

The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine



Summer 2025
Issue 78



Sawston Village College Dance Club enjoyed taking part in the Anglian Learning dance festival - Stage 25 - at Bottisham Village College in June. They joined a trio from our GCSE Dance group and performed as part of a spectacular event involving many other schools from across Anglian Learning.

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Year 11 Ball 2025

Our Year 11 leavers enjoyed their Ball. Below are a few photographs of pupils arriving in their finery.

Our Year 11 leavers enjoyed their Ball. Below are a few photographs of pupils arriving in their finery.





Mr Russell

Welcome from Mr Russell, Principal



We are proud of our pupils. They embody the CARE values that we hold dear, especially the importance of being part of and taking part in our school community. Whilst not all pupils have the confidence - yet - to embrace all the opportunities the school offers, where they can, most have tried to be involved in something. At one level, we might see this in pupils actively engaging in a house quiz, cheering on a friend or participating in class discussion. For others, it will be in taking part in music, drama, art, sports, or STEM clubs, or even setting up their own. And then there are those who are leading activities, fully involved in concerts and events or actively promoting pupil voice and supporting the school's development. There is something for everyone at SVC, and those who gain the most from their five years with us are the ones who truly get involved.

We can see this in the pages of this magazine. There are so many wonderful reports and pictures of pupils having fun, being

curious and fully taking part. We are fortunate to have staff so willing to give of their time and energy to make all of this happen. Trips abroad and at home take months of organisation and are a huge responsibility but bring great reward. To see young people enjoying themselves, finding their independence and trying things out for the first time bring joy to those who lead or accompany trips. Equally, finding time in a busy working day to run a club, plan an event or lead an activity can be demanding. It is heartening to read how pupils appreciate the staff's commitment to providing them with such a rich offer. Thank you.

Well done to the new Senate on their first edition of The Fountain. They, like so many, can be proud of all they have achieved.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin: *'The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.'*

Mr Russell, Principal

A Word from our new Senate Ambassadors

Hi, we are your new Senate Ambassadors 2025-26, having recently been given this role, part of which involves producing this magazine. After having looked at previous editions of the Fountain, we realise this is quite a big task, but we are excited to start this fantastic adventure and determined to do our best. We are looking forward to documenting all the upcoming events, trips and activities that regularly take place in school. We aim to produce new and interesting articles for this magazine, covering a wide array of topics, as well as in-depth features on pressing social issues, pupil life and College events. We aim to provide content that is both informative and important to the school, and which reflects the talents of the pupils here in school. The previous Senate team did extremely well and we have huge shoes to fill, but we are determined to make a success of it. We are ready to create three fantastic Fountains, including this one, so enjoy.

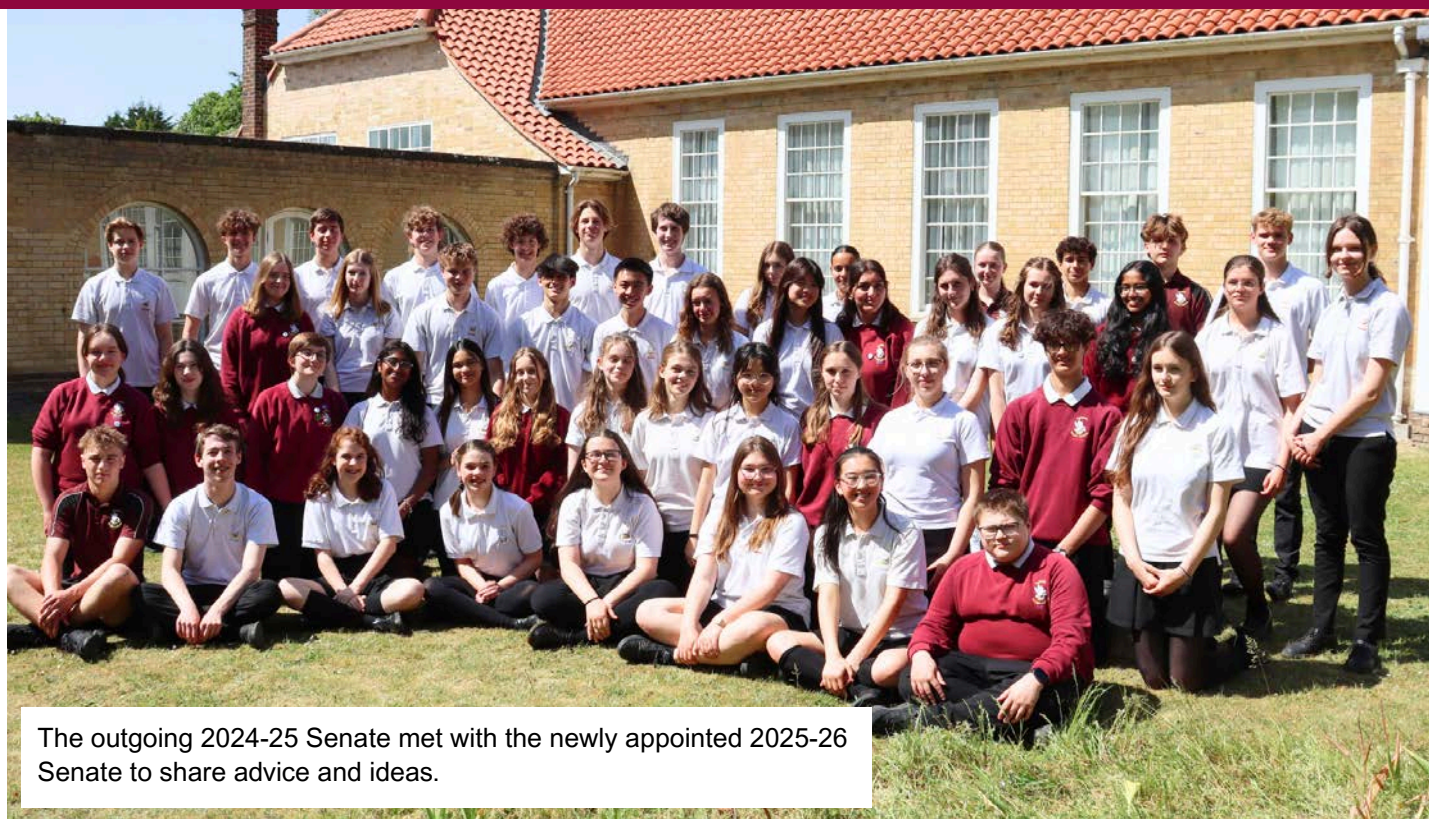
Abi and Lizzy



Abi

Lizzy

the senate handing over the baton



Pupil Senate 2025-26			
Heads of Senate	Maddie Young	Lewis Johnston	Congratulations to the new Pupil Senate. We look forward to seeing you put your ideas into action over the coming months.
Deputy Heads of Senate	Abigail Topliss	Noah Bennett	
Senate Ambassador	Abi Barr	Lizzy Adams	
International Co-Chairs	Sophie Chung	Francesca Mada	Zara Williamson
Equality and diversity Co-Chairs	Emmeline Lock	Elise Ingle	
Eco/Animal Co-Chairs	Evan Silley	Philip Jena	Dasha Gomeniuk
Wellbeing Co-Chairs	Jazmine Cruz	Leeya Anil	
Ethos Co-Chairs	Chloe Sims	Joey Sample	Isabella Shorten
Arts Co-Chairs	Brandon Lui	Griffin Corney	Oscar Greendale
Sports Captains	Edu Cunado	Ned Gott	Chloe Smit

Meet the new Senate 2025-2026



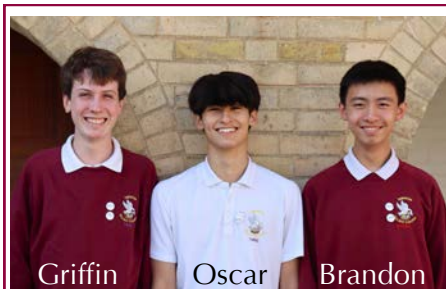
Updates from the new Senate Heads & Deputies and the Forum Co-Chairs

Hello everyone! We are the new Heads and Deputy Heads of the Senate. We are looking forward to working with the forums. As well as being involved with the different forums and their activities, we would also like to incorporate some of our own project ideas, such as working with local charities to try to raise money for them, as well as raising money for our Ball by doing different kinds of fundraisers. We would also like to collaborate with the Inter Forum to create a Nationalities and Culture board to spread awareness about and to celebrate different cultures across the world. We are really excited to take these ideas forward. However, we know we can't undertake projects without support, and so we will also be looking forward to pupils from across all year groups joining us to get involved. Thank you

Maddie, Lewis, Abigail and Noah, Heads and Deputy Heads of Senate

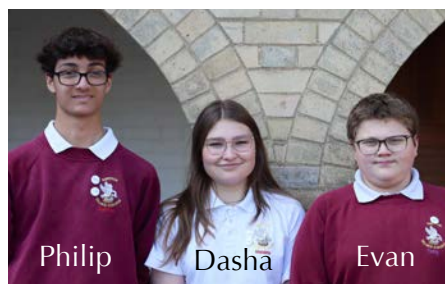


Introducing the new Forum Co-Chairs



Hello, our names are Griffin, Oscar and Brandon, and we are the new co-chairs of the Arts Forum here at Sawston Village College. We already plan to organise certain projects, such as an arts festival, a teacher samba performance and an increase of music, drama and art in the bulletin, but we would also really appreciate your ideas on how we might promote the arts and ensure they have a strong and very visible presence at Sawston Village College. We would love to hear what you think.

More Forum Co-Chair Introductions



eco
forum

Hello! We are the new co-chairs of the Eco Forum. Our aim is to help better the school environment and bring people together. Our first goal is a communal seedbank, where pupils and parents can collect or donate seeds to grow at home, with competitions to help keep things interesting. Additionally, we would like to continue to help with the development of the Refresh Garden as it will provide a safe space for both pupils and wildlife. We have many other ideas so, to find out more, please come along to our forum meetings. Philip, Dasha and Evan



ethos
forum

Hi, we are the co chairs of the Ethos Forum. We are looking forward to planning a non-school uniform day for Children in Need in November and to developing some other new projects for our year as co-chairs. We hope everyone will get involved and come along to our forum meetings. We are delighted to be part of the Senate and plan to work hard to make the school even better! Thank you, Chloe, Isabella and Joey



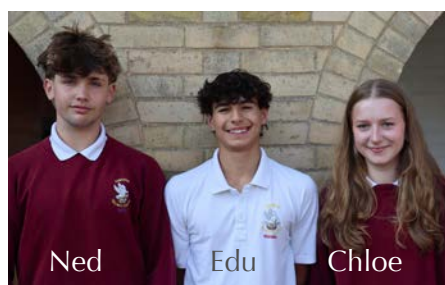
equality &
diversity
forum

Hello, we are Elise and Emmeline, the co-chairs of the Equality and Diversity Forum. We have been working, together with other forums, to develop ideas on how to improve our school's social awareness regarding minority groups and conditions that could potentially affect everyone, such as spreading awareness of breast cancer and of disabilities. We are also looking forward to celebrating Black History Month in October and Holi in March next year. We hope to see lots of pupils at our forum meetings.



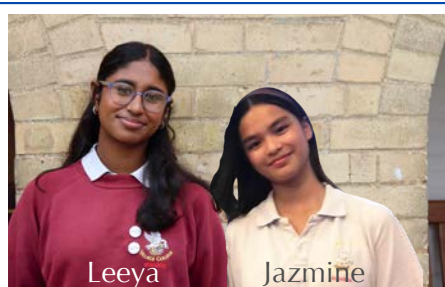
inter
forum

Hello! We are delighted to be co-chairs of the Inter Forum. We are looking forward to working on the Nationalities board and inputting your suggestions from forum meetings. Thank you also for all your contributions to the Taiwanese Visit Programme, and we hope that you will continue to support our projects throughout the course of this coming year. Zara, Francesa and Sophie



sports
forum

Hello from the Sports Forum. Our names our Ned, Edu and Chloe. As co-chairs, our main goals this year are to get a sense of the ideas pupils have and would like to see implemented within the sporting community in Sawston Village College. One of the things we are passionate about is developing a strong rugby team through the school, as well as getting more fixtures against other schools so we can put Sawston on the sporting map.



wellbeing
forum

We truly believe that wellbeing is all about connection - not just within Sawston Village College, but throughout our whole community. That means caring about everyone around us. While we plan to focus a lot of effort on supporting our pupils and the College, we're also eager to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We aim to have fun activities like community picnics and we'd love you to be a part of these! We hope you'll join our projects and come to our forum meetings. Your support means so much to us! Warmly, Jazmine and Leeya, Co-Chairs of the Wellbeing Forum.

Welcoming Visitors from Taiwan



During this summer term, we hosted a visit programme with Blessed Imelda's School in Taiwan. From Monday 30 June to Friday 11 July, 18 pupils became part of our school community here at Sawston, joining in with our daily lessons and school life.

Throughout this time, both English and Taiwanese pupils were able to learn about each other's lifestyles, cultures and respective school experiences. The pupils attended regular lessons alongside Sawston pupils, learning enthusiastically, even while navigating the challenges of a second (or sometimes even a third!) language. We also spent lunchtimes and breaktimes together, taking the opportunity to socialise and have fun together with games like volleyball and card games. Over the course of these two weeks, many pupils have fostered friendships and made lasting memories with their peers from across the seas, learning various details about Taiwanese culture during the time they spent with each other.

On our last day together, we held a farewell celebration in the Henry Morris Hall, saying our goodbyes as certificates were given out. This also gave us the chance to take photos with our buddies and enjoy performances from both schools, marking an end to a memorable and remarkable visit.

Zara Williamson, Sophie Chung and Francesca Mada, Year 10 and Inter Forum Co-Chairs



Successes for Cinema Club this year



Into Film trip to London



Cinema Club has had a very successful year. We completed our major film projects in time for the Into Film Awards deadline at the start of March and were delighted to have our Year 7 & 8 club film, *Daydreaming*, shortlisted in the Best Film 12-15 category. This meant a trip to the glittering Awards Ceremony at the Odeon in Leicester Square in June where, even though we didn't win, everyone left inspired and determined to make more films.

Two groups then entered films into the Into Film Magic of Cinema competition, and we were delighted when we heard that one of these groups, a group of Year 9 girls, had won for their short documentary-style film.

Throughout all this excitement, our filmmaking in club time continued, which meant that when the time came round for our annual Showcase we had a wide range of films - and blooper films - to show, all of which were warmly received by a capacity audience. Filmmaking knowledge, skills and confidence have grown enormously this year and we can't wait to see what is produced next year!

Sawston Cinema Club





Year 7 pupils win Grand Arcade Dinosaur Competition

The schools taking part in the Jurassic Arcade project to make a dinosaur were given a 2D silhouette to create their dinosaur from. However, the Year 7 pupils involved in the project here at Sawston Village College decided to use their 2D silhouette to create a 3D T Rex using cardboard and mod roc. This clearly paid off as this model then went on to collect the most votes in the competition, winning our Sawston group the first prize.



Above: The T Rex designed and made by Year 7 pupils which won the Jurassic Arcade competition in Cambridge.
Below: Pupils with their certificates.



Anglian Learning dance festival – Stage 25

On 25 June, we (Sawston Dance Club) went to Bottisham Village College to perform our dance at the Anglian Learning dance festival - Stage 25. We had an excellent time with 12 other schools that each performed a different dance for the other groups of children watching. It was nice to see some of the GCSE Dance pupils and watch them perform their piece.

The place was buzzing with excited children, with ages ranging from around 8-14. Everyone, including me, was really excited to perform because they had been working so hard. I felt slightly nervous about making a mistake but I was so excited to show everyone our dance. Time went really quickly; one second we were walking down the steps to the stage with nervous chatter among us, the next we were happily skipping back up them towards Miss Stevens, our dance choreographer and PE teacher.

Some of our favourite performances were: Fen Ditton Community Primary School, Bottisham Village College and Stapleford Community Primary School.

We had a really great time and we hope we can do it again next year!

Lucy McFarlane, Year 7



SVC Dance Club performing at Stage 25



A trio from the GCSE Dance group performs at Stage 25

We took part in the Anglian Learning dance festival at Bottisham Village College, where we performed a trio piece from our GCSE Dance course. Initially, we were nervous when we went on stage but as the dance progressed, our stress was replaced with excitement and enjoyment. This was an amazing experience for our trio because it increased our confidence and performance skills, all of which will help prepare us for our Dance GCSE.

In addition, I loved watching the various pieces performed by other schools of the Anglian Learning Trust and being inspired by other creative works. It was great to see children of all ages and abilities get a chance to perform on stage and express themselves. Overall, it was a wonderful festival and one that we would love to experience again.

Sia Nair, Year 9

Year 10 Work Experience (WEX)

In Year 10 we do two weeks in a place of work. We can either pick our own placement or find a placement through a database. There are unlimited options of what pupils can do, for example, work in a primary school, a cafe, a nursery, a tennis club, or building site, or work as an electrician. Work experience is also a recognised on your personal statement so, as a school, we are very lucky to have this opportunity as part of our Year 10 experience. Below you can read about some pupils' experiences and also see some examples of pupils in their work placements.

Abi Barr, Year 10



Working in a hair salon in Duxford

I really enjoyed the two weeks we were given for work experience as I learned many things. My placement was at Sawston Nursery where I created many bonds with the staff and children and I felt very welcomed. Before I went into my placement I wasn't quite sure about what I wanted to do after I left school but being at the nursery gave me a pretty good idea. I developed my skills in communication with staff and young children. I needed to ensure I was punctual and respectful. Following on from this, my aim is to follow a career with young children. I am very grateful for my placement at the nursery and would highly recommend work experience to everyone.

Millie Morgenstern, Year 10



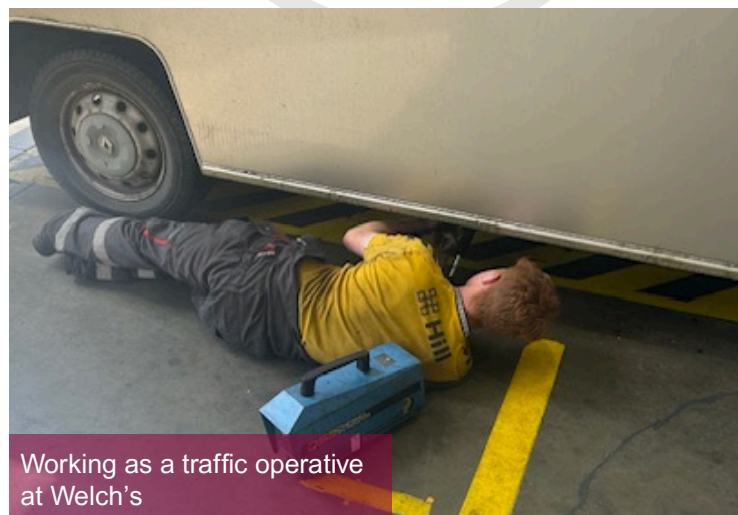
Working in a laboratory at the University of Essex

For work experience I spent one week at Pippin's Pre-School and one at the Proctor's Office for Cambridge University. I really enjoyed the experience at both placements. I appreciate the opportunity our school has given us to do this experience, and I am very grateful to both places for taking me.

Izzy Nicholson, Year 10

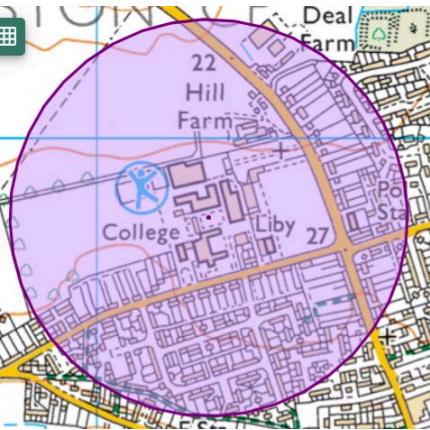


Working in a cafe in Fowlmere



Working as a traffic operative at Welch's

Green Schools Project - Travel Focus



As part of our Green Schools initiative, we focused this term on making travel to and from school more sustainable. In June, we organised a successful Walk to School Week to encourage everyone in our school community to choose greener ways of travelling - including walking, cycling, or scooting.

To raise awareness, members of Eco Club presented at school assemblies, highlighting the impact of travel on our carbon footprint. At the moment, our area of travel has been marked as red, meaning it contributes significantly to our overall carbon emissions. That's why we made it our priority to make a positive change.

One of the key actions we introduced was the creation of a buffer zone around the school.

This encourages those who need to travel by car to be dropped off outside the zone and walk the final 5-10 minutes to school.

This not only reduces traffic around the school gates but also helps lower emissions and supports a healthier lifestyle.

We'd like to thank everyone who took part and remind you that small changes can make a big difference. Choosing more sustainable transport methods - not just for school but for other journeys too - is a simple way we can all help protect the environment.

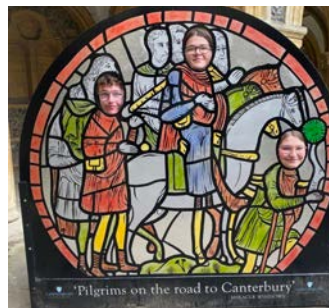
Let's keep up the momentum and continue to walk, cycle, scoot, or share lifts wherever possible.

Eco Club

History

Hastings Trip

In May, the History Department organised a residential trip for Year 10 historians to Hastings and the South Coast. This trip was an opportunity for pupils to visit places studied as part of their History GCSE course, Paper 1 (Norman Conquest), as well as being an opportunity to be on a PGL site, Windmill Hill Activity Centre.



Year 7 Trip to Denny Abbey

Year 7s have been studying Denny Abbey and so were delighted to get the opportunity to go off-site to explore it firsthand. As part of the day, they also took part in exciting workshops in which they got to put their medieval Latin and board game skills to the test!



During my trip to Denny Abbey, I had a great time exploring both the inside and outside of the historic site. We learned all about the lives of the monks who once lived there and how the abbey has changed over the years. The highlight of the day was learning how lavender was used in the past to help with things like stress, pain, and sleep. It was really interesting to find out how people used natural remedies instead of modern medicine. After exploring and learning, we finished the day by enjoying some delicious ice cream, which was a perfect treat on a warm day. The whole trip was fun, relaxing, and full of interesting facts about the past.

Aina Joseph, Year 7

Hidden Heritages

HIDDEN HERITAGES
ONE SCHOOL, MANY STORIES

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ORAL HISTORY AND INTERVIEW SOMEONE?

JOIN US FOR THE ADVANCED TRAINING, WHERE YOU WILL RECORD AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH A SOUTH ASIAN PERSON IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE. LEARN ABOUT ARCHIVING AND CURATE AN EXHIBITION

HADITHI C.L.C.
@HADITHISTORIES

SIGN UP VIA THE GOOGLE FORM

Sawston Village College has been chosen to take part in an authentic historical research project.

This is an exciting opportunity for Year 8 pupils.

Those who take part will:

- Conduct interviews within the local community to collect and preserve important stories.
- Work with historians to preserve and archive those stories so others can use them in their research.
- Create a museum exhibition in Cambridge so the public can learn about the project findings.

SYD JUNIORS PERFORM THE LITTLE MERMAID



Congratulations to all at SYD Juniors for their magnificent performances of *The Little Mermaid* recently. The entire cast was stunning, and those working behind the scenes and in leadership positions excelled in their roles. Well done to everyone involved!



Junior Maths Challenge

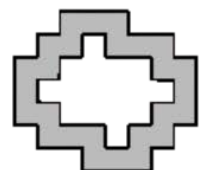
Dr Tunna, Maths Teacher, writes: Pupils in year 7 and 8 recently took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Participating in a UKMT Maths Challenge is an exhilarating and fun maths experience that pushes the problem-solving skills of pupils in a uniquely enjoyable way. Each carefully designed question is meant to be accessible yet intriguing, requiring clever insights rather than just rote memorisation. The 60-minute time limit adds a thrilling edge, forcing you to think quickly and strategically, deciding when to persist with a tricky puzzle or move on to the next question. The problems often feel more like captivating puzzles than standard test questions, covering diverse areas like logic, geometry, and number theory in creative ways. It is challenging for everyone, even the most able pupils. Many pupils did very well getting gold, silver and bronze certificates. There was a real sense of achievement for the pupils, highlighting how fun and creative mathematics can be at its heart.

How do you think you would do? Have a try at the question here:

In the diagram shown, all the angles are right angles and all the sides are of length 1 unit, 2 units or 3 units.

What, in square units, is the area of the shaded region?

A 22 B 24 C 26 D 28 E 30

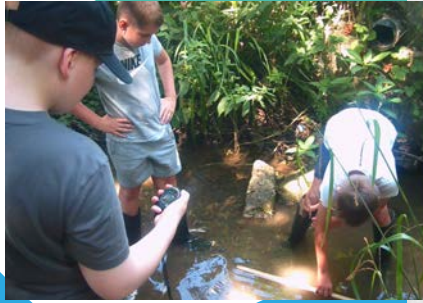


Answer: C

Rivers Fieldwork

Epping Forest

The river measuring is really fun!



After putting on wellies, we set off to look at the source of the river, where it began. Next we headed down through the forest, stopping every once in a while and feeling the soil's dampness as we went down the slope. Each time we collected a bit and smudged it on our drawing. We found that the soil was quite dry except for the source that was muddy and clay-like. After filling in our sheet on the soil, its texture and porosity, we went back into the centre to eat lunch.

We went back onto the coach which we arrived on. The journey was short but when we arrived at the river it was all worth it. The river we stepped into was nice and cool. I enjoyed it a lot.

I liked taking measurements and being in the forest.

We measured the velocity and depth and the width. We went to two parts of the river and repeated our measurements.

Thanks to Hana, Seren Belle, Yugum and Tamara in 7A1 for their contributions



I liked being able to go in the river and make little bowls out of the clay.

I would recommend it because it is a much more interesting way of learning geography than sitting in a classroom.



I loved going in the river because it really cooled my feet down and it was very interesting learning about the different things to measure in the river and how you measure.

Thanks to 7C1 and 7A1 for their comments

Staff in the Spotlight:

Ms Meikle, Drama Teacher



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

When I was really young, I wanted to be a nurse. In secondary school I had dreams of becoming a famous actor!

What are your main hobbies or interests?

My main hobby is going to the theatre, especially in London. I try to go as often as I can afford!

What's your most embarrassing moment?

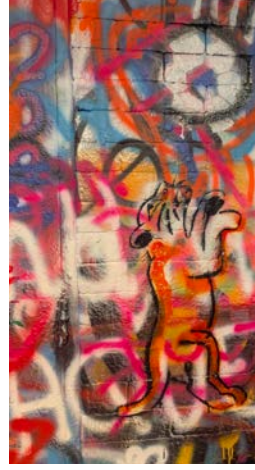
There are too many! I'm always embarrassing myself, but I've learnt to embrace it. You must put yourself out there and have fun.

What's your favourite part of your job?

Teenagers. They are hilarious and enlightening; I learn something new every day!

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

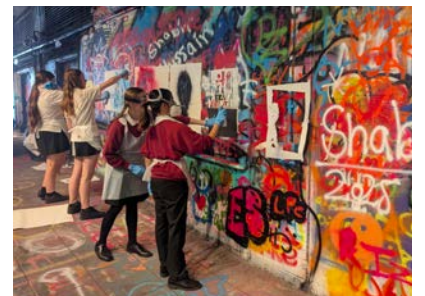
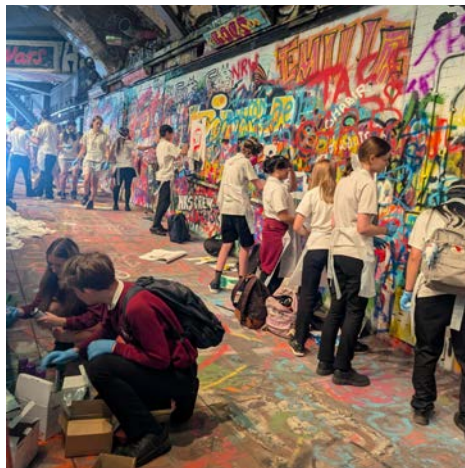
I have always dreamed of running a nurturing cafe. I love baking. I like to cook for people. I love coffee and I love to chat. I don't think I would make a profit though. I wouldn't want to charge anyone.



Year 10 artists visit London's Leake Street Tunnel



Leake Street Tunnel is London's longest legal graffiti wall. Our Year 10 artists visited recently to contribute their own designs to the wall from stencils they had created in class. The tunnel is a vibrant hub for urban art.



Library -----

News -----



**SUMMER
2025**

An update from Ms Allen:

What's Been Happening in the Library?

- YOTO Carnegie Book Awards
- Paired reading scheme
- New displays

Things to Look Forward To

- Most popular books countdown
- Plans for the new academic year
- New books weekly

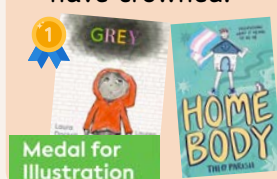
YOTO Carnegie Book Awards

For the fourth year in a row, Book Club have 'shadowed' the YOTO Carnegie Book Awards.

This means getting our hands on the longlist for the Writing Medal, and the shortlist for the Illustration Medal, and reading as many of the nominated titles as possible!

After lots of captivated reading, and some very enthusiastic debates during our Book Club meetings, our shadowers could then vote for which titles they thought should win the Shadowers' Choice vote for each medal.

If we had things our way, we would have crowned:-



Medal for
Illustration



Medal for
Writing

In more, exciting Carnegie news, we were lucky enough to receive tickets for the awards ceremony for the *second* year in a row!

It was a hot day to be travelling to London, but we had such an inspiring time, listening to all the nominees talking about their books and offering some advice to budding authors and illustrators.

On the whole, we were very pleased with the winners, and were particularly moved by Olivia Lomenech Gill's speech, which she used to highlight the lack of access to libraries and books in Palestine at the moment.

Our fingers are so tightly crossed that we'll get tickets next summer and can do it all again then!

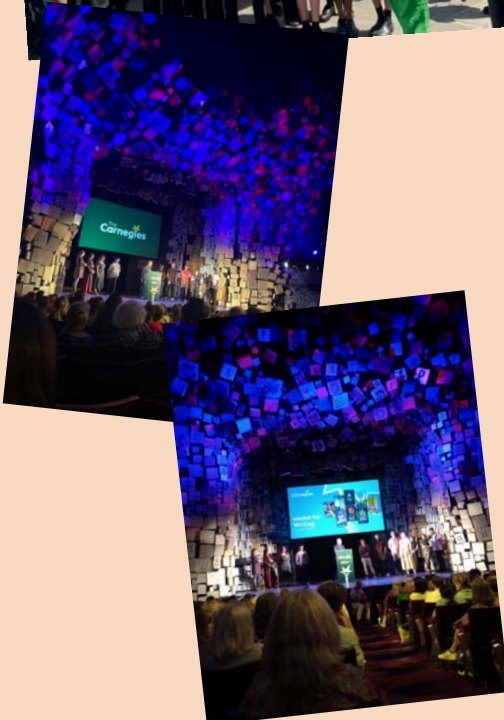
Medal for
Illustration



Medal for
Writing



Carnegie Awards Ceremony



Paired Reading Scheme

Over the last term, a group of Year 7s have joined me in the Library twice a week to work on their confidence with reading. I have been impressed with their dedication, and very grateful to their paired Year 10s for supporting them. All involved should be very proud of themselves.

New Displays

Last term, I put together loads of new displays for the Library; I like there always to be something new or different happening in here. There's just one new one this term - a display mirroring your topics in the History classrooms. The perfect place to look for some relevant book recommendations!



Happy Reading!

MUSIC

Lower School Concert



Sawston Village College

LOWER SCHOOL CONCERT

*JUNIOR CHOIR, LS ORCHESTRA, FLUTE
CHOIR AND MORE, PLUS Y9 SOLOISTS*

26 THURSDAY
JUNE Henry Morris Hall 7pm
Sawston VC

Tickets are free but must be booked
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sawstonsvc/t-zzyzlv> or scan the QR code



Congratulations to all Lower School Concert performers and a special well done to the Year 9 soloists George, Katie, Alyssa, Lada, Harriet and Anjali.

Samba at the Shelford Feast



Well done to the Samba Band, who gave a rousing performance at the Shelford Feast.



FRIDAY BAND on tour

Playing with Friday Band during our visits to different primary schools stands out in my memories of playing the clarinet. We played a variety of different pieces while playing at the five different primary schools. One of the more popular ones was 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' from Mary Poppins, which the pupils enjoyed clapping along to. For me, it was very fulfilling to take part in and see the joy on the children's faces. Their happiness was contagious and reinforced my belief in the power of music and the sheer joy it can bring to people. Although playing in front of such a young audience was very unusual for many of us, I'm certain we all enjoyed the experience and played our best. We were all reminded of the way music can bring people together and we left as more confident musicians and with closer friendships to our bandmates.

Alice Davis, Year 8



Singers' Concert

A group of Year 10s and 11s took part in a concert for people who have singing lessons as part of their time here in Sawston. This meant there was only a small group of us performing, which made it very special and helped boost our confidence. It was fantastic to hear how far some people had progressed in the space of a year and it was also very fun and enjoyable to hear a wide variety of music sung by such breathtaking voices.

Abi Barr Year 10

Pianists' Concert

Our pianists performed beautifully at the inaugural pianists' concert recently, playing the Blüthner grand piano kindly donated to the school. Well done to everyone involved in this event!



Pupils and parents alike enjoyed the annual Outdoor Gig on Fountain Court.

Sawston Village College

Outdoor Gig

Like Glyndebourne and Glastonbury, only cheaper!

Friday 11th July
5.30 - 7pm

Fountain Court, Sawston VC
Bring a rug and a picnic!

Senior Band, Friday Band, Brass Band, Samba Band, Steel Pans and Jazz Band

Tickets are free but please tell us you are coming by booking here:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sawstonvc/t-zzvdkgp>

BUSY PUPILS in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 7

Year 7 pupils had a busy time in Activities Week, learning about trees and birds, litter picking, making bug hotels, pitching tents, doing first aid, and orienteering.

They also went off on a bushcraft trip, where they learned how to make fires and how to build shelters among many other activities. Meanwhile, there was also a trip to Milton Country Park where pupils used maps to navigate their way around and where working together effectively as a team was important.

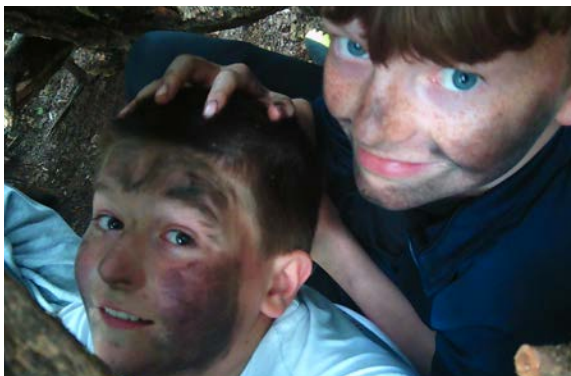
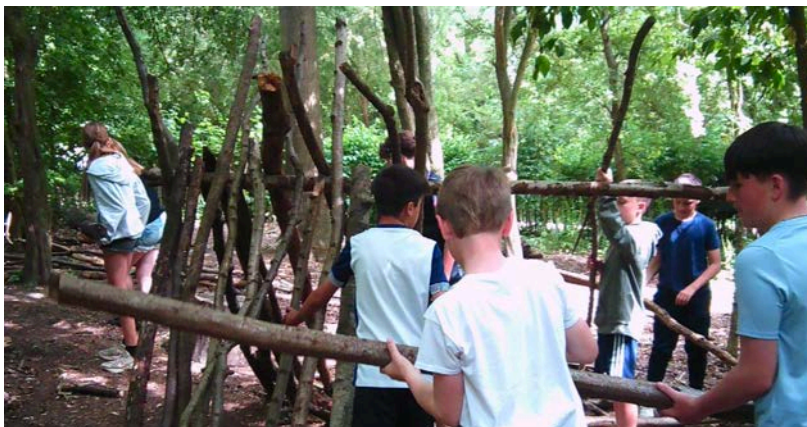
All in all it was a very enjoyable week, with pupils responding positively to all the experiences.



BUSHCRAFT & MILTON COUNTRY PARK in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 7

Year 7 pupils honing their bushcraft skills on trips in Activities Week.



ART, DRAMA & MUSIC in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 8

Activities Week for Year 8s had an arts focus, with those in school opting to join groups focused on Drama, Music or Art and all working towards a performance at the end of the week. The artists worked on props and the stage set, while the musicians created their own compositions for the production. Meanwhile the drama group split into two groups, with each group forming a cast ready to take on part of their play. In the Art Department we were also lucky to have ceramic workshops running, with pupils creating clay elements for the artwork shortly to be made for the Refresh Garden.



MACBETH in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 8

On the Friday of Activities Week, the doors of the Marven Centre were opened to family and friends and the Year 8 pupils gave a public performance of Macbeth, with live musical accompaniment. Well done to all!



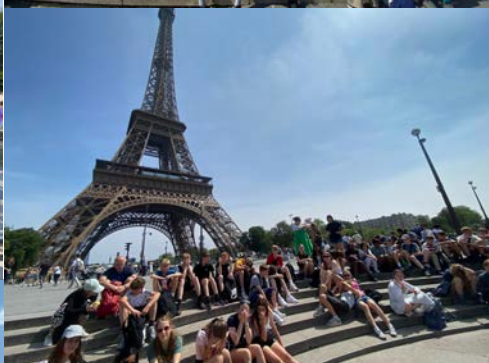
Year 8s in France



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 Élysées, 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!



Year 8s in Spain



In Activities Week 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.



Year 8s see WICKED



As part of Activities Week, a group of pupils (myself included) had the amazing chance to visit London and watch Wicked live in the West End. From start to finish, it was an unforgettable experience packed with fun, laughter, and a whole lot of magic.

The coach journey to the theatre was full of excitement. We shared jokes, stories, and looked out the windows at some of London's most famous landmarks - Big Ben, the London Eye, and Buckingham Palace. Of course, we couldn't resist taking a few photos along the way!

When we arrived, we were asked to line up in our seating groups and wait to be called in. As soon as we stepped through the doors, we were greeted by a huge foyer filled with Wicked merchandise and delicious theatre snacks. The room quickly filled up with pupils from other schools, all buzzing with excitement.

Eventually, we made our way upstairs and into the theatre. The crowd moved like a wave, everyone eager to see what lay ahead. As we entered, we caught our first glimpse of the stage - and it was stunning. It didn't even look like a stage at first; it seemed to blend right into the floor. Bright colours, tall pillars, and soft, glowing lights surrounded us, leaving everyone wide-eyed and speechless.

We carefully found our seats, walking down what felt like an endless slope! Once we settled in, there was a fantastic atmosphere - some of us chatted with pupils from other schools, and at one point, we even started a Mexican wave across the audience, which got everyone laughing.

Then the lights dimmed, the announcement played, and the theatre fell silent. It was time for the show to begin.

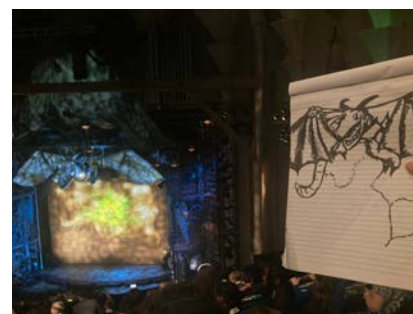
From the very first song, Wicked was absolutely breathtaking. The performances were powerful and moving. Elphaba, the main character, completely stole the show - her voice was incredible, her acting full of emotion, and she brought so much energy to the stage. You could feel the magic in the air.

It was one of the best experiences I've ever had. Seeing a real West End show like Wicked made me realise just how amazing live theatre can be. It was entertaining, inspiring, and something I'll never forget!

Mariam Boucetta, Year 8



The cast list for Wicked (above)



Well done to Lily Inman for her drawing of the stage (above).

An incredible day at the Houses of Parliament

We had an incredible day at the Houses of Parliament, with the incredible opportunity to meet Pippa Heylings, our local MP, and tour around Parliament. It was a very insightful experience where we learned so much more about politics both on a local and national scale, gaining an insight into the role Pippa plays in the government. The activities were really interesting, where we got to debate five students from other schools on the very relevant and important topic of mobile phones in schools, with Pippa herself also providing us with valuable tips on not only debating skills but life skills in communication, vital in our political landscape. We often think of politicians as uptight and formal, but Pippa was super open with us and willing to express her views in a clear way. She is a truly remarkable woman and has inspired us

in both aspects of politics and the environment. We got to see the House of Commons, Lords, Westminster Hall and offices separate from the main building where all the behind the scenes work takes place. It's a day we will both never forget. Thank you for this amazing final opportunity as we move on from Sawston Village College.



Isaac Arena Pippa Heylings MP Emma Russell

Emma Russell and Isaac Arena,
Senate Heads 2024-25

BUSY PUPILS in ACTIVITIES WEEK



YEAR 9

Gliding to success



As part of Year 9 Activities Week pupils spent time in DT, with one of the challenges being to make a glider able to be competitive across different categories. Below, you can see some of the models made, while to the right are the results.



Longest Glider Flight

1st	Massive Jet	9m
2nd	Jamie	8.4m
3rd	Red Bull	8.5m

Best Design

1st	British Airways
2nd	Global Blue Tips
3rd	Flower Power

Longest Yeet

1st	Oscar	25m
2nd	Kai	22m
3rd	Lada	19.5m



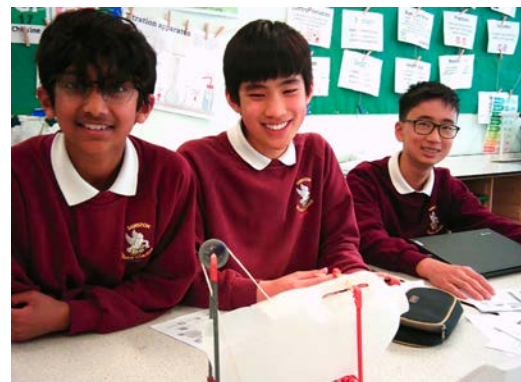
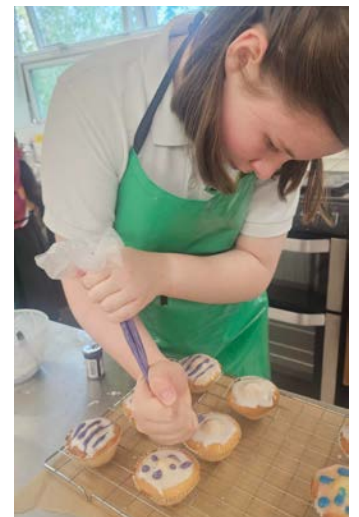
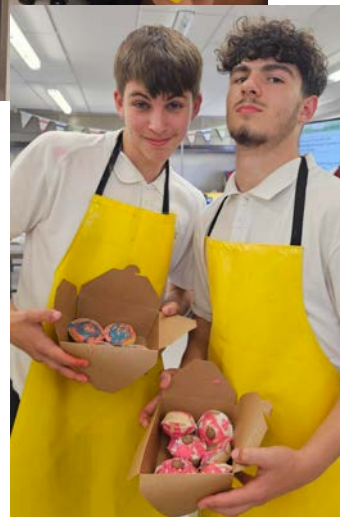
BUSY PUPILS in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 9

Cooking up a storm



Pupils also spent time in the Food Department during Activities Week, creating delicious treats.



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, Maximillian Taylor, Charlie De-Brusaux and Jayden McKinney.



TRIPS in ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 9



WHIPSNADE ZOO

The Science team led a trip to Whipsnade Zoo in Activities Week. There, the 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.



THORPE PARK



During Activities Week we were very fortunate to be able to go to Thorpe Park for the day. Thorpe Park has loads of exciting rides and attractions. Hyperia is the tallest and fastest rollercoaster in the UK. We did this ride first and went on it with Mr Pike and Miss Everitt. Some other highlights were Colossus and Nemesis Inferno. Overall it was a very enjoyable day out.

Poppy Liddle, Year 9



Year 9s in Ardèche



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 32 km 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.



Sawston Pupil off to China

Lily Liu-Child, who has just completed Year 11, is off to China shortly. She writes:

'I have been awarded the Engage with China (EwC) Scholarship to study A-levels for two years at AISL Harrow Haikou, a modern international sixth form on China's tropical island of Hainan. The scholarship, founded in 2023, offers British students aged 16 a life-changing opportunity to live and study in China, with all sixth form subjects taught in English by native and bilingual staff under British leadership. I will be fully immersed in Chinese culture and language while following a British curriculum, with access to world-class facilities, Mandarin lessons, and enrichment activities beyond the classroom. This programme promotes global understanding, leadership, and personal growth, and I hope to share my experiences through writing and photography to inspire others back home.'

We wish Lily all the best as she embarks on this next stage in her education.

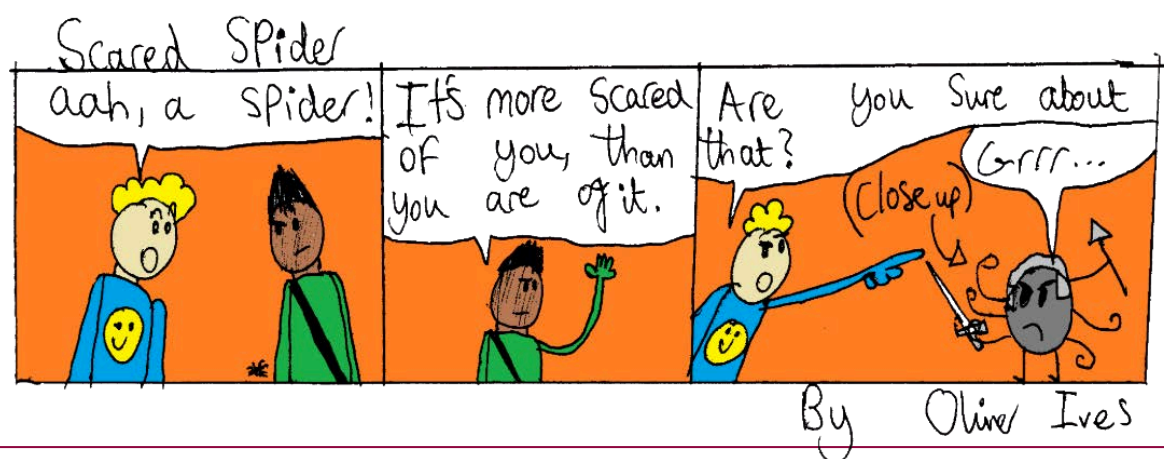


Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Practice Expedition

We are pleased to report that twenty-seven of our Year 10 pupils successfully completed the practice expedition for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Cannock Chase area of Staffordshire over the period 4-6 July. This was a tough undertaking as the expedition criteria at the silver award level is a step-up in challenge compared to the bronze award. Thankfully, the temperature at the weekend was slightly lower than we have become accustomed to, making the hilly terrain a little easier to navigate, but the heavy rain on Sunday morning added an extra layer of challenge. Having completed the practice expedition, our silver award participants are now preparing for their qualifying expedition in the Peak District over the period 12-14 September.

We wish them well for their continuing adventures.

Mr Reed, History Teacher and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator



Staff in the Spotlight:

Mr Slade, Maths Teacher



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

My first dream job was to become a world-famous architect: I even designed my perfect home. As I grew older, I wanted to be involved in politics or music ... both paths I followed until relatively recently.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I love music! I play the piano and saxophone and used to produce music events in Cambridge and London. I also love sport. For years, I played rugby and basketball and then switched to boxing and Muay Thai.

Nowadays, I paddleboard, play my instruments and fill my spare time speed-cubing, juggling (taught by Mr Reed!), playing chess and reading. Wish there was more time in the day to do and learn more!

What's your most embarrassing moment?

It takes a lot for me to get embarrassed: life's short, c'est la vie and all that jazz. That said, I played in a chess tournament a while ago and brashly told my opponent that I was undefeated. Technically this was true as I had never played in a tournament before. He proceeded to do a four-move checkmate on me. He was ten years old.

Humbling!!

What's your favourite part of your job?

Teaching is a brilliant job: it is wonderful to see how our pupils develop and progress throughout the years. Seeing "penny drop" moments and the excitement and pride that comes from suddenly understanding a mathematical problem is beautiful.

That said, my favourite part of the job is getting involved in clubs. Believe it or not, not every pupil shares my enthusiasm for quadratic equations (outrageous, I know). It's nice to see pupils in their element outside of my classroom.

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

I think early retirement and living my best life in the southwest of France: doing lots of sport, playing music and enjoying time with my family.

Chess Club



Another year of superb playing from the pupils who come to play on Thursday lunchtimes. We have a good group supporting us in our playing.

Once again this year we joined the National Delancey Chess Challenge in school between Christmas and Easter. Some pupils got through to the Megafinal at the Perse in June, and we're very excited for Linhao Sha, who got through to the next round (Gigafinal) in London.

At the end of June, we hosted a Games evening with Ms Valistar and Boardgames Club. Pupils brought family members to join us for a fun evening of games and giant chess on Fountain Court.

A big thank you to all our players who have developed their skills and had fun on Thursday lunchtimes. We look forward to continuing next year

Mrs Sheridan and Mrs Lloyd

Pupils enjoy Masterclass with former pupil professional chef

Our Year 10 Food GCSE pupils thoroughly enjoyed a masterclass with Isaac Jager, a former Sawston Village College pupil who is now working as a private chef after experience at a Michelin-starred restaurant. Here are some comments from our Year 10 Food pupils about the session:

Harry Hutchings: When I first saw chef Isaac, I felt his aura glistening to me through his words. Everything he said that came from his mouth came alive in front of me. His teachings have helped me in my recent mock, giving me the confidence to showcase high quality skills throughout it. He was an inspirational speaker and a great cook, giving us all an amazing experience throughout it.

Keegan Wright: The masterclass was amazing, and the chef was very smiley. He gave us an insight into his career and profession. He made us cook some tomato and mozzarella salad, and he was an amazing chef with an amazing personality. He gave me confidence and he helped some people.

Ollie Chaloner: I was blown away by his experience and how his upbringing shaped who he is. He was very polite, easy to talk to, and impressive to watch. His story was fascinating. He and I are both from Whittlesford, and he even cooked for my favourite football player, Dele Alli.

Leo Harradine: I had such a great time at the Food GCSE masterclass. It was honestly so much fun and I learned loads. The chef was really nice and explained everything in a way that actually made sense. Even the tricky stuff felt doable because he broke it down so well. The best part was definitely getting hands-on and making a dish using what we learnt. Thank you so much for this inspiring experience, and the chef was so lovely.

Annamaria Shaji: I really enjoyed the class. I learned all about the different professions you could get into if you enjoy cooking. I also learned a lot about how to present a dish for it to be appealing. Overall, I really enjoyed the masterclass.

Jacob Turner: I enjoyed the session as it was very interesting hearing about his journey to success. I learned from the session that nothing is perfect when it comes to cooking a dish because there are many different ways to make the same dish.

Maya Varga-Weisz: I learned how to decorate using a salad, making it simple yet effective. I enjoyed putting the salad together the most as it was creative. I found time management challenging as I was concentrating hard on the salad to make it look beautiful.





Olympic Week 2025

From 14-18 July, all year groups enthusiastically took part in our much-anticipated Olympic Day events. Pupils had the opportunity to represent their houses across a diverse range of sporting activities, including Rounders, Trampolining, and Paralympic events - just a few highlights from an action-packed and energetic week.

Year 7 launched the competition with a morning of spirited participation. Turing House led the medals table with an impressive tally of 23 Gold, 21 Silver, and 15 Bronze medals. However, it was Da Vinci House who topped the points leaderboard, earning a remarkable 754 points to take an early lead. Year 8 followed with fierce determination. Turing House continued their winning form, collecting another 28 Gold medals to add to their growing total. Yet it was Earhart House who dominated the day in points, scoring a phenomenal 809 - an impressive 157 points ahead of their closest rivals - catapulting them to the top of the overall standings. With fewer than 300 points separating all houses, the title was still anyone's to claim. On Friday, Year 9 took to the field with energy and focus. Earhart House delivered a series of standout performances to secure a flurry of Gold medals, followed closely by Mandela. Overall, Turing House emerged victorious, finishing the day with an outstanding 2243 points to lift the coveted Olympic House Cup. A huge congratulations to all of our pupils for their enthusiasm, determination, and outstanding sportsmanship. It was a week of unforgettable moments and true house spirit.

Finally, a huge thank you and well done to our fantastic Year 9, 10, and 11 Sports Leaders - especially the Year 11s who returned to school to help. We couldn't run events like this without you; you were exceptional and a true credit to the College and PE department.



Olympic Week Results!

May the best house win!

How are the medal tables calculated?

The house with the highest number of **GOLD** medals will sit highest on the medals table. This is true even if another house has achieved more medals in total.

How are the point tables calculated?

Each position in the standings is worth points (see table →)

If you were competing in a team event, these points are multiplied by the number of players in your team.

E.g. If your Netball team came 3rd with 10 players:

3rd place = 6 point x 10 players = 60 points for your house.

Therefore the house who tops the overall points table **CAN** be different to the house who tops the medals table.

Position	Points
Gold	10
Silver	8
Bronze	6
4th	5
5th	4
6th	3
7th	2
8th onwards	1



Overall Medals Table!

May the best house win!

House	Total Golds	Y9	Y8	Y7
Turing	61	10	28	23
Earhart	57	28	8	21
Da Vinci	50	15	12	23
Mandela	37	22	3	12



Overall Points Table!

May the best house win!

House	Total Points	Y9	Y8	Y7
Turing	2243	875	652	716
Earhart	2230	745	809	676
Da Vinci	2060	707	599	754
Mandela	1798	610	479	709

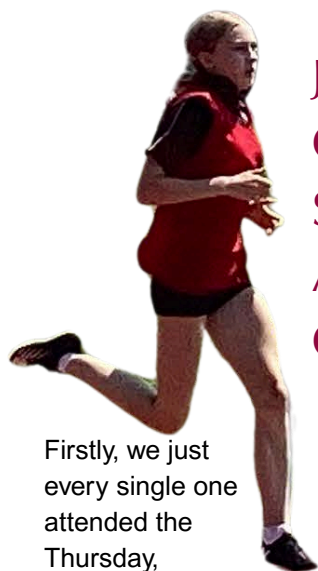
The PowerHouse Games - Power2Inspire



Twelve of our students had the unforgettable opportunity to take part in the *PowerHouse Games* - a truly inspiring event run by the incredible John Willis, founder of the Power2Inspire charity. Born without arms or legs, John was often sidelined from sport as a child. But now, through his powerful mantra - **"No one gets left on the bench"** - he's changing the game for good.

Held at Bottisham Village College, the event brought together students from different schools to experience the power of inclusive sport. From seated volleyball and goalball to blindfold football and boccia, the Games featured a brilliant mix of adaptive activities designed to level the playing field for all.

Our pupils were mixed into teams with pupils they'd never met before - collaborating, communicating, and competing in the spirit of teamwork and inclusion. It was heartwarming to witness their enthusiasm, kindness, and resilience on display throughout the day. The PowerHouse Games weren't just about sport - they were about connection, courage, and the reminder that everyone deserves a place to play.



Jubilee Cup 2025 - Cambridge District Schools Athletics Annual Competition

Firstly, we just wanted to congratulate every single one of our athletes who attended the athletics competition on Thursday, 19 June at Cambridge and Coleridge track. You all smashed it! Your behaviour, enthusiasm, and determination on the hottest day of the year was incredible.

Students who received new PBs:

Lewis Robinson (Year 7) holds the record for the Javelin, throwing an incredible 28.77m.
Bea Horton (Year 7) in the 200m - 29.25s
Ella Sweeting (Year 7) in the Discus - 14.50m
Joel Mapulanga (Year 8) in the Triple jump - 8.06m
Tom Rankin (Year 9) in the Triple jump - 8.23m
Finley Crossan (Year 9) in the 100m - 12.97s
Will Stephenson (Year 9) in the Hurdles - 14.38s
Will Sweeting (Year 9) in the 300m - 39.6s
Molly Smith (Year 10) in the 200m - 29.13s

Students who placed in the top 3:

Year 7

Bea Horton - 1st place in 200m
Alice McLaren - 1st place in Hurdles and 1st place in Long Jump
Bronwen Megy-Rowland - 2nd place in 200m
Ella Sweeting - 2nd place in Discus
Maxime Megy-Rowland - 3rd place in 200m
Connor Andrew - 1st place in Hurdles
Billy Gilfrin - 3rd place in High Jump
Younès Kouksou - 3rd place in the long jump
Lewis Robinson - 1st place in Javelin (now holds the record for the Jubilee Cup!)

Year 8

Sam Pryke - 2nd place in 800m and 2nd place in Discus
Joseph Button - 2nd place in 1500m

Year 9

Will Sweeting - 1st place in 300m
Finley Crossan - 2nd place in Long Jump

Year 10

Molly Smith - 2nd place in 200m
Caitlin Bullock - 1st place in 800m
Naomi Mezvos - 3rd place in Long Jump
Emelia Arnold - 1st place in triple Jump
Oliver Seaborn - 1st place in 1500m
Ted Silk - 2nd place in Javelin
Luca Poria - 2nd place in Discus

District Athletics Success - District Athletics Fixture (14/05/2025)

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 Smoothy** – 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're now looking forward to seeing what our Year 7 and Year 9 athletes can bring to the track. Best of luck to all competitors!

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.



**ANGLIAN
LEISURE
SAWSTON**

Anglian Leisure Sawston

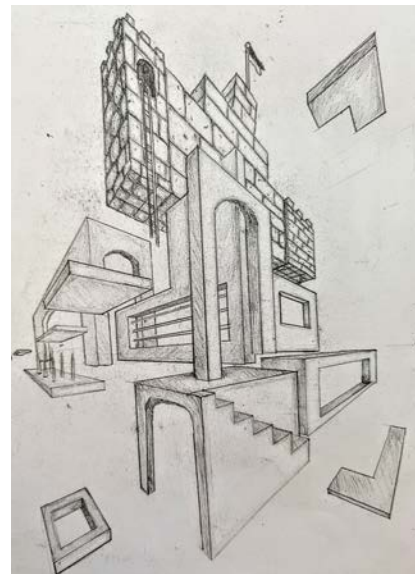
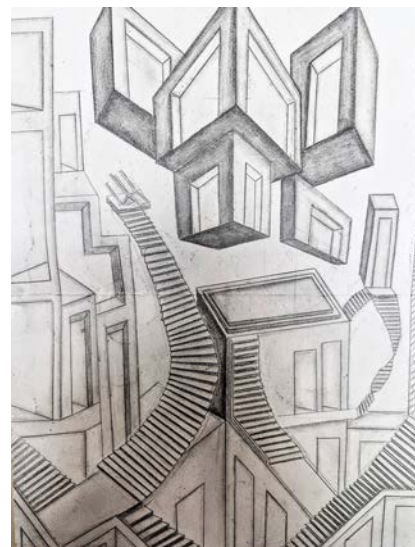
Please check www.sawstonsports.com for up to date information. You can also email fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk and follow Anglian Leisure Sawston on Facebook.



SAWSTON CINEMA

Sawston Cinema

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



Above: Artwork from Year 9s.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025**

**STATE 11-16
SECONDARY SCHOOL
OF THE YEAR**

Sawston Village College

ANGLIAN LEARNING

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CARE

ANGLIAN LEARNING

Sawston Village College



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard