

16 May 2025



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round-Up – May 16th

GCSE exams gather apace with our Y11 pupils working hard to manage through this intense period of study - all staff wish them the very best of luck with it all. Congratulations to those Y10 pupils who took part in the Speak Out Challenge who really impressed the presenter. We hope that everyone on the Hastings history trip enjoys their weekend. Finally, congratulations to all runners and walkers who took part in the Sawston Fun Run on Sunday which had a record turn out. It was a very warm day, which made running that much harder. Pupils and families will have raised lots of money for local charities and groups, and a great sense of community was shared by all involved.

NEW Y9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Launch

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a unique and memorable experience that aims to help young people build lifelong belief in themselves, supporting them to take on their own challenges, follow their passions and discover talents they never knew they had. Parents of pupils in Y9 will have received a letter and enrolment form for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The deadline for enrolling is Friday 6th June. Please direct any questions to Mr Slade (mslade@sawstonvc.org).

NEW Y11 Leavers' Day: Friday 23rd May

We are very proud of our Y11 pupils' approach to their GCSE examinations so far. It is with a heavy heart that we will send them off on study leave next Friday. Pupils will be treated to some fun Leavers' Day celebrations to mark this occasion, fingers crossed for a sunny day. Parents / carers should be aware that we will dismiss Y11 pupils at 2.15pm on Friday 23rd. Those wishing to stay in school to catch a bus are welcome to do so and can wait in the library until the end of the school day. Otherwise pupils may make their way home at the earlier time of 2.15pm.

NEW Attendance update

Following on from our article about the benefits of good attendance we are pleased that Y11 pupils increased their attendance in the first 2 weeks back after Easter. We hope this final push before the examinations started has given them that extra confidence now that we are well into examination season.

Our top performing year group at the College are Y8 – their attendance week on week as a year group is over 95% and last week they topped 96%. This is a fabulous achievement for them as a whole and will stand them in good stead for their futures. Y9 are close behind on just under 94% last week. We know that there is still work to do in Y10, hence our Y10 girls project. However, we have seen really encouraging results from the initiative that we are currently



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running and 34 out of the 42 girls improved their attendance in the first 3 weeks of the project. Of those, 2 moved from the 85-90% band to the 90-95% band and a further 4 moved up from the 90-95% band to the highest band. We have sent congratulatory communications to parents and carers and some of the girls will graduate from the project at the end of next week.

As we approach the end of the school year we would like to remind parents about protocols for reporting absence or appointments. If your child will be absent from school please ensure that our centralised system is used rather than emailing individual staff – this ensures that our attendance officer is fully aware of your child's absence and can complete the register accordingly. The links to report absence can be found on the College website under 'Parents' and then 'Attendance'.

For daily absence, please complete Form 1 to inform us that your child is unwell or there is an unforeseen circumstance which means they can't attend school today. You should report absence by 9am on the morning of each individual day of absence. Please complete Form 2 for any medical appointments that are due to take place in the coming days and weeks. Finally, please complete Form 3 for any leave of absence requests. We are still receiving a number of requests from parents and carers for family holidays which we are not able to authorise and must follow local authority guidance in issuing fixed penalty notices. We would like to remind parents and carers that holidays must be booked during the 13 weeks of school holidays per year. Term dates up until the summer of 2027 can be found on the 'Information' tab on the College website and we urge parents and carers to check these carefully to avoid making any bookings in term time. Where a leave of absence during term time is unavoidable, please complete Form 3 and await a response prior to making any arrangements in relation to the absence.

Once again, thank you for your support in trying to ensure that your child(ren) attends school regularly (over 95% of the time). The attendance of over 700 of our pupils (60%) is currently in this highest band which gives them the best possible chance of achieving great results in the future. We are looking forward to seeing continued improvements in attendance up to the end of the summer term and will update you again as we move towards the end of the year.

NEW Singing lessons 2025-26 for Y10 and Y11 pupils

It has come to the time of year where we start to organise singing lessons for September. We have two experienced teachers who are happy to teach a variety of singing styles. We typically advise pupils to wait until their voices have matured a little before starting lessons, hence the offer to pupils who will be in Y10 and Y11 and priority is given to pupils who are already singing in school with Junior Choir or through SYD. For further details and to register interest in a taster session, please complete [this](#) form by Friday 6th June.

NEW Head lice

This week, we have received some parental contact regarding head lice. The NHS advise that children attend school as usual if they have head lice, which can be treated without seeing a GP. Further information, including recommendations for treatment, can be found [here](#).

REMINDER Y7 and Y8 - Type 1 diabetes screening research

NHS Researchers at the University of Birmingham are conducting the ELSA study. The ELSA study is screening children, aged 3-13 years, to identify if they could be at risk of getting type 1 diabetes. This is a simple finger stick blood test carried out by qualified professionals at school on Wednesday 25th June. This is important national research involving over 32,000 children but will only be carried out with those for whom parental consent is given.

An email was sent to parents of Y7 and Y8 pupils earlier this week. The letter provides further details, including how to register your child.

REMINDER Y11 group photographs

Y11 photographs can now be collected from school reception. Parents/carers may prefer to collect framed/large prints themselves to avoid damage.

REMINDER Vote for our film Daydreaming to win the Into Film Audience Choice Award

Our film has been nominated in the Best Film Age 12-15 category and all nominated films are up for the Audience Choice Award. Please help us by voting for our film. Find out how to vote by following the link here: <https://sawstonvc.org/into-film-audience-choice-award/>

NICE TO KNOW Y10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

28 enthusiastic Y10 pupils took part in an inspiring workshop as part of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge and what a day it was! Each pupil embraced the opportunity with confidence, creativity, and commitment, representing both themselves and SVC in an outstanding manner. The trainer, thoroughly impressed by the group's attitude and energy, remarked, "If only all my workshops could be like this!" He was especially touched by the pupils' maturity and respect, as many personally thanked him and shook his hand at the end of the session, a true testament to their character.

A huge congratulations to the six pupils who have been selected to progress to the next round, with one exceptional pupil chosen to represent SVC at the regional level. We are incredibly proud of all participants. Well done!

COMMUNITY Hills Road Sixth Form College - production of 'Wuthering Heights'

Hills Road Sixth Form College Performing Arts Department would like to invite prospective Hills pupils who are currently in Y10 and offer holders in Y11 to their forthcoming production of 'Wuthering Heights' on Wednesday 25th June 7.30pm, Thursday 26th June 4.15pm and Friday 27th June 7.30pm.

Tickets are available to purchase here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/cambridge/robinson-theatre/wuthering-heights/e-gybdpz>

COMMUNITY Cambridge Makers arts center in Linton

Cambridge Makers is a workshop and studio space that offers courses in the visual arts and instrument making in Linton. They are currently offering a selection of family courses, aimed at children 8 years old and above attending with a family member. For further details, please click [here](#).

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Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Jonathan Russell