

24 April 2025



**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round-Up – April 25th**

It has been wonderful to welcome back the pupils this week. Y10 have been busy with their exams and our invigilators have reported very positively on the way the pupils have conducted themselves throughout. EcoForum has had a week of events and promotion of environmental matters with the winners of the recycling bin competition announced as the Nurture Mentor Group. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors presented powerfully at the staff meeting helping staff understand the pupils' perspective and offering suggestions, which staff will take forward. Well done to our Y8 boys' football team who narrowly missed out in the District Cup quarter finals. Whilst applications for the Pupil Senate closed today, another great leadership opportunity is available to them: Y10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh applications are open from any pupils in Y10 with a deadline of 2nd May.

### **NEW Artsmark - your feedback please**

We are about to begin work towards renewing our Artsmark accreditation and would be very grateful for your feedback on our arts provision: music, drama, art, photography. It can make such a difference. Please complete our short questionnaire [here](#).

### **NEW Devised Drama Performance Evenings – Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th May**

We are delighted to invite you to our OCR Devised Drama Performance Evenings on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th May at 6:00pm in the Drama Studio, running for approximately 1.5 hours.

These original pieces have been devised entirely by the pupils, using a variety of stimuli provided by the exam board as inspiration. The pupils have set clear artistic intentions prior to the performance, and they will be assessed against these on the night. It promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking evening, and we would be delighted if you could join us.

Tickets cost £5.00 are now available to book here: <https://sawstonvc.org/events/>

### **NEW Attendance Update**

This week we sent a letter to Y11 parents and carers on the importance of attendance and the impact that absence can have on what pupils might achieve in their GCSE examinations. Whilst this was specifically aimed at Y11, there are points worth sharing with all.



ANGLIAN LEARNING



FRAMEWORK FOR  
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION  
PATHFINDER



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2024 - 2025

The Department for Education has carried out research over the past 3 years following significant concerns about school attendance nationally since pupils returned after the pandemic. Attendance levels have fallen to the levels seen in the early 2000s and this will inevitably impact on attainment for those pupils who are not attending school regularly (by regular school attendance we mean attending at least 95% of the time, therefore missing fewer than 10 school days per year).

We will be communicating more regularly to enable us to work together in ensuring that as many pupils as possible fall into the highest 'band' for attendance. The bands are in 5% intervals, therefore the highest band is 95-100% attendance. There is evidence to suggest that moving up a single attendance band, whatever the starting point, increases a child's chance of achieving their expected outcomes by 10%. A more striking figure, particularly relevant for Y10 pupils is that in Y11, if they attend over 95% of the time, they are 1.9 times more likely to achieve 5s in their English and Maths GCSEs than those whose attendance is in the next band down (90-95%). In addition, those in the top bracket are 3 times more likely to achieve 5s in English and Maths than those who are in the first bracket classed as persistently absent (85-90%).

These figures will obviously translate into attainment further down the school when you see what a difference just one 5% band can have on pupil outcomes. Therefore, regular attendance is vital from Y7 right through to Y11. Attendance can also be impacted by family holidays and we therefore would like to remind families that holidays must only be booked during the 13 weeks of school holiday per academic year.

Given all of the research, it is very important to us that our pupils have every opportunity to achieve their very best. We have been working with a significant number of families this year to try to help pupils to improve their attendance, and we will continue to do so through listening to any barriers to attendance and working together to overcome these. We will also be talking to pupils (with an initial focus on Y10 girls and then expanding to other groups) about their attendance over the coming term to enable us to resolve any concerns they may have. If this applies to your child, you will be receiving a separate communication from us next week. Equally, if you have concerns about your child's attendance, please do contact either their Year Lead or our Attendance Officer, Mrs Chapman ([attendance@sawsonvc.org](mailto:attendance@sawsonvc.org)) and we will do our best to help.

### **NEW Travel Training Opportunity**

Great Northern hold regular 'Try a Train' events: [Great Northern - Try a train](#) which provides an ideal opportunity for those pupils who lack confidence to travel by train to visit their stations and to experience a train journey. If you would be interested, please contact our SEND Department.

### **COMMUNITY Preparing for Adulthood SEND Festival**

MY Life: My Future - In-Person Event at Burgess Hall, St. Ives PE27 6WU on 11th of July.

**Event Format:** Information stands, interactive activities, fun activities and information sessions for young people and parent carers. Young people can visit independently or with parent carers.

The event is for young people (14-25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families, Cambridgeshire schools and professionals

The range of stallholders and activities include:

- **Employers:** who will be joining us to find out more about being a Disability Confident Employer as well as talking to young people about career opportunities in their industry groups.
- **Further education colleges:** Providing information and guidance on courses, as well as any helpful information to support with becoming college ready.
- **Friendship and community groups:** stall holders and activities to support young people with friendships; mental health, wellbeing
- **Building independence:** Housing options; helpful apps and equipment available to young people
- **Adult services:** Young people with high level of needs will have representatives from health and social care.
- **Information and guidance** from Job Centre, Job Coaches, Career advisers, SENDIASS and others.
- **Fun Activities:** including Bowling alley, Silent Disco, Ping Pong, Indoor Picnic, Photobooth and Red-Carpet entrance.

To register, please click [here](#).

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Wishing you a joyful weekend,

Jonathan Russell