

July / August 2025 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

3 September School open to Year 7 and 11 pupils
4 September School open to all pupils
4 September Year 7 and 11 individual photos
11 September Freshers' Fair
11-14 September DoFE Silver Qualifying Expedition
15 September Year 10 Drama Devising Workshop
16 September Year 10 Physics at Work trip
25 September Year 11 Hunstanton Geography trip
25 September NT Live: Inter Alia
27-28 September DoFE Bronze Training Weekend

29 September Year 11 post-16 conference day
2 October Open Evening
3 October Staff training day - school closed to pupils
6 October Post-16 information evening
6-7 October Flu vaccinations
9 October Year 7 Meet the Mentor
9 October Year 10 Drama trip - 'My Neighbour Totoro'
11-12 October DoFE Bronze Qualifying Expedition
21 October Year 10 Information Evening
23 October NT Live: Mrs Warren's Profession
27-31 October Half term



In these final weeks, we have enjoyed so many events that have given pupils an opportunity to highlight their talents and to be celebrated. Olympic Days have been a wonderful example of this with entire year groups engaged in individual and group sporting activities, cheered on by their peers. In music, we have had a singers' concert, piano concert, Outdoor Gig and lower school music concert; each an impressive culmination of hours of dedicated practice. The Cinema Club shared their creativity on the screen at their Showcase, and members were also commended at the recent Sawston Fun Run Presentation for their film of the community event. Finally, through House celebration assemblies, Year 8 celebrations, and our formal Prize Giving Evenings, we have been able to recognise the hard work, effort and positive contributions made by pupils over the year.

Staff too have worked tremendously hard, and it is with sadness that we must say goodbye to some colleagues who are moving on. We say a temporary farewell to Mrs Cane as she goes off on her maternity

leave. In addition, temporary contracts come to an end for Mrs Foster in History, who has been covering for maternity, and for Mr Infield Solar in PE. We wish them both well and good luck to Mr Infield Solar as he relocates. Mr Brame, Business Studies, is retiring and leaves with our sincerest gratitude. Mr Brown, Finance Manager, also retires with our best wishes and thanks for looking after the accounts with such meticulous attention to detail. Our thanks also to Mr Koria and Mrs Friesner from Science who have secured posts nearer to home and in a different setting, where they will no doubt continue to inspire curiosity and wonder. In English, Ms Blois, Mrs Tuckwood and Miss Everitt are moving to new schools; we wish them all the very best and thank them for all they have done, not least the care and support they have given to pupils. Ms Hobourn, MFL, flies off to Malaysia to begin an exciting new adventure; she leaves with our best wishes and a tinge of envy. Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and World Views, has secured a well-deserved promotion to senior management at a local school after 10 years of excellent service to our community. Finally, Miss Irwin, Head of Music, relocates to Bristol and leaves us with nothing but fond memories and deep gratitude for everything she has done during her 12 years with us.

'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.' - Dr. Seuss
Mr Russell, Principal

Message from Anglian Learning

In what has been another busy term for Anglian Learning's schools, I am pleased to share some of the fantastic achievements by our staff, pupils and school communities.

Firstly, well done to all pupils who took their GCSE and A-Level exams this term. This period represents a significant milestone in every pupil's educational journey, and we hope your child(ren) feel proud of their hard work and accomplishments. Thank you to our staff and volunteers, whose efforts ensured the smooth delivery of the exam season.

I was also proud to see secondary pupils take the spotlight in Anglian Learning's Stage 25 dance festival. Their confident performances and powerful interpretations of this year's theme, Belonging by Design, were both moving and inspiring. Creativity was further celebrated through our first Trust-wide creative challenge, which invited secondary and sixth form pupils to produce artistic pieces inspired by their favourite books.

Congratulations to Tony, a Year 9 pupil at Linton Village College, who was named overall winner for his outstanding entry.

My congratulations to Sawston Village College's Cinema Club, whose short film, *Daydreaming*, was nominated for Best Film in the age 12-15 category at the Into Film Awards.

I want to thank all our school staff and to recognise their hard work, often going the extra mile to provide many enriching experiences for our pupils. The summer term is full of work experience opportunities, school shows and performances, trips, visits, sports days, transition days and the highlight of the year, the Year 11 Prom.

On behalf of Anglian Learning, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer, and thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming pupils back in September for another year filled with opportunity and growth.

For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education,
Anglian Learning



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Update from the Library

Just like that, we're already wrapping up another academic year. We've had such an exciting year in the library; lots of new displays, countless new books on the shelves, a busy Book Week, Book Club trips. There are lots of plans in the works to have an even more exciting (and busy!) year as we look ahead to September. This has been a bumper year for book loans too; the top three most active classes are in the process of having an appropriate fuss made of them, but overall, staff and pupils have borrowed just shy of 7,000 books this year! Can we break over 7,000 next year?

Ms Allen, Library and Resources Manager

Update from History

This term in History has been a very busy one with a number of exciting opportunities. Year 7s have been studying Denny Abbey and have been off-site to explore it firsthand. As part of that day, they also took part in exciting workshops in which they got to put their medieval Latin and board game skills to the test! Meanwhile, all of Year 8 have taken part in workshops on conducting oral history interviews. The visiting historians were very impressed with their historical thinking, and we are delighted that so many pupils have demonstrated an interest in pursuing the advanced programme.

Miss Phillips, Head of History (Maternity Cover)

Update from Geography

In this summer term the Geography department has been fortunate to offer our Year 7 pupils the opportunity to participate in fieldwork outside of school. Over two days in July pupils made their way to Epping Forest, just outside of London, to complete an investigation of a local river. With wellies on, pupils made their way into several sections of the river to collect data on the width, depth and velocity of the river. They also measured the different pieces of sediment in the river. This trip has further supported their understanding of how rivers change downstream, and we hope pupils enjoyed the opportunity to participate in fieldwork! We also finish the year with our annual trip to Hunstanton for the Year 9 pupils who will be taking GCSE Geography next year.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography

Business Studies Update

As the school year comes to an end, Year 10 embarked on two weeks of work experience. This gave Business Studies pupils, in particular, an opportunity to gain first hand experience in the workplace and see if 'business theory' matched the real world.

I visited a number of pupils who were engaged in tasks that varied from charity work to global cyber security and all agreed that their studies of commerce and industry had given them a good insight into 'life after education'. It was heartening to see that Business Studies had provided such a good start to young lives.

Mr Brame, Head of Business Studies

Update from MFL

Our Year 8 North band pupils enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Paris during Activities Week. Highlights included climbing the Eiffel Tower, strolling along the Champs Elysées, and visiting the iconic Arc de Triomphe. A scenic boat cruise on the Seine gave everyone a new view of the city, and the Stade de France tour was a hit with sports fans. A magical day at Disneyland brought plenty of smiles, and the trip ended on a unique note with a visit to a snail farm, where many bravely tasted 'escargots'! A fantastic week for all involved!

Meanwhile, some Year 8 South band pupils flew to Barcelona after a very early morning start and hit the ground running by visiting the most famous street in Barcelona, Las Ramblas. On Tuesday, we were lucky enough to visit a local secondary school and interact with Spanish pupils to practise our Spanish before visiting the Picasso museum. On Wednesday, pupils enjoyed the interactive displays and the submerged forest in CosmoCaixa, the science museum, before heading off to the zoo and the beach. On Thursday, pupils enjoyed a whole day trip to PortAventura, a theme park with very impressive rollercoasters. We saved the most breath-taking sight for last and we visited the Sagrada Familia cathedral on Friday morning before our journey home.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL and Miss Hobourn, Deputy Head of MFL



Sawston
Adult
Learning



Our Ceramics courses continue to be a firm favourite, and this term our learners have had the chance to explore Sagger firing techniques. Learners have made small clay items and wrapped them in natural, combustible materials, e.g. feathers or horsehair before firing them in a Sagger (clay box padded with sawdust or hay). This technique is a fun and interesting process, which produces beautiful, natural colours and patterns, which are usually more random in nature.

All of our autumn term courses are now on the website and available to book. For more information about any of our courses, please feel free to contact us in the following ways:

Visit our website at: www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning,
Email community@sawstonvc.org, or
Phone **01223 712424**.

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



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We have been busy preparing for the holidays and have a put together programme of activities that will keep the children active throughout the summer break! For those wanting to improve their swimming ability, we have private and group lessons available. Or why not book a public swim and enjoy some time playing in the pool with friends and family! Other activities on offer include Kids Bootcamp, Soft Play, Trampolining, Dodgeball and Football Fun Factory!

Pop into the sports centre, call us on 01223 712555 or see our website sawstonsports.com for information.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and sunny summer break!

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



SAWSTON CINEMA

Our season begins again in the autumn term with NT Live's *Inter Alia* on 25 September 2025. For tickets and to see what else is coming up, check out our website:

www.sawstoncinema.org

Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Maths Update

Maths is essential in the real world because it helps us solve everyday problems and make informed decisions. From managing money, budgeting, and shopping, to cooking and planning travel, Maths plays a key role. Recently, Year 10 pupils completed two weeks of work experience, and many found themselves using Maths in their work, whether that be in retail and hospitality or construction and engineering. Applying skills to unfamiliar situations is something that most pupils find challenging. The key to becoming more confident is practising exam-style questions; it helps you become familiar with the types of problems you'll face and improves your problem-solving speed and accuracy. Over the summer holiday, why not encourage your child to explore the Corbett Maths website. It offers daily GCSE Maths questions at different levels. Consistent daily practice on this site can help reinforce skills, improve exam technique and boost progress over time.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



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Drama Update

It's been an exciting term in the Drama Department! Year 7s have been using their imaginations to bring the magical world of "*Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*" to life, developing creative performance skills. Year 8s have explored themes of truth, identity and justice through the novel *The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo. Year 9s are busy

devising their own original pieces of theatre, inspired by a variety of thought-provoking stimuli. Meanwhile, Year 10s are working hard to complete their GCSE Devising Portfolios, which are due in the first week back in September. We are also excited to announce the launch of our advertising campaign for the School Musical 2026 - watch this space for more information! Auditions will take place towards the end of 2025.



Mr Bell, Head of Drama



Art Update

Congratulations to our Year 10 Art GCSE pupils for their dedication and creativity over the past four weeks. Their hard work culminated in a memorable trip to London; made even more special by the lasting marks they left on the walls of the Leake Street Tunnel. It was an inspiring achievement, and the energy, passion, and focus they brought to the experience turned it into an unforgettable chapter of their artistic journey.

We are now looking forward to the Photography GCSE trip to London, where another group of committed pupils is preparing to produce not only visually striking work, but thoughtful and meaningful pieces on the photojournalism theme.

The department is delighted to guide such a talented and collaborative cohort - one whose enthusiasm and teamwork will no doubt inspire future year groups to aim just as high.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art

Well done to the Year 10 pupils on some great designs.



Update from Music

It's been a busy term in the Music Department. Highlights have included the 'Friday Band World Tour', where our junior band went out and played a concert for 5 of our feeder primary schools. We



The Friday band perform for pupils at Icknield Primary School as part of their 'World Tour'.

loved visiting Shelford, Stapleford, Babraham, Bellbird and Icknield primaries and hope that lots of younger pupils have been encouraged to get involved in music making and perhaps even take up an instrument. On that note, we always love to see our Year 7 and 8 pupils (and older!) taking up instruments. We currently have spaces for trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, viola and double bass. Do let Miss Irwin know if your child would like a taster lesson. We have also been busy with the Lower School Concert, featuring several Year 9 soloists alongside ensembles, the Outdoor Gig, Singers' Concert and the inaugural Pianists' Concert this week. Well done to all pupils involved. ABRSM music exams are also running this week, led very ably by Mrs Gilbert. In class, Year 10s have been rocking all over the world and having some excellent singalongs to Celine Dion as they study 'Conventions of Rock and Pop'. KS3 pupils have been completing their steel pan performance milestones and doing some super composition work. This is my last newsletter as Head of Music and I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and friends of the school who have supported me in my role. I have loved teaching at Sawston, and whilst new adventures await, I will miss everyone, particularly the fantastic pupils. Mrs Johnson will take over as Head of Music, and I know is keen to keep up with Sawston traditions and bring her own musicality to the role. I know you will all make her most welcome. Thank you!

Miss Irwin, Head of Music

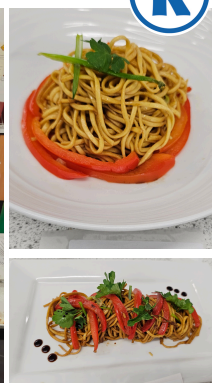


Chow Mein Competition!

In spite of the summer heat, woks were sizzling hot in the Food Department as our Year 8 pupils took on the challenge of making Chow Mein for their milestone. They learned about different types of vegetarians and prepared a delicious vegetarian Chow Mein, showcasing advanced knife skills such as julienne cutting.

Our Year 8s focused on precision and accuracy while chopping vegetables and presented their dishes with flair - just like in a restaurant! Overall, they had a fantastic time and worked hard to demonstrate their skills. We are incredibly proud of all that they achieved!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



House News

This final term has buzzed with excitement across every corner of the school. We cheered on our brilliant Year 11s as they conquered their exams and danced the night away at a truly magical Leavers' Ball.

Key Stage 3 dived into Activities Week with European adventures, STEM, arts and outdoor experiences. Year 10s wrapped up a rewarding fortnight of Work Experience, ready to take on their final year with confidence.

Beyond the classroom, inspiring trips and uplifting concerts brought the community closer. Now, we're gearing up for Prize Giving and Celebration Assemblies to honour our incredible pupils' achievements! We wish everyone a restful summer with time to recharge ready for another busy academic year.

Miss Hunt, Year 8 Lead and Head of Earhart, on behalf of the Heads of House



Science Update

Back in June, Year 9 pupils who remained in school during Activities Week were given the opportunity to complete a STEM Crest Award, which involved designing and building a prototype hand-washing device to avoid the transmission of communicable diseases. There were some outstanding designs, and our Science Technician, Mrs Bär, awarded the best in show to Tristan Williams, Maximilian Taylor, Charlie De-Brusaux and Jayden McKinney.



The following day, the Science team led a trip to Whipsnade Zoo where pupils competed in an online scavenger hunt and some pupils racked up an impressive 16,000 steps visiting every enclosure in the park! Well done Teams Aardvark and Crane, who topped the leaderboard.

Back in school, pupils continue to excel in their use of Educake. All pupils at the College have access to an Educake subscription and are encouraged to use it, not only for homework, but independent revision and consolidation of classwork. Pupils can access Educake using their Google account, so additional passwords are not necessary. Congratulations to 10E1 who have set themselves an additional 10,427 questions this academic year! At the top of the KS3 league table is 9NRu who have answered an additional 4,473 questions, excellent work!

Mrs Armsby Moore, Head of Science



Computer Science Update

It has been a fantastic final half term in the department. The Year 9 pupils who were in school during Activities Week were brilliant; it was great to see them engaged with some physical programming activities. We have been really impressed with the level of creativity and detail from Year 7s, who have been creating animations. Year 8s have been learning how to build websites from scratch using HTML. Year 10s have been progressing well with their course, practising programming challenges whilst learning more about how computer systems operate. I hope everybody has a relaxing Summer break and I'll look forward to seeing you all when I return!

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science



GCSE Coursework starts for Year 10

Our new GCSE Design and Technology pupils are beginning their coursework tasks, and excitement is building. With three themes to choose from 'Wow', Pets, and Lifestyle, there's great opportunity for creativity and innovation. Last year's Year 11s set a fantastic standard with some outstanding final projects and results – a real credit to their hard work and dedication. We're hopeful this next cohort will follow in their footsteps and continue to raise the bar. I'm really looking forward to seeing the unique ideas, problem-solving skills, and design flair this group will bring to their work over the coming months. Let the designing begin!

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT, with Mr Dawson and Mr Bär

Professional Learning

Our professional learning time over the past half term has been given over to the staff continuing their work on cognitive science and the working memory. Mr Wallace led a session on the anticipation of memory demand, and how departments can use their curriculum design to help lower the demand on learners' memory by planning prior learning carefully to maximise the impact of their work. We are now in the planning stages for next year's development programme, which will focus on further developments in inclusive classrooms, especially around oracy.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal



Update from Religion and Worldviews

A busy final half term in the RW department. We have had many philosophical discussions in Years 7 and 8 - Could we prove God exists? Are the mind and the brain the same thing? Are we just our behaviour? Year 9s have had a more ethical focus this half term, considering whether the ends ever justifies the means and how far people would go in order to survive, applying their understanding of different ethical arguments and engaging in some interesting debates. All groups have engaged in these discussions expertly, considering a variety of worldviews and forming their own conclusions. Year 10 core has considered the role of AI and whether we can tell the difference between an AI response and a human one. Could AI ever be regarded as sentient and therefore have rights? Full course pupils have been getting a little more creative in lessons, having debates, taking part in group work and designing their own prison, focusing on the aims of punishment and the treatment of criminals. It has been a pleasure watching the group develop in their confidence and willingness to get involved actively in lessons. Well done to all pupils and we hope you have an amazing, restful summer break!

Mrs Clover, Head of Religion and Worldviews



PE Update - Ardèche 2025

On 7 June, 96 of our Year 9 pupils embarked on an exciting 18-hour coach journey to the South of France for a week-long watersports adventure at PGL Domaine de Ségries.

Throughout the week, pupils embraced a wide variety of outdoor activities, including canyoning at Besorgues canyon, high ropes challenges, swimming, and battle archery. They also had the chance to immerse themselves in the local culture with a visit to the stunning medieval town of Aigues-Mortes and enjoyed some well-earned relaxation time on the sandy shores of Grau du Roi beach.

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the epic 32km canoe descent through the breathtaking Gorges de l'Ardèche. Pupils navigated exhilarating rapids before spending the night camping under the stars on a truly memorable bivouac.

It was a week filled with adventure, friendship, and unforgettable experiences - memories that will stay with our pupils for years to come.



Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



And finally...

We hope everyone has a relaxing summer break. School begins again for Year 7 and 11 pupils on Wednesday, 3 September and for all other year groups on Thursday, 4 September. Staff are back in school from Monday, 1 September. We look forward to seeing everyone then.