

July / August 2026 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

3 September	School open for Year 7 and 11 pupils	28 September	Post-16 information evening
4 September	School open to all pupils	1 October	Open Evening
7 September	Year 7 and 11 individual photos	2 October	Staff training day- school closed to pupils
10 September	Freshers Fair	8 October	Year 7 Meet the Mentor Evening
10-13 September	DoF Silver Qualifying Expedition	10-11 October	DoE Bronze Qualifying Expedition
15 September	Physics at Work trip	15 October	Year 11 report 1 issued
17 September	Year 10 Drama trip- Blood Brothers	20 October	Year 10 GCSE Drama workshop
26-27 September	DoF Bronze Practice Expedition	21 October	Flu vaccinations Years 7-11
28 September	Year 11 post-16 conference day	26-31 October	Half term



Schools are, first and foremost, communities of people. While the curriculum, facilities and opportunities we provide are important, it is our staff who bring these to life each day through their dedication, professionalism and care. One such colleague is Lesley Morgan who has been our extraordinary Arts Development Manager for 20 years. Editor of this newsletter, The Fountain and our school website, she is behind all of our large arts events, responsible for the huge success of the Arts Award, curator

of the Platform exhibitions, leader of Sawston Cinema and the driving force behind us being Artsmark Platinum. She is simply irreplaceable and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Lesley is not our longest serving leaver, that accolade belongs to Hazel Finch, Teaching Assistant, who for 35 years has been supporting pupils in Maths with her characteristic gentle, calm, caring and patient approach. Gail Robinson has given an equally impressive 22 years of service to SEND and we wish both a wonderful retirement. Another long-standing stalwart of the college is Gail, who hangs up her kitchen apron after 28 years. She is joined by Lorraine, who has given 24 years of tremendous service. Both leave with our gratitude for their loyalty and for dishing up pupils' favourites with a smile.

Mr Reed, Duke of Edinburgh Leader and History teacher, also retires this year; he has been fundamental in so much of what we do. Mrs Morris, SENCO, and Miss Gregg, Director of Safeguarding, have secured exciting opportunities elsewhere and will be terribly missed in our senior leadership team. Mrs Lloyd, who has inspired our chess players and made Physics make sense, retires from Science after 14 years. In addition, we also say goodbye to Miss Fane (Year Lead), Mr Kelly (Computing), Mrs Horlock (SEND), Mr Stewart (HR), Mrs Tidball (English), Mr Stanley (Maths), Ms Hagard (English), Mr Bell (Drama) and Mrs Williamson (Exams). The colleagues leaving us have each played a significant role in shaping the experiences of our pupils and supporting the wider school community.

Although we are naturally saddened to say goodbye, we are also proud to celebrate their achievements and grateful for everything they have contributed. We thank them sincerely for their service and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We wish all members of our community a restful summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." AA Milne.

Mr Russell, Principal

Year 9 STEM Flight Challenge in Design & Technology

The Design & Technology Department was delighted to welcome our Year 9 pupils for a two-day STEM experience centred around the exciting theme of flight.

Throughout the two days, pupils explored the science behind how aircraft fly, researching key aerodynamic principles such as lift and drag. They then applied this knowledge by designing and constructing their own gliders, carefully considering how their design choices would affect performance.

The project concluded with a fun and competitive flying challenge, where pupils put their gliders to the test. Awards were presented in three categories:

- Best Decorated Glider
- Farthest Flight
- Wooden Spoon Award – celebrating the most memorable flying attempt with plenty of good humour!

It was fantastic to see the creativity, enthusiasm, and problem-solving skills on display throughout the event. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed designing, building, testing, and refining their gliders while developing their understanding of STEM concepts through hands-on learning. The Design & Technology Department was incredibly impressed with the effort and imagination shown by all pupils. It was a wonderful two days of learning, teamwork, and friendly competition.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



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Sports Centre: **01223 712555** - www.sawstonsports.com | Sawston Cinema: **01223 712825** - www.sawstoncinema.org.uk

Maths say Farewell to Mrs Finch



After an incredible 35 years at Sawston Village College, we are saying a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Finch as she begins her well-earned retirement. Mrs Finch has witnessed enormous change since joining SVC in 1991, not least working alongside five different headteachers, beginning with Mr Marven. As a dedicated Teaching Assistant, she has supported generations of pupils and parents with kindness, patience, and unwavering commitment. The Maths department simply won't be the same without her; her warmth, care, coffee and reassuring smile have been at the heart of the team for

many years. She will be moving to a new home in the summer. We wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement filled with good health, relaxation, and exciting new adventures.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



PSHE Update

This half term we have been continuing with our 'living in the wider world' theme. Year 7s have been learning about the importance of community, including our rights and responsibilities, and how we can make a positive impact within our communities. Year 8s have been learning about important first aid skills, and also thinking about mental health and wellbeing alongside this. Year 9s have been learning about politics, including how the government is run, and discovering an introduction to the political parties of the UK. Finally, Year 10s have been exploring the issue of gambling, thinking about the risks involved, the things that influence people to gamble, and how someone might recognise and offer support if a person developed a gambling addiction. The PSHE team has been really impressed with how well pupils have engaged in these important topics.

Mrs Hall, Head of PSHE



Update from English

Congratulations to Year 10 on their fabulous speeches given for the coursework element of their GCSE English Language – we had a wide range of interesting and surprising topics! Year 9s have finished up this year with the study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in preparation for their transition to the GCSE English Literature course and Macbeth in the Autumn term. Year 7s have also been exploring Shakespeare with some insightful ideas on The Tempest. Year 8s have finished up their year exploring Orwell's Animal Farm and delivering their own speeches as a first go at the GCSE speeches they'll encounter in Year 10!

Miss Bunting, Head of English



Geography Update

In this summer term the Geography department has been fortunate to offer our Year 7 pupils the opportunity to participate in fieldwork outside of school. Over two very hot days in June pupils made their way to Epping Forest, just outside of London, to complete an investigation of a local river - Debden Brook. With wellies on, pupils made their way into several sections of the river to collect data on the width, depth and velocity of the river. They also measured the different pieces of sediment in the river. This trip has further supported their understanding of how rivers change downstream, and we hope pupils enjoyed the opportunity to participate in fieldwork! We also finish the year with our annual trip to Hunstanton for the Year 9 pupils who will be taking GCSE Geography next year.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Update from History

In History this half-term, our pupils have explored a range of interesting topics: Year 9 have studied the causes of consequences of the Partition of India, treating the subject with great sensitivity. Meanwhile, Year 8 have been looking at the actions of reform groups trying to challenge the Industrial Revolution and considered how successful they were, whilst Year 7 are coming to their end of an exciting study of Denny Abbey. We are very excited to see the outcome of the Year 8 Oral History project at the Museum of Cambridge on Monday! Well done for all the fabulous work completed this year - we are so proud of all our Sawston historians!

Miss Phillips, Head of History (Maternity Cover)



Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence



Sawston
Adult
Learning

Our Friday Singers group recently held their termly concert which, this term, raised money for the Arthur Rank Hospice. This concert was particularly special, however, as we said a fond farewell to Valerie (our tutor), who has led the group for not far off three decades! We all wish her well and hope that she enjoys a well-earned rest! She will be replaced by John, who has extensive experience leading other similar singing groups and we are pleased to be able to welcome him to the team.

All of our autumn term courses are now on the website and available to book. For more information or to book over the phone, please feel free to contact us in the following ways:

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

Email community@sawstonvc.org

Phone 01223 712424

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



With just over a month until our swimming pool closes for refurbishment, why not make the most of our lane swimming and public swimming sessions. Especially refreshing at this time of year!

Booking in advance is recommended.

The pool is due to close for up to a year on Monday, 17th August.

Prices are:

Adult/Senior member - £4.00

Adult/Senior non member - £5.00

Junior - £4.00

Gold membership - Inclusive

If you are interested, please contact us on 01223 712555

or email sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



SWIMMING SESSIONS		
MONDAY	LANE SWIMS	7:00-9:00AM 8:00-9:00PM
TUESDAY	LANE SWIMS	7:00-9:00AM 7:00-9:30PM
	PUBLIC/FAMILY SWIM	6:00-7:00PM
WEDNESDAY	LANE SWIMS	7:00-9:00AM 7:00-8:00PM
	PUBLIC/FAMILY SWIM	6:00-7:00PM
THURSDAY	LANE SWIMS	7:00-9:00AM 7:00-9:30PM
	PUBLIC/FAMILY SWIM	6:00-7:00PM
FRIDAY	LANE SWIMS	7:00-9:00AM 6:45-7:45PM
	PUBLIC/FAMILY SWIM	
SUNDAY	LANE SWIMS	9:00-10:30AM 10:30-11:30AM
	PUBLIC/FAMILY SWIM	11:30AM-12:30



We have finished our community programme for this term but still have the premiere screening of The Library Project short films made in association with Cambridgeshire Libraries and the school's Book Club, and our popular Cinema Club Showcase to look forward to.

Ms Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager

To see what is coming up, and to book tickets, check out: www.sawstoncinema.org



Drama Update

The highlight of the term has undoubtedly been our spectacular production of *Oliver!* Over three unforgettable evenings, our talented cast of 64 pupils from across all year groups took to the stage, alongside a magnificent live 14-piece orchestra, to deliver a truly outstanding performance. The commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism shown by every pupil, both on stage and behind the scenes, was remarkable. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and would like to thank all of the staff, parents and members of the community who supported the production throughout its journey.

In lessons, pupils have shown great resilience despite the heatwaves, completing their final assessments: Year 7s exploring Ernie's Incredible Illusions, Year 8s studying Brechtian theatre, and Year 9s presenting their devised performances.

As this is my final newsletter as Head of Drama at Sawston Village College, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every pupil, parent, colleague and member of the school community for their support. It has been a privilege to lead the department and to see so many pupils grow in confidence, creativity and ambition through Drama. I am delighted that Mrs Meikle has been appointed as the new Head of Drama and know that she will continue to build on the department's success.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and every success for the future.

Mr Bell, Head of Drama



Art in Activities Week

During Activities Week, Year 8 pupils explored three-dimensional set design with professional sculptor Michael Gondron, designing and constructing large-scale scenery for the production of *Oliver!*. Through collaboration, they developed problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills while transforming creative ideas into ambitious theatrical sets.

Meanwhile in pottery workshops led by Lisa Ghigini, pupils experienced the complete ceramic process, learning how to prepare and wedge clay before using hand-building techniques to create their own pots. They refined their work by adding texture and decoration, then discovered how pieces are dried, bisque fired, glazed and fired in the kiln, gaining valuable insight into traditional ceramic practice.

Dr De Sainte Cluque, Head of Art



Sizzling Summer Food Success

Despite the intense summer heat, Sawston Village College pupils are still keen to cook, bake, and be creative in the Food Department. Year 7 pupils designed and made healthy pizzas, following the Eatwell Guide guidelines. Year 9s explored the science behind baking and the functions of different ingredients. Year 8 pupils had the woks sizzling as they took on the challenge of creating vegetarian Chow Mein for their milestone. They learnt different types of vegetarian diets while developing advanced knife skills, including julienne cutting. They focused on precision and accuracy when preparing their dishes and achieved restaurant-standard presentation. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and achievements!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



Mrs Johnson, Head of Music

Update from Music

As we near the end of a fantastic year in Music at Sawston, it has been wonderful to reflect on the progress and experiences that our pupils have engaged in, and to see the culmination of their efforts in the Music curriculum, extracurricular activities and engagement with the wider community. Pupils across Key Stage 3 have are now completing or have completed their milestones in both Summer Term units. It has been fantastic to see the creativity from Year 8 pupils when composing their experimental pieces, and Year 9 have been very impressive in mastering complex rhythms in their Samba unit. Year 7s have risen to the challenge of their first listening and appraising milestone too, applying their knowledge of the elements of music when analysing programme music. In Year 10, GCSE Music pupils have been working hard across all three components of the course, composing short pieces to a set brief and performing solos in preparation for their official coursework next term. They have also thrown themselves into exploring Rock n Roll and Rock Anthems. The Music Technology cohort are nearing the end of their course, working extremely hard to complete this GCSE in one year, outside of their main timetabled lessons. I have been incredibly impressed with the level of detail and maturity shown in their final assessment, in which pupils have presented on a music style of their choice. Finally, our Year 11s sat their final assessment in GCSE Music early in the half term, and overall came out smiling! Mrs Gilbert and I are so proud of their efforts.

Our pupils have been shining outside of the classroom too, both in school events and community endeavours. Pupils in Year 10 have performed at the Speak Out public speaking competition at Anglia Ruskin University, as well as acting as fantastic ambassadors for Sawston in their work experience at Woodwind and Reed, Cambridge. Our older pupils in Year 10 and 11 also gave an outstanding singing recital, kindly arranged by Ms Lepetit-Clare and Ms Gordon. This term has been a real highlight for the Samba Band, who have performed in the Outdoor Gig at Sawston, as well as gigs in Shelford and Stapleford, all of which were incredibly well received. We are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of Year 9s into the band in September. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs Macleod for leading the band at each of these events! The Outdoor Gig was a huge success, and luckily not at the height of the heatwave! We were treated to fantastic performances from Friday Band, Jazz Band, Senior Band, Junior Choir and KS4 Singers. In a first for the Outdoor Gig, we were thrilled to also feature Folk Group and a Year 8 trio who performed Wonderwall. The event was rounded off with our excellent Junior Steel Pans with two summery anthems. We are incredibly proud of all pupils who have performed in the production of *Oliver!*, in the cast, band and technical team. It has been so rewarding to work alongside the Drama Department on this project across the year, and to see and hear pupils' hard work coming to fruition. We are looking forward to the Lower School Concert in the final week of term, and wish everybody in the Sawston community a wonderful Summer.



Community
Take part



Ambition
Aim high



Respect
Be kind



Endeavour
Work hard

House News

This term the school has been alive with activity. Our amazing Year 11 pupils completed their exams and had a fabulous time celebrating their time at Sawston at their Leavers' Ball. Activities Week saw our KS3 pupils take part in European adventures and Bushcraft as well as STEM, arts and outdoor experiences. Our Year 10s successfully completed two weeks of work experience. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, and we received lots of lovely feedback about them from their employers. They are now ready to take on their final year with confidence.

The end of term has been hot, and the pupils have amazed us with their resilience, tenacity and focus during the challenging temperatures. We are very proud at their continued commitment to learning and making the most of every opportunity they are offered. We are now enjoying uplifting concerts, the outstanding Oliver! production, Prize Giving and Celebration Assemblies, all of which have given us the chance to really celebrate everyone's achievement and effort this year.

Mrs Fane leaves the Year Lead team at the end of this term and sends her best wishes to the school community and in particular to her Year 10 pupils: she will look forward to hearing about their successes in Year 11.

Have a fantastic summer break. We hope you have time to relax and recharge ready for September.

Mrs Watkis, Year 8 Lead and Head of Mandela House,
on behalf of the Heads of House

Bubbles and Biology

As part of Activities Week, some of our Year 9 pupils spent an enjoyable morning helping in the school garden. They worked enthusiastically to care for the outdoor space, taking on a variety of gardening tasks and making a valuable contribution to the school environment.



After all their hard work, the group had the chance to enjoy a fun and creative science activity, making and experimenting with giant bubbles. It was a fantastic way to combine teamwork, practical learning and plenty of laughter, and the pupils embraced every challenge with enthusiasm.

Earlier in the term, 16 pupils from Years 9 and 10 represented the school in the UKBC Biology Challenge. This prestigious competition attracted over 42,000 participants from schools around the world and tested pupils' biological knowledge through two challenging multiple-choice quizzes based on the curriculum and topics beyond it.

Our pupils approached the competition with focus, determination and a positive attitude, demonstrating both their knowledge and commitment. Their efforts were rewarded with an outstanding set of results. We were delighted to achieve six Bronze medals, three Silver medals and two Gold medals. These awards recognise exceptional performance, with only the top 5% of participants receiving Gold, the next 10% achieving Silver and the following 15% awarded Bronze. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part, whether they received a medal or not.

Mrs Cook, Science Teacher

And finally...

We hope you have a fantastic summer break. The 2026-27 academic year will begin on 1 and 2 September with training for staff. Year 7 and Year 11 pupils then return on Thursday, 3 September, with the rest of the school joining them on Friday, 4 September. We will look forward to welcoming everyone back.



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regular news updates.

www.sawstonvc.org

Professional Learning

This half term has seen the conclusion of our AI discussion group meetings. Staff have been sharing how we may use AI to support workload and enhance our classroom practice. Developing independent study skills and revision was the focus of our staff meeting in June where colleagues shared the work they have done in trialling some of Tom Sherrington's Learning Walk Thrus, specifically the 'FACE it' model for revision. We will use this next academic year with KS3 learning to build good learning habits. Our final meeting will bring Oracy back to the forefront, concluding this year's work on this three year project.

Miss Gelder, Deputy Principal

Year 8s in France and Spain

During Activities Week, the Year 8 North Band's trip to France began with a guided visit of the football stadium "Le stade de France". On Tuesday, pupils explored Montmartre and visited the Sacré Coeur and enjoyed an evening of bowling. On Wednesday, after exploring the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysées and the Tuileries, pupils went up the Eiffel Tower and went on a boat cruise on a "bateau mouche". On Thursday, pupils spent the whole day in Disneyland and enjoyed the rides. On Friday, pupils stopped at a Snail Farm (and had the opportunity to taste them!) on their way back to Dover.

Meanwhile, some Year 8 South band pupils flew to Barcelona and on the Tuesday, we had a packed programme with the science museum, CosmoCaixa, the famous "Las Ramblas" street and its indoor market "La Boquería" and the magnificent Park Güell. On Wednesday, after spending time in the Gothic Quarter, pupils admired the Sagrada Família cathedral and learnt about its amazing history in a guided tour. On Thursday, pupils enjoyed a whole day trip to PortAventura, a theme park with very impressive rollercoasters. Before our journey home, we relaxed on the beach and did a last bit of shopping in the shopping centre.

All pupils who came on the trips were very well-behaved and practised a lot of French/Spanish. Well done to everyone on the trip for making it such a great week and for representing the College so well!

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



Update from Religion and Worldviews

We've been getting philosophical in the Religion and Worldviews department! Year 7s have been exploring one of humanity's biggest questions: does God exist? They have examined the cosmological, teleological and ontological arguments. Year 8s have been delving into the philosophy of mind, tackling thought-provoking questions such as whether the brain is essentially a computer and whether we truly have free will. Year 9s have taken philosophy to the movies, using *The Island* to investigate epistemological questions about how we know what is real. Meanwhile, Year 10s have been exploring the fascinating challenge of global scepticism. Lots of deep thinking!

Mrs Venn, Head of Religion and Worldviews



District Athletics Success

District Athletics Fixture - Wednesday 6th May

A huge congratulations to the Year 10 pupils who represented Sawston



Village College in the district athletics fixture of the season on Wednesday, 6 May.

Competing against Bottisham, Impington, NCA, Soham and Swavesey. The teams put in a fantastic performance, securing a very impressive 1st place overall.

WELL DONE SAWSTON!

Mrs Harvey, Head of PE



ANGLIAN LEARNING