

9 January 2026



**Sawston**  
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Weekly Round Up**

Happy New Year! We started each morning this week with an assembly to welcome back the pupils and to remind all pupils of our expectations. The overwhelming majority who always do the right thing were thanked and praised for the way in which they conduct themselves. Our Historians who visited London yesterday were also singled out for their conduct and preparedness as they explored and discussed holocaust education. Congratulations also to all members of the AL Chess Academy which continues to lead the way in the east. Good luck to our Y9s who have English and Maths internal exams next week. The exams inform us about pupils' progress ahead of the Options process so we can help provide the right guidance and advice as they start to think about KS4 and beyond. The Children's Commissioner yesterday published a helpful guide for parents and carers about navigating children's digital lives which you may find interesting and is accessible below.

### **NEW Y9 Options Launch**

Y9 options is the process by which Y9 pupils decide which optional subjects they wish to follow in Y10 and Y11. This is a significant milestone in pupils' educational career and so it is essential that they are fully informed and able to make the most appropriate choices for them. The task of guiding them through this process starts with a launch event to pupils, in school, on Wednesday 21st January, followed by an information evening for parents, 5.45 pm-7.30 pm, on Thursday 22nd January.

A letter outlining the timeline for the process will be shared with Y9 parents and pupils in the coming days.

### **NEW SEND Coffee Morning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am - 11am**

We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Kirby, Assistant Head of Department (Inclusion) Cambridge Regional College to our next Coffee Morning on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Supported Learning Courses available at Cambridge Regional College.

CRC offers a range of Supported Learning Courses which are available to young people aged 16-24 who require additional support and who often have an EHCP. Information about the courses can be found on the CRC website: <https://www.camre.ac.uk/courses/supported-learning/>

If you would like to attend our coffee morning at Sawston Village College Student Centre please email [jhaswell@sawstonvc.org](mailto:jhaswell@sawstonvc.org).



ANGLIAN LEARNING



FRAMEWORK FOR  
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION  
PATHFINDER



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

TRINITY  
COLLEGE LONDON  
★ Trinity Champion Centre



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2024 - 2025

### **[NEW](#) Anglian Learning Chess Academy**

Anglian Learning Chess Academy is run at SVC each Friday evening. Last term, many of their players performed well at regional and national events including winning the under 8 British girls championship, two primary school finalists in the Delancey UK School Challenge and podium finishers in county and congress championships. The club is currently leading the East Anglian Junior County Championships. On February 7th, their annual Under 16 Junior Championship is hosted at SVC and entries are now open. For more details see [here](#).

### **NICE TO KNOW History Scholars group visit to Highgate Synagogue**

On Thursday, 27 members of the History Scholars group visited Highgate Synagogue where they took part in a workshop on the history of Jewish migration to England. During the visit, Professor Shirli Gilbert, professor of Holocaust history at UCL, spoke with pupils and answered their questions about her work. The historians contacted us with the following feedback: *Shirli and I were both struck by how engaged, thoughtful and insightful the students were.* Miss Phillips was extremely proud of their conduct and engagement with the entire experience.

### **NICE TO KNOW Sawston Cinema kicks off term with NT Live's HAMLET**

The new programme for this term at Sawston Cinema in the Marven Centre begins with NT Live's Hamlet on 22th January at 7.00pm. Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (Life of Pi) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy. This sharp, stylish and darkly funny reimagining is directed by National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director, Robert Hastie (Standing at the Sky's Edge, Operation Mincemeat). Tickets cost £10 from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sawstoncinema>.

### **COMMUNITY Children's Commissioner – A Guide For Parents On Managing Children's Digital Lives**

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner has recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#).

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

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Wishing you a storm-free weekend,

Jonathan Russell