

The Fountain

Sawston Village College's Termly Magazine



Spring 2026
Issue 80



The PE department held their Gym & Dance Display in the Henry Morris Hall just before the end of term. Pupils showed amazing agility, balance, strength, flexibility, expertise and talent across the course of the evening as they performed to an appreciative capacity audience.

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ESU Shakespeare Success for Sawston Debate Club



Congratulations to Ellie (second from left) and Elin (third from left) on their excellent performances at the second round of the ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition. Particular congratulations to Elin, who, beating a strong field of top private and grammar schools, progressed to the third round!

Debate Club meets on a Monday after school, is open to all pupils and you are very welcome just to come along and listen.

On Monday, 9 March my friend Ellie and I travelled to Colchester County High School for Girls for the second round of the ESU Performing Shakespeare competition. Leaving at the end of lunch, Ellie's mum kindly drove us and Mr Doza on the hour-long journey to our venue. As all the schools arrived early there was time for refreshments (including sandwiches- greatly appreciated by Mr Doza) before the performances began. The competition was intense with more than an hour and a half of high level and extremely well performed Shakespeare. Nerve rackingly, I was fourth! I performed as Trinculo from *The Tempest*, act two, scene two, which is a comical scene all about comedy, breaking the fourth wall and having fun! I love this speech because unlike most Shakespeare topics (love, hate, death, etc.) it's all about Trinculo having a bit of a laugh, giving clouds a good telling-off and calling Caliban a fish. The grand finale was Ellie's speech from *The Comedy of Errors*, which was amazing! We then all enjoyed and had more sandwiches, cake and crisps, and had a good chat with all our competitors! Every performance was amazing, and everybody taking part did so well, and it was such an incredible experience too!

Elin Irving, Year 8

Debate Club



Simon Woolley (right), Baron Woolley of Woodford, visited the Debate Club in January.



Results are in!
This House Would Abolish Private Schools
 Ayes: 5
 Noes: 22
 Abstentions: 3
 Motion passes!

This photo, from 1937, shows two boys in their Harrow School uniform next to three other children in ordinary clothes.



Mr Russell

Welcome from Mr Russell, Principal



As the days grow brighter and the first signs of spring begin to unfold around us, we are delighted to welcome you to this year's Spring Edition of our school magazine. Spring has a wonderful way of reminding us that growth is not only possible but inevitable when we nurture curiosity, creativity, and community — values that continue to shape the heart of our school. This term has been filled with inspiring achievements and memorable moments. Our Gym and Dance Display showcased not only the talent of our pupils but also their confidence, teamwork, and joy in movement. Likewise, the West Road annual music concert was a highlight of the season, bringing together performers whose dedication and passion filled the hall with energy and pride. These events, among many others, reflect the vibrant spirit that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our Pupil Senate, whose commitment to editing this magazine and supporting school leadership has been invaluable. Their thoughtful contributions, collaborative spirit, and willingness to represent the pupil voice help shape our school community in meaningful ways.

In this edition, you'll find stories that celebrate pupil voice, snapshots of school life, and reflections on the experiences that have shaped our community this term. We are incredibly proud of the hard work that has gone into bringing these pages to life, and we hope you enjoy exploring them as much as our pupils enjoyed creating them.

As we step into the new season, may we all carry forward the spirit of renewal — welcoming fresh ideas, embracing challenges, and supporting one another as we continue to flourish.

"Spring drew on... and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps." Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre

Mr Russell, Principal

Welcome and Farewell from the Senate Ambassadors

Hi everyone!

This is our last edition of The Fountain magazine as Senate Ambassadors and so we are saying our goodbyes.

We feel very privileged to have been able to be members of the Senate and, as Senate Ambassadors, to have been responsible for compiling this magazine with pupil articles and artwork collected from across the school.

We have enjoyed working with Ms Morgan to put these Fountain magazines together so would like to say thank you to her. We would also like to thank all the Senate members who have contributed to our magazines and for their efforts in school as a whole.

We are excited to hand responsibility for The Fountain to the next Senate and will look forward to reading what they produce. We hope you enjoy our final issue and we send our best wishes to the future Senate.



Abi

Lizzy

Abi and Lizzy, Senate Ambassadors

Updates from the **the senate**



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

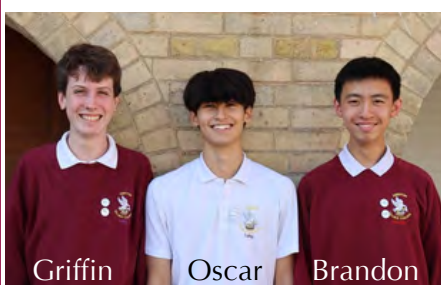
Hello everyone!

We are back for our last report of this academic year! As the Heads and Deputy Heads of 'The Senate' we just wanted to say how grateful we are to have had such a great opportunity to have worked with you all over this past year. It has been an absolute pleasure. We are also extremely thankful to have had such a fabulous team of staff to work with too. Obviously a huge shout out has to go to Mr Sutton, who has settled into the role of leading 'The Senate' so naturally. We hope you have all enjoyed working with us and attending our forum meetings and events throughout the year. We can't wait to hear about how the new Senate will lead next year. Thanks again for being such a brilliant group of people. We will miss you all very much!

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



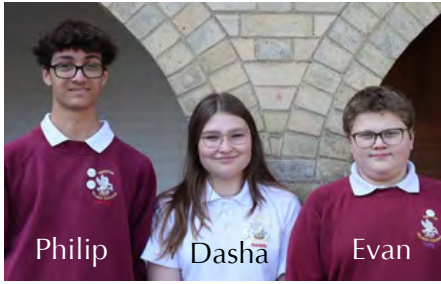
Updates from the Forum Co-Chairs



This term during our forum meetings we have discussed and developed ideas about doing research and creating slides in the bulletin that will express different aspects of the arts around the world, such as music, art, drama and architecture, hoping to spread information that goes beyond the usual ideas of the arts. We have also discussed organising an open mic night with arts forum attendees as we believe it is a great opportunity for pupils to perform and share their fantastic work. We hope that by holding these events pupils will widen their knowledge and understanding of different artforms across different cultures.

Griffin, Oscar and Brandon

More Forum Co-Chair Updates



eco
forum

We hope to organise a non-uniform day to raise money for a charity of the school's choosing. We have chosen two charities: the WWF and the National Trust. Pupils and teachers will have an opportunity to vote for the charity they would prefer the donation to go to. If the votes are equal, the donations will be split. If the WWF wins, we will be able to adopt an animal for the school. We are also planning to have a non-uniform day to celebrate Earth Day. Thank you for reading The Fountain and for the great year!

Philip, Dasha and Evan



ethos
forum

We would like to thank everyone for contributing to our fundraising efforts. As Co-chairs, we have raised over £800 for Children in Need, along with 65+ shoeboxes for CHS and even more donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter and JHC! We also held a non-school uniform day for Comic Relief, which raised £862.55, and we are finding new ways to raise money for our Leavers' Ball!

Isabella, Joey and Chloe



equality &
diversity
forum

We are pleased to thank everyone who has been involved in helping us throughout the year and attending meetings. We're very grateful for everyone's contributions and ideas. We hope the new co-chairs of this Forum progress our idea of a cultural calendar featuring important dates and events from different countries and cultures associated with our pupils, as well as generate ideas for raising money for causes that could affect everyone.

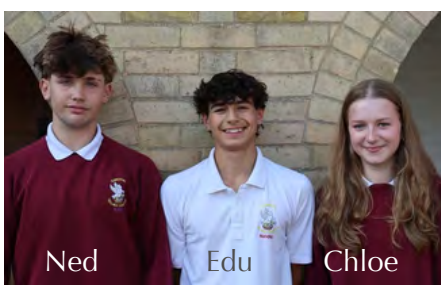
Elise and Emmeline



inter
forum

During this term we have continued planning our Nationalities board and have collected data from the school. The final step will be to decorate the board with the new map. Thank you for everyone's suggestions in our meetings. Alongside this project, we are also starting to work on slides for the *Arts Around the World* week and hope we can have this at the start of the summer term. Looking forward to finishing our projects, and Happy Easter!

Zara, Francesca, and Sophie



sports
forum

This year as a Sports Forum we have achieved multiple different things. We have held forum meetings and set in motion plans which will benefit future school years. As well as organising fundraising events, such as a Staff V Pupils netball match, we have also increased the presence of sports in our school and we are sure that sports will bloom at Sawston well into the future.

Ned, Edu and Chloe



wellbeing
forum

Hey again! In the Wellbeing Forum we are planning to create a 'tree of affirmations'. We will be picking a spot in the school, then using brown paper to create the outline of a tree trunk and branches. We will then be sending each mentor group a cut-out leaf or two and asking them to write a few affirmations on them. We will give the mentor groups a deadline to finish these by and then we will stick the leaves on the branches to complete our idea. Look out for this!

Jaz and Leeya

Chinese Exchange Programme

It was lovely to welcome former pupil Lily Liu-Child into school this term and to hear about her experiences in China. Since the start of this academic year, Lily has been a scholar at AISL Harrow Haikou, an international school affiliated with Harrow School in England. Haikou is the capital city of Hainan Province and is located on the northern coast of Hainan Island in southern China. Lily has a scholarship as part of the Engage with China programme and is studying for her A levels while, at the same time, experiencing a different country and culture.

Lily returned to speak with pupils with H-J Colston-Inge, who is the Director of the Engage with China programme.



Bird boxes

Eco Club prioritises wildlife

Eco Club are worried about the impact of the new build on the nesting swifts and house martins on the school site. A local organisation called CamSwift has been helping us to plan what we can do to help these birds. In the Christmas term, we held a bake sale and raised over £80. We have used this money to buy enough wood to make 10 swift nest boxes. We asked the STEM club to help with the building. They spent two sessions making and decorating swift boxes with the help of Mr Bär. CamSwift have also kindly donated a swift box to add to this. Garden Club have made 3 bird boxes and a bat box to put up too. We are thinking about suitable places to put the nest boxes and how to get them installed. The new build developers have put up a bat maternity box, and we are hoping to meet with them to discuss how we can further prevent harm to wildlife on site.

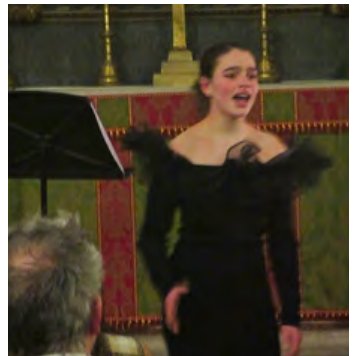
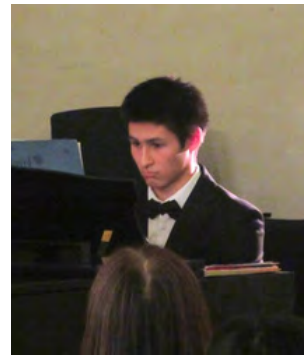
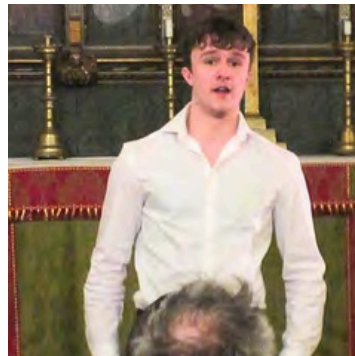
Our next plan is to buy some house martin nesting cups to replace the nests on the languages block before this is demolished.



Year 11 Concert at Michaelhouse



We were blown away by the professionalism and musicianship showcased at the Year 11 Concert held at Michaelhouse in central Cambridge in February. The concert raised money for the Leavers' Ball. Well done to everyone who took part in this.



Esra Grimshaw, Year 7



Photos from Freddie

Freddie Phillips in Year 9 is a keen photographer and is happy to share some of his photographs with us.

He says, 'Here are some more photos I shot using my dad's Fujifilm XT-2. I am particularly happy with the one of my cat!'



We haven't got space to share all of his photographs here but we've chosen our favourites - including his cat!

West Road Annual Concert

On Friday 13 March, friends and families gathered at the enormous West Road Concert Hall to witness the Music Department's annual West Road Concert. The night began with Senior Concert Band, playing Goff Richard's 'Barnard Castle' as a spectacular opener to the concert. The enjoyment continued with a flurry of well-executed pieces, delivered by Friday Band, Flute Choir and Guitars & Ukuleles. Then, Saxophone, Recorder and the Brass Ensembles, treated us to some emotionally-moving compositions. The mood was then lifted when the Year 11 GCSE Group took to the stage followed by a loud roof-raising performance by Samba Band to lead us into the interval.

After the interval, String Orchestra, Folk Group and Percussion Ensemble performed. Playing a mix of Mozart, traditional and rhythmical music. This was then followed by a selection of vocal harmonies from Junior Choir, the Madrigal Singers and the Madrigal Singers. We were then swept away to the notes of Africa, after the Chamber Choir performed the 'The Lord's Prayer' in Swahili. To close the night, Jazz band ended it all with 'Louie Louie' by Richard Berry. All in all, the concert took the audience on a 'Crazy Train' journey making everyone feel included.

Sebastien Meullenet, Year 7





On Friday, 13 March, I attended the annual West Road Music Concert. It was, as always, a standout evening in the Sawston Village College calendar, bringing together pupils, staff and families to celebrate the incredible musical talent within our school community. Although I was not performing, sitting among the audience allowed me to fully appreciate the truly captivating enthusiasm and musical ability from the pupils.

Particularly notable was the confidence shown by the performers across all year groups; it was clear that every pupil contributed to the evening's success, demonstrating the thriving musical culture at Sawston Village College. The support from the audience further enhanced the experience, with enthusiastic applause, constant engagement and encouragement after every performance. Events like the West Road Concert highlight the importance of creative opportunities within our school community. They provide a platform for pupils to express themselves, build confidence, and develop skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

A huge thank you must go to the Music department and all staff involved in organising such a fantastic evening, as well as to every pupil who performed. As Head Boy, it is a privilege to witness and represent a school with such a depth of talent and enthusiasm. The concert was a true celebration of our school's spirit and community, and I look forward to seeing this continue to grow in the years to come.

Lewis Johnston, Head Boy, Year 11

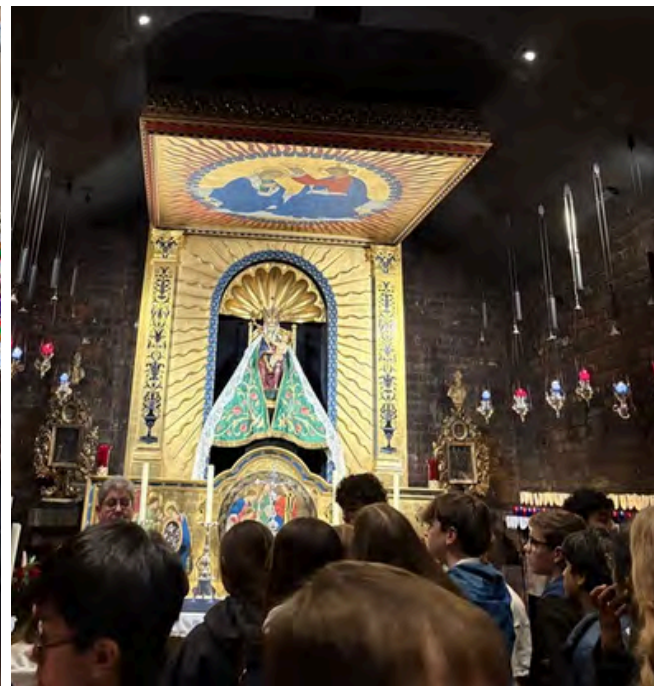
Year 10s visit the National Portrait Gallery

Year 10 Art pupils visited the National Portrait Gallery in London this term and enjoyed working their way around the permanent collection across the different floors. They were all equipped with sketchbooks and pencils and studiously made drawings and notes of things they found interesting. Particularly intriguing was the self-portrait sculpture called 'Self' by British artist Marc Quinn. The work (below centre), which features a cast of his head made from approximately 10 pints of his own frozen blood, requires constant freezing at -16°C and has to be remade every five years.



Year 10s visit WALSINGHAM

In January, the Religion and Worldviews department took 46 of our GCSE RS pupils to visit Walsingham in Norfolk. Known as "England's Nazareth", Walsingham has been a pilgrimage site for nearly 1000 years. At the Holy Shrine we learned about the history of Walsingham and the Holy House, which is believed to be a replica of the Virgin Mary's house in Nazareth where the Angel Gabriel had appeared to her and was then built in Walsingham following a vision of Mary in 1061 to Lady Richeldis. Pupils had the opportunity to observe or take part in a 'Sprinkling' ceremony at the holy well, which is believed to be a source of spiritual healing. We even discovered that the term "wellness" originated from the use of such religious wells. We were fortunate to have a Q&A session with a Bishop, before investigating the liturgically different architecture of an Orthodox Church, a Methodist Church and a Roman Catholic Church within Walsingham.



Blood Brothers - Performance and Workshop

On 29 January, the Year 10 Drama pupils went to see Blood Brothers, our set text. It was amazing to see the script we had studied as a stage production! The atmosphere was incredible, with really powerful moments creating a huge impact on the audience through lighting and sound, especially in the final scene where Mickey and Eddie are shot. The police came through the audience and surprised everyone with their presence, creating an intimidating feeling. The songs had such emotion, and it really made you feel involved as an audience member!

What made it even better was that later on, two actors who had played Mickey and Sammy for ages came and did a workshop with us! It was an engaging and interesting day, filled with bits of ensemble work and a few scenes from various points in the play. One of the things that makes Blood Brothers so unique is that it has a lot of adult actors playing young kids, and later teenagers. It was great to see actors using lots of techniques to really show that they were kids, such as movement, eye contact, gestures, and voice. Overall, a brilliant workshop!

Ellie Lovewell, Year 10



Physics Olympiad

Well done to Year 11 pupils who took part in the online Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge!

You all scored high marks and have been awarded certificates

Gold

Ziyu Ong
Alejandro Zimbron

Silver

Alex Boyce
Edu Cunado
Alexander Hunter
Abel Joseph
Daneel Skinner
Samuel Wong

Bronze

Elise Ingle



Ezra Grimshaw, Year 7



Riya Sharma, Year 7



Oliver Ives Yr9

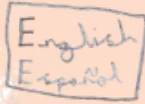
Soy una persona extraordinaria

¡Hablas español?

Soy Vishruth y soy muy guapo.

Tengo doce años.

¡Hablo inglés y español!



¡Pero, no es todo!

Soy muy inteligente.

¡Tengo pasteles!



Finalmente, tengo cinco amigos. //

Vishruth Ramesh

★ Soy una persona extraordinaria ★

♦ Me gusta el arte

• Me gusta los gato

• Soy simpática

• Pero, ¡no es todo!

• Tengo un hermano y tiene siete años

• Soy un poco tranquila

• Tengo dos amigos

Maia Parry

Soy una persona extraordinaria

¿Qué tipo de persona eres?

Soy guapo y alto pero no soy antipático!

Tengo doce caballos blancos y dos barcos!

Llego en un Bugati de nueve colores!

Pero, no es todo,

Soy muy desprecupado!

Tengo mil botellas!

Soy extraordinario

Albie Thomas

Soy una persona extraordinaria

Me llamo Will

Estudio español los domingos
No entiendo la tecnología a veces en mi casa
Me gusta estudiar geografía con mis amigos
pero; no es todo!

Tengo diecinueve amigos
No entiendo la historia en mi casa
Tengo cinco puertos.

Will Johnson



Somos extraordinarios.

Soy una persona extraordinaria
Soy bastante alta y guapa
Soy muy simpática
Pero, ¡no es todo!
Soy interesante y lista
Soy rica también
Finalmente, soy alegre.

Alice Pooley, Year 7

¡ Soy una persona extraordinaria!

¡ Me llamo Neha y soy divertida!

Soy muy despreocupada y alta

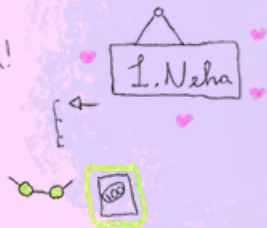
¡ Soy bastante lista y guapa!

Pero, ¡no es todo!

Soy muy interesante y alegre

Tengo doce años y tengo tres bicicletas

¡ Soy muy simpática!



Neha Varghese, Year 7

Soy una persona extraordinaria

Tengo catorce casas en España.

Y estudio en Cambridge con un caballo.

Soy muy rica también.

Pero, ¡no es todo!

Tengo quince barcos.

Uso un teléfono ~~xxx~~ nuevo todos los días.

Y compro once cámaras.

Riya Sharma, Year 7

Soy una persona extraordinaria

Soy muy interesante

Estudio teatro, arte y informática

Y, soy extremadamente rara

Pero, ¡no es todo!

~~Soy~~ ^{No} me gusta estudiar las matemáticas

Soy muy divertida y guapa

Y, soy especial y alegre

Daisy Harris, Year 7

Soy Lexi y soy muy especial

Soy extremadamente lista y divertida

¡ También soy muy guapa!

Pero, ¡no es todo!

Hablo inglés y español

Soy extremadamente despreocupada

Y soy muy importante

Soy una persona extraordinaria.

Lexi Ogbechie, Year 7

Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs Deleplanque, Head of Languages



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

This is going to sound really geeky but I've always wanted to teach! When I was growing up in France, I wanted to be a primary school teacher and then, when I started secondary school, I discovered English and fell in love with Languages. At first, the plan was to teach English in France (although I did consider Spanish at some point). Then, I came to England as a foreign language assistant in 2008 and never left. Now, I get to speak English, French and Spanish on a daily basis, which is a dream come true!

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I love reading! It really allows me to unwind and it's a big part of looking after my mental health. I love escaping into fiction and learning about new things. I read 90 books last year and my aim is to reach 100 this year! I also enjoy going for walks and runs and spending time with my family

What's your most embarrassing moment?

Now that's a tough one to answer! I'm racking my brain but I can't come up with one massively embarrassing incident.

To be honest, I just tend to embarrass myself a bit very regularly, like by waving back at someone and then realise their greeting wasn't meant for me or trying to be funny in class only for my jokes to fall flat. When I was little, I once poured the whole glass of water I was carrying on my lap when someone asked me what the time was.

What's your favourite part of your job?

Of course I will have to say sharing my passion for languages and speaking 3 languages every day. But the real, deeper truth? I love interacting with teenagers. I feel like I'm learning as much as I'm teaching on a regular basis. I love the "lightbulb" moments in lesson when a pupil understands something they have been struggling with; finding out what the latest craze or catch phrase is always very entertaining (although I'm definitely bored of 67 now!); getting to know pupils in a different way on a school trip (I wonder which Year 8 will brave the highest roller-coaster in Europe on the Barcelona trip in June this year). Every day is different!

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

I find it really hard to picture myself doing anything other than teaching but my wildest dream would be to be an author and write novels.

Soy una persona extraordinaria

*Me llamo Mia y soy fabulosa
Tengo cuatro amigas y esta un poco locas
Tengo un perro y un bolígrafo rojo interesante
Pero, ¡no es todo!*

*¡Tengo ochenta monedas y soy rica!
Me encanta el teatro en mi escuela
¡Estoy muy bien!*

Mia Langley,
Year 7



Soy una persona extraordinaria

*• Hola! Soy Santástica
• Escucho y hablo
• Tengo abalorajo de todos colores
• Pero, ¡NO ES todo!
• Soy lista no soy anti patica
• Tengo dos cabayos
• ¡Y Soy divertida!*

Millie Flint, Year 7

Year 10s explore Festivals in Spanish-speaking countries

Día de los Muertos (Day of the dead)

When and where:

Día de los Muertos is hosted on the first of November until the second. It is hosted throughout Mexico with the most popular areas being Oaxaca, Mexico City and Michoacán.



What happens:

During the festival, families honour and remember their dead loved ones with homes and cemeteries decorated with ofrendas (altars). Many people visit graves, light candles and celebrate the gift of life. There are many parades, music, and traditional dances that happen during the two days.



What people eat/wear/do:

During the festival, people wear traditional clothing, doing skull face paint (calaveras), eating Pan de muerto (sweet Mexican bread), tamales (traditional food filled with meats cheeses or fruits wrapped in corn husks) and sugar skulls. People drink hot chocolate and atole (traditional Mexican drink) building altars, telling stories, praying and celebrating the memories they had with the deceased.



William Wreghitt-Jones, Year 10

La Tomatina

The festival takes place in Buñol which is 39 km west of Valencia and it occurs on the last Wednesday of August, it is now ticketed to maintain the village. People try to reach a leg of ham on top of a greased pole, when someone finally gets it, then truckloads of tomatoes are brought in and a full scale food fight occurs for an hour. It is recommended you wear old clothes as they will get wrecked by the flying tomatoes



El día de los muertos

The festival takes place all over the world but was created in Mexico it is a festival honouring the dead. It happens on the 1st and 2nd of November. They create altars for passed relatives or friends (Ofrendas) or hold candlelight vigils. Also they hold parades, play music and dances, or communal feasting. There is a common theme of skulls, therefore many get things such as skull facepaintings.



Wilf Wilkinson, Year 10

Fiestas de España

La Tomatina

Fun fact: La tomatina is the single largest food fight in the world

FIESTA DE LA MERCE

La Tomatina is a festival that takes place on the third Wednesday of August, and happens in the small town of Buñol, specifically in the centre: "La Plaza del pueblo". People take turns climbing a pole to retrieve a leg of ham, which once is retrieved, starts a huge food fight using trucks worth of tomatoes!!

Lasts: 1 hour

La merce is Barcelona's greatest festival. It takes place around September 1st - 24th annually and involves celebrations in order to honour the city's patron Saint, the Virgin of Mercy. These celebrations include parades, street art and parties galore. However it is most famous for its Casteller (human tower) competition which is exactly as it sounds where each team has to make the greatest tower in order to gain glory for the next year. Lasts: 1 day

Miles Horton, Year 10

El día de los Muertos

El día de los muertos translates to the day of the dead and is a festival where friends and family come together to honour, respect and remember friends or family members who are dead. It is usually celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November however these dates sometimes vary depending on the location. It is primarily celebrated in Mexico, it being the heart of the festivities, but also celebrated all across Latin America.

Traditions differ depending on location but they often involve creation of home altars to remember the dead and eating traditional dishes. Some of these dishes are pan de muerto which is a sweet roll topped with sugar and often bone shaped pieces of pastry, and tamales which consist of masa filled with meats, cheeses or fruits then wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves.

Families also clean and decorate their loved ones' graves and most visit cemeteries to decorate graves with ofrendas (altars). These altars are commonly composed of Mexican marigolds, which are thought to attract souls of the dead to the offerings. Other common rituals include prayer.



Chloe Rushby, Year 10

Library -----

News -----



**SPRING
2026**

An update from Ms Fincham-Allen:

What's Been Happening in the Library?

- Book Week
- Book Club guest speakers
- Carnegie Writing Medal shadowing
- Most actively borrowing classes

Things to Look Forward To

- More guest speakers
- New books weekly

Book Week

The highlight of this term is always Book Week, this year held the week beginning 2nd March to coincide with World Book Day on Thursday 6th. As always, this saw a full week of events, with pupil engagement this year being at an all time high. From community puzzles, to library escape rooms, and enthusiastic book quizzing, hopefully the week prompted lots of book-themed questions and conversations across the school.

Mon - Library treasure hunt
Tue - Creative stations
Wed - SVC Book Awards ceremony
Thu - Library escape room
Fri - Book pub quiz

Book Week



Community puzzling



Creative stations

Department dress-up



Carnegie Medal for Writing Shadowing

In other Book Club news, we've just started shadowing the Carnegie Medal for Writing. We've taken part in this for a few years running now and thoroughly enjoy reading as many of the longlisted books as we can and having lots of heated debates surrounding them! This will keep us busy until early summer, when we'll partake in the official vote for which book we think should win the Shadower's Choice award. My fingers are crossed we're lucky enough to win tickets to the awards ceremony in London!



Book Club Guest Speakers

Our guest speaker programme in Book Club has continued, with Ms Gomes visiting us in February. She delivered a very interesting talk about one of her favourite books, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. We really enjoyed her observations about the imagery of death, colours, and storytelling.



Most Actively Borrowing Classes

Though I haven't been keeping the tracking display quite so up to date this term, we should still congratulate all pupils for being so consistent and enthusiastic with their reading this term.

The following classes have been the most active in their year group.

- 7N2 approx 141 issues
- 8B1 approx 86 issues
- 9S1 approx 58 issues
- 10E3 approx 15 issues
- 11E1 approx 16 issues

Happy Reading!

ZU BESUCH IN BERLIN



Over the first few days of the February half term break, 87 pupils from Year 11 travelled to Berlin to visit various locations studied as part of their GCSE History curriculum. The packed itinerary included visits to: the Berlin Story Bunker, Topography of Terror, German Resistance Museum, Otto Weidt's Workshop for the Blind Museum, Olympic Stadium, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and several memorials dedicated to victims of the Holocaust and other minorities persecuted by the Nazi German regime. To relax in the evenings, pupils also visited the viewing deck of the Berlin TV Tower and enjoyed a couple of hours ten-pin bowling at the American Bowl. It was an informative, thought-provoking and poignant trip, but enjoyable nonetheless and an experience that will last long in the memory.



More photographs from the Berlin trip. The photographs on this page were taken by Mr Barnett.

Anglian Learning Chess Academy (ALCA)

The Chess Academy was formed almost three years ago as a partnership between Sawston Village College and Linton Chess Club. Meeting on Friday evenings at the College members improve their chess through a combination of coaching and playing. We are open to all pupils from around Year 4/5 to Year 13 from any school.

It has been particularly rewarding to see players' talent blossom. One of our priorities is to introduce them to stronger competition including playing in adult tournaments when they are ready. Three players represent Cambridgeshire in the County first and second teams, with many more in the county junior team. They played as a group in the East Anglian Team Championships, finishing second in the group just below the elite players, and currently lead division 2 of the local adult chess league.

ALCA plays in the Cambridgeshire Schools League which it won in 2025 (see photograph below), finishing second in 2026. We hold our own tournament for all junior players: the second photograph (right) shows our five Academy players who won their age groups in 2026. Their tournament successes are too numerous to list here, but four achievements deserve special mention. Kayal Vijay won the Under 8 title at the British Girls' Championship last summer and represented England in the world championships in Kazakhstan. Minh Nguyen came second in the Under 8 national Delancey UK Schools Challenge, with Antonio Di Fruscia third in the Under 10s. Ming then came second in the (senior) Cambridgeshire County Championship!

Irrespective of their successes, their enthusiasm and enjoyment of chess shines through each week at the Academy. It is with regret that I will be standing down at Easter for health reasons, to be succeeded by Paul McMahon, my capable deputy. My thanks to him, to our volunteers and to the ever-helpful Sawston Village College staff.

Paul Kemp, Club Leader



Members of the 2025 winning team in the Cambridgeshire Schools League with coaches Mauricio Varea (left) and Paul Kemp (right)



Academy trophy winners (left to right): Guy Parson, Minh Nguyen, Antonio di Fruscia, Ivan Yu and Yiqian Zhao

ALCA Juniors in Tournament Success

The Anglian Learning Chess Academy's second annual tournament was held at Sawston Village College on Saturday, 8 February. The tournament is open to all children, and there was a good turnout, including entries from as far away as Lincolnshire and north London.

Three tournaments were held: one for Years 3-5 pupils, one for Years 6-7 pupils and one for Years 8-10. Academy players Antonio di Fruscia and Guy Parsons won the Year 5 and Under and Year 6-7 contests respectively, both scoring 4.5/5, with Neel Mishra coming an excellent second in the Year 8-10 group with 4/5.

Remarkably Academy players won the five youngest year group trophies as follows:

- **Year 3** Minh Nguyen, Babraham Primary School
- **Year 4** Ivan Yu, Stephen Perse
- **Year 5** Antonio di Fruscia, Pathfinder Northstowe
- **Year 6** Guy Parson, Thriplow Primary School
- **Year 7** Yiqian Zhao, Sawston Village College

Find out more about joining the Chess Academy here: <https://sawstonvc.org/clubs-and-activities/chess-academy/>



Well done to the International Forum for updating the international connections board and showing all the links that the school, our pupils and their families have with other countries and languages.

Primary Platform 26 - Art Exhibition

We were delighted to host Anglian Learning's first primary school art exhibition in the Marven Centre in March. All 14 of Anglian Learning's primary schools took part, creating work on the theme of 'Belonging' and exhibiting work from pupils in reception to Year 6.

Pupils from Year 9 helped to hang the exhibition, while three pupils from Year 10 attended the Private View as the official event photographers.

You can see some of the photographs taken by Nicola Ward, Arianna Ward and Aaron Grafham-Karp below.

Over the course of the three-day exhibition more than 400 people visited.

Photos by Aaron Grafham-Karp, Year 10



Photos by Arianna Ward, Year 10

Photos by Nicola Ward, Year 10





INTO THE WOODS

A boy and a girl ran through thick woods, dense and quiet around them. Some distance behind, the echo of other voices sounded. As they passed between two trees into an open space, they stopped, and bent over with their hands on their knees, which were covered by their brown school shorts. Once they had caught their breaths, they looked down at their torn, white uniform tops, mud covering the crests. "Me mum's gonna kill me," huffed the girl.

"Same here," panted the boy. Then, they looked up at each other and began laughing.

"We really did give Noel and those other dudes a run, didn't we?" sniggered the girl. The boy, remaining out of breath while he laughed, finally looked up and huffed, "Noel and them got the head start, and we still outran 'em."

"I don't feel like racing much more, though. Know any more shortcuts through the woods, Troy?"

"Don't worry, Katrina. We're probably close to my home. I haven't been around this bit of the woods before, though, but I know that we're close."

Katrina then sighed and looked up. Troy, from his bent-down position, heard her gasp and exclaim, "Whoa. You have to see this."

Troy looked up to see a humongous house. The gargantuan structure appeared to be four storeys tall. The house was desolate with no lights or movement inside. Broken, dusty wooden panels, falling off in places, decked the front. The paint peeled off the chipped woodwork. The windows were cracked, their wooden panes broken and falling off. A roof tile suddenly clattered off at that moment. A broken old porch with wooden doors falling off at the hinges sat in front. There were insects crawling all over the place.

"Who'd be mad enough to live here?" Katrina exclaimed.

Troy took a look around. The whole area felt off. The trees around here were also tall, but they seemed tightly knit together, almost forming a wooden wall. The sky was not that dark, but in the clearing, the thick mesh of the canopy seemed to have obscured it. The leaves and branches were dark silhouettes against the blue, and the lighting caused the trees to cast eerie shadows around with the coarse bark of the trees appearing to take on a darker tone. Bushes were everywhere, nestled at the foot of the trees and in the corners. Wind whispered through, rustling everything and howling through every hole and crack in the woods, tingling the spines of the two teenagers. It was impossible to tell if anything was living here.

"Hey, Kat. I think we should get going."

"Yup. Although, we could have an adventure. Maybe we'll find something interesting if we explore."

"We can have an adventure in Minecraft. In real life, we should probably be a bit more careful."

"You're right. Let's get out of here." And with that, Katrina turned to leave, but suddenly, she froze in her tracks. They had just heard a sudden noise, not too loud, but definitely audible. It was a growl, a primal one, definitely from some nearby creature. It was deep, and did not sound friendly.

"W-what was that?" Troy stammered.

"It doesn't sound happy. You're right, we have to get out of here." Just as they broke into a jog for the opening in the clearing, they heard it again. This one was louder. It was coming from their exit direction. Katrina shrieked and jumped back. More growls echoed. They were trembling now. Suddenly, a pair of glowing red dots appeared in the bushes. They started appearing everywhere in the dark.

Troy and Katrina let out ear-piercing shrieks, before they spun around and ran for the house. There was more growling, and

they heard footsteps behind them. The din began to get louder, with frantic howling mixed in. Screaming, they reached the doorstep of the house, with the noise getting louder and louder as the creatures got closer. They began banging on the door hard, yelling for help. Suddenly, it opened, and they fell in. They turned around just to see the door closing on a few grey blurs running up onto the doorstep. As it slammed shut, they grabbed each other and trembled hard, panting. A few minutes later, when the sound had completely died away, they got up, and looked around. The downstairs light was turned on, revealing a completely carpeted floor and a set of wooden stairs leading up to the top floor. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary, except that there was no-one behind them. There was no-one around.

'Maybe they ran upstairs after they let us in before we could look,' Troy said

'Or, they might have run through the door into the hall. You never know,' Katrina replied, her voice tense with fear. Suddenly, they heard a thudding noise echo from upstairs. The lights were off, and it was dark. They both jumped, and looked up to the sound.

'Looks like they are upstairs after all,' Katrina mumbled 'Do you think we should go and check on them? You know, just to thank them for saving our lives and to check that they are ok,' Troy asked.

'You know, funnily enough, I don't remember seeing anyone close the door behind us. I know that we were terrified, but I am sure that I would have seen at least a hand shut it.'

'I didn't notice either. But they might be really tall and their hand was closing the door from really high up or something.'

'Let's just head up to them now.'

And with that, they turned and looked at the stairwell. Slowly, Troy stepped on the bottom tread, and it let off an ominous creaking noise. A rustling noise sounded from upstairs.

'What if there's more than one person? It sounds like we might have woken someone upstairs,' Katrina said.

'Don't worry. At least they can find someone, and maybe they can get our parents to come here and take us home.' Troy replied.

'You know what? I'll go check through the door leading to the hall to see if I can find anyone. You go upstairs. Maybe if we split up, we've got a better chance of finding someone.'

'You sure? You know, safety in numbers and all that stuff. Maybe we're better off sticking together.'

'Relax, Troy. We're inside now. What could we possibly have to be scared of?'

Troy knew that nothing looked wrong, but he still felt unsettled inside the house. The eerie silence wasn't helping.

'Alright then, Kat. I'll go look upstairs, ok?'

'Alright. I'll see you once I've searched.' And with that, Katrina walked to the door and shut it behind her.

Troy gulped, looked up at the foreboding staircase, and started up the stairs.

'Here we go,' he gulped to himself.

Vaibhav Ramesh, Year 9

POETRY PAGE

THE CUBOID MYSTERY

I was in a void and omniscient
 Cradled in curiosity and at the same time lost
 Enlightened with knowledge, gold and energy
 With wonder and only a box
 A box with spikes snarling like a fox.

I was falling through darkness with only my brain
 And a cuboid with voices I yearned to sustain
 Should I disobey the instructions of gods
 I know not because my heart will be skewered with rods.

Why would you give me a mystery unsolved
 Because my temptations will be abruptly dissolved
 I'll be strangled with unwavering guilt
 And my emotions will be simply buried in silt.

But over time the voices get louder
 Yet my personal thoughts getting less and less sounder
 The curves and the corners were all so attracting
 But not for now, I wasn't reacting
 At least now, the cuboid of mystery
 Is in the past and ancient history...

Tiger Lee, Year 7

LETTING GO

Letting go is the hardest part.
 Letting go will break your heart.
 Letting go will leave you in bits.
 Letting go is the piece that doesn't fit.

Holding on will break you down.
 Holding on will make you frown.
 Holding on is more pain than ever.
 Holding on throws away your endeavour.

Giving up won't get you far.
 Giving up hits you with the bar.
 Giving hurts you more.
 Giving up will close the door.

Believing will make you cry.
 Believing won't work even if you try.
 Believing will wilt the flower.
 Believing isn't the greatest superpower.

Letting go is the hardest part.
 Letting go will break your heart.
 Letting go will leave you in bits.
 Letting go is the piece that doesn't fit.

You do not write your life with words.
 You write it with actions.
 What you think is not important.
 It is only important what you do.



HE COULD FINALLY LET HER GO.

Poppy Morris, Year 7



To the world

This poem is for the black and white,
 This poem is for the wealthy and poor,
 Anybody can read this poem,
 No matter where,
 No matter how,
 Gather the countries,
 Gather the nations and cultures,
 Gather all our differences,
 Unite as one,
 No matter who you are and what you do,
 This poem only speaks true,
 I chant in the morning,
 I chant in the night,
 The poem for the human race,
 THE POEM OF MIGHT!



Anneliese Kolenchery, Year 7

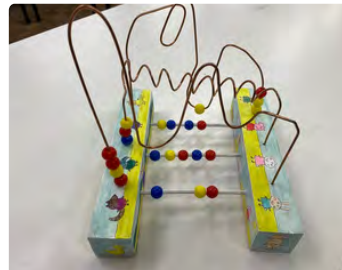
Cinema Club Update



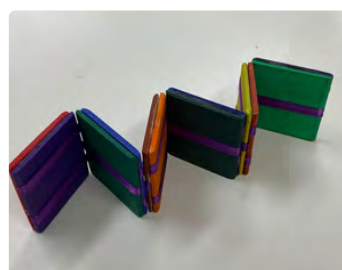
Cinema Club has had a busy term. The closing date for the Into Film Awards was brought forward to just after half term which meant we were very busy in January and February getting our film entries finished. The Year 7 & 8 Club reworked some well-known fairy tales, producing a film called *Fairy Fails*, which highlights lots of different film techniques. Meanwhile the Years 9-11 club wanted to make something epic and produced *Other Sides*. (See photos from their filming days below.) These films will be shown at the end of year Cinema Club showcase in July.



Year 10 Design & Technology



This term, the Year 10 DT classes have been designing and making educational toys. Pupils have engaged enthusiastically with the full design process and have applied a wide range of materials and techniques, including woodworking and 3D printing, demonstrating growing technical skill and attention to detail. Overall, pupils have displayed impressive creativity, commitment, and progress.



The Brass Funkeys - a Workshop and a Performance

The Workshop

The Brass Funkeys workshop was a great experience. Learning how to play together in a style not usually played at school and only having an hour to learn and perform without sheet music made it fun and interactive.

We also enjoyed playing solos and working as a group. At the beginning we tried different clapping techniques. We also had a go at matching pitches in different keys so we could play harmonies and to play the melody.

James Chinda and Oliver Lewes, Year 9

The Performance - My Review

The arts event I recently attended was a music performance by a band called the Brass Funkeys. This band is known for their unique sound and individual music taste and they have performed at Glastonbury, Ronnie Scott's and the Cambridge Corn Exchange. There were two members of the band performing called Dave and Vijay, and they played the trumpet, saxophone, trombone and sousaphone. They took on several roles in the band by using a loop pedal, pre-recordings and different instruments. We heard the Key Stage 3 musicians perform and we saw Dave and Vijay playing brass, woodwind and percussion. The Brass Funkeys taught us how to create beats while we also sang 'When the Saints', and half of us split with the other half while singing. We also had to guess the film, character and what the character was meant to be playing from a piece of music they gave us - it was from The Jungle Book! We heard them also play a melancholy jazzy tune too.

My favourite part of the concert was when we got to sing! I enjoyed this because I like when things are interactive and I love singing in general. I would have preferred it if the music was a bit quieter as I don't like really loud things, but it was bearable and I still liked it!

I learned that two people can represent a whole band using music technology and I learned 'When the Saints'. (It got stuck in my head all weekend!) I would DEFINITELY recommend the event to others because it made my day so much better by hearing lovely music and singing. Next time, I'd love to attend another concert or maybe a dance showcase! A trip to the cinema or theatre would be great too.

Neha Varghese, Year 7

The Performance - My Review

The arts event I recently attended was a music performance by a band called the Brass Funkeys. This band is known for brass and woodwind instruments and have performed at places as big as Glastonbury!

The performance took place on Friday, 20 March at Sawston Village College. The two people who were playing were called Dave and Vijay. We heard a lot of songs using brass, woodwind and percussion instruments and they all sounded very jazzy. We sang 'When the Saints' while the Brass Funkeys played with us. We saw loop pedals, backing tracks and lots of music technology. My favourite part of the concert was when we got to sing along. I enjoyed this because I liked being able to join in and I think they picked really good songs. I would have preferred it if there was more range in the songs because I personally like it when there are lots of genres, such as pop and rock. I learned that there is such a thing as a loop pedal. This makes live music repeat, so you can use it to make a rhythm that you don't have to play for the whole time. Next time, I would like to attend a pop concert because I really like that kind of music but I have never seen it performed live.

Luke Coleman-Denny, Year 7



Staff in the Spotlight:

Miss Cook, Deputy Head of Maths

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

Since I was in about Year 6 I wanted to be a lawyer. As I got older, I enjoyed watching legal dramas on TV; I liked the theatrics of arguing a case in court and catching people out. I stuck with this ambition for years until I did work experience. At that point I realised that the bit you see on TV is the exciting bit whereas the vast majority of the job behind the scenes just didn't feel quite right for me. I enjoyed Maths and Art at school so briefly considered studying architecture.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

I really enjoyed Maths and Art at school. I continued to study Maths but kept Art up as a hobby. I prefer drawing over painting, but would quite like to improve my painting skills so know it is something I should practise more. I took part in quite a few music clubs when I was a pupil at school. Now you might occasionally see me playing the clarinet at Jazz Band or playing with the Samba Band. Over the last year I have also discovered a love of gardening. So far in my garden I have created some new borders, put in a pond, grown some fruit and veg, and planted lots of bulbs (which the rest of the Maths department are probably fed up hearing about!).



What's your most embarrassing moment?

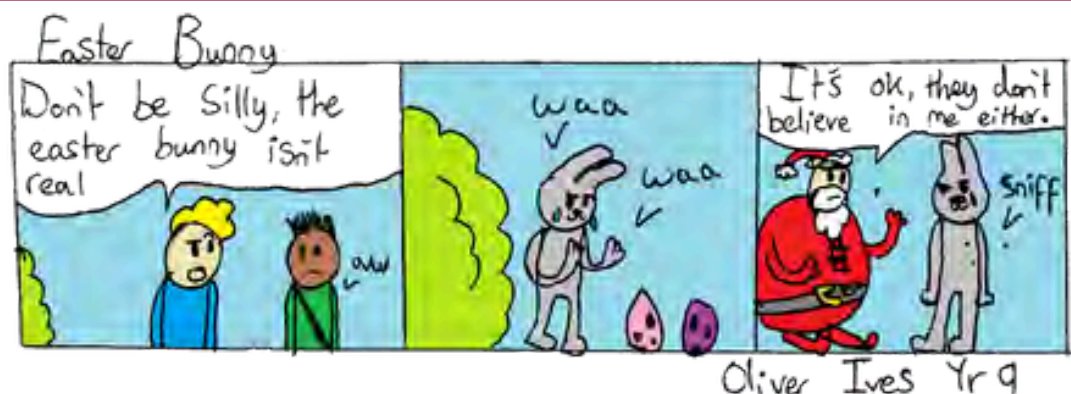
When I was about 8 years old my family and I attended a wedding. At the party afterwards my mom sent my sister and I to ask the DJ to play a Kylie Minogue song, so we did. The song came on, everybody left the dance floor, and my mom told my sister and I to return to the dance floor because we had requested the song! Was very embarrassing to be the only two dancing with such a big audience.

What's your favourite part of your job?

As cliché as it sounds, I love it when a pupil has understood something in lessons that they were finding difficult. I also love the other things that happen outside the classroom. Sawston offers such a huge range of co-curricular opportunities. Whilst at Sawston I have enjoyed taking part in/supporting/watching music concerts, drama productions, DofE expeditions, dance showcases, Rubiks Clube, and many trips. I enjoy getting involved in these things with my colleagues and seeing the huge array of talents that pupils have outside of the Maths department.

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

At the moment I'd probably say gardener. I think it would be cool to work somewhere like a National Trust property where they have lots of different types of gardens within the grounds and huge green houses. Not sure I'd still be as enthusiastic about being a gardener in the winter though when the weather is cold and wet.



Year 11 GCSE Food pupils work diligently

Our Year 11 Food GCSE pupils worked diligently and created stunning dishes during their all-day exam, which took place in March. Below are some comments after the Food exam from our Year 11s, along with photos of them in action.

Izzy Radford-Eyers: I feel very relieved and proud because my Food practical exam is over. I'm so proud of my three exam dishes, and my teacher was very supportive.

Anna Riederer: I feel really relieved and proud of myself. I'm looking forward to tasting my food with my family.

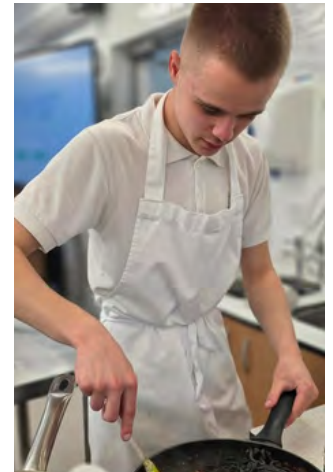
Ned Gott: I'm very happy to have enhanced my knowledge, which I will use later in my life, and I have broadened my understanding with a variety of different techniques that I will take into the future.

Charley Bridgeman: I feel relieved and happy, especially as the white chocolate feathering went well for my chocolate tarts. I'm also pleased to have found a way to solve the issue with my chicken Alfredo sauce when it wasn't quite right.

Anushka Parmar: I feel great! It was a great day because we produced good dishes, and I'm happy to see others also produced great dishes.

Izzy McLaughlin: It was great that I had plenty of time to decorate, as I was worried about running out of time. However, my time plan was helpful, and I'm happy that the dishes turned out how I wanted.

Due to restrictions on live exam photographs, we have included photos of the amazing dishes made by previous Year 11 pupils.



Our non-uniform day in March raised £862.55 for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort. Give yourself a pat on the back.



Year 8 Mac and Cheese Milestone

In our food milestone, we made mac and cheese following the eat well guide. We used margarine and low-fat milk to make a healthy version of mac and cheese. I chose to include some extra ingredients as well such as courgettes, ham, mushrooms and shallots. Our aim was to create and present our mac and cheese nicely. We had to put our mac and cheese in a baking dish and grill it until golden brown. The part that I enjoyed the most was making the creamy sauce and the final tasting. Overall, it was a very fun lesson, and my family loved the mac and cheese!

Jasmine Chan, Year 8

I really liked making mac and cheese for my Food milestone. It had so much flavour as I added broccoli and ham to make it healthier. I sprinkled parsley and put mint on top to make it look nice. My family all thought it was really nice and I am definitely going to make it again.

Matilda Enright, Year 8



Hidden Heritages - Session 2 (Full Day)

On 19 March, a group of pupils got together at the Marven Centre, working on a very special project. We had finished conducting our interviews, and now, it was time for the next steps of the process.

Our interviews were with people of Asian heritage, consisting of topics such as their childhood, descriptions of places they grew up and lived, childhood hobbies, their school days, their family life and local culture, festivals and celebrations, migration, etc.

They also explored sensitive topics and themes, such as racism, isolation, loneliness, punishment, etc. citing which a disclaimer note was to be added to the summary warning the person before listening. Before these interviews could be stored in archives for the public to access, we had to write a content summary and a sensitivity review which was a disclaimer to any sensitive content. We started by adding timestamps to show the beginnings of different topics, such as childhood or careers, and we wrote brief, note-form descriptions of what was contained in that section. These were to help public get a better idea of the content.

We also learned which content had to be flagged and censored, such as information which could cause substantial damage/distress to third parties or records of criminal activity.

We summarised part of our interviews during the day and the rest was to be finished as homework. Towards the end of the day, it was explained to us that our interviews were going to be exhibited at the University of Cambridge. We are tasked currently with exploring different ways of creatively showcasing our work to enable an enjoyable experience for the audience and also one that would fit within the budget. These steps are still a work in progress with further planning required. The exhibition is scheduled to launch on Friday 17 April and will last for at least two months.

It was an interesting experience to conduct these interviews and to learn about the stories, cultures, backgrounds and experiences of different people. It was an eye opener to the varied ways of life different from ours and it was also fascinating to explore the migration of people to the UK and their opinions.

Vaibhav Ramesh, Year 9

Staff in the Spotlight: Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art

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

I wanted to become an archaeologist as I was fascinated by Ancient Egypt, particularly its pharaohs, pyramids, and rich symbolism, as well as by legendary narratives such as Atlantis and the Holy Grail. I was drawn to the intersection between history and myth — the idea of uncovering tangible evidence of the past while engaging with the stories that shaped it. For me it was a way of exploring worlds between history and imagination.

What are your main hobbies or interests?

My main interest lies in the reciprocal relationship between my professional practice and my research, each continually informing and strengthening the other. As Head of Art, my daily teaching practice shapes my research direction, while my research aims directly contributes to the evolution of the Art and Design curriculum. This dynamic exchange creates ongoing intellectual engagement and professional vitality.

My research explores two interconnected strands: the use of illustration and board games to communicate abstract concepts such as logic to young learners, inspired by Lewis Carroll, and a contemporary re-examination of the essential elements of drawing, informed by John Ruskin and supported by insights from neuroscience, particularly in relation to visual perception and cognitive development. Seeing these approaches implemented in the classroom — and observing the measurable progress, engagement, and confidence of students — has been extremely rewarding. In many ways, my work as a researcher has ceased to feel like work and has instead become a particularly serious hobby — one aimed to be validated daily through my work by pupil engagement.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

When I was confidently walking into a lecture room and launching into what I believed was an Art History talk — full energy, full conviction — only to later realise I was in entirely the wrong session.

The audience was remarkably attentive. Not a single question. No interruptions. Just focused silence. At the time, I thought I had encountered the most disciplined audience imaginable — perhaps they were deeply inspired...or maybe they were all asleep or plotting my demise. It turned out they were just trying to understand why Art History had suddenly entered the universe of mRNA technology.

I have since learned that when no one challenges you, it is either brilliance — or you are simply not reading room.

So yes, artists may paint outside the lines... but we should still read the signs.

What's your favourite part of your job?

To witness the confidence and quality of work that pupils develop over time. Seeing their progress — both in their technical skills and in their creative independence — is deeply rewarding. Their achievements continually challenge me to refine and evolve the curriculum, ensuring that it remains intellectually rigorous, relevant, and inspiring. The dialogue between pupil progress and curriculum development is what makes the role both dynamic and meaningful.

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

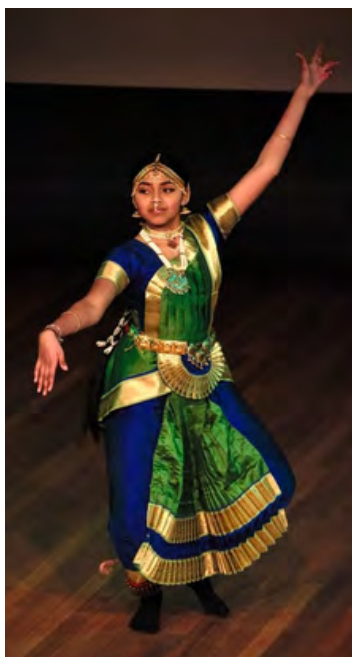
I am guided by the belief that meaningful work should align with what genuinely inspires me, and while that may evolve over time, this is the path I am fully committed to right now.



Gym & Dance Display

Thank you to the PE department and all the amazing pupil participants for the wonderful Gym & Dance Display in the final week of term.

The capacity audience enjoyed wonderful vaulting, tumbling, balance beam work, cheerleading and dancing across many different styles, all making for an unforgettable evening.





More pictures from the Gym & Dance Display. Thank you to Mr Barnett and his daughter Florence for taking these photographs.



98th PowerHouse Games

On Monday, 16 March, myself with the support of Mr Pell-Coggins, Ms Gonzales-Velasco and Paul-Christopher's mum took 10 Sawston Village College pupils to the 98th PowerHouse Games held at the Cambridge University Sports Centre and hosted by John Willis (Power2Inspire). Our pupils were absolutely amazing. They did themselves and the school proud.

The group of Sawston pupils arrived full of excitement and anticipation, and once the day began, their enthusiasm never stopped. Every single pupil took part in every event, working in mixed teams made up of pupils from three different schools, a volunteer charity group, and Cambridge University athletics students. Each child was given a coloured T-shirt to show their team identity, and many of them are still wearing theirs proudly!

It was a truly powerful and inspiring morning, where barriers, limitations, and any sense of exclusion in sport simply disappeared. Throughout the event, our pupils worked tirelessly as a team, persevering through each activity, communicating brilliantly, and embracing every moment of the adventure.

Our pupils embraced all eight adapted sports, which included:

- Seated foam javelin
- Seated volleyball
- Curling
- Boccia
- Target throw
- Quick cricket
- Goalball
- Sitting netball

At the closing ceremony of the 98th PowerHouse Games, every pupil received both a certificate of participation and a medal. What a beautiful, uplifting morning it was!

Mrs Dennis, PE Teacher



Sports Leaders smash it at local Primary Schools!

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders have been out and about, and what a fantastic job they've done! The group visited six local feeder primary schools, delivering action-packed mini indoor athletics events to Year 3 and Year 4 pupils.

Each visit was full of energy as our leaders confidently ran six different activities, including shuttle runs, speed bounce and a target throw challenge. From organising equipment to explaining rules and cheering everyone on, they took full responsibility for making each session fun, inclusive and engaging.

What impressed us most wasn't just their organisation (though that was excellent!), it was their compassion, excitement and enthusiasm. Their positive attitudes were completely contagious, and it was wonderful to see the primary pupils throwing themselves into every activity with huge smiles on their faces.

These sessions form an important part of the Sports Leaders qualification, and our pupils should be incredibly proud of what they achieved. They represented our school brilliantly and proved just how powerful sport can be in bringing people together.

Well done to all of our Year 9 Sports Leaders, you've done yourselves, Mr Trent, and myself extremely proud!

Mrs Dennis and Mr Trent, PE Teachers



Cross Country Success

Congratulations to Benjamin Zenner Branco in Year 9 who was first in the boys Year 8 and 9 regional cross country event recently. This result saw him through to the next round of the country's cross country competition. Benjamin's win at the regional cross country event followed a successful run at Netherhall before the Christmas break.

Following this fantastic result, Benjamin progressed from the regional event, which was held at Kings Ely, to the national stage. At Ely he had a tough heat of 50 athletes, all ranking in the top spots for their county, so to achieve first was a massive feat.

The final stage of the English Schools National Cross Country Championships took place in Liverpool where 350 athletes competed. Benjamin finished 196th in this event and was only 20 secs outside a top 100 spot. An amazing achievement - well done!



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.



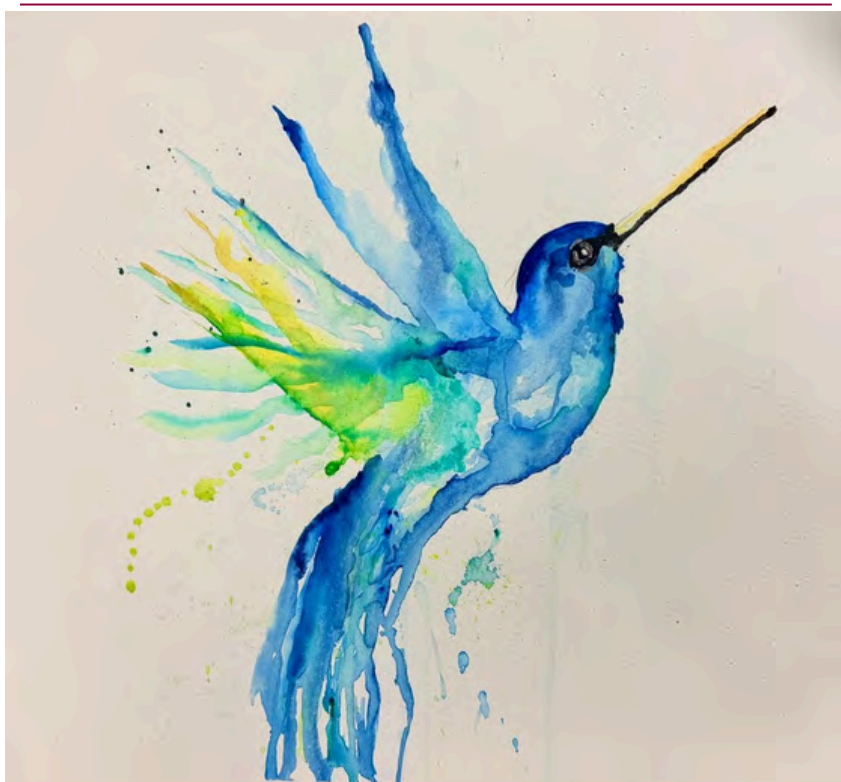
Anglian Leisure Sawston

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.



Watercolour painting by Jessica Collings, Year 9

SAWSTON FUN RUN & WALK



This year's
**SAWSTON FUN RUN
& WALK**
is on
SUNDAY

10 May 2026.

For more information on
how to enter, go to:
www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk

www.sawstonvc.org
01223 712777
office@sawstonvc.org

CARE

ANGLIAN LEARNING

**Sawston
Village College**



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard