

May / June 2025 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

5 June	Year 10 Parents' Evening	2 July	Singers' Concert
5 June	NT Live - <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	3 July	Year 9 Report 3 issued
7-14 June	Year 9 Ardeche trip	4-6 July	Silver DofE practice expedition
9-13 June	Activities Week	8 and 9 July	House Prize Giving events
9-20 June	Year 10 WEX	10 July	Year 8 Report 3 issued
19 June	Sawston Cinema - <i>Harriet</i>	10 and 11 July	Year 7 Epping Forest Fieldwork
25 June	Jubilee Cup Athletics	11 July	Outdoor Gig
26 June	Year 7 Report 3 issued	17 July	Year 10 Report 3 issued
26 June	Lower School Concert	17 July	Geography Department Year 9 Hunstanton trip
27 June	Leavers' Ball	17 July	Cinema Club Showcase
1 July	Year 7 Denny Abbey & Ely trip	23 July	Summer term ends



It's been a short but busy half term with many pupil successes along the way, including: Anglian Learning Chess Academy winning the Cambridgeshire League; our Year 7 artists winning the Jurassic Arcade Trail for their T-Rex in the Grand Arcade in Cambridge; our Year 7 and 8 filmmakers having their film *Daydreaming* shortlisted for Best Film in the Into Film Awards; Firebreak; the Hastings trip; the appointment of our new Senate

and new House Ambassadors; the high take-up of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award launched for Year 9s; Year 10s performing wonderfully well in their Devised Performances and in the Speak Out Challenge. And, of course, our Year 11s are now in the middle of the intense period of GCSE and BTEC exams for which we wish them tremendous and well-deserved success. Staffing has been a challenge this year, and this half term has been no exception. Facing long term absences, a nasty bug and national recruitment challenges, we continue to do all we can to minimise disruption to learning. Staff have been fabulous at

stepping in for absent colleagues, and pupils have shown an admirable resilience and patience with the necessary changes to some lessons. We have been busily recruiting staff for the new academic year and look forward to welcoming as many of them as possible on our new staff and Year 6 Induction Day in early July. Whilst we may be saying farewell to some great staff, we have been delighted with the appointments made so far.

After the half term, we should be able to share news and details of the site regeneration project, which is scheduled to start this year. Thankfully, we will be able to use our existing classrooms so disruption will be minimal but the site will look different with more limited space during the lifetime of the project. As soon as DfE information is confirmed, we will be informing parents and pupils.

'It always seems impossible until it is done' – Nelson Mandela

Mr Russell, Principal

Year 7 artists with their certificates for their work on their T-Rex for the Jurassic Arcade Trail.



Computer Science Update

Lots has been going on in the short amount of time since I last wrote a piece for the Newsletter. A big congratulations to our Year 11 Computer Scientists for their hard work towards their exams. You have been marvellous.

A group of Year 7s took part in the Cyber Explorers Cup, completing a variety of decryption challenges, showing brilliant team work, communication and problem solving skills. We are looking to recruit new members for next year's Lego Robotics competition; if you are interested in building robots/Lego, programming, and working as a team, please join us in CS1 on Friday lunchtimes to find out more. I wish everybody a lovely May break and will look forward to all that is going on in the final half term.

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



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

Update from the Library

It seems impossible that we are already half way through the summer term. The Library has seen an entourage of familiar faces returning to their duties as Pupil Librarians who are, as always, hugely appreciated. A few weeks ago, our top three most actively borrowing classes were rewarded for their engagement with the Library. The following classes enjoyed a bookmark and a sweet treat in recognition:

- 7N3 – 137 issues
- 7N4 – 136 issues (such a close second!)
- 8B1 – 104 issues

The reading tracker display has been reset for the summer term, so we'll see who comes out on top at the end of the year!

Ms Allen, Library and Resources Manager



Update from History

This half term KS3 pupils in History have been impressing us with their work on Denny Abbey, the story of Thanksgiving and the consequences of Partition in India. The pupils have completed some excellent milestones, and we have been delighted with their mature attitudes to some challenging and sensitive topics. Congratulation to our Year 11s who have successfully completed their first GCSE paper and were really pleased with their own performances. Year 10 have had a wonderful trip to Hastings, visiting Battle Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral and displaying some great laser tag skills!

Miss Phillips, Head of History (Maternity Cover)



Update from Geography

It has been a short but busy half term in the Geography department. We wish the best of luck to our Year 11 Geographers, who are now completing their exams after finishing their final areas of content. They have been provided with as much support from their teachers as possible, and revision resources have been made available on our newly created Geography Google Site. This half term has also seen some of our pupils venture outside the classroom to participate in some fieldwork. Year 7s have been introduced to the fieldwork enquiry process by completing a local area enquiry into environmental quality, and some Year 9 pupils have explored the green spaces and biodiversity of the school site. The summer term will also see Year 8s complete their Microclimates investigation around the school site.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Business Studies Update

Year 10s experienced their first taste of Business Studies under exam conditions as they sat their 'mock' GCSE papers. Most reported that this was a beneficial exercise, and I was impressed by the standard of answers, given that they have only been studying this subject since September 2024.

In contrast, Year 11s are experiencing the 'real thing' and have been attending revision and booster sessions. It is extremely satisfying to see how the pupils' business knowledge has developed over the time they have studied and, regardless of grades achieved, most are now very well equipped for the commercial world that lies beyond the education system.

Mr Brame, Head of Business Studies



Maths - OCR Further Maths

A cohort of enthusiastic Year 10 pupils has embarked on the OCR Further Maths course, eager to deepen their mathematical understanding beyond the standard GCSE curriculum. This advanced course is tailored to stretch and challenge high-achieving students, many of whom are expected to progress to Maths and Further Maths at A Level. The group has recently been exploring the fascinating world of matrices, mastering operations. Their curiosity and commitment are evident in their collaborative problem-solving and eagerness to tackle abstract concepts. We look forward to offering this opportunity to our current Year 9 pupils next school year.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Sawston
Adult
Learning



Our courses are now up and running with our Italian classes proving to be particularly popular this term, which is fantastic. We, therefore, hope to be able to expand our provision for evening Italian classes from three classes to four from September.

We are also looking forward to our Saturday workshops on 14 June. This term we are offering:

- Yoga, which will focus on the upcoming summer solstice
- Willow basket making
- Grow your own summer vegetables

If you would like to enrol for any of our courses or would like further information, please do get in touch. Visit our website at:

www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning, email community@sawstonvc.org or phone 01223 712424.

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



Italian is proving popular



ANGLIAN
LEISURE
SAWSTON



We have a new **Exercise4Fun** scheme starting in June. If you are currently inactive or would like to get to a healthier weight, then this programme might be just what you need.

As well as weight loss, this scheme is good for wellbeing because:

- Physical exercise can make you stronger, healthier and happier.
- Support from a qualified instructor will ensure you get the most out of any exercise you do.
- If you haven't ever been to a gym before, the scheme will give you the confidence you need to start exercising.

Please visit this website for further information:

www.scams.gov.uk/exercise4fun/.

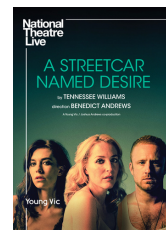
Please see our website sawstonsports.com for further details.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Next up at Sawston Cinema on 5 June is NT Live's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. For tickets and to see what else is coming up, check out our website: www.sawstoncinema.org

Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Successes in Art and Film this half term



In Art

A huge congratulations to the Art department who won this year's Jurassic Arcade trail, which was featured in the Grand Arcade in Cambridge. Well done to the pupils and staff involved in creating our T-Rex dinosaur, and thank you to everyone who voted!

The Sedgwick Museum will be exhibiting our T-Rex from 24 May within its Earth Sciences Exhibition.

In Film

Well done to our Year 7 & 8 Cinema Club members whose film *Daydreaming* has been shortlisted in the Into Film Awards in the Best Film category, age 12-15. Members are now getting set to head off to the glittering awards event in London on 24 June. Find out how to vote for their film in the Audience Choice Award here: www.sawstonvc.org/into-film-audience-choice-award/.



Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Drama Update

It has been a vibrant and creative term in the Drama department! Year 7 pupils have been diving into improvisation, developing quick-thinking and confidence on stage. Year 8s have explored the powerful political theatre of Bertolt Brecht, alongside the thought-provoking novel *The Other Side of Truth*. Year 9s have tackled the intriguing world of Harold Pinter, analysing his distinctive style and exploring his plays in performance. Year 10s enjoyed the National Theatre production of *The Importance of being Earnest*, enriching their understanding of classic British comedy in preparation for their written exam next year. They also performed their Devised Drama pieces on 13 and 14 May, showcasing their creativity and teamwork. This performance was a formal exam and contributes toward their GCSE grade. Finally, we bid a fond farewell to Year 11, who have completed their final written examination after an exciting journey through the course. We wish them the very best of luck and every success with their results this summer and ongoing success in the future. Please come back and see us soon.

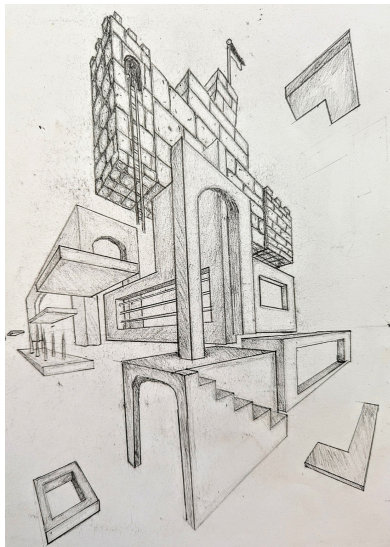
Mr Bell, Head of Drama



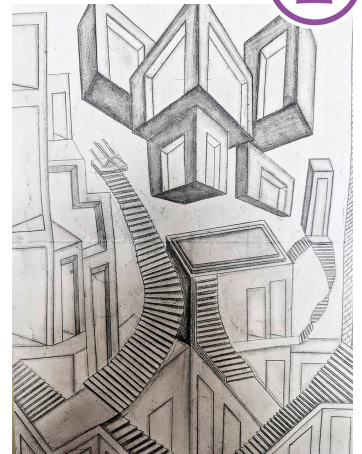
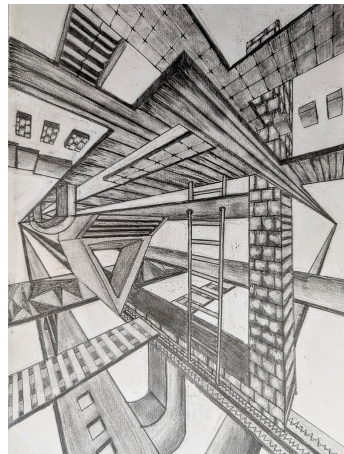
Art Update

Congratulations to Year 9 pupils for their rigorous engagement with the principles of perspective drawing. Your ability to manipulate reverse perspective demonstrates a growing command of visual perception and spatial illusion - skills fundamental to both artistic and cognitive development. A particular distinction to Year 10 for advancing into more conceptually demanding territory, marked by the completion of their mock examinations with maturity and focus. Finally, sincere congratulations to Year 11 Art and Photography pupils. The completion of your personal projects reflects not only technical proficiency but also sustained creative inquiry and critical reflection - hallmarks of a disciplined and thoughtful artistic practice.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art



Well done to the Year 9 pupils whose work is featured here.



Update from Music

Well done to everyone for a fantastic West Road concert at the end of last term you were all fantastic!



Pupils gave outstanding performances at the West Road concert to an appreciative capacity audience.

This term sees several smaller concerts with the Lower School Concert, for KS3 pupils, the Singers' Concert, Piano Recital and our Outdoor Gig. All are very welcome to come along; do look for ticket details via parent communications and check dates on the school calendar. We are shortly going to wave goodbye to our Year 11s. They have been a super bunch and have really contributed to so many musical groups around the department. From year group bubbles and single year group ensembles to their accomplished and exuberant playing in Year 11. We shall miss you all and hope you keep making music wherever you go!

In class, Year 10 GCSE pupils have just completed their Year 10 exam and have an idea of the full exam requirements for the first time. We have finished our first area of study and have just moved to look at 'Conventions of Pop and Rock' with a focus on 1960s Rock n Roll. Year 10 Music Tech pupils are 2/3rds through their course with some lovely compositions being completed on the theme of 'Borders, Boundaries and Barriers'. There were some super technical skills on show too. Across Key Stage 3 we are playing steel pans, with Year 7s starting as beginners and Year 9s showing how it is done. We also have Year 8s escaping from the vernacular and composing weird and wonderful pieces with (almost) no rules and asking 'what is music?'. Our Samba band also have a busy summer coming up and will be playing in a village near you! Year 9s upwards are very welcome to join - there are still instruments free!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music



Pasta Bonanza

This term, our Year 11s have successfully completed their coursework, while Year 10s have now started working on their mock coursework in preparation for September. Our Year 7 pupils have been enjoying cooking bolognese in their lessons, where they learned important food safety skills, such as handling raw meat, seasoning to taste, and controlling heat. They also made fresh pasta from scratch using a pasta machine, served with tomato sauce and Parmesan cheese, all within an hour! They loved tasting their dishes and comparing their homemade pasta to shop-bought versions. All of our pupils felt very proud of what they had accomplished.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



House News

Pupils have been energised and engaged in a flurry of events and activities.

As we approach the end of this half term, we are enjoying the nice weather and looking forward to the various upcoming school trips and the Activities Week that will take place after we return from the half term. Miss Hunt has settled in well as Head of Earhart and Year 8 Lead, taking over from Miss Jackson whilst she is on maternity leave. Year 10 pupils have completed their mock exams, and our Year 11s have started their GCSEs.

Today we said goodbye to our Year 11 cohort, and we wish them well for their exams and the future.

Mrs Fink, Year 9 Lead, on behalf of the Heads of House



Science Update

Our Junior STEM Club has been actively participating in the prestigious CREST Awards. This programme encourages pupils to engage in hands-on STEM projects, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. This term sees pupils designing bath bombs.

We are also delighted to announce that we now have a STEM Ambassador working with our STEM clubs. This experienced professional will be mentoring our pupils, providing them with valuable insights into the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Their guidance will undoubtedly inspire and motivate our pupils to pursue their interests in STEM fields.

Once again, with the leadership of Mrs Cook, our pupils have showcased their talents by participating in the Biology Olympiad. This challenging competition tests their knowledge and understanding of biological concepts. We are proud of their dedication and hard work, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Mr Barnett, Science Teacher



MFL Update - Trip Opportunities coming up

As we embark on our last half term this academic year, the MFL team is very busy organising trip opportunities for pupils. Some Year 8 pupils are getting ready to head to Barcelona or Paris during Activities Week, and we are finalising action-packed itineraries, which include fun activities (like a trip to a theme park) as well as cultural visits of the local sights.

We have been very impressed with the hard work and maturity of our Year 10 pupils who have sat their first set of GCSE mock exams. In Languages, the Year 10s are working through a brand new course and will be the first cohort to sit the new examination in 2026, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication.

This half term is also a time for goodbyes: we wish our Year 11s all the best as they start their study leave. Well done to pupils for their hard work and good luck for their exams.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



Update from DT

Good luck Year 11!

As we approach the May half term, it marks the end of lessons for our Year 11 DT and Engineering pupils. This year's cohort has been exceptionally talented, producing some truly impressive coursework. I am looking forward to showcasing their work once the exam season concludes. The DT staff sends a big congratulations to all our departing Designers and Engineers – we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



And finally...

We wish everyone an enjoyable half term break. School begins again for everyone on Monday, 2 June 2025. We look forward to seeing pupils and staff then.

Professional Learning

Our professional learning time over the past half term has been given over to the reviewing of Mentor time. Miss Gelder and Miss Gregg have completed a thorough review of the Mentor time system, from its structure, purpose and content. Following the review, they have come back with a range of proposals which have been put to our Leadership groups and the wider staff. The staff are also continuing their work on cognitive science and the working memory during our meeting time in the second half of the summer term.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Update from Religion and Worldviews

It has been another very busy half term, exploring questions such as 'How do Buddhists respond to suffering?', 'Is there such a thing as a life after death?' and 'Are there solutions to evil and suffering in the world?'. Year 10 Full Course pupils have now completed their mock exam and are now enjoying the chance to explore the topic of crime and punishment, being given the opportunity to develop their debating skills and using real life case studies and examples to support their cases. Year 10 Philosophy pupils have now completed their research projects, and these have been submitted to Pearson for examination. Well done to all pupils involved, it has been a pleasure reading these. Year 11s will have completed both exam papers by the half term, bringing their five years of study to a close. I have been super impressed with their hard work, resilience and dedication to the subject, and it has been a true pleasure teaching them and watching them develop. I wish them the best of luck with their remainder of exams and for their future studies/endeavours.

Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and Worldviews



PE Update - District Athletics Success

A huge congratulations to the 42 Year 8 and Year 10 pupils who represented Sawston Village College in their first District Athletics fixture of the season on Wednesday, 14 May. Competing against Bassingbourn VC, Comberton VC, St Bede's, and Stephen Perse, the team put in a fantastic performance, securing an impressive 3rd place overall. WELL DONE SAWSTON!

There were some brilliant individual performances throughout the afternoon. Highlights included:

- Sophie Christmas – 1st place in the 800m (A)
- Aneesha Pandit – 1st place in the 800m (B)
- Noah Smoothery – 2nd in both the 100m (A) and Javelin (A)
- Oscar Wong – 1st in the 100m (B)
- Archie King – 2nd in the 200m (A)
- Sam Pryke – 1st in the 800m (A)
- Oliver Seaborn – 1st in the 1500m (A)
- Luca Poria – 2nd in the Javelin (A)
- Emelia Arnold – 2nd in the 100m (A)
- Charlotte Will – 1st in the 1500m (A) and 1st in Long Jump (B)

A special mention goes to Harry Hutchings, who was named 'Athlete of the Meet' for stepping in to run the 1500m (B) race at short notice. His determination and team spirit earned him 2nd place and the admiration of his peers and PE staff. Well done, Harry!

Our 'Team of the Meet' goes to the Year 10 girls, who finished 2nd in their category – an excellent achievement and testament to their hard work.

We are now looking forward to seeing what our Year 7 and Year 9 athletes can bring to the track next week. Best of luck to all competitors!

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE

