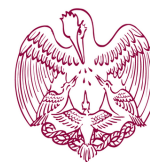


September / October 2025 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

3 November	School reopens after half-term	27 November	Year 8 Report 1 issued
3 - 17 November	Year 11 Mock Exams	27 November	NT Live: The Fifth Step
13 November	Year 9 Report 1 issued	3 December	Year 10 WEX Information Evening
13 November	Sawston Cinema: Caravaggio Exhibition	4 December	Year 10 CEIAG conference day
17 November	Year 9 individual photos	4 December	Year 11 Report 2 issued
18 November	Year 7 information evening	11 December	Year 10 Report 1 issued
19 November	Staff training day - school closed to pupils	11 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening
20 November	Year 7 Report 1 issued	11 December	Sawston Cinema: Snow White
20 November	Year 10 Drama trip - 'Wendy and Peter Pan'	18 December	Great St Mary's Carol Service
20 November	Sawston Cinema: The Penguin Lessons	19 December	Autumn Term Ends



Work on site regeneration continues apace. Whilst it has taken some time to adjust to the new set-up, staff and pupils have settled in well to the new normal. The compound is now fully established, and work will begin after half term to lay the foundations of the new build. The attenuation tank is finished and the area will be reseeded in the spring. The PE department moves into their temporary changing rooms

next half term, enabling demolition of the old area to begin. The Sports Hall and Gymnasium will be closed until around Easter next year to allow for infrastructure work on the roof, heating and flooring. We will be making full use of the multi-purpose hall for the PE curriculum and hoping the winter months allow us to be outside as much as we can.

Preparation for the demolition of the disused building by the Sports Centre also starts, as does removal of the old mobile and the installation of the kiosk in its temporary position next to it. The additional social space here and on Library Court creates enough room for everybody, even when we must close the field. We aim to let pupils use the field as much as possible but the reality is that from mid-November through to February it's just

too muddy to use socially. When the field is closed, we will open the halls to give each year group a space to be warm and dry at lunchtime.

The most important aspect of all this is trying to keep disruption to the life of the College to a minimum, enabling the curriculum to run as normal and to offer as many opportunities as possible. To that end, it was lovely to finish this half term with our inaugural Year 7 Last Choir Standing in which pupils from every class competed fabulously. Aptly, class 7C2 was victorious with their rousing version of 'Seize the Day!'

The winning class perform their song.



'As you wait for better days, don't forget to enjoy today, in case they've already started.' Robert Brault

Mr Russell, Principal

Update from Maths

Autumn is a great time of year to see Maths in nature. The Fibonacci sequence, a pattern where each number is the sum of the two before (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21,...) appears in pinecones, sunflowers, and even the spiral arrangement of seeds in pumpkins. If you cut a pumpkin horizontally (around its "waist"), you should be able to count 13 spirals going one way and 21 going the other. Accepted, this may not be as much fun as carving a pumpkin, but why not give it a go.

As Maths teachers, we are always focused on helping pupils strengthen their *mathematical reasoning* - the ability to explain *how and why* an answer makes sense. This helps build confidence and builds deeper understanding. Parents can support at home by asking children to explain their thinking when doing homework and check they have communicated in writing all the steps they have taken to answer a question.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths

This is a great time to see the Fibonacci sequence in nature.



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Email: office@sawstonvc.org | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Community Education: 01223 712424 - www.sawstonadulthood.org

Sports Centre: 01223 712555 - www.sawstonsports.com | Sawston Cinema: 01223 712825 - www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Update from English

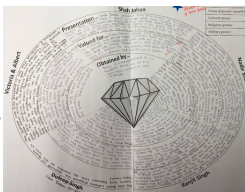
We've been reading lots of interesting texts already in English, with Year 7 very much enjoying reading 'Medusa' by Jessie Burton, Year 8 pupils exploring our novel in verse 'Clap When You Land' and Year 9 considering perspectives through the novelization of 'Billy Elliot'. Our new Year 10 cohort shared some beautiful creative writing and are just beginning to get to grips with Macbeth - a text which Year 11 have been revising through homework designed to prepare them for their upcoming mock exams. Special congratulations to our English Champions, nominated this half term by their teachers for 'An Excellent Start'!

Miss Bunting, Head of English



Update from History

This term in History, our Year 7s have made an exciting start learning about how historians study the dramatic events of Pompeii! Year 8s and 9s are similarly stuck in, with Year 8 learning about the far-reaching consequences of the Protestant Reformation and Year 9 studying the captivating story of the Koh-i-Noor diamond all the way from the Mughal Empire to the crown jewels! Outside of lessons, 30 lucky Year 9s have started working with visiting oral historians on their project to interview and archive South Asian experiences of Cambridgeshire. Meanwhile, Year 11 members of the History Scholars club have been meeting to delve into heavy topics such as the destruction of Native American culture and issues of accountability in the wake of the Holocaust.



Miss Phillips, Head of History (Maternity Cover)



Update from Geography

It has been a busy half term in Geography. Year 7 has impressed with their enthusiasm in lessons, and they have developed their ability to complete geographic skills, such as latitude and longitude and grid references. Year 8s are getting their teeth into our Tectonics topic, investigating hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Year 9s have been reflecting on the idea of development across the world - patterns of development and why there may be differences between countries. At GCSE, Year 11s have been out to Hunstanton to complete their data collection for the fieldwork element of their exam. In lessons they have been busy presenting and analysing their data. We wish Year 11s the best of luck with their mock exams after half term.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Business Studies Update

In Business Studies, we are working hard on exam skills and are looking to develop some new work for pupils to help in their studies. We ask you to note that, in addition to all the work that pupils are doing with revision for mock exams, we have started a Business Studies club on Tuesday lunchtimes. In this, we will focus on key topics in the syllabus, such as Stakeholders and Finance, and business stories including the large public debt and its effect on business. We are also looking at a possible visit for several classes to a key business environment, later in the year.

Mr Darcy, Head of Business Studies



Update from MFL

Year 11 have hit the ground running this academic year and have already completed their speaking mock exam, worth a quarter of their grade. Well done to them for their hard work and best of luck for their revision for the rest of the mock exams

At the beginning of October, we welcomed our two foreign language assistants for this academic year. Zaira will be working with our Year 10 and Year 11 Spanish classes whilst Adeline will be supporting our French cohort.

The whole school celebrated the European day of languages with an exciting quiz in mentor time: we heard staff members speaking a wide range of languages and had to guess who they were and try to understand what they said. Congratulations also to Neha and Lexi in 7C2 who topped the leaderboard in our Duolingo competition!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



Sawston
Adult
Learning



Our Autumn term courses are now up and running and are still proving to be very popular, which is fantastic. We are pleased to be able to offer our Yoga course again, after this was postponed for a couple of terms, and this has been well received. We have also been able to make some positive changes to our evening Italian courses. These have always proved a popular choice and, given the high demand for places, we have been able to create a new course to add to the existing three. So, whether you are a beginner, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level, we have a course to suit you. Our termly Saturday workshops will be on Saturday, 22 November.

For further information or to book: Visit our website at:

www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning,
Email community@sawstonvc.org, or
Phone 01223 712424.

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



There have been lots of changes for our customers recently as a result of the development work. However, we are adapting well and have managed to keep the majority of our activities running! Thank you to all of our customers for your continued support during this time. Just a reminder to use the big car park near the astro whenever possible, as we currently only have 12 spaces in the Sports Centre car park, plus two disabled bays. Pedestrians and cyclists are required to enter via the Marven Centre gate. Please check our website for regular updates and FAQs, or contact awilson@anglianleisure.co.uk for further information. You can also call us on 01223 712555 and our website is: sawstonsports.com.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Our season is off to a good start! This year we are also showing the *Exhibition on Screen* programme, with Caravaggio first up on 13 Nov. For tickets and to see what else is coming up, check out our website: www.sawstoncinema.org.



Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Computer Science Update

It has been an exciting start to the year in the Computer Science department. Firstly, we have welcomed Ms Miklos to the team, joining us for this year while Mrs Cane is on maternity leave. For most of our pupils, the first half term is all about Python coding - our Year 8s have been learning the basics, Year 9s have been recapping and developing their coding skills, while our Year 10 GCSE Computer Scientists have been completing a Python 'crash course' to consolidate all the skills learned in Key Stage 3 before moving on to new GCSE content. Meanwhile, Year 7s have been producing Google Docs in their 'all about me' project and developing their own Google Sites websites while learning about e-safety. Our Year 11 groups have also been busy coding, working through their independent projects which are a required part of the GCSE course. Thoughts have moved more recently for Year 11 towards their mock exams, for which we wish them all the best.

Mrs Wagstaff, Assistant Principal

Drama Update

It's been a fantastic and energetic start to the year in Drama! Year 7 have made an excellent beginning, exploring the art of mime with creativity and focus. Year 8 have been learning about slapstick comedy and discovering its roots in Commedia dell'arte, bringing plenty of laughter to their lessons. Year 9 are developing their skills through a range of scripted performances of 'Missing Dan Nolan', showing great teamwork and imagination throughout the half term. Year 10 were lucky to take part in an exciting workshop with a professional director from Frantic Assembly, gaining valuable insight into devising techniques and producing some impressive original ideas for their devised unit. Year 11 are hard at work preparing for their mock exams and recently enjoyed seeing My Neighbour Totoro, which will support their Section B theatre review in the upcoming mock exams, we wish you the very best of luck!

Finally, we're thrilled to announce this year's school musical — Oliver!, coming Summer Term 2026! First meeting: Monday, 20 October, auditions in early December. Tickets will go on sale in the new year.

Mr Bell, Head of Drama



Art Update

Congratulation to our hardworking Year 11 pupils, who are in the final stages of completing their Component 1 and preparing for their mock exams. Pupils' dedication to perfecting their techniques is paying off; they are demonstrating high quality work in expressing the complexity of their ideas, and this, in turn, is setting an inspiring benchmark for the next cohort to follow. Year 10 Art pupils are also striving for excellence, producing striking portraits, experimenting with charcoal, crayon, and pastel, while Photography pupils are focusing on close-up photography.

Our KS4 pupils are showcasing the depth of talent developing across our Art and Photography department - a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved through commitment, perseverance and passion for the Arts.

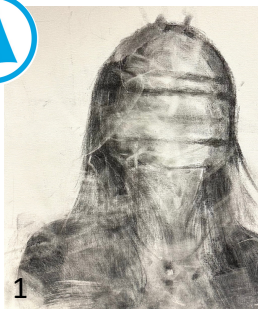
Platform 25

The high standard of work being produced at the school in KS4 will soon be in evidence when the joint exhibition, Platform 25, which includes work from all Anglian Learning secondary schools and sixth forms, opens in Michaelhouse in Trinity Street in central Cambridge in November. Four pupils from last year's GCSE cohort have been invited to show their work as part of this exhibition.

Dr De Sainte Cluque,
Head of Art



Work to be shown in Platform 25 art exhibition is by 1. Charlotte Le Doux, 2. Neve Roberts, 3. Audrey Willis and 4. Mia Evans.



The Science behind the Sweets

As the year begins, our Year 10 Food GCSE pupils have been developing their cooking skills and learning more about the science behind how ingredients work. So far, they have enjoyed cooking dishes such as chicken chow mein, made rough puff pastry from scratch for sausage plait, and baked Dutch apple cake. Recently, pupils created delicious meringue kisses for the school's open evening and practised making lemon flans. They learned how acid affects the structure of proteins and applied this by whisking double cream with lemon juice. They were amazed by how quickly the cream set! They finished their flans with piped cream, lemon zest, biscuit crumbs, and mint from the DT garden, adding their own personal touches.

The desserts were a hit at home as well, with many parents asking for a second batch!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

Update from Music

After a successful end to the summer term, the Music department has had a busy and exciting start to the year. We've been impressed by the enthusiasm and progress of our new Year 7s in Vocal Skills, who will perform at Sawston's Last Choir Standing.

Older pupils have returned with great energy and have warmly welcomed me as the new Head of Music. Ensemble participation is strong, and new members are always welcome. Groups including Junior Choir, Madrigals, Madriguys, and our brass ensembles are already preparing for Sawston's Carol Concert at Great St Mary's on Thursday, 18 December. We hope to see you there!

Mrs Johnson, Head of Music



Pupils at
Great St
Mary's
Carol
Concert in
December
2024.



House News

What a brilliant start to the year! This term has been a hive of activity. The building work is moving forward and we have been busy with everything from Active Week to celebrating Black History Month. Learning Review Meetings have begun throughout our mentor groups, starting with a focus on our Year 11 pupils. These conversations will continue throughout the year helping to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to explore their targets, helping them to reach their goals.

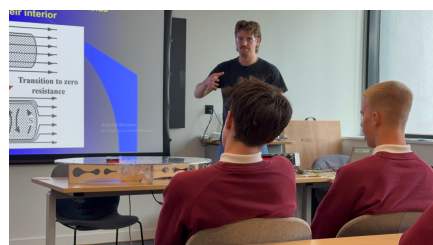
The Year 7 pupils have arrived and settled in well. They seem to be thriving as part of the wider school community. Throughout the pupil body there is a keen sense of focus and determination to achieve. As the evenings draw in we are looking forward to a good half term break. We hope you find time to relax and be ready to come back for more learning, challenges and fun in the run up to Christmas!

Mrs Watkis, Year 8 Lead and Head of Mandela, on behalf of the Heads of House



Science Update Physics at Work Exhibition

On Tuesday, 16 September, the science department took 57 Year 11 pupils to the "Physics at Work" exhibition, held at Cambridge University's new Ray Dolby Centre. We saw a mix of exhibitors from both research and industry with the aim of inspiring our pupils: showing them the range of career opportunities that are made available by studying physics. This aims to



inform them on the possible examination choices they might consider for Y12. One of the highlights of the trip was a hands-on demonstration of the practical uses of superconductors: using liquid nitrogen to operate a model maglev train on magnetic rails.

Mr Barnett, Science Teacher

National Biology Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the 14 pupils who competed in the National Biology Spelling Bee final last week. Pupils had to spell out-loud as many words as they could in two minutes. There was some amazing speed spelling, which included some very tricky Biology terms such as acetylcholine and erythrocyte. Our top speller was Steeva Sajjan, Year 10, winning with 29 correct words.

Mrs Cook, Science Teacher

Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4		
Vaibhav Ramesh	Sebastian Meullenet	Vishruth Ramesh	Archie Allin	Steeva Sajjan	Arnav Wadekar
1st 25 correct	1st 25 correct	3rd 20 correct	2nd 28 correct	1st 29 correct	3rd 27 correct

Update from Year 11 DT

With the start of the new term, our Year 11 DT pupils were introduced to fresh design contexts, choosing from 'Wow', 'Lifestyles', or 'Pets'. The pupils have now selected their preferred context and have actively sought a client to collaborate with as they develop their products. It's an exciting time for our final-year pupils. The outstanding work from last year's Year 11 cohort has served as great inspiration, especially in terms of creativity and quality. As a department, we're looking forward to the upcoming half term when sketches, models, prototypes, and CAD mock-ups will begin to bring their ideas to life.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT

Professional Learning

The beginning of the new school year brings the opportunity for staff to refresh their knowledge of some key areas of practice, such as safeguarding, assessment and supporting pupils with SEND needs. The areas of focus for this year's professional learning programme are: developing pupils' oracy and communication skills; supporting pupils with independent learning and study skills; growing the sense of belonging in the College using the principles of Positive Regard, and ensuring our classrooms are inclusive of all learners. Subject specific training is also underway and will continue throughout the academic year.

Miss Gelder, Deputy Principal



Update from Religion and Worldviews

What a brilliant start to the term in Religion and Worldviews! Across KS3, we've been developing our oracy for writing through lively debates on topics ranging from 'How did the universe begin?' to 'Do we have the right to test on animals?' Year 10 Philosophy pupils have launched their Higher Project Qualification, exploring fascinating political, moral, and epistemological questions. Soon, they'll choose their own research topics. Meanwhile, our dedicated Year 11 GCSE pupils are preparing for their November mocks. I wish them all the very best in their revision and upcoming exams.

Mrs Venn, Head of Religion and Worldviews



PE Update - Year 11 District Netball Tournament - Match Report

What a fantastic afternoon of netball we had on Wednesday 8 October! Our two Year 11 teams arrived full of positivity and energy, making a brilliant impression on players and staff from other schools.

While the final results weren't quite what we'd hoped for, the teams showed real progression, sharp movement, and great teamwork throughout each match. A standout moment came when a teacher from another school thanked us for bringing "two teams of lovely pupils who conducted themselves with such maturity."

Well done, Year 11 — you represented Sawston Village College with pride, passion, and sportsmanship. A wonderful way to round off your final district tournament!

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



And finally...

We hope everyone has a relaxing half term break. School begins again for everyone on Monday, 3 November. We look forward to seeing everyone then.



Sawston
Village College



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www.sawstonvc.org



ANGLIAN LEARNING