

The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine



Autumn 2025
Issue 79



Progress continues apace on our school building project. The shell of the new building is almost complete, allowing pupils and staff to see more clearly how the new building will relate to existing buildings.

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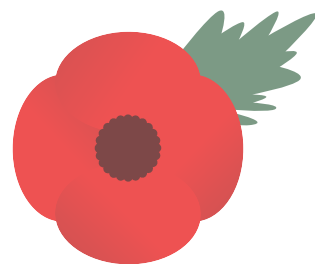
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Marking Remembrance Day 2025



Sawston Village College observed a two-minute silence on Tuesday, 11 November while members of the Senate, the Principal and a Governor laid wreaths at our memorials to local people who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

This is the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres, Belgium. The memorial contains the names of **54,896 British and Commonwealth Servicemen** for whom there is no known grave.



From 11 November 1929 the Last Post has been sounded at exactly 8pm every night at this memorial. This act of remembrance occurs every night of the year and in all weathers.

The only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation of Ypres during the Second World War. However, on the evening in September 1944 that Polish forces liberated Ypres, the Last Post ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate and has been held every night since.

In the days leading up to this commemoration, Mr Reed delivered assemblies on the importance of Remembrance Day and highlighted the stories of some local men. Extracts from Mr Reed's assembly presentation are shown here.

A short film was also made of our commemoration and can be seen here:
<https://sawstonvc.org/remembrance-2025/>

Why do we remember the fallen of 1914-18?



The man circled in this photograph from 1913 is Herbert Reed from Sawston. He was only 16 when this photograph was taken, but he joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment just a year later and deployed to France on 2nd February 1915.

"I don't think the village ever really got over the loss of these men. They were the village's best. We just expected them to come marching down the High Street but they never did. Such a waste. Men who could have built up their businesses, had families and improved the local community. A terrible waste."

Traviss Teversham
An older man who knew many of the soldiers who went off to fight



Mr Russell

Welcome from Mr Russell, Principal



What makes The Fountain such a joy to read is the creativity and energy that sings from the pages. We can see for ourselves in these colourful pages, the power of education to transform and the power of imagination to create memories and wonderful artefacts. Congratulations to the Senate Editors who have helped compile this uplifting edition.

Pupils are at the centre of what we do, and the trips, activities and opportunities reported on in this magazine demonstrate that there is something for everyone if they choose to get involved. It was highly fitting that the Heads of Senate were centre stage at our breaking ground ceremony for the new build; equally, that junior pupils were invited to return to Sawston's brand new Cambridge Science Centre to unveil the SEED sculpture and the vibrant benches they helped bring to life. The future is theirs and so is the past, as can be seen in the young Historians' participation in the oracy project, captured

so well in Vaibhav's article.

Whether in art, sport, music, STEM, or elsewhere, we can see from the eye-catching cards, food, woodwork, drawings, photographs and paintings how imaginative and talented so many pupils are. This is also seen in the trip reports and the range of experiences in which pupils have taken part.

A word of thanks must surely be given to all staff who volunteer to run such events and to all the pupils whose behaviour and positive attitude make future trips viable by being such fine ambassadors for their school. The latter is certainly true of Year 7 pupil Stephen and his tireless endeavour to walk 2 miles every day to raise money for others. Such kindness and thought for others are inspiring; we can all follow in his impressive footsteps.

Well done to everyone who has contributed to this edition and to the positive life of the College. Their imagination is sharply in focus.

'You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.' Mark Twain

Mr Russell, Principal

Welcome from the Senate Ambassadors

Hello and Merry Christmas everyone! Welcome to this term's Fountain. This will be the second Fountain magazine that we have created as Senate Ambassadors. Thank you to everyone who has provided content for this edition. We have articles on trips and also an insight into what's been happening across the different departments. With highlights from our sporting fixtures and what our Senate Forums have been up to this term, we do hope that you, our readers, will find something of interest to you in the pages that follow. We are very proud of all the pupils at our College and hope that 2026 will be an amazing year full of nice surprises. We also hope that you have a fantastic Christmas and enjoy the festivities, but don't forget to take care of yourself and those around you. From all of the Senate, we wish you a safe and happy Festive Season filled with moments that will become magnificent and cherished memories. Here's to a fantastic holiday and an even brighter 2026! We can't wait to see you in the New Year, ready for fresh challenges and opportunities.

Abi and Lizzy, Senate Ambassadors



Abi

Lizzy

Updates from the **the senate**



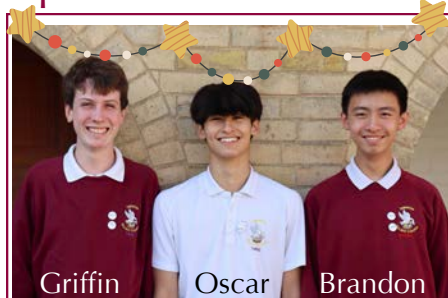
Updates from the Senate Heads & Deputies and the Forum Co-Chairs

Hello everyone! We are the Heads and Deputy Heads of the Senate. We are looking forward to working with the forums. As well as being involved with the different forums and their activities, we would also like to incorporate some of our own project ideas, such as working with local charities to try to raise money for them, as well as raising money for our Ball by doing different kinds of fundraisers. We are planning to collaborate with the Inter Forum to create a Nationalities and Culture board to spread awareness of and to celebrate different cultures across the world. We are really excited to take these ideas forward. However, we know we can't undertake projects without support, and so we will also be looking forward to pupils from across all year groups joining us to get involved. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Maddie, Lewis, Abigail and Noah, Heads and Deputy Heads of Senate

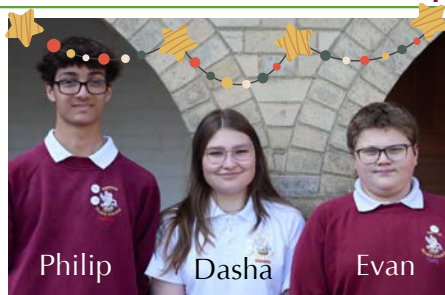


Updates from the Forum Co-Chairs



Hello! Our names are Griffin, Oscar and Brandon and we are the co-chairs of the Arts Forum. We are planning to organise some activities to help raise awareness of the arts around the school, such as a music appreciation day. We are also collaborating with the Inter Forum to launch an 'Arts around the World Week', focusing on art and music around the world. We would also love to hear your ideas at forthcoming forum meetings. See you there!

More Forum Co-Chair Updates



eco
forum

We are the co chairs of the Eco Forum. Our aim is to help improve the school environment and bring people together. Our first goal is a communal seedbank, where pupils and parents can collect or donate seeds to grow at home, with competitions to help keep things interesting. Additionally, we would like to continue to help with the development of the Refresh Garden as it will provide a safe space for both pupils and wildlife. We have many other ideas so, to find out more, please come along to our forum meetings. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Philip, Dasha and Evan



ethos
forum

Hi, we are the co chairs of the Ethos Forum. Over this term, we have held a non-school uniform day for Children in Need, raising over £1000. We are very grateful to anyone who contributed. This term we are doing the Sawston Give campaign with foodbank donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter, JHC and shoebox collections for CHS. We are delighted to be able to help fundraise for these charities and hope our donations make a difference! Isabella, Joey and Chloe



equality & diversity
forum

Hello, we are Elise and Emmeline, the co chairs of the Equality and Diversity Forum. In October we successfully held a bake sale to raise money for breast cancer support charities: Coppafeel and Breast Cancer Now. Next year, we look forward to celebrating pupils on Holi in March by holding a colour run, along with creating a cultural calendar of different festivals celebrated by Sawston Village College pupils. We hope to see lots of pupils at our forum meetings.



inter
forum

Good tidings! We are the Inter Forum. In future terms, we plan to continue our work on renewing the Nationalities Board by distributing a form and compiling the data to represent the different nationalities within our school. We are also organising a collaboration with the Arts Forum for January, when we will have a week revolving around international music. We will aim to develop ideas in meetings and would love you to contribute to these. Happy holidays! Zara, Francesca, Sophie



sports
forum

Hello again from the Sports Forum. Our names are Ned, Edu and Chloe. As co-chairs, our main goals in the upcoming term are to do a fundraising event involving a pupils vs teachers netball match to raise money for a VEO camera. In the forthcoming spring term, we are planning to begin the new boys rugby team and to begin to get in contact with other schools in order to get fixtures. Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



wellbeing
forum

Greetings from the Wellbeing Forum. This term we are looking forward to collaborating with the Eco Forum: we are going to be focusing on doing more fun activities like going to a nursing home and singing Christmas Carols! We'd love you to be part of these activities. We hope you'll join our projects and come to our forum meetings. Your support means so much to us! Jaz and Leeya

Cake Sale for Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast Cancer Awareness sale

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Pink Sale in October.

We've successfully raised £187.50 altogether. £93.75 has been donated to each of two charities: Coppafeel, who aim to educate on identifying symptoms of breast cancer, and encouraging everyone's regular checks of breast tissue (especially in young people, as breast cancer can affect anyone); and Breast Cancer Now, whose goals are to help save lives through early diagnoses, increasing access to quality care and research for new treatments.



**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research & care charity



October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. As the Equality and Diversity Forum it is important for us to spread awareness of topics that are under-talked about and that affect everyone, such as breast cancer. This is why we decided to dedicate a bake sale towards raising money for the breast cancer charities Coppafeel and Breast Cancer Now; two charities which support and spread awareness of breast cancer. We felt Coppafeel is especially important to us as it specialises in diagnosing young people and because it's important to educate everyone about breast cancer, even when they are young and less aware of it.

Children in Need



The Ethos Forum ran a number of events on Friday, 17 November in support of the BBC Children in Need appeal. They organised a non-uniform day to help raise money: for a donation of £1 pupils were allowed to wear their own clothes for the day, and all the money raised through this went to Children in Need.

The total raised so far is £1123.26. We thank everyone for their donations.



Ground Breaking Ceremony

On Wednesday, 26 November, representing the pupil body, we were invited to take part in the official Ground Breaking ceremony marking the College's new development works. Alongside Mr Russell and the Chair of Governors, we joined representatives from Anglian Learning, our Trust, and other groups connected to this project on the construction site to celebrate this important milestone for Sawston Village College.

The event offered a first look at the improvements that will soon benefit pupils across the school, and it was a privilege for us to be involved in such a significant moment in the College's future.

Lewis Johnstone and Maddie Young, Heads of Senate



The Seed Public Art Project

Principal Mr Russell enjoyed taking former Bellbird pupils to the public unveiling of the new artwork at the South Cambridge Science Centre on Dale Manor Business Park. Together with two creative Year 9 pupils, who designed benches, the now Year 7 pupils had participated in a workshop at their primary school with the sculptor Harry Gray who designed 'The Seed' (shown on the right).

Hopefully, the trip will have inspired future artists, scientists and construction workers, and the pupils will return again as adults to see their legacy.



Anglian Learning Platform 25 ART EXHIBITION

By Audrey Willis



By Charlotte Le Doux



By Mia Evans



By Neve Roberts



Platform 25 is a joint exhibition of artwork from pupils across Anglian Learning's secondary schools and sixth form. Anglian Learning is the Trust to which Sawston Village College belongs, and our school has taken part in this annual exhibition since it started in 2019.

The exhibition showcases the inspiring work taking place in art departments and includes work from across the age ranges, covering a variety of techniques and media, including painting, textiles and photography.

By Pranav Sharma



By Pranav Sharma



By Anjali Sreeju



This year's exhibition ran from 10-22 November at the Michaelhouse Café in central Cambridge.

There was a Private View on Monday, 10 November from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, which was attended by the pupils whose work was on show and their families.

Michaelhouse Centre runs as a cafe during the day and is very popular, so many people would have had the chance to see the work on display.

We are very proud of the Sawston pupils whose work was chosen for this prestigious exhibition. Well done to all!



By Eve Irons



By Eve Irons

Hidden Heritages

One School, Many Stories



Hadithi C.I.C is searching for South Asians in Cambridgeshire to take part in an oral history interview with pupils at Sawston Village College as part of a National Lottery Heritage Funded community project.

Hadithi C.I.C, a heritage-focused social enterprise based in Cambridgeshire, are searching for people from a South Asian background to take part in an oral history interview with Young Historians from Sawston Village College, who are being trained in heritage skills and interviewing techniques. In addition to contributing to the historical narrative around South Asians in Cambridgeshire, with interviews being deposited at Cambridgeshire Archives, the interviewing process will develop the young people's communication and social skills, build confidence and support empathetic learning about local and global histories.

In 2024, Hadithi C.I.C received a grant of £98,895 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver Hidden Heritages: One School, Many Stories, which is connecting students in Cambridgeshire with South Asian heritage and migration stories through training in oral history techniques across the 2025-26 academic year. As well as conducting interviews and recording South Asian stories, pupils will learn how to work with sound collections in archives and curate two exhibitions, one digital and one physical, which will open at the Museum of Cambridge in Summer 2026. In addition, the team have produced a series of training videos on how to conduct oral history interviews, which can be found on the Hidden Heritages website, and will create several learning resources for teachers in partnership with Sawston Village College.

Hidden Heritages: One School, Many Stories builds upon the success of Hadithi C.I.C's previous intergenerational oral history project, Hidden Heritages in Cambridgeshire, which the organisation delivered in 2022. Both projects have engaged young people with South Asian heritage which is often underrepresented, particularly in Cambridgeshire, whilst sharing these stories with the wider public.

To find out more about Hidden Heritages and its community-centred aims, visit the project's new website, www.hiddenheritages.com, which offers information about Hadithi C.I.C, its projects and how to express interest in signing up as an interviewee.

Hadithi C.I.C Director, Maya Parmar, said: "We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, we are excited to be able to develop previous project work in the Cambridgeshire region, upskilling young people and capturing the rich and diverse heritage of the county. At Hadithi C.I.C we are particularly passionate about revealing and preserving stories from the margins, and in this case, South Asian voices."

Sarah Jackson-Buckley, Head of History at Sawston Village College, said: "Sawston Village College is very excited to be taking part in the Hidden Heritages project. While local history is already an important part of our curriculum, we are particularly excited that this project is giving our pupils the opportunity to work closely with heritage organisations and historians to enrich their understanding of the subject outside of the classroom. We hope that Hidden Heritages will help us to develop their interest in connecting with the local community and further inform our teaching of oral history."



On Wednesday, 15 October 2025, around 30 pupils (including me!) sat inside the Marven Centre, not in our regular lessons, to start the Hidden Heritages project.

We were there because, in Year 8, we were treated to an interesting workshop which was about a project by Hadithi C. I. C, known as 'Hidden Heritages'. There, we learned about the fascinating subject of Oral History and its importance. After that intriguing introduction, we were given the option to apply for the project, which would involve a more in-depth focus on interviewing people of South Asian heritage to learn more about their cultures.

Now, as a group of Year 9s who have been selected, we are ready to start the project. To begin with, we spent a full day at the Marven Centre with some time in classroom M6 also. We learned about why we do Oral Interviews, how we do them, what questions to ask and how to present them. We learned how to use the equipment, mainly Zoom H5 recorders, and we were taught how to set them up for an interview with microphones and hard drives for storing the recordings. We were also given a few lunchtime sessions later on, where we refined our skills with equipment, discussed topics for the interviews, and were given an assignment which is one of the first steps in becoming Oral Historians. We are to have a 20-minute interview with any adult at home, and send it to them by email. This is for them to assess us as we get ready to do professional interviews.

Going forward, we are going to be interviewing a few volunteer adults of South Asian heritage, and our interviews will be exhibited at the Museum of Cambridgeshire and the Cambridgeshire Archives. It is an exciting project to learn about history and hidden heritages and a chance for us to share ideas and views from people with South Asian heritage.

Vaibhav Ramesh, Year 9



Freshers Fair



There were lots of stalls representing a wide range of clubs at our Freshers' Fair at the start of term. There were also lots of keen pupils signing up to get involved. Currently we have over 60 lunchtime and after school clubs running in school, with the latest club to join the list being the Herpetology Club run by Mr Middleton. There really is something for everyone so make sure you are making the most of the opportunities available.



Last Choir Standing

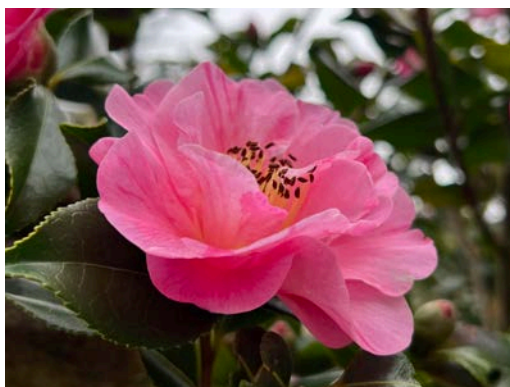


One of the highlights of last half term was undoubtedly the Year 7 Last Choir Standing event. Pupils from each class in Year 7 sang their hearts out to a delighted audience as they competed to be crowned the winning class. Congratulations to all who took part - more than half the year group - and well done to 7C2 (shown left) who won with their stirring rendition of 'Seize the Day'.



Above: 7C2 gets ready to perform.

Left: Pupils awarded prizes for commitment to the project.



Freddie's Photos

Thank you to Freddie Phillips in Year 9 who sent in these wonderful close up photographs. We think these are great and look forward to seeing what else Freddie produces. Well done!



2025 Winner



Christmas Card Competition

Well done to everyone who entered the Christmas card competition this year. We had some terrific entries and have included some of our favourites below.



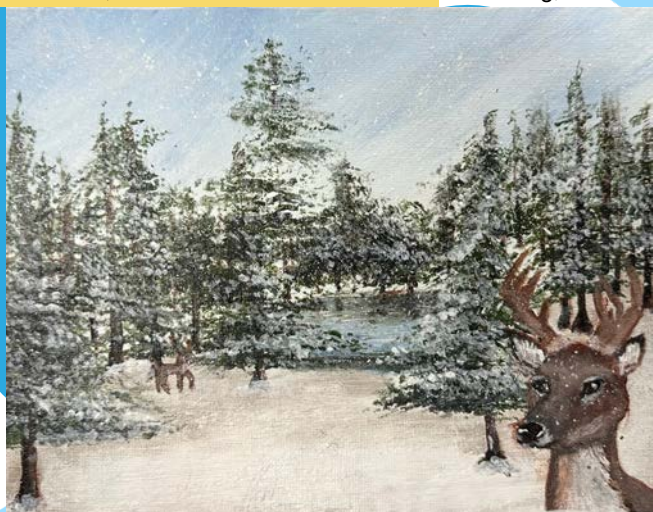
Eli Caroe, Year 10 MH09



Elin Irving, Year 8 MH01



Kvita Shevchuk Year 9 TH08



Joanna Doncaster, Year 9 MH05



Saarika Pandit, Year 7 TH12



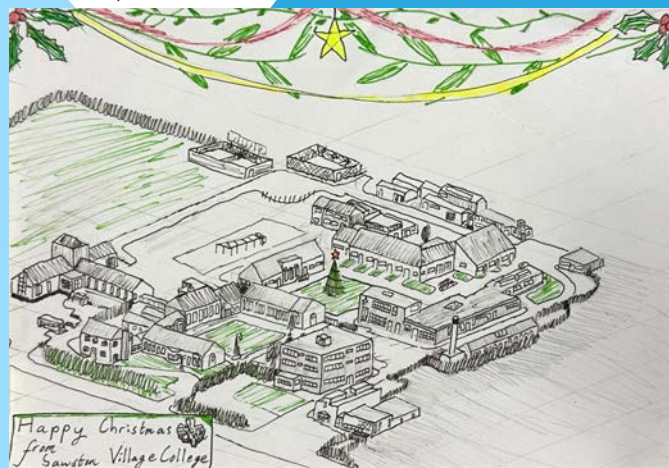
Oliver Ives, Year 9 MH02



Jessica Collings, Year 9 MH02



JJ Rivers, Year 8 EH07



Emmanuel Kuan, Year 8 TH05



Edward Mellor, Year 7 EH01



Evelyn Corney, Year 7 TH06



Shreya Kumar, Year 9 TH01

There were 22 entries in total.
Da Vinci 0 entries
Earhart 10 entries (8 from EH01)
Mandela 6 entries (3 from MH02)
Turing 5 entries

Well done to everyone who took part!

Staff in the Spotlight:

Miss Bunting, Head of English



When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was younger, I really wanted to be a publisher. Then I did my Year 10 work experience with a publishing house and hated every second of it! After that, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do until I was in my second year at university and realised that I really enjoyed teaching.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I don't think I'd be allowed to be an English teacher if one of the answers to this question wasn't reading! I read a lot of fiction of all genres, but my favourite genre is probably epic fantasy fiction. Outside of reading, I spend a lot of time at the yard with my horse, and I also love baking – mostly cakes 😊

What's your most embarrassing moment?

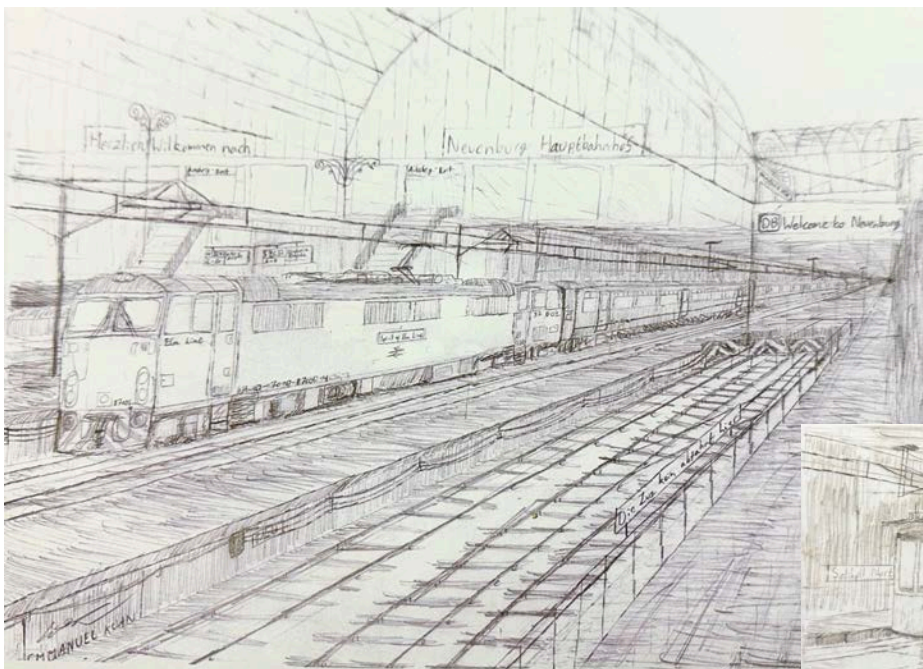
That's a tricky question – I always struggle to answer this question because I think I try to forget embarrassing moments quickly and I'm usually successful. Possibly, my most embarrassing moment in the last few years was on a trip with my last school to the USA where I used my 'teacher voice' and shouted at a pupil to 'GET DOWN' from a wall they'd climbed onto in New York... I was a bit embarrassed to realise it wasn't a tall Year 10 I'd just shouted at, but our Deputy Headteacher!

What's your favourite part of your job?

On a serious note, getting to be there when pupils realise they absolutely can do something and manage it for the first time. On a less serious note, when I'm with a class and we've all gotten the giggles about the same thing.

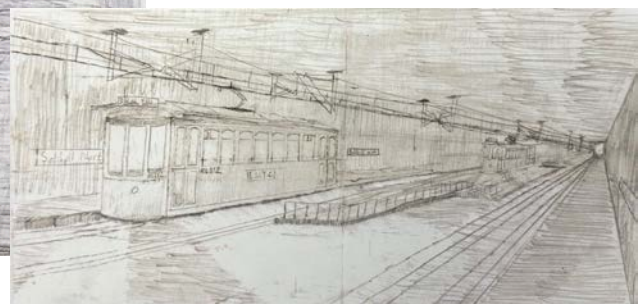
If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?

I taught horse-riding to beginners for a long time, so I'd probably be doing that; I prefer being with other people, so definitely not a job where I'd be sitting at a desk all day. Although, if someone would pay me to just read books for a living, then I definitely wouldn't turn it down...



Perspective Drawings

Well done to Emmanuel Kuan in Year 8 who has completed these very detailed drawings which show perfectly how well he understands perspective.



Library -----

News -----



**AUTUMN
2025**

An update from Ms Allen:

What's Been Happening in the Library?

- Cambridgeshire Libraries film
- Book Club guest speakers
- SVC Book Awards
- Most actively borrowing classes

Things to Look Forward To

- SVC Book Awards announcements
- Book Week
- New books weekly

Cambridgeshire Libraries Film Project

One of the most exciting things that's been happening in the library this term, has been our outreach project in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Libraries.

Book Club are aiming to make a series of short films promoting the joy we find in reading and libraries. We've just finished shooting the footage for the first film which is proving harder to edit than first anticipated – all the Book Club pupils just had too many interesting and insightful things to say!

We are very much looking forward to having our red carpet moment when all the films are finished!



Filming at Sawston Library



Filming at Great Shelford Library

Book Club Guest Speakers

The new school year has seen a new series of guest speakers visiting Book Club on Wednesday lunchtimes.

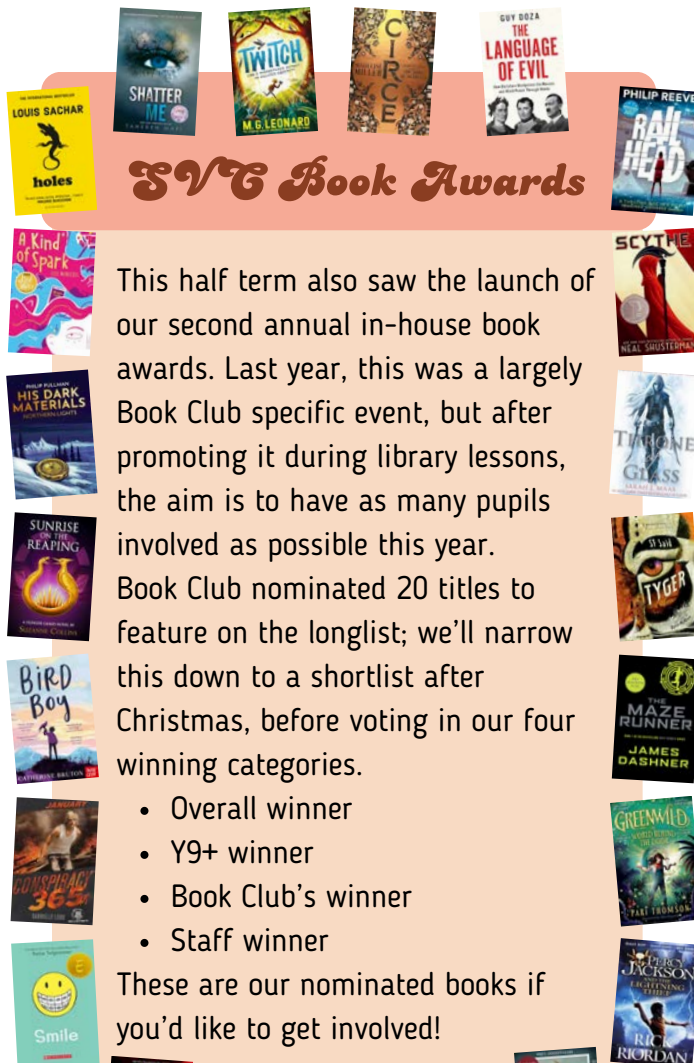
This term, Book Club requested that two of our newest Sawston Village College staff members come and talk all things books!

Miss Bunting kicked off earlier in the term, and came with a selection of her favourite books from different stages of her life. Book Club were particularly interested in 'S' by Doug Dorst which was definitely one of the most interactive (and confusing) books we'd ever come across!

More recently, Mrs Johnson visited to chat to us about her love of short stories. It was a real treat to listen to her read aloud extracts of 'Lamb to the Slaughter' by Roald Dahl: we could have debated all the questions that the ending threw up endlessly if only it weren't for the bell signalling the end of lunch!



SVG Book Awards



This half term also saw the launch of our second annual in-house book awards. Last year, this was a largely Book Club specific event, but after promoting it during library lessons, the aim is to have as many pupils involved as possible this year. Book Club nominated 20 titles to feature on the longlist; we'll narrow this down to a shortlist after Christmas, before voting in our four winning categories.

- Overall winner
- Y9+ winner
- Book Club's winner
- Staff winner

These are our nominated books if you'd like to get involved!

Most Actively Borrowing Classes

Last but not least, we should congratulate all the pupils for being so consistent and enthusiastic with their reading this term.

Particularly well done to the following classes who have been the most active in their year group.

- 7N2 approx 196 issues
- 8B1 approx 95 issues
- 9S3 approx 89 issues
- 10E1 approx 35 issues
- 11E1 approx 13 issues

Happy Reading!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Bronze DofE Training Weekend

128 pupils from Year 10 descended on Bedfordshire at the end of September to learn how to erect tents, cook on camp stoves and navigate using compasses, maps and triangulation. Pupils woke up to a glorious sunrise on Sunday morning before the weather shifted. Pupils tested their resilience as they marched 16 km through muddy tracks and rain, carrying all their equipment in big backpacks.

Bronze Qualifying Expedition

Two weeks later it was time for the qualifying expedition. 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 Year 10 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!



Silver Qualifying Expedition

Congratulations to the 27 pupils from Year 11 who braved the autumnal mix of high winds, heavy downpours and cold nights to successfully complete their qualifying expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award over the period 12-14 September. The expedition was held in the White Peak area of the Peak District over hilly terrain with participants walking a minimum of seven hours per day carrying all of their expedition equipment. Having completed the expedition section of their award, our participants are now able to focus on their work towards completion of the volunteering, physical and skills sections. We wish them well for their continuing adventures.

Year 11 Trip to Hunstanton



On Thursday, 25 September, the Year 11 GCSE Geography pupils went to Hunstanton to complete the data collection for their Paper 3 exam.

Pupils completed data collection for two enquiries - one focusing on the impacts of tourism and the other looking at the effectiveness of coastal management. They were fortunate with the weather and enjoyed fish and chips for lunch.

Following the trip, pupils analysed and evaluated their data in their Geography lessons.

Walking to make a difference

Hi, my name is Stephen Gill. Everyday, for the past 250 days, I have walked 2 miles. My aim is to raise £2,000 for Centrepont, which is a charity that supports homeless children and young people. On 21 November 2025 I reached 500 miles.

When I go into Cambridge, I see homeless people, and it felt wrong not to do something to help. It breaks my heart that some people don't have a home. So it has felt good to do something about it although I never realised I'd be walking this far!

Sometimes I've wanted to stop: sometimes when it's late, or in driving rain, or hot (like the summer), or cold (like this winter); but I've always managed to walk my 2 miles. After all, it's nothing compared to how it would be on the streets.

I have currently raised £1,800 and I'm very close to my goal of £2,000. Can you help? There's a link below to my Gofundme page and all donations go straight to Centrepont. Thank you so much, Stephen

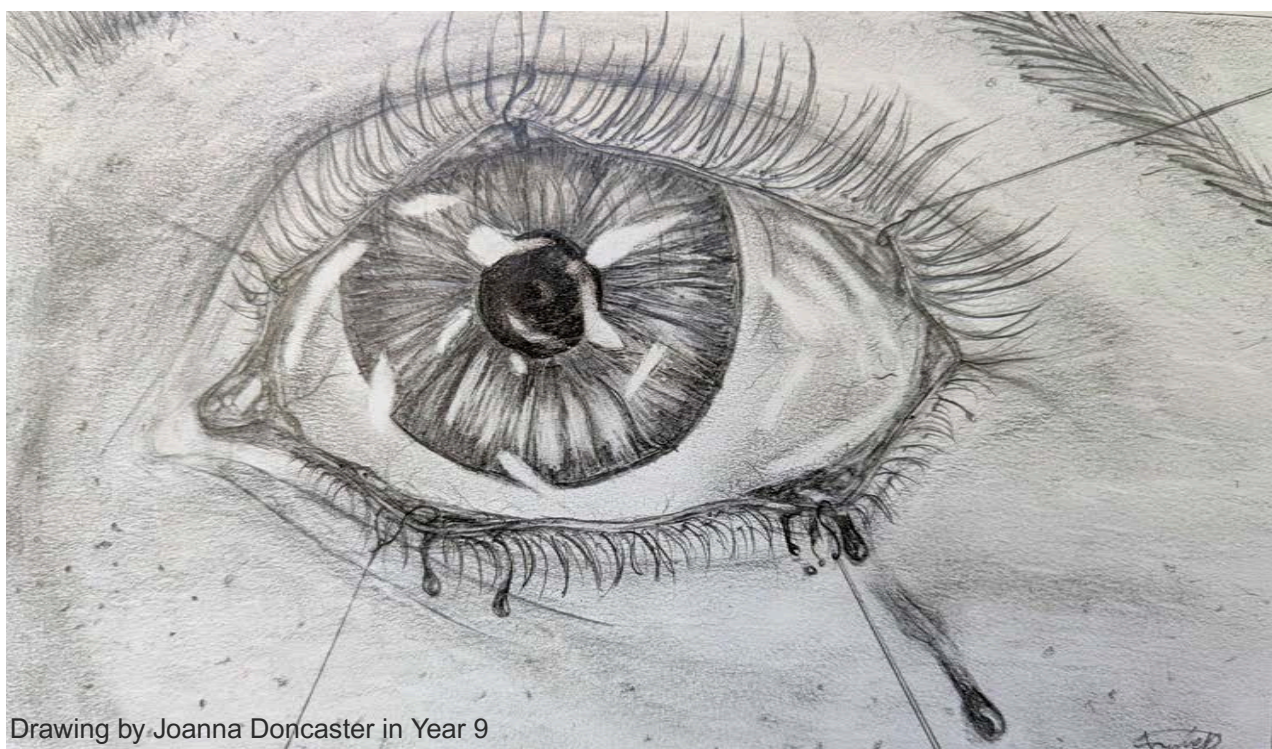
<https://gofund.me/387ae5729>



Drama - Devised Performance Workshop

On 15 September, Year 10 Drama pupils took part in a full-day devising workshop facilitated by Richard James-Neale - a distinguished actor and director with credits including Frantic Assembly, Shakespeare's Globe and The National Theatre.

Our newly formed GCSE classes hit the ground running, working both as a full cohort and in smaller groups, engaging in physical theatre, devising research, storytelling through movement and script writing. They collaborated in a professional manner, using industry-standard methods to generate innovative and creative material. The workshop left them with a wealth of ideas to launch their devising process, and we look forward to seeing their examination pieces in May 2026.



Drawing by Joanna Doncaster in Year 9

Drama Trip - My Neighbour Totoro

As part of our GCSE Drama course, we went to see *My Neighbour Totoro* at the Gillian Lynne Theatre. The show was inspired by the Studio Ghibli movie of the same name, and brought the animated style to life with huge moving set pieces and puppets. One of the most impressive pieces was the giant totoro puppet, which took up the entire stage and was controlled by a whole group of ensemble puppeteers. The whole thing was brought together by the live band who played on platforms built into the scenery, disguised as trees. It was a brilliant show and a really fun experience!

Abigail Topliss, Year 11



Ivor award for **Uprising** – Best Community and Participation Composition

In March this year pupils joined the youth chorus in a production of the new Jonathan Dove opera *Uprising* at Saffron Hall. It was a tremendous production and so we are delighted to hear that it has won an Ivor award – the Best Community and Participation Composition at the Ivors Classical Awards. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the production!

Drama Trip - Wendy and Peter Pan



On 20 November, the Year 10 Drama pupils went on a trip to see the theatre production *Wendy and Peter Pan* at the Barbican. It is based on *Peter Pan*, only the focus is on Wendy and her brothers, Michael, John, and Tom. At the start of the play, Tom gets 'lost', mysterious figures taking him offstage and stripping his bed. The next year, Wendy meets Peter and the Lost Boys. The rest of the play follows the siblings' journey into Neverland, and Wendy's quest to find her lost brother. Throughout, many techniques were used in order to convey meaning effectively. Lighting was used very well, highlighting Tom's 'death' and other important objects and people. There was always a meaning to be spotted when something was illuminated, whether you saw it then, or at another point during the play. Light was also used as a character. Tink (Tinkerbell)

was sometimes small, represented by a light in characters' hands, drawing focus around the stage and keeping the audience engaged. Throughout the play, movement to convey meaning was used. Characters often flew, and by doing so conveyed the idea of freedom without being stuck in the past, which Wendy rejected at first, before accepting at the end. Projections and set design were also key. When characters flew, stars and clouds were projected, creating the illusion of travel. When it was the pirates' point of view, projections of waves made you feel as if you really were on the ocean, tossing and turning on the sea. Brought onstage during these scenes, a huge ship was turned and spun, creating chaos during battle scenes, where explosions were set off, adding to the turmoil. It was thrilling to watch! The ensemble were also effective. While sometimes playing the roles of more Lost Boys, they also played the role of Peter's shadows. The shadows followed Peter in unison, occasionally repeating movements at different times, creating interesting and engaging movement sequences. Character development as the play progressed was clever. Wendy began as a character stuck in the ways of the past, and couldn't see the fun of the present. She was almost unable to make decisions, thinking about it for a long time, and not being able to just go with the moment. However, later in the play, she has a costume change, signifying her new confidence in her own decisions, and being more able to let go of the past, enjoying the present. One of the pirates, Martin, also became more confident in himself as the play progressed. He was able to stand up to the pirates and join the Lost Boys and Tink. This was also signified with a costume change, with Martin wearing a skirt similar to that of Tink. Overall, these elements gave the play a fun atmosphere, but also tackled emotional themes. A brilliant production!

Ellie Lovewell, Year 10

Year 10 Physics trip to the Cavendish Laboratory

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. The exhibition focused on inspiring pupils, showing them the range of career opportunities that are made available by studying physics and the possible examination choices they might consider for Year 12. 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.



Debate Club

As part of our school-wide push for oracy, we have launched a new Debate Club - which is open to all year groups. It is a wonderful opportunity for young people in the school to build confidence and develop their public speaking skills in a safe and collaborative environment.

Lexi Ogbechie in Year 7 says:

Debate Club is an amazing place for anybody, shy or confident. It doesn't matter. If you stutter, or if you're afraid of public speaking, you don't need to worry because everyone is welcome. The people there are extremely nice, friendly, and welcoming. Even if you don't want to speak at all, it's completely fine, because you can just watch, observe and cheer along. And eventually, if you want to, you can do a speech yourself.

Some of the shyest pupils attend Debate Club. Compared to the first week of them doing it, they've definitely gained a lot more confidence. That could be you!

You could surprise yourself and everyone else with your first speech.

Debate Club is in the Henry Morris Hall from 3:05 to 4:30 pm. Sometimes there might even be some special guests or trips to other schools.

So don't be scared, come to Debate Club, and bring some friends. The more the merrier!

Veolia visits Eco Club



In Eco club, we had a special visitor.

On 18 November, Fabricio from the company Veolia came to talk about the waste that is recycled in our country. He gave some shocking information about how much money it takes to recycle the waste. Currently, it takes £180 per tonne to process and recycle the mixed waste but with us sorting out the waste into food, plastic, etc., it takes a lot less money to recycle, which saves the environment. Also, there are some goals that the company wants to achieve. One of these is to recycle or reuse all parts of the waste they process by 2027. This will help reduce general waste and landfill and reduce plastic pollution in seas.

As a result, it provides a safer and happier environment for the next generation. The company's aim is to turn all the waste to energy. It took about 12 years to build the Energy Recovery Facility where our non-recyclable waste goes! We are planning to visit this facility next term. Hopefully, they are trying to build more in a shorter amount of time as such facilities improve the environment we live in.

Kvita Shevchuk, Year 9



Into Film Film Festival



We were delighted to welcome over 100 pupils from The Icknield Primary School into the Marven Centre recently for a screening of Inside Out 2. The pupils were impeccably behaved and enjoyed the film. The screening was organised as part of the Into Film Festival (which ran 7-28 November) for which Sawston Cinema was a venue.



Refresh Garden Art Project

The Arts Society South Cambs has generously funded a mural project for the Refresh Garden. Various pupils have been involved in the design of the mural, which involves three layers to be installed at intervals from the wall. This is to help give the impression of depth and also to support the desire to give the work a clear 3D aspect. Pupils in the art department are currently busy with painting, while an after school club has also been running where pupils have been creating leaves in clay which will be fixed to the work once the painting is complete.



Year 10 Photographers visit the Botanic Garden in Cambridge

Year 10 pupils opting for GCSE Photography were able to visit the Cambridge Botanic Garden to capture photographs for their portfolios for their close-ups project.



Cinema Club Update



Year 10 pupils Arianna, Nicola and Miriam recently entered and won a 'Magic of Cinema' filmmaking competition run by film charity Into Film. Their prize, sponsored by Cinema First, was to remake their film, but this time working with professional filmmakers. Everyone in Cinema Club got involved, including recreating their busy film showcase from the summer. The new film has now been submitted to Into Film and we wait to hear more about when and where it is going to be screened. Watch this space!



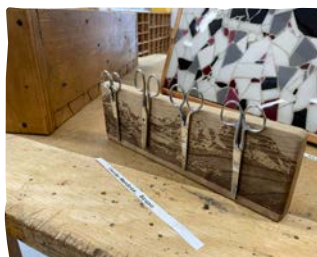
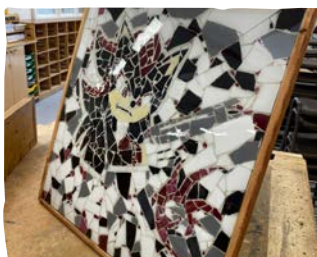
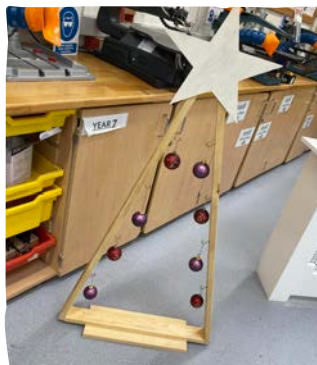
Two Year 9 Cinema Club filmmakers joined an Into Film webinar attended by teachers from as far afield as Inverness and Belfast. They had been invited as the 'guest speakers' to talk about their experience of filmmaking as information for teachers thinking about setting up filmmaking in their schools. Both pupils spoke very eloquently about their experiences, and Into Film showed a film the pupils had made completely independently, *The Chase*, which was very well received. The pupils participated in a Q&A and were delighted when a teacher asked if they had Oscar speeches at the ready. Well done for representing the school so well!

Emily and Ella
join the webinar.



Year 11 Class of 2025 produce great work in DT

A huge well done to the Year 11 class of 2025 who produced some outstanding work for their GCSEs in the summer.



Year 10s make Chocolate Roulade



Tom Liu-Child: When I made chocolate roulade it was really fun but rather stressful. My favourite part of making it was rolling the sponge. I felt it went quite well with the piping and decorating. However many of my chocolate runouts melted whilst on top of the roulade and the decorated plate also melted.

Amelie Mack: During making chocolate roulade, I demonstrated piping skills and made my chocolate run outs. My family thought my roulade was well presented and highly decorative. People commented the sponge was light and airy and the cream was soft with a freshness from the orange. It was chocolatey and fresh with creamy filling, and fresh orange slices added sweetness.

Tianna Silley: It was quite fun as I learned a few techniques like piping, rolling and presentation. I enjoyed the piping the most.

Our Year 10 Food GCSE pupils made chocolate roulade for their autumn milestone. Below are some comments from the pupils about their chocolate roulade-making experience

Ava Cook: In my chocolate roulade practical I really enjoyed decorating the chocolate roulade and being able to show my different skills. It was fun to roll the chocolate roulade even though it was hard not to break it. The most fun thing was making the chocolate run outs as I was able to decorate the top of my chocolate roulade and it looked very nice.

Scarlett Rednall: In my chocolate roulade practical I found rolling the sponge fun. Although it was stressful to roll without breaking it, I managed to do it. I loved decorating the chocolate roulade with all of my skills e.g. piping and cutting fruits. Making the chocolate roulade has made me more confident in my cooking skills. It has made me gain better time management. The best thing was when I made my chocolate run outs. This was my favourite practical to do!

Ruben Emerson: I really enjoyed making the roulade and it turned out great. The best part was piping the cream and preparing the strawberries. The part I struggled with the most was time, as I often end up ten minutes behind on washing up. I hope to improve my time management and make many more enjoyable dishes in the future!

Summer Negus: Making chocolate roulade was really fun and I enjoyed testing my decorating skills on the piping of cream and making chocolate run outs.

Grace Dowling: I liked the decorating and presenting part in making chocolate roulade and it tasted nice. I enjoyed working on my techniques, such as making chocolate run outs and piping cream

Layla Gratton: It was fantastic and really good to learn how to make the chocolate roulade from my teacher's demonstration. I loved the practical.

Amiee Nevard-Rule: Making chocolate roulade was actually really good. I like baking and this milestone taught me how to bake the sponge properly and a few decorating techniques. Moreover, the taste was very good.

Sculpting with paper in artist workshop



Year 10 artists enjoyed a full day's sculpture workshop with artist Michael Condron, who has won the commission to create the public art at the new Strawberry Fields development in Stapleford.



Medusa Reimagined



These poems showcase work that Year 7s

have been busy with this term. The poem below is from the perspective of Medusa's snakes.

Stronger

I sit alone on my pedestal,
Look down on the world, looking oh so tall.
On her head, I wriggle and writhe
For I am a burden in her life.

I slither and scream to keep her safe,
Keeping her locked up in his reached place.
I hiss in fury at Stheno
But I know Medusa doesn't want her to go.

I sit quietly on my side of the rock,
Knowing she loves him while we mock.
We lie once where she had a beautiful mane
But we know she will always be the same.

I look up at my wonderful disfigurement,
Their presence I almost resent,
But I know forever and longer
They will only make me stronger.

Ida Owen, Year 7 EH07



Tiger Lee, Year 7 TH08



Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs Johnson, Head of Music

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

In my late teens, being a music teacher was my ambition; I loved exploring the systems and development of music across the world and wanted to share this with others. I also loved sports growing up though, and when I was younger I had aspirations of being a snowboarding instructor.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I get involved in community music or performing arts projects; I play viola in a string quartet and a chamber orchestra, and have been on stage and conducting in the pit for local amateur dramatic productions. I am a big fan of being outdoors and enjoy walking with my corgi, Calvin. I was super excited to discover that he's happy to paddleboard with me this summer!

What's your most embarrassing moment?

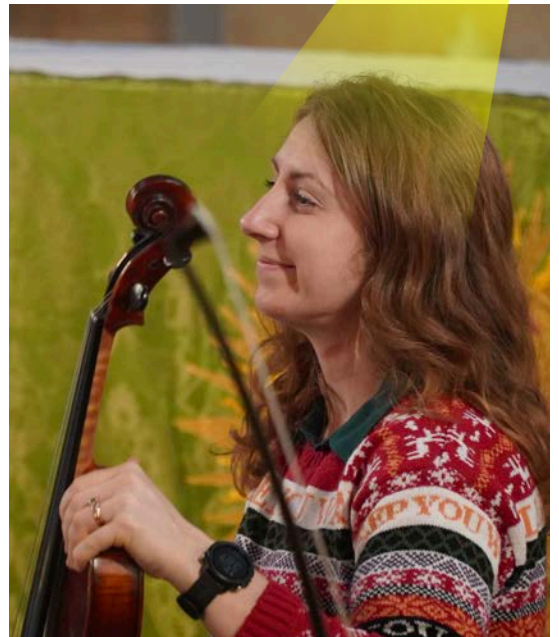
When I was a child, I was at an interactive orchestral concert with my parents. The orchestra played a piece of music which had been used in an advert and the audience had to identify the product it had advertised. My mother insisted the answer was 'Birds Eye Garden Peas' and made me jump up and down waving my arms to get picked, which I did. The host couldn't hear me shouting 'Birds Eye Garden Peas' from our seats towards the back, so I had to walk all the way up to the front, and shouted my mother's answer down the microphone. The correct answer was actually, milk. I got a packet of hula hoops as a consolation prize.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I always feel the proudest when pupils who have been nervous about performing, or sharing their compositions in front of others, are able to overcome those nerves and show all of the amazing musical things they're achieving.

If you didn't have your current job, what would you like to be doing?

If I wasn't a teacher, I would be keen to explore opportunities in musical directing.



King's College Carol Service

Senior singers in the Madrigals and Madriguys from Years 10 and 11 enjoyed attending a carol service for schools at King's College Chapel in Cambridge recently.



Folk Group and Recorder Ensemble

On Wednesday, 10 December, 18 musicians, ranging from Year 7 to Year 10, entertained Years 3 and 4 pupils from Icknield Primary school, treating them to repertoire from the Recorder Ensemble and the Folk Group. The delightful group of visiting pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about the music and the instruments, and we even had some audience participation when three of the KS2 audience came up to add a percussion track to the folk group's final number. Sawston Village College pupils were exemplary, talking about their own musical experiences and musical journey and occasionally coping with the music blowing off the stands!



Waterfall

Life is like a waterfall
Following the river
Of happiness,
Sadness,
Anxiety,
Joy,
Fear.

A rollercoaster
Of emotions
Where the river weaves
In and out,
Left and right,
Sometimes rough,
Sometimes calm.

Maybe a storm hits
And anger flares
But the sky clears
And peace flows.

Nothing lasts forever,
Not even life,
But when it finishes,
It transforms into something
Different.
Beautiful.

Nearing the end,
A cliff appears
And all the water,
The life,
Flashes before you.

Then,
Everything slows
And you fall,
Down
Down
Down.

Until there's nothing
Left.

It goes
Quiet.

And everything
Stops.

Poppy Morris, Year 7 TH06

Steel Pans bring Festive Cheer



The Junior Steel Pans group recently had a film recorded of their performance of *Silent Night*. They had the film added to the daily pupil bulletin to spread some Festive Cheer in school. Well done to all the members, and thank you to the senior pupils who lead the group.

Jazz Band at Festival

The Jazz Band, led by Mr Barlow, gave a fantastic performance at the Cambridge Jazz Festival in November. The performance took place in the Storey's Field Centre in Eddington.



All Years Cross Country Competition

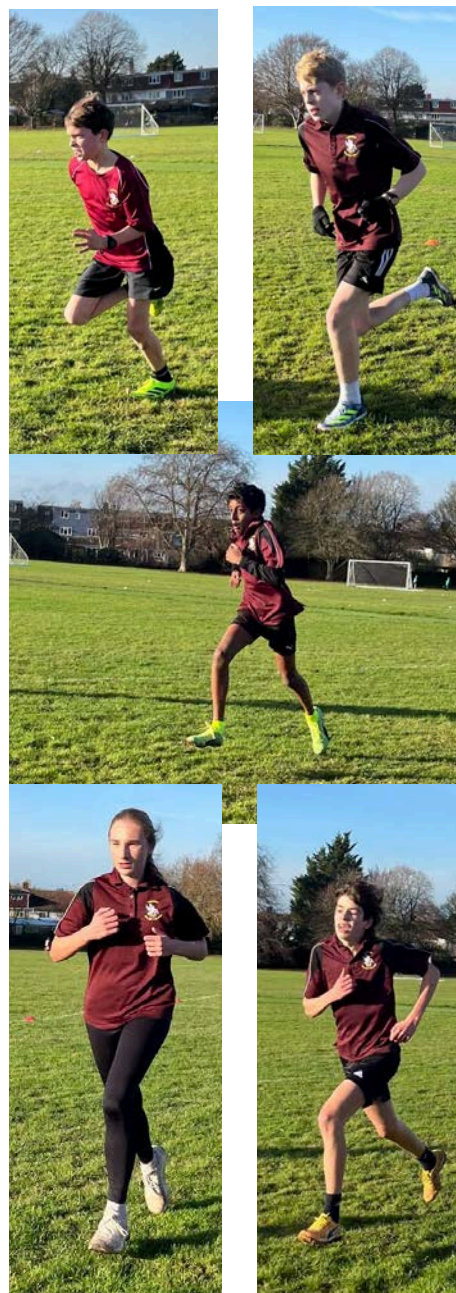
at Netherhall School 11/12/2025



Our pupils in Years 7–10 delivered an exceptional performance at the Cambridgeshire Cross Country Competition held at Netherhall School, showcasing not only their athletic ability but also their commitment, positivity, and team spirit. With each race featuring over 100 determined participants - and some events reaching more than 160 runners - the standard of competition was high. Despite this, our pupils approached every race with confidence, energy, and a willingness to push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

A special congratulations goes to the three pupils who achieved outstanding top-16 finishes, securing their well-earned places in the next round at Kings Ely. Their success reflects their dedication to training, their perseverance on the day, and their ability to stay focused under pressure. These achievements truly highlight the potential within our school's sporting community. Henry Harper (Y7) came 11th, Benjamin Zenner Branco (Y9) came 4th and Jasmine Green (Y10) came 5th.

Equally inspiring was the tremendous support shown among Sawston Village College pupils throughout the event. It was this team spirit, as much as the athletic success, that made the day so memorable. Well done to all who took part - you represented the school brilliantly. We are very much looking forward to following the progress of our qualifiers at Kings Ely. With such enthusiasm and talent, the future of Sawston Village College cross country is incredibly exciting.



PE Fixtures Update

Year 7 Football Fixture (25/11/2025))

Our Year 7 boys football team showed outstanding spirit and determination throughout the recent tournament they participated in. Although the results didn't go our way, the team grew tremendously with every match. Luke Coleman-Denny shone as our top goal scorer, demonstrating great skill and composure in front of goal. More importantly, the boys had the fantastic opportunity to play against a wide range of talented teams across Cambridge, gaining valuable experience and building their confidence as a team.

Their teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm made this a truly positive and memorable season, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop and enjoy the game. We look forward to some of their future games going forward.

POM goes to Rory Linzell and Ben Standen who contributed significantly across the games.

PE Fixtures Update

Year 10 Football Fixture (13/11/2025)

Sawston Year 10 boys faced a replayed fixture against Impington Village College at home, leaving the pitch with a 5-1 win.

The first half saw the team playing comfortably, moving the ball around the pitch with, Finley Crossan snatching the ball away from the keeper to score a fantastic goal. Seconds later we had Max Crump drift the ball past the keeper after a brilliant through ball from the midfield to put us up 2-0 over half time.



The second half was strong, with a top contribution from Tristan Williams assisting Rohan Everson with a goal, giving a comfortable lead for the boys. With positivity flying around the field the boys grew in confidence, leading to Oscar Karpuk contributing to a goal after a header, some deflections and a knocked ball into the net. Finally, a beautiful assist from Luke Warner left Dylan Cootes on goal to smash it past the keeper, the cherry on top of his performance throughout the match. Player of the match goes to Keanan Burns for his sportsmanship and honesty and Dylan Cootes for his unwavering workrate.

We wish them the best of luck in the next round of the district cup.

Thank you also to the large number of pupils who came to support the home game.

It was amazing to see so many attending to watch.

Year 7 District Netball Tournament (12/11/2025)

On Wednesday, 12 November, our Year 7s took part in their first ever district netball tournament, and their first ever match representing Sawston Village College! The excitement and nerves were sky-high, with the minibus to Comberton buzzing with laughter and anticipation.

Once on court, the girls gave it everything. Their teamwork, energy and growing netball skills shone through in every game. They finished an impressive 3rd out of 7 schools, narrowly missing the semi-finals by just 2 goals!

A brilliant debut performance! We are super proud of you all, Year 7!



Year 8 District Netball Tournament (05/11/2025)



On Wednesday, 5 November, our Year 8s had their district tournament. It was an unusual start for our Year 8s: this team is so used to winning! After a tough opening, spirits dipped but never disappeared. A quick team talk reignited their fire, and the girls came back playing their own confident game, with sharp passing, strong possession, and brilliant finishing from our shooters. Their determination paid off with two back-to-back wins, just missing out on a spot in the quarter-finals. A fantastic effort and a true display of resilience. Well done, Year 8!

Year 9 District Netball Tournament (22/10/2025)

Our Year 9 teams took to the courts at Comberton for the District Netball Tournament on 22 October, and what an afternoon it was! Both squads arrived with positivity, maturity, and determination, ready to give it their all.

Our B team may not have come away with the wins, but their hard work, resilience, and drive to improve stood out throughout the day. Every goal was earned through sheer effort, a brilliant display of perseverance and teamwork. Our A team were just a few goal difference points away from reaching the semi-finals, an incredible achievement considering the tough pool they faced, including strong sides like St Mary's (who they beat!) and Comberton. Their teamwork, communication, and on-court support for one another were a joy to watch.

A huge well done to both teams. You represented Sawston superbly and made Mrs Dennis very proud!



PE Fixtures Update

Year 10 District Netball Tournament (16/10/2025)



On 16 October our Year 10 team headed to Cambourne for the District Netball Tournament, and what a glorious afternoon it was! We opened with a fantastic win that lifted everyone's spirits and set the tone for the day.

Across the following matches, the girls showed real determination, learning from each game and developing their connective play from defence to attack. Although we narrowly missed out on the quarter-finals, our team spirit never wavered.

You left the court proud, energised, and stronger as a team - a brilliant effort all round!

Year 11 Netball Fixture against Netherhall (15/10/2025)

On 15 October, our Year 11 GCSE PE team faced a very strong Netherhall side in a crucial moderation match, a key fixture where performance and teamwork were under close assessment. Under pressure, our Sawston girls rose to the occasion, showcasing grit, skill, and superb game awareness.

Their relentless effort paid off, with several players even boosting their netball marks on the day. The team's ability to hold space, time their runs, and create plenty of shooting opportunities for our scorers was outstanding. Yes, the score wasn't what you had hoped for but it was all about the skills you showed us.

What a performance to be proud of. You didn't just play hard, you proved your progress. Sawston spirit at its best!



Year 8 Netball Fixture against Netherhall (15/10/2025)



What a start to the season! Our Year 8s stormed to a 17–6 victory over Netherhall in their first match of the year. The team displayed fantastic link-up play from defence through to attack, moving the ball with confidence and precision.

Our shooters were on fire, finding great positions thanks to the solid support and teamwork behind them. Even when the girls mixed up positions in the final quarter, they still came out on top, proof of their adaptability and determination!

Player of the Match: Lauren Knights, for her calmness on the ball and steady control that lifted the whole team.

A brilliant performance all round. Well done, Year 8s! Bring on the district tournament!

Year 11 District Netball Tournament (08/10/2025)

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 students 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!



PE Fixtures Update

Year 9 Netball Fixture against St Bede's (07/10/2025)

It wasn't the result we hoped for, but what this Year 9 team showed in spirit, resilience, and teamwork was outstanding. The girls dug deep and kept playing positive, skilful netball from start to finish. There were moments of real magic in the passing and movement, and the team connection was clear as players anticipated each other beautifully.

Players of the Match

- Victoria George-Grajales – calm, patient, and constantly supportive on and off of the ball.
- Emily Chatwin – stepping up as shooter (and then into every other position we needed!) with incredible versatility and determination.

Heads held high, Year 9, your resilience and teamwork made us incredibly proud. The score doesn't tell the full story!

PS - You ran away before we got a team photo!

Year 10 Netball Fixture (07/10/2025)

Sawston faced a tough challenge against a very strong St Bede's side. The game finished 21-2 to St Bede's.

Sophie L and Lizzy in defence worked tirelessly throughout the match, putting pressure on a high-scoring opposition and making several crucial interceptions.

A standout performance came from Arianna, who played at centre and was awarded POM (Player of the Match) for her ability to drive play through the mid-court, linking attack and defence seamlessly.

While the scoreline didn't go our way, the team can take pride in their effort and resilience, and with the hard work and commitment shown on Tuesday, they'll be well-prepared for their next challenge.



Year 9 Netball Fixture against Bottisham Village College (01/10/2025)



Our Year 9 netballers stormed into their first game with an incredible 20–5 victory, the perfect way to kick things off! But what really shone through wasn't just the scoreline, it was the sportsmanship. The Sawston girls showed true team spirit, offering Bottisham encouragement and tips throughout the match, always with kindness and respect.

On the court, our movement was electric, slick, sharp, and unstoppable from one end to the other. Each player's awareness of their role and commitment to the team is becoming more and more impressive, and it's clear this squad is growing into something special.

Player of the Match: Huge congratulations to debut player Ilinca Balanescu, who made an outstanding first impression!

If this game is anything to go by, we're in for a phenomenal season ahead... bring it on!

Year 11 Exam Netball Fixture (17/09/2025))

What a way to kick off the season! Our Year 11s hit the court with incredible energy in their first match back, and the opening quarter was electric, the ball zipped down the court with such speed and precision that Linton Village College barely had a chance to get near it.

Throughout the game, our communication was sharp, teamwork was enthusiastic, and every player brought determination and spirit to the court. While the final score didn't swing in our favour, this first outing showed just how much potential we've got for the season ahead.

The foundations are strong, the energy is high, and the passion is clear, Sawston Netball is ready to rise this year!

POM goes to Charlotte Will CONGRATS!



Sawston Village College is delighted to run an Adult Learning programme, the Anglian Leisure Sawston sports centre and Sawston Cinema for the community. Please check the relevant website for current programme and activity updates.



**Sawston
Adult
Learning**

Sawston Adult Learning

Please check www.sawstonadultlearning.org for up to date information. You can also email community@sawstonvc.org.



Anglian Leisure Sawston

Please check www.sawstonsports.com for up to date information. You can also email fharrower@anglianleisure.co.uk and follow Anglian Leisure Sawston on Facebook.



Sawston Cinema

Please check www.sawstoncinema.org.uk for up to date information. You can also email cinema@sawstonvc.org.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025**

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

Sawston Village College

ANGLIAN LEARNING

The Student Centre currently has a stunning display of staff and pupil pets. See some of the lovely pets featured below.



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