

24 October 2025

**Sawston**
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round Up

The highlight of the week has undoubtedly been the Year 7 Last Choir Standing event on Wednesday evening. Pupils from each class in Year 7 sang their hearts out to a delighted audience as they competed to be crowned the winning class. Congratulations to all who took part - more than half the year group - and well done to 7C2 who won with their stirring rendition of 'Seize the Day'. Today, thirty Y9 pupils have been engaged in a Court Experience Day including a mock trial run by the District Council, which we are sure will have been illuminating. Learn more about what else departments have been up to this half-term in our newsletter linked below. Best wishes to Y11 as they revise for the exams that start on Monday 3rd November. The mocks are an important step on their pathway to securing their preferred post-16 provider. Finally, we can all look forward to some time off and an opportunity to catch our breath after a busy start to the year. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to shoot for the stars on their return.

NEW Lunch and break menu from October

A new menu will be available at break and lunchtime after half term. You can find the new menu by following [this link](#) and scrolling to the bottom of the page.

NEW September / October 2025 Newsletter

Our newsletter for this half term is now on our website. Find out what we've been up to in this busy half term by reading our newsletter here:

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

NEW Year 10 and 11 Information Evenings

The presentations from the recent Year 10 and 11 Information Evenings can be found on the [College Website](#).

NEW Support for Careers Programme

During the year, we run a programme of events to give pupils opportunities to find out about different career paths and options for their futures. We would like to extend an invitation to parents and carers, or others in your networks, who may wish to be involved in this programme by supporting in-school workshops and other activities with pupils. For this academic year, we have the following events planned:



ANGLIAN LEARNING

FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDERArtsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council EnglandPROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2024 - 2025

- Year 10 careers carousel, Thursday 4th December
- Year 11 mock interviews, Monday 19th January
- Year 8 "what's my line", Tuesday 17th March
- Year 7 enterprise day, Friday 1st May

If you would like further information about any of these activities or any aspect of our careers programme, please contact Erika Wagstaff, Assistant Principal (ewagstaff@sawstonvc.org).

NEW Platform 25

[Platform 25](#) is a joint exhibition of artwork from pupils across Anglian Learning's secondary schools and sixth forms. The exhibition will showcase the inspiring work taking place in our art departments and include work from across the age ranges, covering a variety of techniques and media, including painting, textiles and photography, in both traditional and more abstract styles.

This year's exhibition runs from the 10th to 22nd of November at Michaelhouse Café in central Cambridge.

NEW Attendance Update – October 2025

As we reach the end of the first half term of this academic year, we are pleased that the majority of pupils are maintaining excellent attendance and have managed to work through those sneezes and snuffles which always greet us at the beginning of a new school year. Thanks for your support. Of the 1200 pupils on roll, 840 pupils (70%) continue to sit in the highest band for attendance (95-100%). A small number, however, have already fallen below 90% attendance and are therefore classed as persistently absent from school. It is really important that they try to rectify this by being in school every day given the extensive research into the link between attendance below 90% and the results and sense of belonging that pupils achieve in school.

Our Year 11 boys project is going well so far. Of the 29 boys on the project, 14 will graduate today as they have maintained attendance above 95% since the start of term. Three of them are still at 100% which is fantastic! We will continue to work with the remaining 15 boys over the coming weeks.

With the darker evenings and the drop in temperature, many of our families will start to think about holidays and travelling to warmer climes. Just a further reminder that family holidays must not be booked during term time as we can't authorise this and penalty notice fines may be issued. Please use the 13 weeks per year of school holidays to enjoy family time and to make any travel arrangements.

The coming half term is often where we experience a higher level of coughs and colds amongst both pupils and staff. Wherever possible, please encourage your child to come to school. If you are unsure as to whether to send your child into school there is advice available here <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

REMINDER PE Access and Provision During Regeneration Works

As part of SVC's exciting regeneration project, we are entering a significant phase of building works which will involve improvements to our indoor PE facilities and changing rooms. These developments mean that access to some areas will be temporarily restricted. The Sports Hall and Gymnasium will be unavailable from w/c 27th October 2025 to June 2026.

As part of this temporary adjustment, there will be occasions when PE lessons take place outdoors, even in light rain or cooler weather. In extreme weather conditions, lessons may be required to move into classrooms for theory-based learning.

To help your child feel comfortable and well-prepared for these changes, we kindly ask for your support in the following areas:

Appropriate PE Kit and Warm Layers

Pupils may wear the following warm layers during outdoor PE lessons:

- A maroon rugby shirt (instead of or in addition to the PE polo shirt)
- A black or white long-sleeved base layer or thermal skin worn underneath the PE polo shirt
- A PE fleece or PE jumper worn over the polo shirt (please note: school jumpers are not permitted during PE lessons)
- Black sports leggings or black tracksuit bottoms
- A lightweight rain jacket (please note: rain jackets are permitted for outdoor lessons only. Thick coats are not permitted during PE lessons to ensure pupils can move freely and safely).
- In cold weather, gloves may be worn. Gloves must have grip.

Footwear

Pupils must bring a change of footwear for PE lessons, including a change of socks. This is particularly important when lessons take place outside and surfaces may be wet or muddy. E.g. This may include studded boots for grass surfaces or trainers with suitable grip for hard surfaces. Please note that footwear that is worn for school throughout the day may not be suitable for physical activity. A change of footwear supports your child's safety, hygiene, comfort, and wellbeing.

We appreciate your ongoing support in helping us maintain a high standard of PE provision during this exciting period of development.

REMINDER October Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run its holiday voucher scheme for the October half term holiday. 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.

REMINDER Account balances

A final reminder to parents and carers to please check your child's account before they return for the second half of the Autumn term to ensure that they have enough money to purchase the food that they need. If they don't have money on their account they should go to reception where we will endeavour to contact parents. However, we can only issue an overdraft where we are able to gain authorisation from parents to do so and any overdraft must be cleared before the start of the next school day. Many thanks.

...

Wishing you a fun-packed half-term,

Jonathan Russell