

Year 7 Pupil Guide

Produced by pupils, for new pupils



A Message from the Principal



Welcome to your new school. I am sure that you will do everything you can to try your best and to make the most of the exciting opportunities that we offer. We do our best to make Sawston Village College a safe and happy place in which everybody can succeed. I know that you will want to continue to make our school the best it can be.

You will be well looked after and supported to do your best. Your Year Lead, Head of House, Housemates and Mentor will help you to settle in and they can answer any questions you may have. If you are worried about anything then you should talk to them and share your problems.

You will learn many different skills and study a wide range of subjects from the moment that you arrive in September. It is important that you quickly learn to organise your learning in lessons and at home; be prepared to take greater responsibility for your learning. You will also want to work well with others, listen carefully and respect everybody in the College.

Being the best you can be is also about what you do outside of lessons, and so I encourage you to get involved as much as you can in activities at lunch and after school. You will be proud to represent your school and we will be proud to have you as one of our pupils.

You have nothing to worry about and everything to look forward to as long as you always try your best.

Mr Russell
Principal

Getting to know our staff



Mr Russell is the Principal.



Mr Wallace and Ms Gelder are the Deputy Principals.



Mrs Wagstaff, Mrs Greaney, Mr Sutton and Ms Garner are the Assistant Principals



Mrs Riondino is the Year 7 Lead



Miss Linzell is the Safeguarding Manager

Getting to school

Walking

If you live in Sawston, it is easy to walk to school in the mornings with friends or an older brother or sister. You could also be dropped off by car outside the Marven Centre, but remember it will be busy with buses at the front of the College. It may be a good idea to be dropped at a different point in the village and walk across to the College, as New Road gets very busy, especially at the start and end of the school day.

Cycling

If you would like to cycle to school, make sure that you have a secure lock for your bike, so that you can leave it safely in the bike shed behind the Spicer Wing during the day. Remember to wear a helmet, use lights and check your bike every so often in case something needs fixing. Remember to be aware of other road users.

Buses

If you need to travel to school by bus and are eligible for transport, you will receive a bus pass through the post before your first day. The pass will say where in your village your bus will stop to collect you each morning and at what time. Make sure you are at the bus stop 5 minutes before this time. You will need your bus pass with you each day before and after school or you will not be allowed onto the bus. At the end of the school day, you will go to the bus bays at the front of school and wait for your bus to be loaded. If you lose your bus pass, you can get a temporary one at the school reception to allow time for your parent/carer to order a replacement.

All pupils

On your way to school you should behave considerately towards others- when you are in your uniform you are representing the school, so try to make a good impression! If you are late arriving at school you should sign in at the Attendance Office and then go straight to your lesson.



What to bring

For each of your lessons you will need certain equipment- everyday items that are helpful to have with you in your pencil case or school bag. Some of the stationery or maths equipment can be bought cheaply in school, but it is always good to come prepared!



- Pens (black & green)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Exercise books (provided by school)
- Highlighters
- Glue stick
- Coloured pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Scissors
- Water Bottle



For Maths:

- Calculator
- Compasses
- Protractor



Uniform

To make sure that you are always looking smart, here are the dos and don'ts of the Sawston Village College dress code. You will find the full uniform list on the school website, where you can also order new uniform from Price & Buckland, or good quality second-hand uniform from the school office.

Do wear...

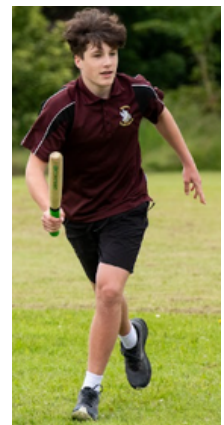
- A white College polo shirt with the collar out
- A burgundy school sweatshirt with the SVC crest
- Black school trousers or black tailored shorts or a knee length black school skirt
- Plain black socks or tights
- Black leather shoes

Skirts	Trousers	Shorts
Skirts <i>must be smart, free-flowing and to the knee</i> tights must be plain black	Trousers <i>must be smart, black, tailored and full length</i>	Shorts must be smart, black, tailored and just above the knee
 		 

Don't forget PE kit!

For PE lessons you will need:

- Maroon PE t-shirt (the old style PE polo shirt can also still be worn)
- PE sweatshirt (old design rugby shirts and PE fleeces can still be worn)
- Black shorts or skort
- Sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms for cold weather
- Rugby socks for outdoor winter sports or white socks for summer and indoor sports
- Trainers or optional studded footwear for activities on the field



Mentor Time & Teaching Groups

Every morning you will spend 20 minutes in your mentor group for Mentor Time. During this time you will be involved in activities like reading, quizzes, learning conversations with your mentor and on some days going to year or house assemblies.

In your mentor group there might be some people who you know from your primary school, as well as pupils from other primary schools and from all the year groups.

There are eight teaching groups, made up only of pupils in Year 7 and split into North Band and South Band - this just makes it easier to timetable everyone's lessons. In Year 7, you will be taught most of your lessons in the same teaching group, but will be with a mix of other pupils in your band for some classes including Maths and PE.

Houses

Head of Da Vinci House - Mr Davis

Head of Earhart House - Miss Hunt

Head of Mandela House - Mrs Watkis

Head of Turing House - Ms Riondino

Every pupil is in a house. Houses compete for prizes and competitions, e.g. quizzes and sports events. Everyone in your mentor group, including your mentor, will be in your house.

Teaching groups include pupils from all of the houses.



The School Day

Our school day is structured: mentor time, two lessons, break, another two lessons, lunch and one last lesson for the day.

When you are given your timetable on your first day, you will see that your lessons are scheduled over a two week timetable - Week A and Week B. This is so that all your classes can be fitted in; you will soon get used to the Week A, Week B pattern.

Here is a quick tour through the school day:

8:25 am Warning bell: go to mentor room

8:30 am Mentor time

8:50 am Period 1

9:50 am Period 2

10.50 am Break

11:10 am Period 3

12:10 pm Period 4

1:10 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Go to Period 5 lesson

2:05 pm Period 5

3:05 pm End of the day

There are lots of ways and places to spend your lunch and break times. You can:

- Join a lunchtime club
- Attend a Forum meeting
- Eat in the canteen
- Get a snack from the Grab & Go
- Do homework or read in the library
- Play or socialise with friends outside
- Go to the Henry Morris Hall if the weather is bad

Homework: Q&A

How much homework will I get?

You will probably get about two pieces of homework every day, so it is important to stay on top of things. At the start of the year you will be given a school email account and shown how to login to Bromcom Student Portal so that you can see your homework that has been set.

How long do I need to spend on my homework?

In Year 7, you should spend about 30 minutes on each piece of homework, but if you are struggling do not be afraid to ask your teacher for help. In Year 8 and Year 9, the time spent on homework should increase as the work will become more detailed.

How do I keep track of all my homework?

Your homework is posted on Bromcom Student Portal, which is an app detailing all homework that is set in your lessons. You will find much more detail about your homework and helpful resources when you click on each individual homework. So you should definitely check it each day. Your parents can also view the homework that you have been set through a parent app, which means they can help you understand the task, and also it means you have no excuses!

How long will I get for each homework task?

Teachers do not set homework that is due the next day- they must leave two full school evenings between it being set and the hand in date. This allows you to ask questions about the homework if you are unsure. Most subjects will set one piece of homework a fortnight, apart from the core subjects who will set one piece a week.

Can you give me any tips to handle homework?

- Try to do your homework on the day it is set so that it does not pile up. Doing homework on the day it is set will also allow you to ask questions the next day if you get a little stuck.
- If you miss a lesson, try to catch up on any work or homework that you missed by speaking with a friend or the teacher and by checking Bromcom Student Portal.
- If you get stuck, try using your class notes, a textbook, searching on Google, phoning a friend or asking your teacher before the homework is due.
- Do your homework in a way that suits you - it could be quietly in your room, or perhaps you find listening to music helps. (Remember: music with lyrics can also be a distraction).

And remember...

Homework is there to help you and your learning. It only becomes a problem if you do not complete it. Homework will help you revise, build on topics and practise skills that you have learnt or been developing in class. It helps you develop a broader knowledge of a topic and give you opportunities to show your understanding. Teachers can then use your homework to advise how you can make even more improvement. The more you try, the more you will get out of it.



What to expect

Just as at your primary school, we have rules too. But whilst there are certain things expected of you by your peers and teachers, you can also expect certain things from them too. We call these expectations **The Sawston Way**.

You have the responsibility to:

- Arrive on time to school and lessons
- Wear the correct school uniform
- Work to the best of your ability
- Behave in a considerate and thoughtful way
- Respect the school and classroom environment
- Respect all members of the school and wider community

You have the right to:

- Be treated with respect and consideration by others
- Receive help and advice about problems or worries
- Be encouraged, recognised and rewarded for achievement
- Learn in a safe and supportive environment
- Enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities
- Express your views in forum meetings

When you start at SVC, there will be lots of people to help you.

If you have any worries or problems, you can always go to:

- Your Mentor
- Your Year Lead
- Your Head of House
- Your teachers and teaching assistants
- Your friends
- Your parents/carers
- Year 8 Housemates
- CARE ambassadors



Remember, the College is committed to providing a safe, relaxed and friendly environment for everyone, which is why bullying is not tolerated. It is very important to let someone know if you are being bullied or you see bullying happen; speak to a close friend or a trusted adult so that the situation can be solved.

College Map

