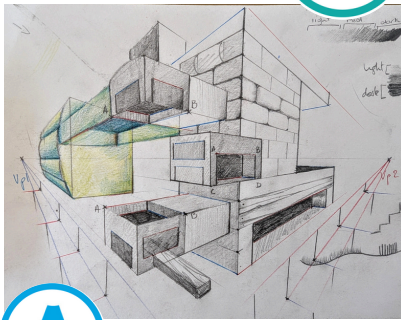


Art Update

This term, Year 7 takes on the challenge of creating a composition in the manner of Pieter Bruegel's style, Year 8 is now mastering the art of feline portraiture, while Year 9 ventures into creating video games levels that trick the mind. Year 10 Photography is finishing their close-up project looking at Natural Forms and Composition, and Year 10 Art will move on from the theory and mastery of Itten's 7 colours contrasts to practice, by perfecting their painting techniques with the portrait exercise. Finally, a special message of encouragement for Year 11 Art and Photography, which is entering the home straight. Congratulations on your hard work and commitment.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art

Well done to the pupils whose work is featured here.



Perfect Foundations for Food Exam Success

Our kitchen has been very busy this term, with the Year 11 Food practical exam being a great success. In preparation for their exam next year, our Year 10 foodies have been working hard on a range of international dishes and refining complex skills. To develop their butchering skills, they learned how to joint a chicken and marinated it in Korean gochujang sauce. They also created fruit and chocolate tarts, quiches, gelatine cheesecake, preparing everything from scratch - shortcrust pastry, custard, chocolate ganache, and fruit coulis. In addition, they enjoyed making tomato-flavoured pasta and carefully shaped ravioli, focusing on precision and accuracy. These skills will provide a perfect foundation for their Food exam next year.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Update from Music - Uprising

I was contacted just before Christmas by Saffron Hall about the possibility of joining with Saffron Walden County High to form the teenage chorus for *Uprising*!

The opportunity to be involved in a brand-new opera, working with professional soloists and orchestra, was something we couldn't miss.



Jonathan Dove is one of the most innovative British composers working today, and writes brilliant music for community choirs and young voices. We certainly enjoyed all of the music, which was catchy, rousing, emotive and inspirational.

In rehearsals and the performance, we were ready to protest and then weep at the destruction of nature he depicts. Pupils committed to an intense period of after school rehearsals plus weekends and evenings. We were rehearsed by the fantastic Dominic Ellis-Peckham and we all learned so much from him. His energy, commitment and musical detail were amazing, and we would love to work with him again. We also enjoyed learning all the movement from Sinead O'Neill (director) and working with Ellie Slorach (conductor), her energy and detail were fantastic. The soloists and the RSNO were fantastic to work with, and I am hugely proud of all my pupils for their hard work, commitment and the musical quality they produced. To have memorised an entire opera in 10 weeks is extraordinary, and I sat in tears at several moments as I watched an opera with a real message for today and have been challenged immensely. A huge thank you to all staff members who supported with rehearsals as I went down with flu, and to Caroline Law and all at Saffron Walden County High. We so enjoyed working with them. Here's to more fantastic collaborations and projects in the future. Well done everyone!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Computer Science Update

As we approach the Easter holidays, marking the final full term for Year 11, I want to say a big well done to the our Computer Scientists. With regular practice exam papers being sat in class and lots of in and out of lesson-time revision, it can feel like a big undertaking. Lots of resilience and dedication has been shown by pupils, which hasn't gone unnoticed. We are proud of your hard work. Keep on going for that final push. A reminder that intervention is on Wednesdays after school; Monday and Thursday lunch times are available for drop in revision.

To all other year groups, your enthusiasm for programming, app design and video editing has been wonderful to see!

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



Professional Learning

Our professional learning time over the past half term has been given over to continuing our work on inclusive classrooms, with Mrs Morris continuing to develop the staff provision to support pupils with further educational needs through our understanding of Ordinarily Available Provision. A range of our teaching and pastoral staff undertook a very interesting and enlightening training session led by Cathy Murphy from the LEA safeguarding team focusing on Responding to Bullying. Finally, this term Mrs Wagstaff delivered a training session around reviewing and developing our assessment systems across the curriculum subjects. This will lead onto further sessions in the summer term.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Science Update

We celebrated British Science Week at Sawston Village College in the week beginning 10 March, with plenty of lunchtime activities based on the theme of 'Change and Adapt'. Pupils had the opportunity to build mammal tunnels



to monitor local wildlife; construct solar ovens to explore how we could change our energy resource use and investigate genetics and inheritance through

gameplay. Mr Barnett introduced pupils to our resident crab, coral and stick insects, and pupils heard how these creatures are adapted to their environments. Year 9 classes were invited to attend a webinar with the Metropolitan Police Service, where they heard from forensic scientists about advancements in biometric technology, such as facial recognition scanning and fingerprinting. Our pupils asked some excellent questions about how these technologies work.

In other news, 13 of our fantastic Year 11 Physicists recently took part in the British Physics Olympiad intermediate challenge. Five pupils were awarded gold, five silver and three bronze; a fantastic achievement by all!



Mrs Armsby Moore, Head of Science



Spotlight on Speaking in MFL

Congratulations to our Year 10s, who have just completed their first formal speaking exams, which will count for a quarter of their grade in their Year 10 exams. We have been very impressed with our Year 10 linguists' hard work, organisation and resilience!

Year 11 pupils will be completing their final speaking exams - worth 25% of their final grade - just after the Easter holidays and are busy preparing and revising too. We wish them the best of luck with this (and lots of practice during the holidays!)

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." Nelson Mandela.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



Year 9 Carpentry Module in DT



The focus of this Year 9 project is mainly on practical skills. Pupils have been exploring jointing techniques and working with softwood. They first created a test piece before moving on to their final project. Most pupils have used finger joints to assemble the carcass, and the lid is either butterfly-hinged or push-fit. Next, they worked on designing the lid, either by hand or using CAD/CAM software. Now, it's time to tidy up, apply the finishing touches, and take their projects home for Easter. Fantastic work, Year 9s!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



House News

This has been a brilliant half term with lots going. Pupils have been energised and engaged in a flurry of events and activities.

World Book Day was a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a week's worth of activities and fabulous memorable moments. International Women's Day was a wonderful occasion and provided a heartening glance at the past, present and future of women's excellence, achievements and fight for equity. We also acknowledged British Science Week and took a moment to highlight creativity in our Arts/Spirit weeks. As always, we celebrate competition entrants and winners, House points, awards and other special achievements in our celebration assemblies.

Our pupils continue to 'be the best they can be' and are brilliant ambassadors of our CARE values. We look forward to all of the opportunities and success that next term will bring.

Mr Davis, Head of da Vinci House and Year 11 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



Update from Religion and Worldviews

It has been a busy term in the RW department, especially with our Philosophy Year 10 pupils. Philosophy pupils have focused hard on ensuring their examined projects are being finalised, with the deadline for submission being Monday, 31 March. Year 7s have been enjoying studying the Ramayana within Hinduism, focusing on what we can learn about Hindu Dharma through such an amazing epic. Year 8s have been exploring ideas around worldviews in more depth, focusing on what may influence



someone to take action about something that is important to them, for example, looking at Malala and her views on the rights to an education.

Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and Worldviews



PE Update - Cheerleading Success

On Wednesday, 19 March, Sawston Elite Cheerleading squad made their debut performance of the 2025 season, competing in a regional Cheerleading Competition in Essex.

The routine incorporated an exciting blend of gymnastics and dance, with disciplines such as tumbling and stunting. The team put in an excellent performance, scoring an impressive 74% in the 'Junior level 1 category', earning themselves a well deserved 2nd place. Congratulations to all of the pupils involved!



Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



And finally...

We wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break. School begins again for everyone on Tuesday, 22 April 2025. We look forward to seeing pupils and staff then.



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www.sawstonvc.org



ANGLIAN LEARNING