

The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine



Spring 2025
Issue 77



A capacity audience enjoyed the Music department's annual concert at West Road Concert Hall on Friday, 28 March. As ever, the Samba Band thrilled with their enthusiastic - and loud - performance.

In this issue:

	Page		Page
Forum Updates	4-5	Our School's Carbon Footprint	19
Uprising - a new opera	9	Library News	20-22
GCSE Scripted Performances	10	Cinema Club	29
Berlin Trip	12-13	Refresh Garden Club	30
First Lego League	17	Sports Fixtures Round-up	31-34



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Marking Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

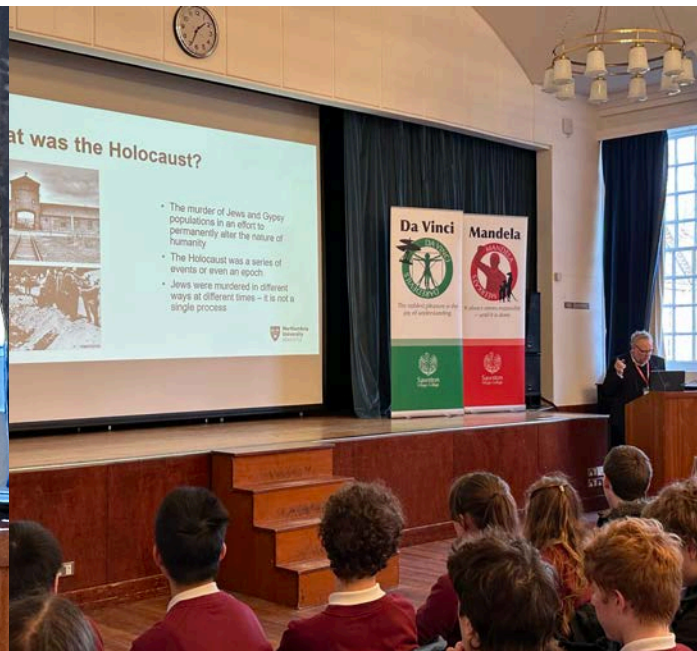


We were delighted to welcome former pupil Professor Tom Lawson into school just before Holocaust Memorial Day. Professor Lawson is a Historian of the Holocaust and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University.

GCSE Historians joined Professor Lawson over lunchtime for a talk on key turning points in the development of the Holocaust, while Year 9 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 27 January, marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau this year.



On Friday, 14 March, Sir John Benger, a British civil servant, visited the school.

Sir John Benger served as Clerk of the House of Commons, the principal constitutional adviser to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, and adviser on all its procedure and business from 2019 to 2023, and is now Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

He delivered two sessions while he was with us:

- **A Q&A session which was open to anyone in Years 9-11:** This session enabled pupils to find out more about his work and routes into working in a similar area.
- **A meeting with the Senate and passionately interested political pupils:** This session allowed pupils to talk with Sir John Benger in more detail about our school, and to discuss government, democracy and leadership more fully.

A Visit from Sir John Benger





Mr Russell

Welcome from Mr Russell, Principal



Congratulations to our out-going Senate for another bumper edition of The Fountain. Working alongside our Arts Development Manager, the Senate edit the wonderful contributions to this our termly magazine, which showcases the talents of so many pupils.

Those lucky enough to have seen the fabulous Gym and Dance Display, in the final week of term, will know the dizzying heights to which these talents can take them. Pupils hurtled across the mats and vaults in ever increasing twists, turns and tumbles. Our trampolinists seemingly risked touching the ceiling, so high were their leaps and so precise their acrobatics. Cheerleaders lived up to their name, bringing joy and awesome synchronicity to their dynamic display. All was punctuated by beautifully choreographed dances, creating an evening reminding us of all of the animated spirit and joy of youth. We are privileged to have so many events and opportunities for pupils to shine.

Other examples being the Drama scripted performances, the stunning West Road Concert and the opera *Uprising*. Musical performances never fail to impress but, perhaps, it is the ensembles that really take the breath away; children and adults working alongside each other to produce music that fills the soul.

That same collective spirit and teamwork is seen in the lunchtime clubs, on the sport field, in the drama studio, in the STEM club, among our filmmakers, our various Ambassadors, in Forum meetings, and, of course, in our Senate. As with all Year 11s, we wish them the very best in these final few weeks of their time with us. The Senate are the figureheads of the pupil body and support us privately and publicly throughout the year. We would like to thank them for their excellent contribution to the College and for representing all pupils with such pride and thoughtfulness. They now pass the baton to the new Senate, to be appointed next term. Big shoes to fill but we have every confidence that they will rise to the challenge.

'Create your legacy, and pass the baton.' Billie Jean King.

Mr Russell, Principal

Welcome from the Senate Ambassadors

Sadly, this is our final edition of The Fountain magazine, and so it is time to say farewell. It has been an incredible journey, and we have thoroughly enjoyed both our time on the Senate and the privilege of being able to put together this magazine. Being editors has been a truly rewarding experience, allowing us to share stories, ideas and updates with you all. However, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, and our time in this role has now reached its conclusion. We are excited to pass the baton to the next Senate Ambassadors, whoever they may be, and we have no doubt they will continue to make The Fountain even better.

We hope you enjoy this final issue and we thank all the pupils and staff members who have contributed to it. Thank you for your support, and we wish you all the best for the future!

Kyryll and Vaishnavi



Kyryll

Vaishnavi

Updates from the Senate Heads & Deputies and the Forum Co-Chairs

We can't believe we're nearly reaching the end of our time at Sawston Village College. The Heads and Deputies have been rather busy so we hadn't spotted our final Fountain magazine creeping up on us. This term we finally put our big Senate plan into action. In the final week of the term we held (Community) Spirit week, an incredible idea of Evita's. Throughout the week, forums collaborated to produce bulletin slides, lunchtime activities and lots of fun, from teachers' baby photos, to eurythmics, to a cultural food sale culminating in a non-school uniform day! We took the week to celebrate what an incredible community Sawston Village College truly is.

This is the last of our big roles in the Senate before we hand over to the next batch of incredible pupil leaders. Looking back on our year, we are so proud of what the forums and the Senate as a whole have achieved, and we look forward to meeting our successors. This term has also seen more fundraising for deserving causes like Comic Relief and Children in Need, and additionally for the Year 11 Leavers' Ball through GCSE concerts and bake sales.

Overall, we just wanted to use our final edition of The Fountain to say thank you to Ms Gelder and all of the teachers who have supported the Senate this year. We wish the best of luck to the next Senate and a bit of luck to ourselves as we enter exam season!

Emma, Isaac, Sam and Evita



arts forum

This term, the Arts Forum has focused on developing ideas to advertise Open Mic Night. We have also discussed how we plan to place a spotlight on overlooked areas of the arts and, through the combined Arts/Spirit week at the end of March, we have made sure to emphasise what forum meeting attendees believed were overlooked aspects of the arts. We have organised a poster board project to learn more about the different types of instruments played by pupils in school, and have used the bulletin to highlight dances from around the world and more unusual or less well known instruments.



eco forum

This term, we have been focused on finalising our agenda for Eco Week. After careful planning, we have designed a detailed timetable for the upcoming events, which include an eco-friendly cake and plant sale, a plastic-free picnic, a poster design competition, and an engaging quiz. These activities aim to raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainability within our community, while also helping to raise funds for ongoing and future eco projects.



ethos forum

As a group, we are currently organising a charity film night along with a series of smaller fundraising events featuring our teachers. This initiative aims to bring the Sawston community together so everyone can enjoy a great film while supporting a worthy cause. Our teachers will be actively involved in these events. Expect to see them participate in leg waxing and having wet sponges thrown at them by pupils for charity.



Eesha Lucy Isabelle

equality & diversity forum

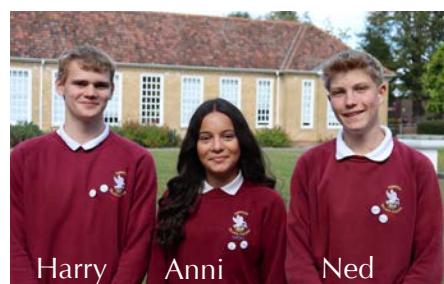
This term the Equality and Diversity Forum has celebrated and shared information about LGBTQ history month through slides on the pupil bulletin. The slides shared the personal experiences and stories of many important figures throughout history. We also created films of pupils performing dances important to their culture for Spirit Week. By displaying these on the bulletin, we help share information about traditions within particular cultures from around the world.



Emily Alexandra Izzy

inter forum

This term, the Inter Forum has been focused on Chinese New Year celebrations in Sawston. We held a paper lantern making competition for mentor groups across the school, and the best efforts received rewards accordingly! Next, our aim is to work on improving the accuracy and information of the display board showing the nationalities and languages related to the school to better represent the Sawston community of today.



Harry Anni Ned

sports forum

At the Sports Forum our main aims are fundraising for various charities, as well as school sporting events. One of the events we organise is staff vs pupil matches in sports, such as volleyball and netball. Through these matches we have helped to raise money for charities such as Children in Need. Next term, we hope to organise many more sporting events and help to raise money for more causes, including the Year 11 Leavers' Ball.



Catrin Maggie Storm

wellbeing forum

This term the Wellbeing Forum established a Valentine's Day event for friends. We bought lollipops and love hearts to sell to pupils, along with pre-made cards with lovely messages on them. We managed to sell all the sweets and later on handed out the cards to other pupils and teachers to give to their friends, to show their appreciation. Through our effective selling, we managed to make a profit of almost £60, funding which will support the Year 11 Leavers' Ball.

forum

arts

Week

SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Check out the Mentor Time Events Next Week

Monday 24

What are 'The Arts'?

Look out for our stall in the Octagon at lunchtime where we will collect information about which instruments pupils play at SVC.

Tuesday 25

Dance from different Cultures

Wednesday 26

Instruments around the world

Thursday 27

Arts in the news

Friday 28

End of week quiz

Come along to the Steel pans open rehearsal at lunchtime in MU2

senate

SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

SPIRIT WEEK

MARCH 31-APRIL 4

"Let the School Spirit Unleash!"

Monday: Eurythmics

Tuesday: Teachers..but as babies

Wednesday: What's on your playlist?

Thursday: School culture

Friday: Quiz and non-Uniform Day!

Proceeds from all fundraising will go to Comic Relief

COMIC RELIEF

One of the final projects for the 2024-25 Senate was organising both Arts Week and Spirit Week at the end of the Spring Term. You can see the posters we made to advertise these special weeks here and find out a bit more about the activities associated with these focus weeks on the next page. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who got involved in the activities we planned.

Unusual Careers within the Arts

5 UNCOMMON AND UNORDINARY CAREERS WITHIN THE ARTS THAT YOU MAY BE UNFAMILIAR WITH

By Harry S

Tuesday 25 Dance from different Cultures

As part of our Arts and Spirit Week celebrations, we have organised two cultural dance performances, representing parts of India, and China. These dances have been displayed to showcase and explore the diverse forms of artistic expression found in different cultures around the world. Through dance, we aim to highlight the beauty, traditions, and unique storytelling methods that various cultures use to convey their heritage and creativity.

equality & diversity forum

Steel pans - Trinidad and Tobago

Focus: World instruments

Steel pans originate from Trinidad and Tobago, and are heavily featured in Calypso music. They are similarly found at celebratory events such as carnivals and festivals.

Click below to find a video of these steel pans being showcased:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F6eS0J02d_F&pp=ygUXU3RlZWhwcGFucyBhdCBiYXJuaXZhbCA%3D

Varieties of steel pans include:

- Basses
- Cellos
- Guitars
- Seconds
- Tenors

Note: If any of this content interests you, you would be welcome to attend Steel Pans on Friday lunchtimes.

New investment for museums, libraries and arts organisations across England

20 February 2025

Arts Council England is a charity that has always supported the Arts financially in the UK, find out more by watching this video:

This money is going to arts facilities, libraries and museums in towns and cities across the country to financially support businesses at the threat of closing, hoping that boosting the arts sector of the improve the country's economy

In the UK Government, the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has announced over £270 million of funding for the culture and heritage sectors of the UK

Instruments Around the World Quiz

GUESS THE INSTRUMENTS BASED ON THE INFORMATION!

Monday: EURYTHMICS

a system of rhythmical physical movements to music used to teach musical understanding (especially in Steiner schools) or for therapeutic purposes, evolved by Émile Jaques-Dalcroze.

Steiner Schools (or Waldorf Schools) are educational institutions that focus on creative, and experiential learning, emphasising the development of the head and hands through the route of the arts

Watch here for the Mentor Time Activity:

You'll need a partner to try it!

Click on the picture to see the film

Emma and Isaac introduce Eurhythmics

GUESS THE TEACHER BY THEIR BABY PHOTO

You are free to guess the name of any teacher in the photos—there are no restrictions! Feel free to make your best guess based on their appearance. You can choose any member of staff from the school, whether they currently teach you or not.

Have fun, and take your best shot!

What's on your playlist?

We asked some teachers what their favourite songs are. Do you share any favourites? Click on the album cover to listen to any songs you are interested in.

Mrs Deleplanque's favourite song is 'Old Friend' by Zaho de Sagazan and Tom Odell.	➔	One of Mr Reed's favourite songs is 'Stick Season' by Noah Kahan.	➔
Dr Tunna's favourite song is 'Wish You Were Here' by Pink Floyd.	➔	Ms Pollen's favourite song is 'Levels' by Nick Jonas.	➔
One of Mrs Meekins's favourite songs is 'Ain't Got No - I Got Life' by Nina Simone.	➔	Mr Barnett's favourite song is 'Bat out of Hell' by Meatloaf.	➔
One of Miss Hobourn's favourite songs is 'Sapés comme jamaïs' by GIMS.	➔	One of Mr Davis's favourite songs is 'All I Do' by Stevie Wonder.	➔

During **Arts Week** and **Spirit Week** Senate members worked as team to fill our daily pupil bulletin with a variety of slides spotlighting different aspects of arts and culture and introducing different activities. So, for **Arts Week**, we started with a look at unusual careers in the arts, then moved on to dance in different cultures followed by a focus on instruments from across the world and then a look at how the arts are funded in this country. The week ended with a quiz on musical instruments from around the world. Following on from this, **Spirit Week** began with an introduction to eurythmics and an invitation to mentor groups to get involved. We then had a 'Guess the Baby' focus as we tried to connect baby photos with teachers. Next up was our playlist slide featuring some teachers' favourite songs. We then ended the week with a focus on the history of our school and stepped into the Easter break with a non-uniform Pyjama Day to raise money for Comic Relief. We sincerely hope you enjoyed the fortnight as much as we enjoyed planning it.

COMIC RELIEF

The Senate

Celebrating Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival begins on the new moon that appears between 21 January and 20 February. It is a 15-day celebration which ends with the Lantern Festival, when people hang glowing lanterns in temples or carry them in parades.

From 27-30 January this year the International Forum celebrated Chinese New Year, the legendary zodiac festival dedicated to reflecting on the past year and looking towards the opportunities of the future. In China, this is often celebrated through spending time with family, eating ceremonial meals, and enjoying the traditions of the festival (such as lion or dragon dances, exchanging red envelopes, or making beautiful lanterns).

To honour the Chinese/Lunar New Year at Sawston Village College, the International Forum put together a variety of bulletin slides, detailing the festival's meaning, traditions and symbolic food, not to mention a page on how our own Taiwanese buddies, who spent time at Sawston Village College, celebrate. This slide was put together by some of the eager participants of last year's Taiwanese buddy programme, who are still very much in touch with their partners from that visit. It was brilliant to see how the friendships made in the light of last year's project have lasted long enough for us to be able to ask for our buddies' help on this year's.

In addition, we also hosted a Chinese lantern-making competition as part of the week, with the most impressive or culturally linked lantern winning a prize of Celebration chocolates. Our winner for this was Emmanuel Kuan (TH05), whose wonderful entry (left) featured a banner wishing a 'Happy New Year' in Cantonese.

Thank you, and well done to everyone who took part!

Izzy Young, Year 11 on behalf of the Inter Forum

Organised by the
inter forum



Chinese new year for our Taiwanese buddies



Mahjong

Some of the buddies' favourite things is playing this game, which is played late into the night.



The 'Red envelopes'

They also mentioned receiving red envelopes which are filled with money and mean good luck for the new year.

They eat lots of different foods, each with different meanings:

Fortune



Good Omen



Long life



My 3-day residential with



During the February half-term, I was given the incredible opportunity to travel to Blackpool for a three-day residential with the National Youth Orchestra.

I was part of NYO Inspire, a free programme for orchestral musicians aged 13-18 who are passionate about music but face barriers to progression. It's all about exploring new ideas, meeting like-minded friends, and developing skills in a supportive and welcoming community - no auditions required. Designed for musicians playing at a level equivalent to Grade 6 and above, it's open to anyone with determination, potential, and a love for music, whether or not they've taken formal exams.

Within NYO, there are multiple ensembles, including brass, strings, and wind. This year, for the first time ever, a brand-new ensemble was introduced: the NYO Creative Ensemble.

I was one of 16 musicians in the Creative Ensemble, and over three intense days, we worked together to create three brand-new pieces from scratch. When we arrived, we had not a single sheet of music. By the end of the residential, we had crafted three unique compositions. Seeing our creativity come together to form something wonderful and beautiful was an incredible experience. It was exciting, it was inspiring, and maybe even a little wacky - but that's what made it so special! Our ensemble included various orchestral instruments alongside a singer, guitarist, and harpist. We created our own rhythms using different body parts, furniture, and sometimes our instruments. My favourite piece was our arrangement of 'Attica' by Frederic Rzewski. For me, the way the instruments slotted together and the way we all listened to each other and responded made the piece so beautiful.



None of this would have been possible without the endless dedication of the NYO staff, whose passion and hard work made every moment so inspiring. A huge thank you also goes to everyone who supports NYO - your generosity and belief in young musicians make opportunities like this possible, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of it.

If you're a young musician looking for an unforgettable experience, I can't recommend NYO Inspire enough! It's an amazing chance to make music, try new things, and meet some incredible people along the way. You don't have to be the most confident player or have loads of experience - I wasn't! So if you love music and want to take your playing to the next level, start your musical adventure with NYO Inspire. You won't regret it!

Lily Liu-Child, Year 11





Over 20 pupils from the school performed in the youth chorus for *Uprising*, a new opera, at Saffron Hall in March and, with the world premiere of the opera having taken place just before that at Glyndebourne, our pupils were part of only the second cast to perform this new music. Below, Ellie and Beth, part of the youth chorus, write about their experience.

On 15 and 16 of March, we performed in *Uprising*, an opera commissioned by Jim Potter and composed by Jonathan Dove. The opera follows the story of Lola Green, a girl who learns about climate change at school and is inspired to make a change. It shows her disagreements with her family, especially her mother Angela, whose job is to cut down the local forest. At first we rehearsed after school at SVC. Here, we were given a copy of the opera. Even without the scenes we weren't in, it was extremely thick! I remember thinking at the start, 'There's no way we'll ever memorise all that!' We got stuck in immediately, listening to audio tracks and putting together harmonies. A couple of rehearsals later, we were constantly singing lines from our main scenes to each other in perfect harmony! Before long, we were ready to put it together with the adult chorus and the other half of the youth chorus from SWCHS, who we met when we did our first weekend rehearsals at Saffron Walden County High School. It was amazing putting our three part harmonies with the four part chorus of the adult singers. The rehearsals were directed by Dominic, the adult chorus conductor. The atmosphere created was so joyful and welcoming, it was amazing to be part of it. I left the first rehearsal genuinely feeling like a better singer!

After a few weekend rehearsals, we met Sinéad, our choreographer, who had come down from Glyndebourne, where the previous production had taken place. Suddenly, it started to feel like a proper stage production! But when it really came together was when the principal singers arrived. We no longer had the piano putting in Lola's lines in a school rehearsal, it was a professional opera! Their voices were absolutely incredible, and when we talked to Ffion, who played Lola, she said she had been singing for 15 years! It was so inspiring! When it was finally time for the performance, we were ready and raring to go! When I first started rehearsals, I had no idea just how much work it took to put together an opera like this. This has really shown me the amazing, hard-working team of people who have put so much time and effort into making this the best performance it possibly could be!

Ellie Lovewell, Year 9



My experience at *Uprising* was phenomenal. When we were performing, I felt tingles all over my arms! It was just indescribable. Working with the team was incredible. The main performers were extraordinary! It was a great experience to work alongside the professional singers. Their singing voices were like none I've ever heard and the music was stupendous! Lola had an angelic voice, and both Lola and Angela told the story through their faces as well as through their singing. When we practised, we only had a piano to accompany us. I thought the live orchestra might mean we couldn't hear the vocalists but actually it turned out to enhance the performance. The way the orchestral music changed in volume and style really helped to tell the story. For example, when it was an intense scene, the orchestra really reflected this. Jonathan Dove, the composer, is spectacular! I don't know how he wrote it but it was super clever. I also loved it when we met Jonathan Dove and the rest of the team. The thing I will remember most is the feeling when we were performing it. It felt really exciting. It was amazing to perform in an actual professional production. I was a bit nervous about whether I could do it at the beginning because I have never sung in a professional opera before. But I remember feeling exhilarated when we got to the interval. I thought 'Yes, we have actually done this!'. I felt proud of what we have achieved. If you are into music, just give it your all, because you can do it!

Beth Lovewell, Year 7





Year 11 GCSE Scripted Performances

Throughout all of Year 11 so far, as part of our last section of coursework for Drama, we have been working on a block of practical drama called 'Texts in Practice'. In this block, we take two extracts from published plays and perform them in front of an examiner, as well as in front of an audience. On Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 April we performed to amazing audiences, and everyone did brilliantly!

I went to watch the Scripted Performances on Tuesday evening, where Mr Bell's class was performing, and they were all so fantastic and engaging! They had a variety of plays, ranging from Skirmishes by Catherine Hayes, Layla's Room by Sabrina Mahfouz, to the Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter. All were new takes on the well-known plays, which was amazing to watch!

On Wednesday, Mrs Meikle's class performed, and it was so exhilarating! We too had a range of pieces, from Macbeth by Shakespeare to Lucy Light by Sarah Milton, or How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found by Fin Kennedy. Having an audience to watch all the hard work we've put into this was incredible, and once we had finished it was so rewarding! Having an audience to watch our pieces really helped to elevate our acting, because as actors we feed off the adrenaline that live performance gives us! Of course, all of this would not have happened without the fabulous help of Mrs Meikle and Mr Bell, who dedicated after school sessions and weekends to help us develop our pieces further, and to strengthen our practical marks. Thank you!

Isaac Arena, Year 11

Rainbow Flag Award Renewal

Sawston Village College is proud to have been awarded a renewal of the Rainbow Flag Award, recognising our ongoing commitment to supporting our LGBTQ+ pupils and staff through strong pastoral care and an inclusive curriculum. We were recently audited by a representative from the Kite Trust, a local LGBTQ+ youth organisation, who met with some of our young people, as well as staff, to discuss life at Sawston Village College. The visitor was delighted by how eloquent, engaged and forthcoming the Pride Club representatives were, and by the thoughtful dedication of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. We were also able to present an insight into some of our different subjects, and the auditor was particularly impressed by the History department's commitment to diversity. Overall, it was a very pleasant day for all involved, and we enjoyed the opportunity to showcase a focus on Community, the first of our CARE values.

Ms Valistar & Mrs Fink



Design and Technology Educational Toy Brief

This year in Design and Technology, our brief was to design and make an educational toy. This could be for children or adults as long as it was educational. 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 moodboard 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 for my project to make sure all the details had been completed correctly.

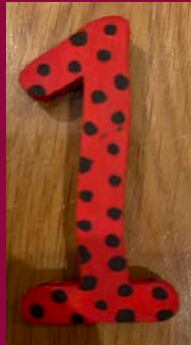
For this project I enjoyed using the laser machine and designing the pieces online, because it was something new I hadn't done before. I also really enjoyed painting my puzzle because it was nice to think about the best ways to make my puzzle appeal aesthetically to my cousin.

Zenab Usman, Year 10



This is my puzzle. I have finished making it so to completely finish it I will use a lacquer to seal and protect it from moisture and scratches and to give it a nice glossy finish.

This is one of the pieces of my puzzle. I used bright colours and fun patterns to make the whole puzzle aesthetically pleasing for my cousin. I made sure all the corners were rounded and everything was sanded down to avoid splinters.



Design and Technology - Year 11 Update

Since June 2024, Year 11 DT pupils have been busy bringing their ideas to life through their GCSE coursework, which counts for 50% of the final grade. It's been a long process - starting with brainstorming and research before moving on to sketches, models, and eventually full prototypes. Everyone took on their own challenge, testing out materials, troubleshooting problems, and making endless adjustments along the way. It's been amazing to see so many creative and unique projects come to life!

A huge thank you to Mr Bannister, Mr Dawson, and Mr Bär for their endless support, patience, and advice throughout the project.

Whether it was helping us to refine a tricky design or teaching us how to use the workshop tools safely, their guidance made all the difference.

Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and dedication! It's been amazing to see so many ideas take shape, each one reflecting real skill and effort. The final prototypes are something to be proud of - well done, Year 11!

(We are sorry we cannot include images of pupils' final prototypes in this edition because the coursework is a 'live' examination. Photographs cannot be shown until the exam results are released in August.)

Lily Lui-Child, Grace Ormerod, Gabriella Ward, Year 11



By Oliver Ives
and Freddie
Phillips and
Joseph Button.

ZU BESUCH IN BERLIN



In February I was given the opportunity as a Year 11 History pupil to visit the historical sights of Berlin. This trip gave me an insight into German culture, and also a deeper understanding of the scale of Nazi Germany. We were lucky enough to be able to spend four days in a lovely youth hostel in the centre of Berlin.

Some sites we visited included the Otto Weidt Museum, the Berlin Story Bunker and, more importantly, the Berlin Wall and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

The Otto Weidt Museum explained the story of Otto Weidt, a partially blind man who set up a company for the blind and deaf to work in so that they would not be sent to concentration camps by the Nazis. What I found especially interesting about this site was how much power Weidt had, despite living in an authoritarian state. His company produced brooms and brushes made out of horsehair which he sold on the black market. (Because his products were made out of horse hair, they were of a higher quality than those of his competitor companies.) He used the money he made to buy luxury goods to bribe Nazi officials to leave his Jewish workers alone. Another part of this site that I found interesting was the art exhibition on the exterior of the museum. The art ranged from graffiti of phrases to pictures of Smurfs.

The Berlin Story Bunker was also a fantastic museum. It explained the story of Berlin all the way from pre-Nazi Germany and the way Hitler and the Nazis exploited and manipulated the general German population to come to power, including the financial struggle and the sense of being wronged by other countries in the aftermath of WW1, all the way through to Germany post WW2, explaining how German society came back not only financially but also socially, as there was a period of struggle for German patriotism and identity.

The Berlin Wall was a fantastic sight in helping us understand how the cultural divide in Berlin began. It gave a great insight into the differences between West and East Berlin following WW2. It was really interesting walking around Berlin after visiting the Berlin Wall as I began to notice subtle differences in the different sides of the now non-existent wall, for example slight differences in architecture.

The most thought-provoking site of them all was the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Visiting one of the sights which was part of the biggest genocide in human history I thought helped me to picture the scale of tragedy and horror, which occurred only 80 years ago. The site was really well organised to help the visitors to understand just what had gone on. Being present helps you to understand what would have been going through the minds of those who suffered.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the Berlin trip and would highly recommend it to anybody taking GCSE History, and also to anyone considering taking History further to A Level. A massive thank you to the staff who helped organise or went on the trip.

Felix Leaton-Grey, Year 11



Geography Trip to London >>>

From Friday 28 February to Saturday 1 March, Year 10 and 11 Geography pupils went on a field trip to London. It was a warm day when we visited the sites we had studied during our GCSE Geography course. We saw Canary Wharf, visited the Museum of London Docklands and learned about cultural diversity on a tour of Brick Lane.

We stayed in a great hotel in central London and in the morning we walked directly to a boat which travelled along the Thames. Then, we visited Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the Carpenter's Estate, to further examine urban change, which is a significant part of our course. It was a great trip and extremely useful for our knowledge and revision of urban change in the UK.

Naomi Payne, Imogen Alcock, Sophie Russell and Juliette Hamid-Vigouroux,
Year 11 Geography pupils



MUSIC: West Road Concert

On Friday, 28 March, the Music department put on the annual concert at the West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge where all the music ensembles performed. The concert was opened by Senior Band, followed by a wide variety of ensembles including Flute Choir, Saxophone Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Samba. After the interval, performances included the Year 11 GCSE musicians who transported the hall to

Barbie World, and the Madriguys sang Frank Sinatra's 'My Way'. The night was closed by Jazz Band, with The Beatles' 'Hey Jude'. Overall, the concert proved to be a very enjoyable and memorable night that showcased the Music department's great work and pupils' dedication to rehearsing and performing.

Emily Yau, Year 11



Year 11 Music Concert

Earlier on this term, the GCSE musicians put on a concert to raise money for the Year 11 Leavers' Ball. It took place at Michaelhouse in Cambridge, which was an absolutely stunning venue. Everyone had a great time, enjoying a wide variety of music. We heard How to Train Your Dragon, Guys and Dolls, Clarinet concertos and even a bit of Bach as the cherry on the top! This variety was matched in the instruments on display. We heard from Euphoniums, Cellos, Vocalists, Saxophones, Harps,... the list goes on. The standard of playing was absolutely astonishing and such a lovely way to spend an evening. Overall, it was a truly magical night full of fabulous music!

Emma Russell, Year 11



Year 11 Geography Trip to Hunstanton

On Thursday, 13 March, Year 11 GCSE Geography pupils went on a field trip to Hunstanton. Throughout the day we collected primary fieldwork data: we interviewed locals on the impacts of tourism; we produced field sketches; and measured the different coastal defences.

We were aiming to find evidence for our two hypotheses: Tourism has positive impacts in Hunstanton, and coastal management is effective at Hunstanton. Though the weather started off unpredictably, with snow in Sawston and temperatures about 6°C in Hunstanton, the skies quickly cleared, making for an enjoyable seaside field trip, not to mention the delicious fish and chips.

Izzy Young and Emma Russell, Year 11 Geography pupils



Success for CHESS ACADEMY

Chess Academy members were successful at East Anglia's premier club championship held in Bury St Edmunds on 9 March 2025.

The U6400 was a triumph for the ALCA Foxes, who, despite being near the bottom of the rankings, shared first place with the Bury St Edmunds B team and were led by Linhao Sha.

Altogether, 7 ALCA juniors played. Well done to everyone involved.

The Chess Academy meets on Fridays in term time in the Science Block.

ANGLIAN LEARNING CHESS ACADEMY

- For Year 6 and over (not for beginners)
- Develop your potential and play against increasingly strong opposition
- Play in the Cambridge Schools League
- Free to attend
- Register here: <https://sawstonvc.org/clubs-and-activities/chess-academy/>

THE ACADEMY MEETS:
FRIDAYS in term time
6:00 - 8.00 PM
in the Science Block
in S1 and S2
at
SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE





FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

Team Sawston Village College

Inside the Engineering Department, we settled down to our table and set up our equipment. We used a practice table to do a run-through, and our Innovation Project presentation to the judges was also coming up. We finished our slideshow presentation, and the judges asked us questions about the journey of getting to this stage. We have three tries to get as many points as we can in two minutes and thirty seconds. This is by coding our robot to complete different tasks. We were only allowed to touch our robot when they were in the two accessible corners. Unfortunately, none of the codes were working for the first round and no practice tables were available for us to use. However, the second round was better, after which we had our packed lunches. Our final round was very successful, gaining us 145 points, the highest score we have had so far! At the end we received medals. All teams were very impressive so we had tough competitions. We really enjoyed the day and loved working as a team!

Chloe Chan and Jasmine Chan, Year 7

Team Activ8 - a journey to success!

I am part of a robotics team called Team Activ8, a FIRST LEGO League team from Cambridge STEAM Lab, and we're thrilled to share that we won the Cambridge Regional Tournament in January. Now, we're advancing to the UK National Final for the THIRD year in a row!

The FIRST LEGO League has four main components:

Innovation Project – Teams worldwide tackle real-world problems based on the annual theme. This year's theme is SUBMERGED, exploring life beneath the sea. For our project, we created SENSEA, powered by a Raspberry Pi 3 and a SenseHat V1. It's packed with sensors that can record multimedia data and measure different environmental parameters!

Robot Game & Design – Our mission is to program and build an autonomous LEGO robot to complete challenges and score points. This year, we're aiming for the maximum score of 620 points. Don't tell anyone, but we might lose points because of how big our attachments are! We get three rounds, and our highest score counts as our final result.

Core Values – We uphold the values of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), working together as a team, showing innovation, upholding gracious professionalism, and always having fun!

Siddharth Dave, Year 7

Team Sharks

I am excited to share our work so far in FLL (First Lego League). I am in Team Sharks and I would like say a bit about the competitions our team took part in. We kicked off our season at the Cambridgeshire Regionals for FLL. At the Cambridgeshire Regionals, our team showcased exceptional skills and our hard work and innovative ideas earned us a second place.

Motivated by our success, we eagerly set our sights on the next challenge and entered another regional competition in Ipswich, where we hoped to win a first place. We prepared rigorously for every task and obstacle. The competition in Ipswich tested our resolve and creativity. Our dedication paid off when we clinched first place. Winning in Ipswich was a proud moment for the entire Sharks team. Every member contributed uniquely to our outstanding performance. Soon we will be going to nationals for a competition in Harrogate to compete against other teams. We are so excited and are now preparing for the event ahead of us. By going to these two regionals I have learnt that teamwork is really important and that, without this, our team wouldn't have won the regionals in Ipswich. Thank you!

Varshini Badiger, Year 7 and Vaishnavi Badiger Year 11



Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

In primary school, I wanted to be a textiles teacher, and I enjoyed spending all my school holidays knitting. My textiles teacher seemed the most relaxed, which made me think it would be the perfect job!

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I love trying a variety of international foods, experimenting with healthy recipes, and foraging for edible flowers and herbs. I like working out in my spare time and going skiing during the winter. I also enjoy collecting antique tea sets and plates, dreaming of one day opening a tea shop in Cambridge.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

On holiday in Austria, I once managed to fall off a ski lift. For a brief moment, I felt as free as a bird, before landing in the snow face first! I was so embarrassed that I couldn't even lift up my head, but I was so relieved when a snowmobile came to my rescue.

What's your favourite part of your job?

Seeing when my pupils have a eureka moment and it all finally clicks. I love when my pupils are proud of the dishes they have made and are excited to show them off to their friends and family. It's also very fulfilling to see their progression in cooking and presentation skills as they gain confidence in the kitchen.

If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?

Being a translator for hit K-dramas on Netflix (with my MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL!)

Blood Brothers

I thoroughly enjoyed our Year 10 school drama trip to see *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. We had done some work around the play beforehand but mainly surrounding the staging/lighting elements, so it was thrilling to go in almost completely blind. I was particularly inspired by the configuration of the set, which showed two sides of a street to represent the extreme class divide that ran throughout the whole play. I also admired the two main actors, who had to give particularly nuanced vocal and physical performances as they depicted the same two people growing from early childhood to becoming young adults.

However, the best was reserved for the climax of the play when - spoiler alert - the two main characters were tragically shot dead. It felt like the gunshots were ripping through my own chest, and I'm pretty sure everyone in the theatre jumped out of their seats.

The play had a profound impact on me and I can't wait to study it further in class.

Arthur Meredith, Year 10

Year 10
Drama Trip
to the
New Theatre,
Peterborough.



Our School's Carbon Footprint

This Spring Term, the Eco club has been calculating our school's carbon footprint as part of the Green Schools Project.

Each of us was designated a different area of carbon emissions for which to collect data. The areas included: energy, travel, purchasing and food.

Energy category: Our school's Finance Officer and the Trust Finance Business Partner provided data on the school's electricity and gas usage over a year. We also acquired our Display Energy Certificate which records the energy usage of the building.

Purchasing category: We obtained spending data for certain items, including photocopier paper and printing, photocopier leasing, educational resources, IT equipment, school furniture to name a few.

Travel category: We collected data on how staff and pupils travel to school by asking each mentor group to fill out an online questionnaire. Transport options on the form were: walk, cycle, bus, train, petrol or diesel car, electric or hybrid car and car share.

Food category: Using our online form we also asked pupils and staff whether they usually have packed lunches or eat at school. We then recorded the ingredients in our school lunch menu (e.g, how many meals had chicken, beef, lentils, tofu, etc.)

All the above data was submitted to the Green Schools Project to calculate our school's carbon footprint.

In addition to this, we also calculated the total carbon dioxide

absorbed by the trees in our school

over their lifetime using data from the Forestry Commission.

If this interests you and you'd like to help build a greener future, come along to Eco Club every Tuesday lunchtime in S1.

Hope to see you there!

Sia Nair, Year 9



SAWSTON
VILLAGE
COLLEGE
2024-25

ZERO CARBON SCHOOLS

OUR YEARLY CARBON FOOTPRINT IS...

ENERGY



113 kgCO₂e per pupil

This is lower per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

TRAVEL



279 kgCO₂e per pupil

This is higher per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

PURCHASING



119 kgCO₂e per pupil

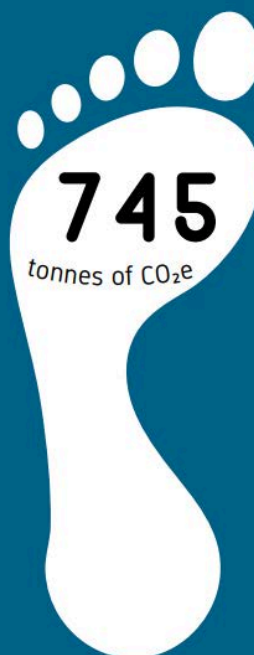
This is similar per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

FOOD



130 kgCO₂e per pupil

This is lower per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme



Congratulations on calculating your annual carbon footprint!

Knowing your carbon footprint is an important first step.

What could you do to reduce it?

GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT

What is a carbon footprint?

A carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere by human activities. It can be calculated for a person, an organisation, or even a country, such as the United Kingdom.



What do the high, medium, low ratings mean?

See the table below for details of what is considered to be high, medium or low carbon emissions per pupil per year. This was calculated using data from schools participating in the Zero Carbon Schools programme 2023-24.

The ratings are most useful in comparing within the school and prioritising areas to take action.

The data is taken from a small number of schools, so having a red rating in any particular area is not necessarily bad, but could mean that there is a bigger potential for reduction than an area with a green rating.

Just by calculating your carbon footprint, you are ahead of the vast majority of schools in the country who haven't taken this step.

	High (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)	Medium (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)	Low (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)
Energy	More than 250	Between 150 and 250	Less than 150
Travel	More than 230	Between 140 and 230	Less than 140
Purchasing	More than 160	Between 70 and 160	Less than 70
Food	More than 180	Between 140 and 180	Less than 140

This carbon calculator was the first to be developed, by Green Schools Project, specifically for schools in the UK. We hope that you find it helpful to prioritise areas to make reductions through pupil projects and school-led initiatives. Continuing to take part in the Zero Carbon Schools programme will enable you to track your footprint year on year until you become a...

ZERO CARBON SCHOOL

Library ----- News -----



SPRING
2025

What's been happening in the Library?

- SVC's Book Award
- Book Club's guest speakers
- Book Week
- New displays
- Pupil Librarians



Things to look forward to

- Carnegie Book Award shadowing
- New Pupil Librarians
- New books weekly

Book Club's Guest Speakers

Book Club have recently welcomed in Miss Cook and Mr Slade from Maths, Mr Barnett from Science, and Mr Pike from RE to come and 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.



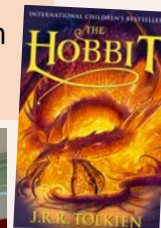
SVC's Book Awards

Ms Allen and Ms Dean recently launched the first SVC Book Awards. Book Club argued down their favourite books to a list of just 8 and we invited all staff and pupils to vote for their winning book. We're pleased to announce the winners as follows:-

Staff Choice: The Song of Achilles, Madeline Miller

Pupil Choice: The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins

Book Club's Choice: The Hobbit, JR Tolkien



Keep your eyes peeled for a display in the Library spotlighting each book!



Book Week

The biggest event in the Library this half term is always Book Week.

I was so pleased with how many of you got involved this year - I had a particularly great turnout across all year groups. Hopefully it's reminded you, Year 10s and Year 11s, that the Library can continue to be a space for you, even when you don't have Library lessons.

WHAT DID WE GET UP TO?

Monday - I held a new event on Monday; the mystery book character dinner party. How many of you popped in to see if you could solve the clues? Who did the pipe and deer-stalker hat belong to? Why was there an orange jumpsuit and a shovel? What about the bow and arrow and the bowl with lots of names in?

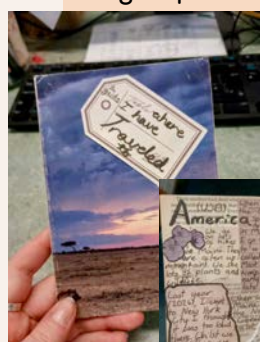
Tuesday - saw the return of a new event from last year; the Book Quiz. I love how healthily competitive everyone always gets. Very well done to the Year 7 team who fought off a group of Year 11s in the tiebreaker!

Book Week

Wednesday - did you get involved with the creative opportunities on Wednesday? Some of you made some beautiful zines and bookmarks. I was impressed by those of you who gave the black out poetry a try, too!

Thursday - the Library treasure hunt always goes down very well. It's a good test to see how well you know your own Library!

Friday - we closed the week with a Book + Bake Sale. Thank you very much to everyone who came and supported our fundraiser - do let me know if you have any requests for how I should spend the money!



New Displays

Have you seen all the new displays I've got up in the Library?
I think I've spoken to almost all of you about them, but it's worth reminding you that they're there!

Reading Journal Inspiration



Young Adult Collection



GCSE English Language Collection



Year group specific English curriculum displays



Which classes are borrowing the most Library books?



Student Librarians

I've said it before, and I'll definitely be saying it again - I am **so** grateful for the wonderful team of Pupil Librarians and all the time you give up to help me in the Library.
At the start of term, some returning faces and some new recruits undertook their training sessions.



There'll be another opportunity to train and sign up when we return to school after the Easter break, so do keep your eyes on the bulletin if you're interested!

Happy Reading!

BUSY PUPILS in BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



Change and Adapt All activities start at 1:30pm



Monday S8 – Mammal tunnels Create mammal monitoring tunnels to track local mammals

Tuesday S1 – Eco club How much Carbon is in our trees? Help Eco club find out as part of our Carbon Footprint project

Wednesday S7 – Meet the animals Meet the stick insects, coral & crab. How are they adapted?

Thursday S7 – Solar oven Build a solar oven. How we can change our energy use?

Friday S7 – Geneticons Who can build the most successful alien planet?



Pupils enjoyed a busy programme of activities in the Science department during British Science Week. Above right: Pupils learn about the adaptations of stick insects.

Below: Pupils testing the solar ovens they built during Science Week to see what temperature the ovens would reach on a sunny day.



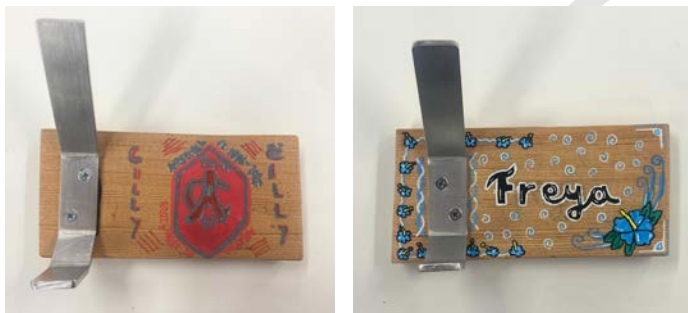
BRASS FUNKEYS

The Brass Funkeys gave a rousing concert in the Henry Morris Hall for our Year 7 pupils on 28 March. Pupils will now use their experience of this to complete Part B - **Be the Audience** - of their Bronze Arts Award. In their Music lessons they will discuss and then write a review of the performance. During their visit, the Brass Funkeys also delivered workshops and a performance for some of our primary schools.

Year 7 work in DT

Well done to Year 7, who produced some excellent coat hooks and then made them their own with some stylish designs.

Sadly we can't show everyone's design but have chosen a selection below to give you a flavour of what pupils have been up to.



POETRY

The poem below, *Society*, is inspired by a poem called *The British* by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Society

Take a sense of community, belief and pride
and let them settle.

Then let them simmer with a sense of
belonging.

Boil some happiness and encouragement
Add lots of respect and care
to jokes, laughter and smiles.

Mix some success
to achieving, winning and lifting each other up
for a better life where everybody achieves
their goals.

Take a blend of hobbies and interests
and combine them with the people you love
Friends, family and your fellow Citizens.
And turn up the heat

Sprinkle many happy memories
of pranks and jokes and happy holidays
together with big birthdays and chilling with
friends
and spending time with family.
Then add to the melting pot.

**Note: not all the ingredients are positive.
Warning; if any negative ingredients (like
racism and discrimination) make it into the
pot, it can ruin society, the sense of
community and the sense of belonging.**

Joel Mapulanga, Year 8



Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs Lloyd, Science Teacher



When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I always wanted to have a career in science and was lucky enough to work on the Human Genome Project at the Sanger Institute. When that project was completed, I thought I'd come and work at SVC, mainly to keep an eye on my daughters who were pupils here at the time.

Hopefully I didn't embarrass them too much! I thoroughly enjoyed being a Teaching Assistant and decided to train as a teacher. When I was at school, I wouldn't have believed that I'd end up teaching physics, but I think that just shows you never know how life is going to turn out. You just have to try your best and look out for opportunities.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

My favourite thing to do at weekends is to visit museums and cathedrals. Bury St Edmunds is a fantastic trip out and last summer there was an exhibition of Quentin Blake pictures at the museum. There are several cafes and charity shops too.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

I have no sense of direction and often get lost while driving. My family despair that I don't know how to use the satnav and sketch a map of the journey on a scrap of paper. It all works OK until there's a traffic jam or diversion and I end up going in circles trying to find my way back to the A1.

What's your favourite part of your job?

Chess Club is my favourite part of the week. We have some really talented chess players at SVC and it's lovely to see everyone getting along and enjoying their games.

If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?

I worked with horses when I was younger, so it would be fun to go back to that... until the weather turns cold!

Year 10s make fantastic CAD laser cut Thermometers



We loved the Year 10 thermometer designs sent to us by the DT department.

Well done to everyone on your wonderful creations!





Decorating a Dinosaur in Art

The T Rex we were given was a silhouette and we decided to make it in 3D using cardboard and mod roc. Our idea was to illustrate the theory that birds evolved from a group of meat-eating dinosaurs to which Tyrannosaurus Rex belonged. As we all love Pokemon, we decided to create our own inspired by the Mayan gods and goddesses. As a result, our T Rex is a bird with the power to control the four elements. EARTH through its tail and its body as solid as a rock, AIR by flying with its wings, WATER by spitting water and FIRE created by the bark on its legs and feet.

Year 7



Jurassic Arcade: Dinosaur in Cambridge

Come help design and decorate a dinosaur for the "Jurassic Arcade" competition!

Lunchtime in A2.

Open to all years!



See Dr. de Sainte Cluque / Ms. Murphy for more details!

Year 11 Food GCSE

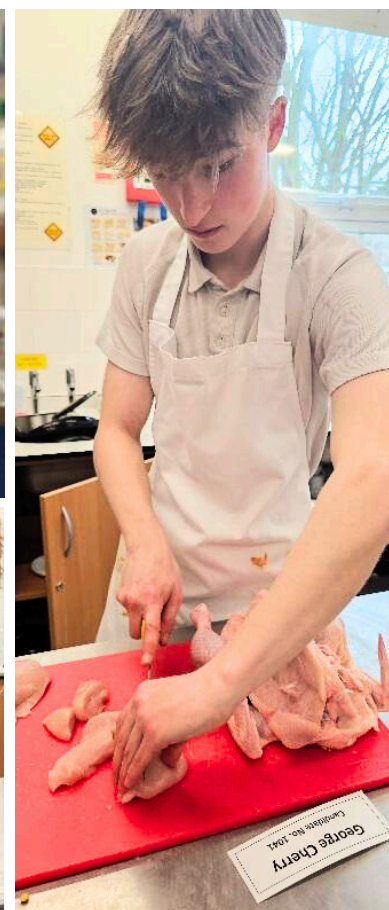
Our Year 11 Food GCSE pupils worked diligently and created stunning dishes during their all-day exam, which took place in March.

Below are some comments from our Year 11s, along with photos of them in action.

George Cherry commented afterwards, "I feel very good and happy with my performance level. The end result of my cooking was really nice. The curry with naan bread and lasagne were very good. Chocolate tart went well too. Overall, I'm absolutely buzzing with my performance!"

Sunny Paul also commented, "I'm very happy with the food I made as it came out great. We had a few tasters come in, and Mr Russell and others tried my chilli paneers, samosas with mint and coriander sauce and said they were spectacular! He gave me further approval and a sign of perfection, so I'm very happy with what I did!"

Henry Clarke mentioned he really enjoyed doing Food GCSE as it helped him learn new skills in cooking and develop the skills for the upcoming Food exam.





Writer's Block

by Vaibhav Ramesh, Year 8

I can't think. I just can't. I am empty of ideas. I bang my head against the wall, to try and shake ideas into my head. Think, Andy, think. I groan. The only thing that's got into my head now is pain. When my teacher reads this, she'll probably be wondering why I've written this instead of the short story that she asked for. Then, she'll call my parents, and tell them that I haven't done my homework properly. Then, it's no TV and no video games for the weekend. I'll also have to do it again. This assignment is meant to be for writing about something that happened to you. The success criteria apparently involves introducing yourself first. I guess I'll do that so that I can at least say that I've done it.

My name is Andy, short for Andrew Redford. I know, right? I mean, who names their boy Andrew in the 21st century? Apparently, I'm named after my grandfather. My 78-year-old grandfather. Which just proves my point. I'm 12 years old, when you have to take on 'teenage responsibilities', but you're not a teenager yet, so you can't do cool stuff. I have a mother and a father, like most kids, although most of my friends have parents who do cool stuff, like testing video games or working for a company that sells fancy cars. As for mine? My dad's a banker (Yawn). My mother's a lawyer (Double yawn). Most of the kids in my class have cool pets, like dogs and chinchillas. One boy even has an iguana and a turtle. But me? I have an old cat who's nearly 17. It wouldn't even matter so much if she had a cool name. But my parents decided to name her. And guess what they chose? Kimberley. That's right. I'm probably the only person in the world with a cat named 'Kimberley'. I also have to share her with the rest of my family. My parents are also super strict, and always nag me. Now, most of my friends are allowed to play a lot of video games. At least an hour a day. And an hour on their phones. But me? I'm allowed 15 minutes a day on my phone, and 45 minutes of video games. Most of my friends play video games in their room or like in a special game room. With TVs and game consoles and stuff. But me? I don't have a games room. I don't have my own TV. And I do not have a games console. I do play video games in my room, but I have to play on a laptop that used to be Mum's. However, the picture quality could be better. Also, it apparently has some important stuff on it, which I'm not allowed to delete, so I have to store a lot of my games on an old hard drive that doesn't even work properly. Basically, you wouldn't want to be me.

Now that I've told you about myself, Let's see what's next. It says 'writing about the experience.' What experience should I write about? That time I brushed my teeth? That time I mined a dirt block in Minecraft? Ooh, how about that time when I walked to school on my own? When I walked to my school five minutes away without my parents holding my hand? Yep. There you have it. That's how boring my life is. Not even worth keeping a diary on.

I'm writing this the next night. I still don't have any ideas.

This is the night after. Still no ideas.

This is the night after that. It's due tomorrow. I need an idea.

This is the morning after. I woke up an hour earlier than I usually do to work on it. I'm getting desperate. Luckily, I have an idea. What if I wrote a made up one? Of course, it will still require some level of reality. But I think that they'll allow that. After all, It's about proper grammar. I don't think that they would care.

Sir Andrew looked out on his kingdom. He surveyed the people enjoying themselves. He smiled. It was a nice and sunny Sunday. Who'd want to sit inside and play video games? He would, of course. He headed back inside and walked into the castle gamer den. He picked up his Xbox controller and started playing GTA VI, which hadn't even come out yet. He'd had it made for him, because he was a prince. Just as he was about to loot another bank, his father, the honourable King Barry, called, "Andy! Time to play catch with your dad!" Sir Andrew sighed and dropped his controller. He had a father to satisfy. And so he stepped out into the glorious sunlight, his adoring subjects watching him with awe. They stared, enchanted by his incredible plays as he grabbed the ball in his hands precisely each time, before effortlessly tossing it over to his father. It was the most incredible show known to these men, as they cheered for the boy's incredible athletic skills. The royal physical education instructor beamed at him with a smile that told him that he would live on to become a brilliant footballer. This, the boy already knew. After the game with his father, Sir Andrew walked inside. His royal Mathematics tutor called him over for a lesson, in which he answered questions superiorly. There was no doubt that he was a junior Einstein and would live on to be one of the greatest known people in the world. Then, he was called by his royal acting tutor. He performed superiorly, playing out all of his roles amazingly. He was applying to be a child actor in a movie that had made millions. At the end of the day, which most would call tedious, but Sir Andrew smiled at, he headed back into his gamer den and turned on his livestream. As he played, gaining XP and levelling up, his crowd watched in awe and cheered him on, loading the comments section with positive remarks and thousands of likes. He was Sir Andrew the incredible, who could do anything.

I don't know if writing that's a good idea. I know it's kind of short, but I have no other choice. Also, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that this is a fantasy version of what I would like my life to be, and I might have made it a bit boring. Anyway, It's time to get ready now. I hope the teacher likes this. And I'm not sure, but I've got a good feeling about this one.

Written by Andrew Redford, the student in your class who tries the hardest. (That's a little note to try and improve my grade.)

C+

Teachers' note: Next time, if you're writing a fictional short story, write less about yourself and more about the short story. You got a grade for trying, but only because you're lucky.

Now, I am not allowed to play video games or watch TV for the whole weekend. Even though I tried. I can't think. I just can't.

Year 9 Boxes

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!



Fish & Chips

On 25 March, as a class, we made breaded fish and chips. Most of the class was grossed out at the smell of it. It was a double lesson so we used the time wisely in order to prepare and maximise the quality of our dishes. We used all of the skills that Miss Shaw has shown us in the past. We made good use of the knife skills we have learnt over the course to fillet the fish and remove the bones.

This lesson brought out all of my skills and helped me to produce the best dish that I possibly could. I did not need any help from anybody - this was a successful lesson in more ways than one. This was one of my favourite lessons out of the course so far. I loved this lesson as it made me very productive.

Keegan Wright, Year 10

I really enjoyed making fish fingers and chips today as it reminded me of my childhood. I used to watch my dad filleting fish, and it was fun.

Jacob Turner, Year 10



Cinema Club

Making a Documentary about School Uniforms

This term in Cinema Club, we have been working hard to finish our films in order to reach the Into Film competition deadline. Ella and I have been in charge of a film on school uniforms and whether they are important. We decided to interview Ms Gelder and Mrs Clover for their opinions. Thank you to all the other members of the club who volunteered to share their views for our documentary.

Emily Hasell, Year 8

There were many interesting views on school uniform. For example, Ms Gelder said that it prevents people from having to buy the recent trends, and keeps people safe. While other people said that it curbs creativity.

Ella Trotman, Year 8



Making a film called 'Daydreaming'



Behind the scenes: in charge of make up

I really enjoyed making our film **Daydreaming**. I decided to be part of the camera crew. And I was still a big part of the film because also I did all the makeup! And I was fully in charge of it too, so I would like to show some of my ideas/outcomes of the makeup in the photographs here.

Megan Simpson, Year 7



Acting in the film

This year we have made a short film called **Daydreaming**, which is about three pupils who don't really understand the subjects that they are learning, so they daydream themselves into the places they are learning about in the classroom. So, for example, one pupil finds herself at the Battle of Hastings, which helps her to understand exactly what happened there.

To make this film, we had to: write the script, act/film in it, edit the film and make bloopers. I was incredibly lucky and got the part of one of the main pupils. It was great fun to act in and shoot this film, and the completed film is AMAZING. I love the finished product. I highly suggest making a film or joining a club like Cinema Club if you love acting and/or using computers.

Eva Taylor, Year 7



Every year, we make a short film to enter into the Into Film Awards. Into Film is an organisation which supports young people's filmmaking and film watching. This year, Cinema Club decided to make a short film about 'daydreaming' in class and the impact of this in lessons. My role in the first film I've been in was as a History class teacher! To be honest, putting together my outfit was really fun and I took inspiration from my History teacher! (I wore a black floral dress with a cardigan!) There were

many scenes that had to be repeated and taken from different angles which took a few hours. There were also some people that forgot their lines for some scenes but made up a line that made everyone laugh! One of my friends actually thought I was a teacher for a minute before they realised that it was just me. I had many ideas on what to do in the scenes if some people forgot their lines. I have found Cinema Club really fun. You get to learn how to do lots of new things, such as learning how to use a professional camera! It's really nice to hear other people's film ideas because sometimes they are really good! Overall, this experience was great. I loved editing and filming!

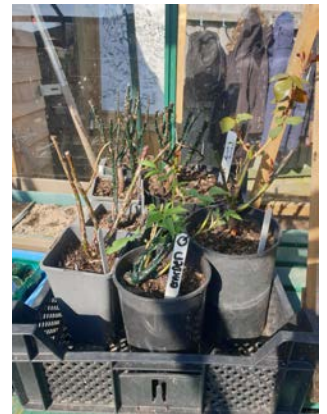
Erika Tornea, Year 7

Refresh

GARDEN CLUB

Mrs Bär gives an update on the Garden Club: This term pupils prepared the greenhouse for seed sowing, mulched all the beds to improve the soil and to help retain moisture in the summer. The seeds they have planted thus far are cosmos, basil, peas, nasturtiums, sunflowers, lettuce, salad leaves and cornflowers. We also potted up some bareroot roses.

All these plants will be planted in the garden to provide food for pollinators, food for Food Technology or Garden Club pupils and to improve the garden aesthetic. We have also been taking stock of which plants and bulbs have survived the winter.



Staff in the Spotlight: Mr Kalinichenko, Teaching Assistant



When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was in school, I wanted to become a politician. I even ran for school president, but unfortunately, I lost.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

As you may have already guessed, I am interested in politics and also love history. I enjoy travelling as well; I have already visited about 25 countries, and I'm not stopping there. My knowledge and passion for learning new languages help me in my travels.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

During my university studies, I was giving a presentation to the whole audience with a friend. After a question on the topic from another student, I forgot to turn

off the microphone and ironically said to my friend, 'I don't know this topic myself' in front of everyone - including the teacher, who heard it.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I really enjoy communicating with pupils. I really like getting to know new people. I also like their jokes - they have a great sense of humour.

If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?

I am interested in management, and I enjoy working with people in any case.

South East Schools Cheerleading Competition



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! They look forward to performing at the Gym and Dance display!



This term's SPORTS FIXTURES ROUND-UP

U16 Netball: Fixture against Linton Village College (15/01/2025)



Sawston Village College battled hard but were ultimately defeated by Linton Village College in a tough netball match on 15 January. Despite the defeat, the team showed immense determination and resilience, with many players stepping up to play out of position to support the Year 11 GCSE pupils.

Player of the match, Anni, was a standout performer, impressing with her dynamic movements both on and off the ball.

Although Sawston faced some positional challenges, they worked tirelessly to make the most of their opportunities. Well done everyone!

Year 10 Netball: Fixture against Bottisham Village College (29/01/2025)

Sawston Village College delivered a dominant performance in their netball match on 29 January, securing a 22-9 victory against Bottisham Village College. The team's strong teamwork, sharp passing, and excellent movement off of the ball ensured that they controlled the game from start to finish. The standout player of the match was Rosie, whose exceptional play in the centre court was pivotal to her team's success.

Our players demonstrated great awareness of the rules, and their commitment to working as a cohesive unit was evident in their seamless transitions between defence and attack. Well done Year 10!



Years 8 and 9 Netball: Fixture against Bottisham Village College (29/01/2025)



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

In the Year 9 match, Sawston took an early lead with some fantastic attacking play. Bottisham came back fighting and we entered the final quarter, 2 goals down. Despite a relentless defensive effort, we couldn't quite force the turnovers needed, leading to a 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 4. 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 shout out to Sophie Christmas and Victoria George Grajales, who worked superbly in partnership to progress the ball up the court with ease. Well done everyone!

Year 8 Football: Fixture against The Netherhall School

Year 8s produced a brilliant performance to secure a 5-2 comeback victory away at Netherhall, showing resilience, teamwork, and attacking flair in tough conditions. The team started brightly and took an early lead through Will, who finished clinically after some excellent build-up play. However, Netherhall responded well, turning the game on its head with two quick goals to leave us trailing 2-1. Despite the setback, our players showed great determination, playing lovely football and working tirelessly to regain control. Noah equalised with a composed finish before Harley put us back in front with a well-taken goal. Yunyoung then sealed the victory in style, scoring twice to round off an impressive attacking display.



Year 8 and Year 9 Netball: Fixture against The Netherhall School



The Year 8 Netball team had a fast-paced evening recently, with one win and one loss. After a half-time talk, they refocused, taking more time with the ball and moving into better positions to attack.

Player of the Match:
Sam Pryke – Sam impressed with his outstanding defensive skills, making key interceptions at crucial moments.

Players' Player:
Sophie Christmas – Sophie's excellent communication helped her teammates get into the right spaces, keeping the team organised and connected.

The Year 9 Netball team had an exciting evening, with a mixed result of one loss and one win. The team played with determination and energy throughout both matches, showcasing their skills and teamwork. **Player of the Match:** Nicola Ward – her movement as GA was a thing of beauty, consistently finding space and working brilliantly with both the GS and C. **Players' Player:** Harriet Sale – the GS was a standout, tirelessly battling in the D to get into the best shooting position and contributing vital goals when needed. A solid team effort from both our teams!

Year 8 Netball: Fixture against Linton Village College (05/03/2025)

It was an intense and thrilling showdown between Sawston Village College and Linton Village College in a fast-paced netball match! The game was an end-to-end battle, with both teams giving their all. Despite an incredible effort from Sawston, Linton emerged victorious with a narrow 9-8 win.

Great teamwork and communication were on display throughout the match, with standout performances from both sides. Fedor's determination earned him the well-deserved Player of the Match award, while Audrey's outstanding contribution saw her voted Players' Player.

A fantastic effort from all the players – well done, team!



Year 7 Football: Fixture against Bottisham Village College (12/03/2025)



A huge congratulations to all eight footballers who delivered an outstanding performance against a strong Bottisham side.

Despite falling 2-0 behind, the players showed remarkable resilience and teamwork to mount an impressive comeback. Two goals from Lewis Robinson brought the game level at 2-2 with just seconds remaining.

With full-time whistle blown, the match went to tiebreaker penalties. Bottisham scored first, but Lewis Robinson equalised. Bottisham's second penalty hit the crossbar, giving SVC the chance to win. Lewis Blatcher stepped up and buried his penalty in the top corner, securing a dramatic victory!

The entire team demonstrated exceptional communication, versatility, and determination, with players stepping into different roles across defence, midfield, and attack. An incredible team performance - well done!

Year 7 and Year 8 Netball: Fixture against St Bede's (24/03/2025)

Although the Year 7 Netball team suffered a 7-2 defeat, their spirits remained high throughout the match. The team played with great enthusiasm and showed immense sportsmanship, enjoying every moment on the court.

Player of the Match goes to Chloe Chan, whose inspiring team talks and positive energy kept everyone motivated and focused. Her leadership was invaluable, and she truly helped the team stay united. A tough loss, but a fantastic team effort overall!

In a nail-biting showdown, the Year 8 mixed Netball team triumphed with a 12-11 victory, clinching the win by just one point. Both teams played exceptionally well, with some brilliant teamwork and fierce determination on display. Communication

on the court was noticeably stronger, and it was clear the team had made huge strides in working together.

A special mention to Annie Sillience, who is awarded Player of the Match for her dynamic movement in the shooting circle. Her sharp positioning and quick reactions were key to securing those crucial goals. Well done to everyone – a fantastic effort all around!



Year 9 Football: District Cup Match Report (01/04/2025)

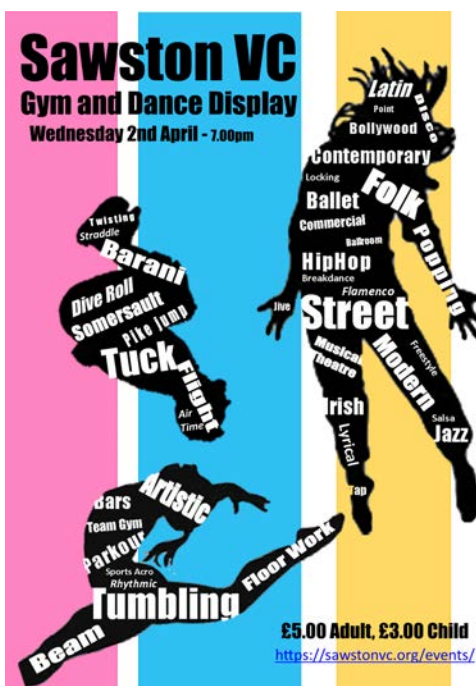


The Year 9 Football team showed great determination, coming from 1-0 down to secure a well-earned victory against a strong Parkside team. Staying composed, our footballers created numerous attacking chances, with Miles scoring a brilliant equaliser and Rohan scoring the winner from a corner. It was a tough contest, but Sawston emerged victorious.

Star Players:

- Dylan – Made a strong impact in central midfield.
- Rohan – Created key opportunities with excellent runs.

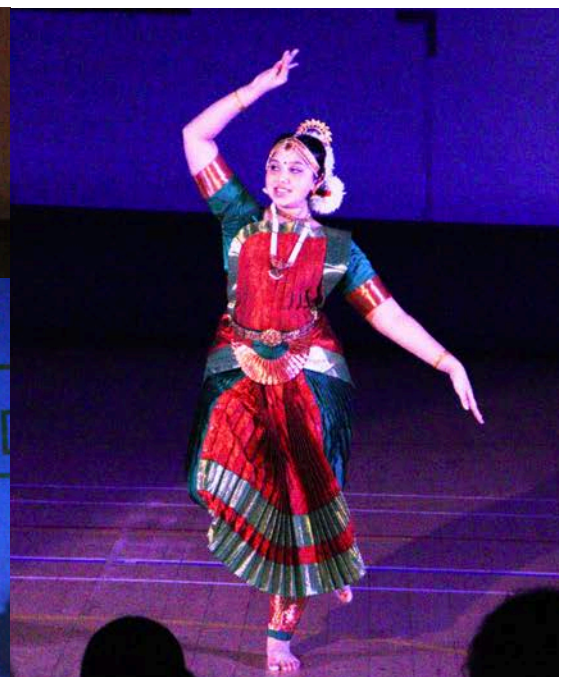
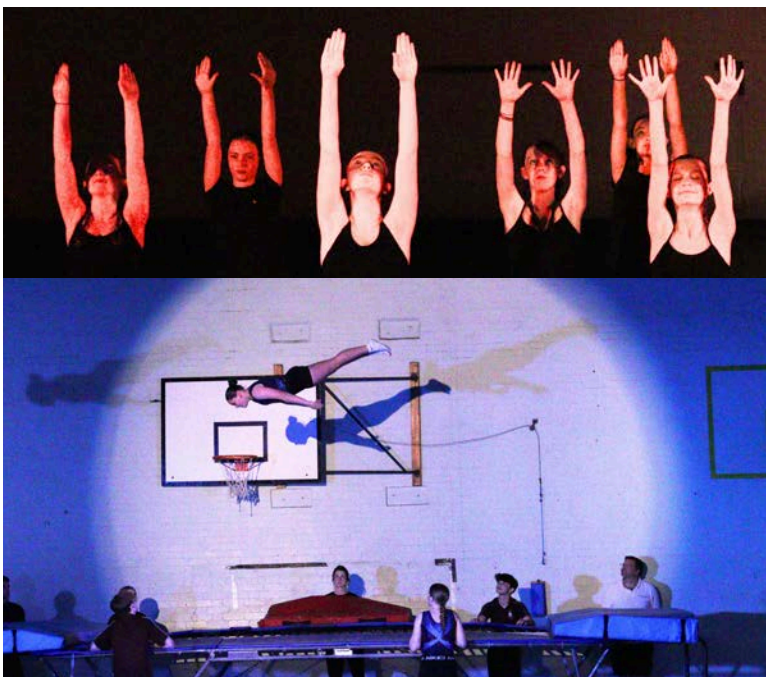
Well done to all the players!



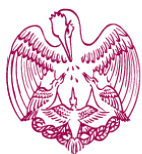
GYM & DANCE DISPLAY

On Wednesday, 4 April, Sawston Village College held its annual Gym and Dance Display. What a show! The show began with trampolining, vaulting and gymnastics, with the talent of performers across all year groups shining through. As the first act progressed, we then saw more hip hop and contemporary aspects, which is the section I was involved in! I performed a choreography to *Smooth Criminal* by Michael Jackson. Other performances included a tap dance solo, a jazz segment from Sawston Dance Club and, moving into the second act, incredible tumbling and even some cultural Indian dance. The show is a real melting pot of talent, and I strongly encourage anyone who has the chance to attend or even perform to take that chance. The support within the cast is truly unforgettable; when I leave in May with other Year 11s, the show will be one of the things we will miss the most. We'd like to say a big thanks to the audience and an even bigger thank you to the PE department for supporting us, and encouraging us to be brave and to put ourselves out there.

Evita Quijano Year 11



Sawston Village College is delighted to run an Adult Learning programme, the Anglian Leisure Sawston sports centre and Sawston Cinema for the community. Please check the relevant website for current programme and activity updates.



**Sawston
Adult
Learning**

Sawston Adult Learning

Please check www.sawstonadultlearning.org for up to date information. You can also email community@sawstonvc.org.



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Anglian Leisure Sawston

Please check www.sawstonsports.com for up to date information. You can also email fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk and follow Anglian Leisure Sawston on Facebook.



SAWSTON CINEMA

Sawston Cinema

Please check www.sawstoncinema.org.uk for up to date information. You can also email cinema@sawstonvc.org.

SAWSTON FUN RUN & WALK



This year's
**SAWSTON FUN RUN
& WALK**
is on
SUNDAY

11 May 2025.

For more information on
how to enter, go to:
www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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www.sawstonvc.org
01223 712777
office@sawstonvc.org

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