

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Weekly Round Up**

We have been waiting a long time but we can now officially confirm that the site regeneration plan will begin later this month. More news on this will be shared in the coming weeks but you can read a little about the initial works below.

Our new House Ambassadors, who will support the Heads of House to organise events and represent their House, have been appointed this week; it's great to be able to give pupils leadership opportunities and they always rise to the challenge. Congratulations to our Jurassic Park Grand Arcade winners, too! We are very much looking forward to Activities Week next week. Some pupils will be heading off on residentials to Ardeche, Barcelona and Paris; others will be enjoying a weeklong non-residential water-based trip; pupils in school will be enjoying a range of activities, putting on a performance in Y8 and enjoying day trips to the zoo, theme park and theatre; and, Y7 will be discovering their inner Ray Mears on overnight bushcraft adventures. It's all very exciting. We wish our Y10s all the best with their fortnight of work experience, fully expecting them to impress in the workplaces that have been kind enough to host them. Finally, continuing good luck to our Y11 pupils who are now over half way through their GCSEs.

### **NEW Building Works on-site**

We will be writing with more details over the coming weeks but it is confirmed that some early works will take place in the final weeks of the summer term. After the GCSE exam period finishes in late June, work will begin on converting the car park at the front of the Arts Block into a new bus bay. Access to the Sports Centre and school through these gates will not be affected and school buses will continue to use the playground for drop-off and pick up for the rest of the term. In addition, a new attenuation tank (soakaway) will be constructed on the school field in a secured compound. This will mean one part of the field will be out of bounds but we will still be able to use the field for our sports curriculum, social time and lettings for the rest of the summer term. There will be no impact to the timetable or lessons and pupils will be able to use all of the current routes to access buildings, including the canteen. The rest of the site is unaffected at this time. Over the next few weeks we will share again the plans for the site and update the website with information. This is a multi-year project with lots of phased development, so we will carefully explain to pupils how the changes will take place and keep you informed. Pupils will be updated after Activities Week.



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**[www.sawstonvc.org](http://www.sawstonvc.org)**

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### **NEW FSM Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**

The Local Authority is operating the summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme between 24th July and 29th August. Eligible pupils can attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 64 hours, fully funded. A daily meal and engagement in enriching experiences is offered. This is also a helpful funded childcare opportunity for parents where applicable. Eligibility vouchers are issued to parents/carers on 9th June by email and/or text.

Further details: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **NEW Attendance Update**

As Parents and Carers will be aware from our previous attendance updates, we started a project with a group of Y10 girls whose attendance was in either the 85-90% band or the 90-95% band to support them to improve their attendance ready for Y11.

We previously reported some positive results after the first two weeks of the project in that 8 of the girls had improved their attendance and 6 had moved up a band, greatly increasing the chances of achieving their best results at the end of Y11. We are delighted that by the May half term, 34 of the 41 girls had maintained the improvement in their attendance and 11 had moved up into the highest band and had graduated from the project. This is a fabulous achievement and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the girls involved, they should all have received their certificates. We would also like to thank colleagues as literally hundreds of conversations have taken place to encourage the girls and to support them in making these significant improvements. There are now 30 girls remaining on the project and we hope to see even more of them moving up into a higher band before the end of the summer term.

In further attendance developments, we are currently working with our feeder primary schools to ensure that our new Y7s have the best possible start to their time at Sawston. We will be in contact with parents where attendance in Y6 was relatively low to offer support in ensuring that Sawston is a fresh start and attendance is above 95% for all pupils. We will also be identifying our group of Y10 boys who will start their project in September – we hope to see the same successes as the girls! Finally, we have new initiatives that we are preparing for September, in response to data evidence from the Department for Education, to ensure that attendance remains at the top of the priority list for us all here at Sawston.

### **REMINDER Activities Week 9th-13th June**

We are looking forward to a week of hands-on activities for our Y7, 8 and 9 pupils who are in school. For Y7 the theme is outdoor learning and there are two Bushcraft trips, Monday to Wednesday for North Band and Wednesday to Friday for South Band. In Y8 pupils have an Arts week, putting together a play in a week. You can book tickets to come and watch their final show here: <https://sawstonvc.org/events/>. To fit with this performing arts theme, there is a trip to London to see Wicked the musical on Wednesday. Y9 are taking part in STEM activities including a clean water supply CREST award, flight and baking challenges. On Tuesday they are off to Whipsnade Zoo to explore animals and their habitats and on Friday there is a treat trip to Thorpe Park. We hope that all pupils have a really fun week.

### **COMMUNITY Cambridge Nature Festival**

The Cambridge Nature Festival will take place from 24th to 30th June.

Over 160 events and activities are planned with something for all ages, abilities and interests. There will be guided walks, wild(ish) camping, BioBlitzes, bat punt safaris, tall tree climbing, nature boat trips, guided nature walks, star gazing, wildlife ID workshops, hands-on creative activities such as making seed bombs, and much more. Most of the events are free or low cost and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

The festival is being organised by local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trust BCN, The National Trust, RSPB, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Sports Lake Trust, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Magog Trust and Cambridge University Botanic Garden, as part of the Cambridge Nature Network.

For a full list of events see <https://cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival>

### **COMMUNITY Norwich City FC free trial training session**

Norwich City PF is offering an exciting opportunity for male footballers in school year 2 to 10 to attend a free trial training session at one of our player development centers in the Cambridgeshire area with the view to gaining a place with them. Players on the programmes pay a small fee to take part in the programme but receive the following benefits:

- Take part in weekly training sessions delivered by our UEFA qualified coaches
- Train with highly talented players to develop skills and tactical understanding
- The opportunity to progress within the clubs development pathway
- Full training kit
- The opportunity to travel on residential training trips
- Take part in fixtures against other development programmes

Please see full details below of the session and how to book your place.

Cambourne Village College (CB23 6FR) – 17th and 18th June – Book your place here  
<https://www.abler.io/shop/ncfcfd/cambridgeshire/product/Q2x1YINlcnZpY2U6NDA0MjA=>

### **NICE TO KNOW T-REX design competition**

We are pleased to share that our Y7 pupils were named winners of this year's Jurassic Arcade Easter competition, held at the Grand Arcade in Cambridge. The event welcomed over half a million visitors throughout April, and we were delighted to take part alongside so many creative and inspiring entries.

Our contribution — a Tyrannosaurus rex sculpture designed and built by pupils — distinguished itself through a remarkable fusion of scientific insight and artistic creativity. We are particularly pleased that it will now go on display at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, where it will continue to be enjoyed by the public in an educational setting.

We are grateful to the organisers of the event and to all those who visited the exhibition and voted for us. For anyone who was unable to see the display in person, we warmly invite you to view it at the Sedgwick Museum in the coming weeks.

We look forward to taking part in next year's event and to continuing to support opportunities that bring together learning, creativity, and community engagement.

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Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell