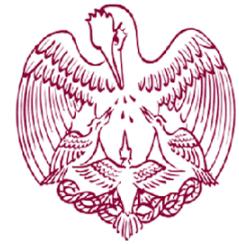


JRU/KEL

5 December 2025



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round Up

The third and final part of our webinar series on children's mental health is listed below. We hope you have found the series helpful. This week, Y10 pupils had a careers conference morning and we launched our Work Experience programme (which takes place in June 2026) with an information evening for parents. Next week, we have Y11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 11th and rehearsals continue for our carol service at Great St Mary's which takes place on Thursday 18th.

NEW Belonging by Design: Mental Health

As part of the 'Mental Health: It's Not All In The Mind' series, Anglian Learning presents the final webinar. The third episode recaps what we have learnt so far from the first two webinars when it comes to the effect of everyday things on our own and children's mental health. Later, it explores the value of realistic goal setting as a tool to support behaviour change. You can view the webinar by [clicking here](#).

If you have yet to start the series, you can click the link above to watch the first two videos. We are asking parents and carers to complete a short survey to help The Young People's Mental Health (YPMH), who recorded the webinars, to measure the effectiveness of the resources provided. You can find a link to the survey within the webpage linked above.

We hope you have found it useful in enabling you to understand and support your own and your child's mental health and wellbeing. We look forward to being in touch in the Spring term with the next set of support available.

NEW Site Update

This month sees the completion of the steel frame for the new building; as this is completed, the pre-cast concrete staircases, lift shaft and floor planks will be delivered and lifted into site using mobile cranes. Within the building footprint the new underground drainage and preparation for the ground floor concrete slab will start. A fire-retardant spray coating will be applied to the steelwork and the refurbishment works will continue to the Sports Hall and Gymnasium.

The building site will be closed on December 24 and will reopen on January 5 when the external envelope to the building will start. This will require pre-manufactured panels delivered to site and lifted onto the building and also works to form the roof. This will continue to require frequent deliveries and there will be excavators and cranes in operation. Therefore, there may be an increase in construction traffic but all disruption is kept to a minimum and we are doing all we can to enable the full functions of the school to operate.



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NEW Christmas Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run its holiday voucher scheme for the Christmas 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 £30 and further information was sent out earlier this week. Vouchers will be delivered by email or text by the end of the day on Saturday 20th December. All vouchers must be claimed by midday on Friday 25th January 2026. 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.

NEW Punctuality

As Parents and Carers are aware, we expect pupils to be at the College by 8:25 am each morning in order to reach their mentor room in time for our first statutory registration of the day at 8:30 am. We have been sending communications home where pupils have been late and issuing sanctions to pupils who are habitually late for some time now. However, we have noticed in recent weeks that an increasing number of pupils are arriving at the gate after 8:30 am.

We do understand that traffic can be busy in the mornings, but more often than not, unless there is an accident, this is the case for most mornings and we respectfully request that enough time is allowed for the journey to school to ensure your child is here by 8:25 am. For those pupils who walk or cycle into school, please ensure that they leave in enough time to be through the gates by 8:25 am. Buses are beyond our control and please rest assured that when a bus is late we take this into account.

Next week we will be taking names on the gate of pupils who are late each morning (unless there is an arrangement in place) and communicating home to parents and carers to alert you that your child hasn't arrived at school on time. We value your help in ensuring that all pupils have a positive and calm start to the day which begins with arriving at school on time and being ready to learn. Many thanks for your continued support.

REMINDER Sawston Give initiative

In November, we launched our annual Sawston Give initiative. This annual tradition brings pupils together in their mentor groups to create shoeboxes filled with thoughtful items for young people aged 16–24 who are living in sheltered accommodation. These boxes ensure they have something special to open on Christmas Day.

Details of our partnership with three local charities for the festive season can be found [here](#). Please note the deadlines for donations. Thank you in advance for your support for the campaign.

COMMUNITY Royal Institute's Christmas Lecture

The Royal Institute is holding a Christmas lecture aimed at 11-15 year olds where they can 'be the first to discover the mysteries of the Universe'. The lectures will be broadcast on 13

and 16 December, tickets cost £6. For further details, including how to book tickets, please click [here](#).

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Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell