

18th July 2025

Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round Up

We have arrived at the final Friday of the academic year and therefore the last weekly communication. Next week, we will send a brief letter about what to expect on site when the pupils return to school in September with a further update likely just before term starts. Build work should begin in earnest once term ends. This week we have enjoyed our Olympic Days - whole day sporting activity for Y7-9 which includes a wide range of inclusive sports. It was all conducted with great spirit. Our pianists gave a stunning performance in their concert and the Cinema Club Showcase was abuzz with creativity and imagination last night. The Hunstanton Geography field trip proved a great success and our GCSE photographers were inspired by the visit to London. Our outgoing Heads of Senate also enjoyed an enlightening visit to the Houses of Parliament to spend time with our local MP. On Wednesday, we also hosted the annual Fun Run Presentation Evening at which local charities and community groups came together to celebrate the beneficiaries of another record breaking year. Plans have already started for next year's 40th anniversary event on 10th May. As ever, a busy end and there are still three days to go. We would like to thank all parents and carers for your support this year and for the privilege of working with your children. We wish everyone a lovely summer break and look forward to welcoming pupils back - refreshed and raring to go again - in early September.

IMPORTANT Last Day of Term

College will close at 12.20pm on Wednesday 23rd July. Lessons will be as normal until after break when pupils will join their mentor group to take part in the annual Summer Quiz and to celebrate the year as a mentor group. Buses will leave from the playground at 12.30pm.

IMPORTANT Start of term 2025-6

College will be open to Y7 and Y11 pupils only on Wednesday 3rd September. College will be open to all year groups from Thursday 4th September. School reception will be open on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September for any queries ahead of the term. Monday 8am to 4pm and Tuesday 1.30pm to 4pm.

NEW Summer Safeguarding

Pastoral and Safeguarding staff will be working limited hours over the summer. Urgent safeguarding concerns should be directed to safeguarding@anglianlearning.org.

If you are worried about the safety and wellbeing of a child, call Cambridgeshire Children's Social Care on 0345 045 5203.



ANGLIAN LEARNING



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



Pupils were also reminded in assemblies last week of services that they have access to over the summer break and which can be found on our school website here:

<https://sawstonvc.org/parents/wellbeing/>

NEW This half term's newsletter and termly Fountain

Find out more about what each department in school has been up to this half term and staff news by reading our newsletter, which is now on our website and can be found here:

<https://sawstonvc.org/category/newsletter/>.

Our termly Fountain magazine, which is always a good read, will also be available shortly. Look out for this on our website here: <https://sawstonvc.org/category/the-fountain/> from Tuesday.

NEW Attendance Update

We are pleased to report that in comparison with the latest attendance figures, our overall attendance figure is almost 1% above the national average figure and at May half term we were 12th out of 35 schools in Cambridgeshire. Whilst this is very positive, there is still work to do and we will continue to work with parents and carers to make further improvements to our attendance – after all, pupils can only learn when they are in school.

Over the last two weeks we have sent letters to the majority of parents and carers to ensure you are up to date with where your child's attendance fits in terms of the Department for Education banding. The letters also contained offers of support.

Our plans for the coming year include a Y11 boys' project, following the success of our Y10 girls' project during this term. As a group the girls have achieved considerable success with a quarter of them moving to the highest band and all but 8 of the 43 having improved their attendance. We hope we will enjoy similar success with the boys. We will also be writing to parents and carers whose children are absent at any point in the first few days of the new term. Department of Education research has found that 3 in 5 children who are absent in the first week of the school term in September become persistently absent by the end of the school year (attendance below 90%). We don't want any of our pupils to fall into this category as it will significantly affect their ability to achieve their potential in school.

We will continue to contact families in the coming year if attendance is starting to fall. We monitor patterns of absence and historical data and conduct home visits to check on the welfare of our pupils. This is very much a supportive measure as we want all of our pupils to be in school as much as possible. Where there are difficulties and challenges we will work with you to overcome them. Please do contact Mrs Chapman our Attendance Officer if you wish to discuss any attendance related matters or concerns. Once again, thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

REMINDER Summer Free School Meal Vouchers

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run its holiday voucher scheme for the Summer holiday using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions and the additional funding provided by the Council. They are continuing to work with Wonde (E-voucher) as the voucher supplier. Each eligible pupil will be issued a supermarket voucher for £75 and further information was sent out earlier this week. Vouchers will be delivered by email or text by the end of the day on Saturday 19th July. All

vouchers must be claimed by midday on Friday 10th October 2025. Unclaimed vouchers cannot be reinstated after this date.

Please contact holidayvoucherscheme@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with any questions about the scheme.

Details of how to apply for income related Free School Meals can be found [here](#) – there is a simple application form which only requires a few details for an instant eligibility check.

REMINDER School uniform orders

Our school uniform provider is [Price & Buckland](#). Please place online orders by Friday 1st August to ensure delivery for the start of the September term. Second hand uniform requests are monitored by the school admin team. Items can be requested, subject to availability, [here](#).

NICE TO KNOW Y10 Photography trip

Year 10 Photography pupils spent a day in London creating exciting work for their GCSE projects. Pupils spent the day as street photographers, creating photojournalistic work inspired by the likes of Martin Parr. Well done to all pupils for their engagement in creating their own project, which will give an insight into the expectations of the course for Y11.

COMMUNITY Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan REFERENDUM: 4 Sept 2025

On the 4th Sept, Stapleford and Great Shelford residents can vote in a community referendum to decide whether South Cambs District Council will adopt the villages' Neighbourhood Plan. Such plans give communities direct power to shape their future growth in line with their needs and priorities in areas like housing, nature and green spaces, amenities and infrastructure. They are based on community consultation and written by local residents.

The Neighbourhood Plan is in the final stage of production and it's now up to everyone in the villages to decide whether they want it to come into force.

Polling stations* open from 7am-10pm on Thurs 4 Sept. You can vote in person (with ID) or by proxy, or in advance by post. More details and visit <https://bit.ly/4lyPrkE> to view the Neighbourhood Plan.

(* Gt Shelford residents at Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane, CB22 5LZ; Stapleford residents at Sheltered Housing Communal Building, Cox's Close, CB22 5SP)

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Wishing you a relaxing weekend and glorious summer,

Jonathan Russell