

SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS 2026-27




Sawston
Village College



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard



"Sawston is a welcoming, friendly and caring school. Leaders and teachers share high expectations of what pupils can achieve."

Ofsted, May 2023



THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025**

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

Sawston Village College was chosen as England's State 11-16 Secondary School of the Year in 2025.

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted that you are considering Sawston Village College for the education of your child.


At Sawston Village College, we are committed to supporting every child to achieve their best, whether in their attainment in public examinations, progress towards their personal goals, involvement with extracurricular activities or development of core skills. We also want them to enjoy their time at school and make powerful memories for the future. We recognise that not only are we building the foundations for study, employment and training beyond 16, but that we are also helping them to take their place in our communities as positive, purposeful and fulfilled citizens. We aim for our pupils to leave as kind, caring and considerate young adults, ambitious for themselves and supportive of others.

We are driven by the need to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work - in high expectations for pupil achievement and behaviour, in our outstanding care and support for young people, in the quality of our staff and the partnerships they form with parents and others in our community. Our pupils deserve nothing less.

We look forward to meeting your family in person at our College Open Evening or on a personal tour in the daytime. We will do our best to share with you what makes Sawston Village College such a special place. Please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Mr Jonathan Russell, Principal

For information on our admissions policy, please see:
<https://sawstonvc.org/information/admissions/>



"The care, commitment and vision have helped shape the school into the amazing supportive and inspiring place it is - a place that has made it genuinely hard to say goodbye to - so much of what has made my time here special comes down to the environment - one where pupils feel seen, valued and encouraged. I will always carry that with me and I'll forever be grateful for it."

Year 11 Leaver, 2025



Our Aims, Vision and Values

Our mission at Sawston Village College is to:

- unlock potential
- create opportunity
- achieve excellence

in all aspects of our work, an ambition that applies equally to pupils and staff.

As a result, we expect all pupils to:

- achieve to their highest academic potential;
- embrace all available enrichment and leadership opportunities;
- learn how to value, respect, celebrate and care for each other;
- aspire to be leaders in their school and the wider community;
- and, develop the essential skills, personal responsibility, resilience and confidence to be happy and successful in education, employment and life.

This vision underpins all of our work, setting out the purpose of education as we see it if we are to create prosperous and successful people who will contribute to our society.

To achieve this, we expect pupils to conduct themselves with kindness, generosity of spirit, politeness, humility, compassion and respect. At the heart of our expectations are the CARE values we hold dear:



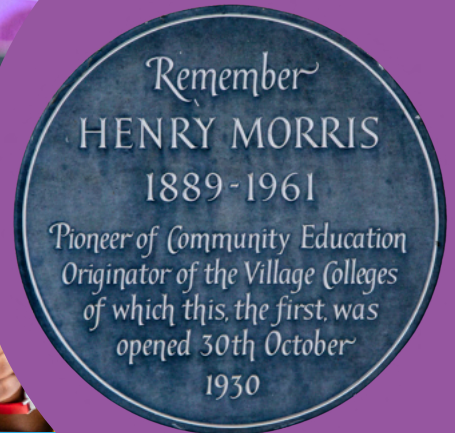
- **Community** ('Take Part'): we are stronger when we thrive together;
- **Ambition** ('Aim High'): we reach further when we believe in ourselves and each other;
- **Respect** ('Be Kind'): we are better when we look out for each other;
- **Endeavour** ('Work Hard'): we achieve more when we apply ourselves fully.

We are proud to be part of Anglian Learning, a family of like-minded schools serving their communities. Together, we believe education can play a transformational role in the lives of children and the success of our young people.



"When I first joined Sawston Village College I didn't know anyone, as I was the only one from my primary school. Already, I have made lots of friends, and secondary school now seems not as scary as people say. I really enjoy the lessons, and the teachers are kind and supportive."

Year 7 Pupil, 2025



Our unique place in history - the first Village College

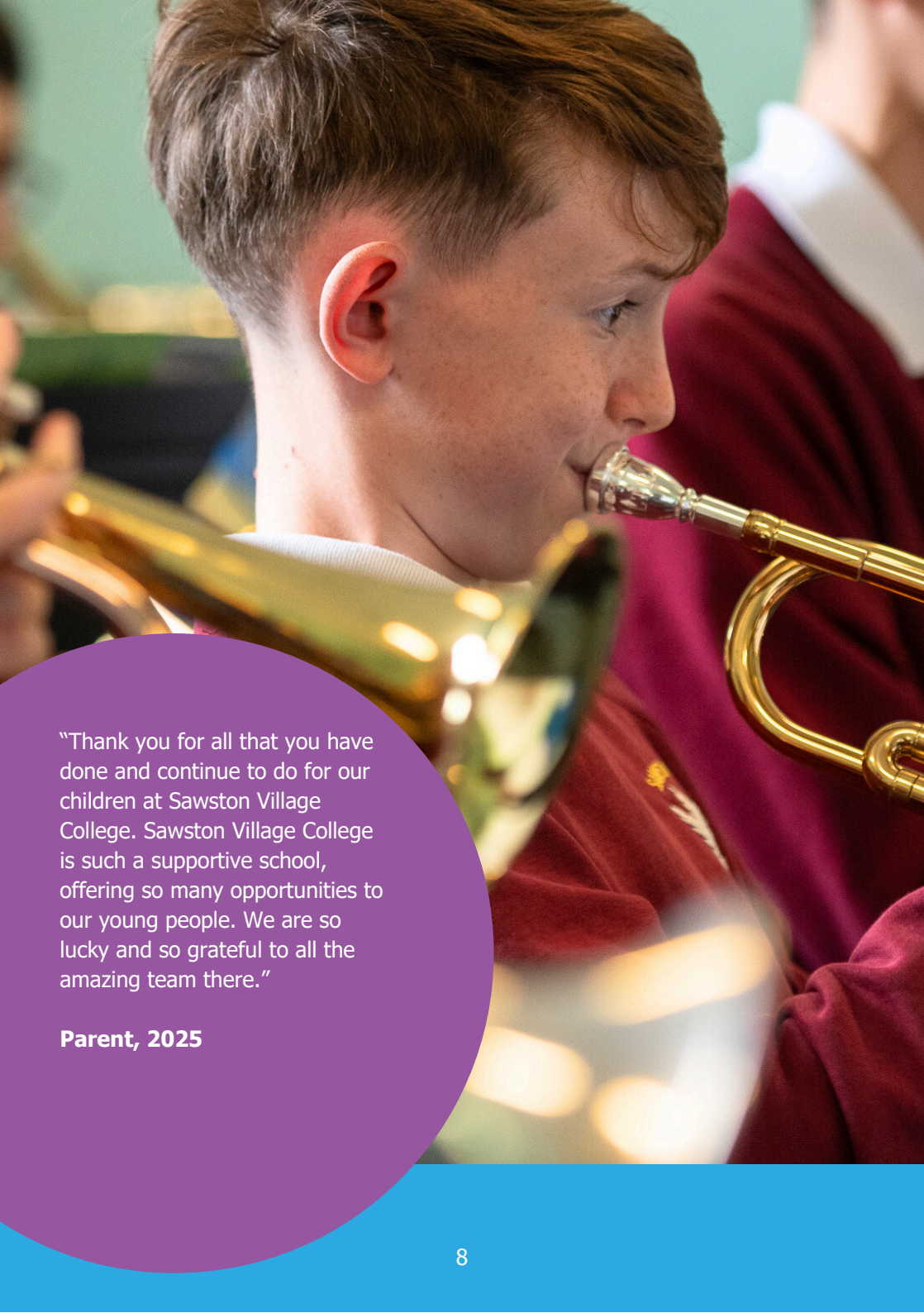
Sawston Village College opened in 1930, having been founded by education pioneer Henry Morris.

His vision was for a school which would nurture a lifelong love of learning for people of all ages, in an environment that offered inspiration. The original Grade II listed buildings reflect these ideals, based as they are on Cambridge University courtyards. These values are still at the heart of our work over 90 years later.

Today, the College's campus encompasses some 30 acres of classrooms, state of the art laboratories and extensive sports facilities, providing a stimulating environment in which to learn.

We have begun a site regeneration project which will develop the campus further whilst retaining the beautiful listed buildings. The DfE funded work will include a modern new teaching block, improved sports changing facilities, an enhanced performing arts space and remodelled vehicular access, making the College safer, energy-efficient and fit for the future.

We continue to maintain a vibrant adult learning programme, and we operate a cinema with live satellite broadcasts, as well as our own commercial Sports Centre. This means we have up to 1,000 members of the local community visiting the school every week, reinforcing our message that learning is for life, in keeping with Henry Morris's original vision.



"Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our children at Sawston Village College. Sawston Village College is such a supportive school, offering so many opportunities to our young people. We are so lucky and so grateful to all the amazing team there."

Parent, 2025



Unlocking Potential

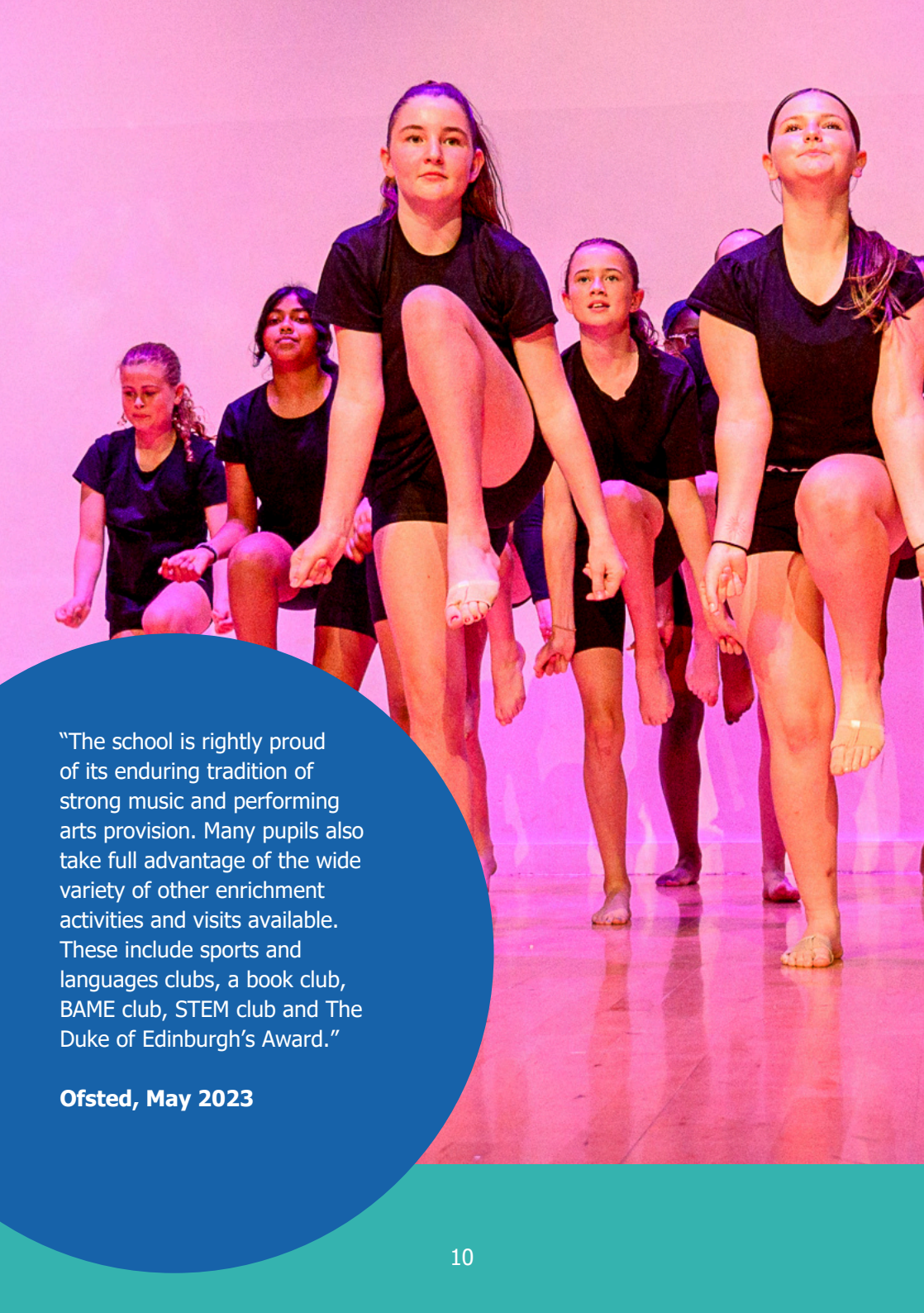
We are very proud of our achievements in public examinations. Pupils at all levels make good progress.

In 2024, we achieved our best-ever results, with 47% of all grades at 7-9. Continuing an upward trend over several years, this placed us as one of the highest attaining state schools in England and earned us the accolade of Sunday Times State 11-16 Secondary School of the Year. In 2025 pupils achieved strong grades, with the vast majority securing their preferred post-16 pathways, including apprenticeships.

Pupils work tremendously hard and deserve the rich success that comes with dedication and commitment to their studies. They are ably supported to achieve their personal best, whatever their starting point. We firmly believe that all pupils have the right to an education that meets their needs and provides them with the opportunity to realise their full potential. The curriculum offered at Sawston Village College reflects this ambition.

All pupils follow a three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum before having a free choice in option subjects at the end of Year 9. We have a strong STEM offer and we are committed to the Arts, offering Dance, Drama, Music, Art and Music Technology. The vast majority of pupils opt for at least one EBacc discipline to complement their core subjects, which, for many, includes Triple Science. We also provide breadth in the curriculum through subjects such as Photography, Engineering and Hairdressing, to accommodate a wide range of interests.

Where pupils may have had difficulties with literacy at primary school we will work hard to boost their reading and writing through additional support – our ambition is to ensure that no child falls behind in their learning.



"The school is rightly proud of its enduring tradition of strong music and performing arts provision. Many pupils also take full advantage of the wide variety of other enrichment activities and visits available. These include sports and languages clubs, a book club, BAME club, STEM club and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award."

Ofsted, May 2023



Creating Opportunity

One of the strengths of the College is the breadth and depth of opportunities on offer to our pupils.

Our provision in the Arts is truly outstanding. All Year 7 pupils are given the opportunity to complete the Bronze Arts Award, a nationally accredited qualification, and they are able to draw on the high quality experiences offered in Music, Drama, Art and Dance to do this. Filmmaking is also offered as an extracurricular activity. Our strong links with Sawston Youth Drama and other similar organisations also open up further exciting opportunities for our young people.

Pupils are encouraged, wherever possible, to develop their leadership skills, for example, by joining one of our pupil-led forums, or through becoming House Mates, House Ambassadors, Peer Mentors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors or Sports Leaders, working with younger pupils and in our primary schools.

Pupils are also able to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, including at Silver level, and Arts Award is also further offered at both Silver and Gold levels. In addition to this, pupils also regularly take part in regional Science, Maths, Geography and Technology competitions, with a strong track record of success. The normal range of lunchtime and after-school opportunities is extensive, with something for everyone.

Add to this residential trips to Hastings, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Iceland, as well as fundraising events, environmental projects, Activities Week, Work Experience and much more, and it is clear that the College offers wonderful and stimulating opportunities to support the personal development of our pupils.



"I feel so unbelievably thankful for all of the opportunities that have come my way in my time here, from being part of the pupil Senate, to the brilliant school trips and the multitude of clubs on offer. I don't think I could have got any more out of Sawston than I have. Thank you for giving me - and the rest of Year 11 - five years' worth of unforgettable memories."

Year 11 Leaver, 2025



Achieving Excellence

We aim to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work. Our teachers work hard to ensure their practice remains fresh and inspiring, with many involved in delivering professional learning to other schools. Our practice is informed by evidence and strongly aligned to the principles of cognitive science and developing young people's long-term working memory.

In addition to the quality of teaching, we also seek excellence in the quality of support we give to our pupils. We are a warm, friendly and welcoming community, with a team of staff who care deeply about the progress and wellbeing of all the children in the College.

Central to this is our House system of mentoring and support. All pupils are placed in one of four Houses, creating a family within which there are smaller mixed-age mentoring groups. Pupils quickly form positive relationships with others across the year groups, while the mentors and non-teaching Year Leads/Heads of House can review academic progress and respond quickly to any concerns, providing a much more personalised experience.

We have high standards for pupil achievement. We also have high expectations regarding behaviour, demanding of our pupils good manners and respect towards one another, staff and other adults in the College at all times. Our CARE values drive our approach, with 'Respect' central to all that we do.

Furthermore, we expect pupils to take care and pride in the quality and presentation of classwork and homework, to wear the correct uniform and to support the school and local community, implementing the College's aims and values at all times as active, positive citizens.

The College is committed to achieving excellent outcomes for its pupils and creating an environment where they are safe and happy. This can only happen where there are high standards of behaviour, mutual respect and adherence to our code of conduct. We do not tolerate bullying. In this, we look for and expect parental support.





"I don't feel like I could have been any luckier with my secondary school experience; I have had incredible teachers (who have given me passions for subjects I previously would never have thought to have had), I've made long-lasting friendships and I've developed a love of learning so strong that I now can't wait for sixth form."

Year 11 Leaver, 2025



Preparing for the next step

Working in close partnership with our local primary schools is the key to ensuring a smooth transition to Sawston Village College.

In addition to the Taster Days and joint projects between our core departments and Year 6 teachers, senior staff visit all prospective pupils to find out about their interests, skills, ambitions and concerns, to place them in the right mentor group, House and teaching group. Parents are also given a personal appointment with their child's mentor before school begins in September, to ensure the best possible start and to form that all-important relationship between home and school.

For those pupils about to leave the College at the end of Year 11, we provide a very strong programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) to enable pupils to progress successfully to post-16 education and training. Over 90% of pupils continue their academic studies at local sixth form colleges or schools, with the overwhelming majority securing their preferred place of learning.

All pupils receive careers guidance and are supported in bespoke lessons to complete their application to post-16 providers. Alongside this, all pupils complete work experience and have the opportunity to visit employers and undergo face-to-face mock interviews to prepare for the world of work. When they finally leave College, we hope our pupils will continue to stay in touch with us through our Alumni Network - <https://sawstonvc.org/about-us/alumni/> - so that we can follow their continuing education and careers, and for the benefit of the next generation of young people who will join the College.

Whatever stage your child is at in their education, we aim to make sure that their progression is as smooth as possible, setting pupils up to succeed in their next step.



"Thank you for everything you have done for our daughter. She has loved every moment and taken every opportunity. It has been a joyful journey for her."

Parent, 2025

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