

21 September 2026



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parent / Carer,

As Year 11 pupils settle into the rhythm and routines of their final year at Sawston Village College, I wanted to take this opportunity to outline some key information which will help you to support your child(ren) through this important time in their education.

This letter will cover three areas:

1. The post-16 application process
2. Mock exams and revision information
3. Key dates for Year 11 pupils and parents

1. Post-16 application process

Pupils will complete their post-16 applications this term. This will begin with a launch conference on Monday 28 September, during which pupils will participate in several activities designed to introduce them to the post-16 application process and support them in starting to make choices regarding their next steps.

This is followed by our post-16 information evening for pupils and parents, which takes place that evening. All parents/carers and pupils are strongly encouraged to attend this event, which will include an opportunity to hear key messages from College staff about the post-16 process and the year ahead as well as to meet with representatives from the post-16 centres at the post-16 fair. Further information, including timings for the evening, can be found below.

Pupils will then work on their applications in school through fortnightly CEIAG lessons, leading up to the internal deadline of Monday 14 December. They will have the opportunity to apply to multiple post-16 centres and courses which are of interest to them, and will be supported through this by their Mentor, CEIAG teacher and Mrs Wombwell (Post-16 and WEX Lead). Mrs Wombwell is available at lunchtimes on Mondays and Wednesdays to discuss any aspect of the application process with pupils.

Once they have submitted their applications, pupils will be invited to attend Guidance Meetings at their chosen post-16 centres. More specific information, including the process for requesting time off school to attend Guidance Meetings, will be provided closer to the time. Following Guidance Meetings, pupils may receive offers from multiple post-16 centres. They should accept all offers they receive at this stage, and do not have to make any final decisions regarding their next steps until GCSE results day in August 2027.

Pupils wishing to apply to post-16 centres outside Cambridgeshire, including Saffron Walden County High School, should be aware that a different process applies. Please consult the centres' websites for more information and be aware that application deadlines for these centres are often earlier than our internal deadline. Mrs Wombwell can support pupils with this if required; please contact her if you have any queries.



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2. Mock exams and revision information

Mock exams will take place after October half-term, from Tuesday 3 -Tuesday 17 November. Pupils can expect to complete mock exams in all their subjects and will be issued with an individual exam timetable closer to the time.

The results from the mock exams will form a significant part of the information used by teachers to determine pupils' predicted grades, which are submitted as part of their post-16 applications. It is therefore essential that pupils perform as well as possible in these exams to give themselves the best chance of success in their applications to their chosen post-16 centres and courses.

Over the coming days, we will be asking staff to provide pupils with subject-specific guidance on what and how to revise for the mock exams. We will collate this information and share an overview with parents to enable you to support your child(ren) with their revision. As a starting point, you may wish to refer to the Programmes of Study for each subject, which can be found on the [College website](#). These give an indication of what pupils have covered so far, and what is left to cover in each subject.

Pupils may wish to refer to online resources, such as Google Classroom, the SVC Pupil Drive, Seneca Learning, Educake (Science), and Mathswatch (Maths), to support their revision. Physical resources, such as revision guides, knowledge organisers and workbooks, are available to purchase for some subjects via WisePay. If you or your child(ren) are unsure about what revision resources to use or where to find them, please speak to their subject teacher(s) directly.

3. Key dates for the year ahead

Please make a note of the following dates. More information for each event will be sent out closer to the time.

- **Monday 28 September 2026** - Post-16 launch and conference day for pupils, during the school day. Pupils will not attend normal lessons on this day, but will take part in a bespoke timetable of activities.
- **Monday 28 September 2026** - Post-16 evening for pupils and parents. The timings for this event will be as follows:
 - East band - 5:45-6:15 pm talk in the Henry Morris Hall, followed by post-16 fair in the Dining Hall
 - West band - 6:30-7:00 pm talk in the Henry Morris Hall, followed by post-16 fair in the Dining Hall

Please complete [this short form](#) to confirm your attendance at this event, so that we have an idea of the number of parents and pupils to expect.

- **Monday 5-Friday 16 October 2026** - mock speaking exams for pupils completing GCSE French and/or Spanish.
- **Thursday 15 October 2026** - Year 11 progress report 1 issued to parents via Go4Schools. This is an important opportunity to review pupils' progress and estimated grades. Further guidance on how to access and interpret progress reports is available on the [College website](#).
- **Tuesday 3-Tuesday 17 November 2026** - Year 11 mock exams. Individual pupil timetables will be issued closer to the time.
- **Friday 27 November 2026** - Year 11 mock exam grades released to pupils and parents.
- **Thursday 3 December 2026** - Year 11 progress report 2 issued to parents via Go4Schools. The Estimated Grades on this report will be the Predicted Grades which accompany pupils' post-16 applications.
- **Thursday 10 December 2026** - Year 11 Parents' Evening.
- **Monday 14 December 2026** - internal post-16 application deadline. Pupils must ensure that they have completed and submitted their post-16 applications by this date. Further

guidance regarding this for both pupils and parents will be given at the post-16 conference day and evening.

- **Thursday 28 January** and **Wednesday 24 February 2027** - additional mock exams (core subjects only). Individual pupil timetables will be issued closer to the time.
- **Thursday 18 March 2027** - final Year 11 progress report issued to parents via Go4Schools.
- **Wednesday 24 March 2027** - Exams Information Evening for parents. This will include key messages regarding exams as well as practical advice to help parents to support your children with their revision.
- **Monday 19-Friday 30 April 2027** - speaking exams for pupils completing GCSE French and/or Spanish.
- **Monday 10 May 2027** - GCSE exams begin.
- **Friday 25 June 2027** - Leavers' Ball.
- **Thursday 19 August 2027** - GCSE results day.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child(ren). I wish you and them all the best for the upcoming school year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions or would like to discuss your child(ren)'s progress in further detail. Questions relating to the post-16 process should be directed to Mrs Wombwell, Post-16 and WEX Lead (cwombwell@sawstonvc.org). For other matters, please contact your child's Mentor in the first instance, or individual teachers for subject-specific queries.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Wagstaff
Assistant Principal