

17 October 2025



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round Up

We know that many Y11s are working hard with their revision in preparation for the mocks in two weeks' time. We wish them all the best with their flash cards, practice papers, mind-maps and all the other revision strategies they will have picked up from staff and the Elevate presentation last week. Their efforts will be rewarded and set them up well for next year and their post-16 applications. Meanwhile, our Heads of Music, Art and Drama enjoyed Anglian Learning's Culture Leadership Day yesterday and came back inspired - you never stop learning. Finally, congratulations to all our Duke of Edinburgh pupils who passed their Bronze expedition and in record numbers.

NEW Reducing the spread of illness during winter months

As the colder months approach, we can expect to see increases in common airborne viruses. Illness is the biggest single reason for school absence; while some absences due to illness are unavoidable, many can be reduced through simple, proactive measures that minimise the spread of infections. The NHS provides clear [guidance](#) on when children are well enough to attend school.

As you do at home we take measures at school to try to reduce illness. These include: offering pupils and staff vaccinations for protection; encouraging handwashing and keeping toilets as well stocked as we can; encouraging pupils and staff to 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' to help respiratory hygiene; encouraging good ventilation; and routine cleaning to keep a safe and healthy school environment.

NEW October Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run its holiday voucher scheme for the October half term 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 £15 and further information was sent out last week. Vouchers will be delivered by email or text by the end of the day on Saturday 25th October. All vouchers must be claimed by midday on Friday 5th December 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.



ANGLIAN LEARNING



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2024 - 2025

NEW Supporting Mental Health: webinar series for parents and carers

As part of the Mental Health strand of our [Belonging by Design](#) strategy, Anglian Learning is offering a series of free webinars across this academic year for parents and carers.

These webinars are an important way for us to launch Anglian Learning's early-intervention approach to supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. By working in partnership with families and professionals, we aim to strengthen understanding, build resilience and promote positive mental health across our school communities.

The '*Mental Health: It's Not All In The Mind*' webinar series shares practical, evidence-based strategies, grounded in the latest research and medical understanding, to support your own and your children's mental health. Topics include: what causes depression, how everyday factors can affect our wellbeing, and ways to create opportunities for positive behaviour change.

The webinars are presented by Peter Templeton and Charlotte Catignani from The Foundation for Young People's Mental Health, whose work is rooted in scientific research and real-world practice. You can read more about their work and research by [clicking here](#).

Recordings will be shared via email and will also be available on our website. We hope you find these webinars helpful in understanding and supporting mental health within your family.

Further reading:

- [MindEd For Families](#)
- [How to talk to teenagers about mental health](#)
- [How to talk to primary age pupils about mental health](#)
- [Movement and mental health - Mental Health UK](#)
- [Food and mental health | Tips for everyday living | Mind](#)
- [Depression - It's really not all in the mind | YPMH](#)

REMINDER Pupil catering accounts

Due to an increase in pupils not having any or enough money on their accounts to purchase food please can we request that parents and carers check their child's account to ensure that there is enough money for your child to purchase lunches or snacks until the end of next week. Following the half term break, please check your child's balance regularly and top up when necessary.

If your child does find themselves without money on their account and they don't have any food with them, they should go to reception where a call will be made to all parents and carers who are listed for that child on the College system. We will only issue an overdraft where we have authorisation from a parent or carer which must be cleared in time for the next school day.

Many thanks for your support.

REMINDER Flu vaccinations

The School Immunisation Team will be visiting to carry out Flu vaccinations, on Monday 20th October. Please complete the consent form linked in [this](#) document if you have not done so previously.

Any questions can be directed to the School Immunisation Team on 01480 275 422 or at cambsandpeterborough@v-uk.co.uk.

NICE TO KNOW Anglian Learning Cultural Leadership Day

Now in its third year, the Cultural Leadership day provides opportunities to meet and network with colleagues from both primary and secondary schools across Anglian Learning, learn first-hand from experts from different creative disciplines, find out more about successful projects across the Trust, and get support for our own projects. It is always tricky to balance professional development opportunities in the school day with ensuring few lessons need supply staff to cover. However, it's important to us that we keep staff up-to-date, motivated and well-connected to enable the quality of the provision to be as strong as we can make it.

NICE TO KNOW Y10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award

After two days of trekking and navigating through Thetford Forest, camping overnight in a beautiful glade on a very chilly night, we are delighted to congratulate 126 pupils from Y10 for passing the expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Our instructors, and members of the public, commented on how proud we should be of this cohort who represented Sawston Village College so well across the weekend. Now pupils must complete their physical, skill and volunteering sections to complete the whole award. With a record number of pupils on track to achieving this, we wish them good luck!

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Wishing you a weekend of joy,

Jonathan Russell