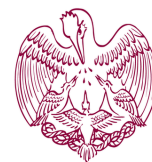


# May / June 2026 Newsletter



Sawston  
Village College

## Dates for your Diary:

1 June	School reopens after half-term	25 June	Lower School Concert
4 June	Year 10 Parents' Evening	26 June	Year 11 Leavers' Ball
4 June	NT Live: The Playboy of the Western World	1 July	Year 6 induction day
5-7 June	DofE Silver training weekend	2 July	Year 6 induction evening
12-13 June	Year 10 London Geography trip	2 July	Year 9 report 3 issued
15-19 June	Activities Week	3 July	Music Department outdoor gig
15-26 June	Year 10 Work Experience	6-7 July	House prizegiving evenings
18 June	Sawston Cinema: Song Sung Blue	8-10 July	Oliver! performances
25 June	Year 7 report 3 issued	9 July	Year 8 report 3 issued
25 June	Year 8 and 9 catch-up vaccinations	16 July	Cinema Club Showcase
25 June	NT Live: Les Liasons Dangereuses	17 July	Summer term ends



Welcome to our latest newsletter, filled with a wide range of achievements, opportunities and exciting developments. It has been a particularly busy and rewarding period, with pupils and staff demonstrating enthusiasm, creativity and commitment in all areas. One standout highlight this term was the memorable Geography trip to Iceland, where Year 11 pupils explored volcanic landscapes, waterfalls

and glaciers — an experience that combined adventure with real-world learning. Closer to home, there has been plenty to celebrate academically, including impressive Junior Maths Challenge results, and the continued dedication of Year 11 pupils as they complete their courses and examinations.

The creative arts are thriving, with preparations well underway for the school production of *Oliver!*, exciting music performances and concerts, and outstanding work from Art and Photography pupils, whose work continues to reach professional exhibition spaces.

Meanwhile, opportunities beyond the classroom continue to grow, with new Adult Learning courses, upcoming workshops, and valuable qualifications such as the National Pool Lifeguard course on offer.

In staffing news, Mr Darcy has left his role as Business Studies teacher, and Mr Sutton will step in whilst we seek a replacement. Mr Roberts, who has worked with us as a supply PE teacher is also leaving, with his classes redistributed after half term. Miss Dolan has been appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> in English from September. Our staff training has focused on behaviour management and inclusion whilst our research group have been exploring AI.

Across the College, there is a clear sense of momentum — from high engagement in the library and enrichment activities to inspiring trips, competitions and curriculum projects that bring learning to life. We hope you enjoy reading about all that has been happening and feel proud of the many successes within our community.

We wish everyone a wonderful half term break and look forward to picking up the pace again on Monday, 1 June. *'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.'*— William Butler Yeats

Mr Russell, Principal



## Update from Geography

During the Easter holidays, a group of Year 11 Geographers had the opportunity to visit Iceland - the land of fire and ice. Pupils enjoyed a jam-packed itinerary that included visiting the capital city Reykjavik, swimming at the natural geothermal Secret Lagoon and seeing the lava flows from the most recent eruptions on the Reykjanes Peninsula. Pupils saw many of the spectacular waterfalls and enjoyed getting soaked by walking behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. The highlight of the trip was the Sólheimajökull glacier walk. Pupils attached crampons to their boots to walk over the glacial ice and had the opportunity to go through ice caves. The pupils' conduct was also outstanding throughout the trip!

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



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Sports Centre: 01223 712555 - [www.sawstonsports.com](http://www.sawstonsports.com) | Sawston Cinema: 01223 712825 - [www.sawstoncinema.org.uk](http://www.sawstoncinema.org.uk)

## Update from Maths

This half term we were excited to enter nearly sixty keen and enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 pupils into the Junior Maths Challenge. This is a popular 60-minute, multiple-choice Maths competition run by the [United Kingdom Mathematics Trust \(UKMT\)](#). It is designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills for students typically aged 13 or younger. The top-scoring participants receive certificates, and we were delighted the pupils earned 18 Bronze, 8 Silver and 11 Golds between them. A very special mention to the five pupils who have qualified for the Junior Kangaroo; Lucy Leese, Idris Samanta, Arthur Smith, Felix Kriz and Freya Pulford. A big shout out to Emmanuel Kuan who has qualified for the highly prestigious Junior Mathematical Olympiad (JMO). Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



## Update from PSHE

This term in PSHE, all year groups have been focusing on the Living in the Wider World theme of the subject, particularly around future careers and the changing world of work. Year 7s explored skills needed for future careers, while Year 8s considered the meaning of success and the challenges and rewards of work. Year 9s explored digital footprints and their impact now and in the future. Year 10s researched potential future careers and routes into them, and are continuing to learn about issues around gambling. Finally, Year 11s reflected on the importance of being active participants in democracy. We wish Year 11s all the best for their exams!

Mrs Hall, Head of PSHE and teacher of Religion and Worldviews



## Update from English

Well done to Year 11s for making a fantastic start on their English exams; many were delighted that the Macbeth question was about guilt! Year 10s were also impressive in their responses in their recent mock exams, with some great ideas about the power of nature in our poetry anthology. A group of Year 9 pupils will shortly visit Cambridge Union to hear poet Jackie Kay talk about poetry and writing. Year 7s are currently enjoying reading Salem in their English lessons and Year 8s are preparing to write and perform their own persuasive speeches, following their study of Animal Farm.

Miss Bunting, Head of English



## Update from History

This half term our Year 11s have enjoyed discovering the history of the College itself in preparation for their 'History Around us' paper! Year 10s have impressed with a fantastic set of mock results and are now looking forward to their trip to Hastings. In KS3, both Years 7 and 8 have been enjoying some local history: Year 7s have been discovering the rich history behind Denny Abbey and Year 8s have been exploring the links between Chippenham Park and a Jamaican slave plantation. Meanwhile, History Guild members have had fun tracing John Snow's investigation of the causes of cholera and prohibition era America!

Miss Phillips, Head of History (Maternity Cover)



## An Update from the Library

The library is busy as ever in this last term of the year. Book Club are well underway with their shadowing of the Carnegie Medal for Writing; we have been reading and discussing as many books from the long and short lists as we can. It has been a particularly enjoyable list this year, and we eagerly await the opportunity to take part in the official vote.

In one of the busiest terms of the year, I am pleased to see borrowing figures still high – well done to all pupils for keeping up with those positive reading habits.

Watch this space as in a few weeks' time, I will be announcing which class has been the most active with their borrowing across the entire academic year!

Ms Fincham-Allen, Library Manager



Sawston  
Adult  
Learning



Our summer term courses are now up and running, and attention is now focused on the next academic year. (We do like to plan ahead here in Adult Learning!) We are very pleased to be offering a new course in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), which we hope will be useful within the local community. There will also be a new course designed to improve mobility through gentle stretching exercises, which may prove more accessible than Yoga for some people.

We are also looking forward to our Saturday workshops on 13 June. This term we have plenty to offer the more culinary minded amongst you. In addition to Indian Cookery, we are offering three brand new workshops:

- Eastern European Cuisine
- Jam making and preserving and
- Willow swifts and swallows sculpture

If you would like to enrol for any of our courses or would like further information, please do get in touch.

Visit our website <https://sawstonvc.org/adult-learning/>

Email [community@sawstonvc.org](mailto:community@sawstonvc.org)

Phone 01223 712424

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



Anglian Leisure Sawston will be running a National Pool Lifeguard Qualification from Monday, 6 July - Friday, 10 July, with assessments

taking place on Saturday, 11 or Sunday 12 July. Pre-requisites: Every candidate attending a National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) course must be 16 years old or above at the time of taking the NPLQ final assessment and be able to:

- Jump/dive into deep water
- Swim 50 metres in less than 60 seconds
- Swim 100 metres continuously on front and back
- In deep water, tread water for 30 seconds
- Surface dive to the floor of the pool
- Climb out unaided without ladder/steps and where the pool design permits

Benefits:

- An excellent starting point for a career in the leisure industry
- Opportunity for career progression as most leisure managers start as Pool Lifeguards
- Varied working hours
- Work within a team
- The NPLQ is recognised around the world, so potential to work and travel
- A great way for students to fund studies
- Learn essential life skills, including First Aid and CPR

Cost: £275 (SVC pupils - £250) 100% attendance required.

If you are interested, please contact us on 01223 712555

or email [sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk](mailto:sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk).

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



SAWSTON CINEMA

To see what is coming up, and to book tickets, check out:  
[www.sawstoncinema.org](http://www.sawstoncinema.org)



Next up at Sawston Cinema in the Marven Centre is NT Live's *The Playboy of the Western World*, and there's more to come besides this, including the popular Cinema Club Showcase on 16 July.

Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager



Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

## Drama Update

The Drama Department has had another busy and exciting half term, with students across all year groups continuing to develop their performance skills and creativity.

Rehearsals for our school production of *Oliver!* are really ramping up, and it is essential that all cast members attend the correct rehearsals as we move closer to performance week. Tickets are now on sale and are selling fast!

Year 7s have been focusing on improvisation skills and are about to begin work on the script *Ernie's Incredible Illusions*.

Year 8s have been studying Brecht's style of theatre and are now applying their understanding to the novel *The Other Side of Truth*.

Meanwhile, Year 9s have been exploring the work of Harold Pinter, focusing on his use of pauses, proxemics and paralinguistics to create tension and meaning.

Year 10s have been working extremely hard on their written mock exams and on preparing for their devised performances, which took place on 11 and 12 May.

Finally, Year 11s completed their scripted performance exam with great skill and dedication. They have also now finished the course after taking their written exam on Friday, 8 May. Well done to all of Year 11 - we look forward to celebrating your wonderful results!

Mr Bell, Head of Drama



## Art & Photography Update

Congratulations to our Year 11 Art and Photography students, who have officially completed their coursework. Their intellectual curiosity, technical refinement, and sustained commitment to creative practice have established an exceptional standard for the next cohort. Year 10 students are currently investigating the theory of the Seven Colour Contrasts, analysing how chromatic relationships influence visual perception, emotional response, and cognitive interpretation, before progressing towards a large-scale street art project for the Cambridge City FC stadium wall. In KS3, Year 7 students are exploring the surrealist universe of Giuseppe Arcimboldo through imaginative portraiture, Year 8s are experimenting with collage and visual storytelling, while Year 9s are developing conceptual approaches to landscape representation through mixed media techniques.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art



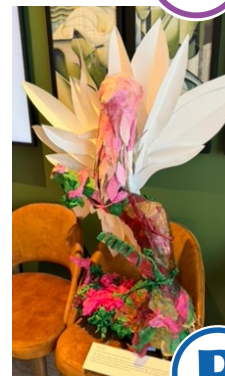
Year 10 art pupils recently enjoyed having work they had made in workshops with artist Michael Condron exhibited at Strawberry Fields in Stapleford.

## Update from Music

The start of the Summer Term in the Music Department has seen continued creativity in composition, determination in listening and appraising, and plenty of steel pans performances! All pupils in Key Stage 3 are tackling a steel pans piece this term, and are either just taking their performance milestone or will get started next half term. Year 7 and 8 pupils are challenged with performing their piece from memory, while Year 9s are taking on the ambitious James Bond theme tune. When not on the steel pans, Year 7s have been expanding their musical vocabulary and appraising skills through an exploration of Programme Music, while Year 8s are asking the question, what actually is Music? Year 9 pupils are also exploring and performing Brazilian Samba. In Year 10, pupils have finished their exploration of the Concerto Through Time, from the Baroque to the Romantic period, and are continuing to develop their compositional skills. Our Year 11 pupils have worked incredibly hard on their performance and composition coursework, and are busy revising for their listening exam. We are very proud of their achievements so far and wish them all the best in the final part of the course.

The Music Department has also been back to West Road, this time for two concert trips. GCSE Music pupils and percussionists enjoyed a concert by the Colin Currie Quartet, who performed several pieces by Steve Reich and other composers. GCSE Music pupils also went to watch East Anglian Chamber Orchestra perform a fantastic programme which featured Mozart's Clarinet Concerto - great links to the GCSE curriculum! Sawston's Samba band are busy preparing for two gigs in the local area, as well as Sawston's Outdoor Gig next half term. The Outdoor Gig and the Junior Concert will feature performances from most of our ensembles and are sure to be fantastic events to finish off the year. Congratulations to all pupils who successfully took instrumental and singing exams last half term, and good luck to those preparing for next half term too!

Mrs Johnson, Head of Music



## Food Tech Highlights

This term, our Year 11s successfully completed their coursework, while Year 10s began mock coursework preparations for September by cooking their chosen dishes. They embraced the challenge and took pride in their achievements. Year 9s carried out a cupcake experiment to test the best raising agent in baking, while Year 8s enjoyed making sweet and sour chicken and developing food safety skills when handling raw meat. Year 7s cooked bolognese, learning key skills, including seasoning, heat control, and safe meat handling. They also made fresh pasta from scratch using a pasta machine, served with tomato sauce and parmesan, all within an hour! Pupils were extremely proud of their accomplishments.

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



## House News

With GCSE examinations now in full swing, our Year 11 pupils across the school have been demonstrating focus, resilience and determination. This half term our assembly programme has explored important themes, including Respect, The Power of Language, Earth Day, Mental Health Awareness, and The Role of Pupil Leaders in shaping a positive community in order to launch the Senate. We are pleased to celebrate these values and will conclude the term with year group celebration assemblies. Meanwhile, pupils also enjoyed a successful trip to Hastings, including a visit to the Tower of London, offering a valuable opportunity to enrich their learning beyond the classroom and create lasting memories together.

Mrs Fink, Year 10 Lead (with Mrs Fane), on behalf of the Heads of House



## Update from Religion and Worldviews

It has been another thought-provoking and exciting half term in the Religion and Worldviews department. Year 7s have been exploring how Buddhists respond to suffering, while Year 8s have tackled the fascinating question of what happens when we die, considering religious and Humanist perspectives alongside paranormal claims and near-death experiences. Year 9s have completed an in-depth enquiry into Christian theology, showing impressive curiosity and insight throughout. Congratulations to Year 10s, who have now completed their HPQ projects. Finally, we bid a fond farewell to Year 11s and wish them every success as they begin the next stage of their journey.

Mrs Venn, Head of Religion and Worldviews



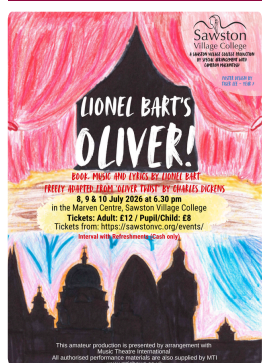
## Update from Languages

Well done to Year 10 pupils for their hard work in their first set of internal mock exams. We have been impressed with what you have produced in the assessments.

This half term is also a time for goodbyes: we wish our Year 11s all the best as they start their study leave. Well done to pupils for their hard work and good luck for their exams. We also say thank you and farewell to Adeline and Zaira, our wonderful French and Spanish assistants who have worked with key stage 4 pupils on their speaking skills.

Preparations are underway for the Year 8 trips which will run during activities week: some French pupils are off to Paris whilst Spanish students are heading to Barcelona, and we are very much looking forward to seeing them use their language skills and further develop their cultural knowledge.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



## Events

We have some exciting events to look forward to next half term. To find out more and see what is coming up, check out the events page of our website: <https://sawstonvc.org/events/>

## And finally...

We hope you have a relaxing half term break. Our final half term of this academic year begins on Monday, 1 June 2026. We look forward to seeing all pupils and staff then.



Follow us on Facebook and see our website for regular news updates.  
[www.sawstonvc.org](http://www.sawstonvc.org)



## Professional Learning

This half term staff have been discussing how AI may be used in order to support teaching and learning, and reduce teacher workload. The principles and application of Positive Regard, in order to develop a strong sense of belonging in our learners, have also been a focus for staff training. Alongside this, Teaching Assistants are undertaking a programme of weekly professional learning centred around our principles of Inclusive Classrooms and Ordinarily Available Provision in order to support all learners to make good progress.

Miss Gelder, Deputy Principal



## Recycling in Science

As a department, we are keen to contribute towards the College's 'green' endeavours by recycling rather than buying new, and avoid unnecessary landfill. Over the last year, we have received donations of equipment from places such as Adventbio, Babraham Institute, Unity Campus, Cambridge University via the Warpit recycling portal and even a local resident.

The items we received included: glassware - conical flasks, measuring cylinders, round flasks, 100ml, 250ml and 500ml Schott bottles, test tubes; labware - clamps, balance, magnetic stirrers, Gilson pipettes, petri dishes, stripettes and lab coats. We've even received an entire collection of rocks and minerals!

We topped up our own resources and then contacted all Trust schools to see whether any items could be used by other science departments. We have also arranged visits from other Anglian Learning technicians to establish a network of support.

Should you know of any company looking to rehome glassware, labware or items of scientific interest, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Sarah Bär, Science Technician



## Year 10 Design & Technology Update

This half term, the Year 10 DT classes have been taking part in an exciting practical challenge by designing and making a wooden game. Using a working drawing, pupils carefully measured, marked out and cut their materials before assembling the different parts and gluing the joints together. The project allowed students to develop a range of practical workshop skills, including accuracy, problem solving and safe use of tools and equipment. Throughout the challenge, pupils showed excellent focus, creativity and determination while producing their games. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and worked hard to achieve a high standard of finish.

Mr Bannister and the DT department

