

September / October 2026 Newsletter



Sawston
Village College

Dates for your Diary:

2 November	School reopens after half-term	26 November	Sawston Cinema: Dragonfly
3 - 17 November	Year 11 Mock Exams	1 December	Year 10 CEIAG conference day
4 November	Flu vaccinations Years 7-11 (date 2 of 2)	2 December	Year 10 WEX Information Evening
5 November	NT Live: Golden Boy	3 December	Year 11 Report 2 issued
12 November	Year 9 Report 1 issued	3 & 4 December	Drama Festive Devised Performance
18 November	Staff training day - school closed to pupils	10 December	Year 10 Report 1 issued
19 November	Year 7 Report 1 issued	10 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening
19 November	Men's Mental Health Awareness Gig	10 December	Sawston Cinema: Film title tbc
23 November	Year 9 Photographs	17 December	Great St Mary's Carol Service
26 November	Year 8 Report 1 issued	18 December	Autumn Term Ends



As the autumn term gathers pace and the colours of the season begin to appear around us, it is a pleasure to reflect on a positive start to the year. Our impressive Year 7 cohort has settled quickly into College life, while pupils across all year groups have embraced the many opportunities on offer. From the joy and talent on display at Last Choir Standing, to the record numbers participating in Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver

We are delighted that, after half-term, we will finally be moving into this fantastic new facility. Alongside this, our main new building is looking superb, and we eagerly await definitive confirmation from the Department for Education on when we will be able to move into this exciting addition to our campus, the name of which will be revealed after the break.

Finally, we want to recognise our hardworking and ambitious Year 11 pupils. Their commitment has been impressive, and we look forward to seeing the results of their efforts in the upcoming mock examinations.

Thank you to all our pupils, staff and families for contributing to such a successful start to the year. We hope you enjoy a restful half-term break, and look forward to all that the remainder of the autumn term will bring.

As Albert Camus observed, "*Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.*" It is certainly a season of colour, opportunity and achievement across our school community.

Mr Russell, Principal

expeditions, there has been much to celebrate. Open Evening was another highlight, with a real buzz around the school and our pupil volunteers serving as outstanding ambassadors. Following an enthusiastic Freshers' Fair, clubs and activities have seen excellent participation, further enriching school life.

I would also like to thank our PE department for their resilience and flexibility during the delays to our new PE block.

Fruitful Beginnings for Year 7

Our Year 7 pupils have made an excellent start in Food and Nutrition at Sawston this term. In their first practical lesson, they prepared colourful fruit salads, developing essential knife skills such as the bridge and claw grips while becoming familiar with their new kitchen environment. Many pupils demonstrated impressive precision and control when chopping a variety of fruits, producing beautifully presented fruit salads.

Since then, they have enjoyed making pizza toasties, nutritious vegetable soup and savoury muffins packed with vegetables and cheese. They have also learned to use a range of kitchen equipment safely, work hygienically, and evaluate their dishes to identify areas for improvement.

We are delighted with Year 7's enthusiasm and look forward to seeing what they cook next!

Mrs Shaw, Head of Food



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Email: office@sawstonvc.org | Company Reg. No. 7627138 | Community Education: 01223 712424 - www.sawstonadulted.org

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

Update from English

Year 7 have made a great start in their English careers at SVC by enthusiastically studying some Greek mythology through the novel Medusa. Year 8 have been busy in the Dominican Republic with Clap When You Land, while Year 9 have been exploring tragedy in New York through Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge. Our KS4 pupils are already getting stuck in with their next GCSE units: Year 10 creating some beautiful narratives and Year 11 have been thoughtfully comparing non-fiction texts. Outside of lessons, our Creative Writing and Poetry club attendees have been reflecting upon fantasy and identity, composing some wonderful pieces of writing.

Miss Dolan, Second in English

Update from History

This term in History, our Year 7s have made an exciting start learning about how historians study the dramatic events of Pompeii! This has been followed by work on the Anglo-Saxons with strong debate among the pupils about who was 'the first King of the English.' Year 8s and 9s are similarly stuck in with their learning, with Year 8 learning about the far-reaching consequences of the Protestant Reformation and Year 9 studying the captivating story of the Koh-i-Noor diamond all the way from the Mughal Empire to the crown jewels!

Outside of lessons, Year 11 members of the History Scholars club have been meeting to delve into interesting topics such as the destruction of Native American culture and Nazi broadcasts into British homes during the Second World War.

Miss Phillips, Joint Head of History

Computer Science Update

It has been great to be back in school, seeing lots of familiar and new faces in the department. Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their Digital Literacy topic. Year 8 and 9 have been building upon their Python Programming skills. Year 10 have kicked off the GCSE with a crash course in programming, then looking at Algorithms in more depth. Year 11 are getting prepared for their Mock Exam on 9 November. Please do encourage your child to make the effort to come to the Year 11 Intervention sessions that are on Wednesday (for 11D) and Thursday (11C) lunch times. Happy Half Term!

Mrs Cane, Head of Computer Science

Business Studies Update

It has been a busy start to the term with three groups of pupils starting their Business Studies course in Year 10. They have set off on the first Unit of work looking at the role of an Entrepreneur and the risk and reward they encounter when looking to set up a new Business. Year 11 classes have been looking at the range of financial implications of setting up a new Business and the advantages and disadvantages of different types of Market Research. Year 11 are also recapping previous topics in preparation for their fast approaching mock examinations.

Mr Sutton, Assistant Principal

Update from MFL

What a busy half term this has been in Languages! Year 11 pupils have hit the ground running and have already completed their speaking mock exam, worth a quarter of their grade. We were very impressed by the level of determination displayed by some pupils who revised thoroughly, attended our lunchtime revision sessions and we were very pleased to see their effort reflected in their performance. All the best to all pupils as they continue to revise over half-term to prepare for their reading, listening and writing exams.

Year 7 have started the year well and are starting their MFL learning journey at Sawston by talking about names, ages and birthdays, whilst focusing on key vocabulary, grammar and phonics.

Year 8 and Year 9 are consolidating their previous knowledge and extending their understanding by covering new topics.

Meanwhile, Year 10 pupils have started their GCSE course well and we have been impressed with their determination and hardworking attitude.

Mrs Deleplanque, Head of MFL



Sawston
Adult
Learning



Our Autumn term courses are now up and running and are still proving to be very popular. Most of our courses are full, which is fantastic. We are very pleased to be able to run our Indian cookery and Grow Your Own evening courses again this term. 'Curry in a Hurry' will offer learners the opportunity to watch cookery demonstrations from our experienced tutor, before preparing their own delicious, home cooked dishes.



During our Grow Your Own: Winter Fruit & Vegetable course, learners will discover how to make the most of their fruit and vegetable plots during the winter months, whether they have an allotment or just a small space in their garden.

For further information or to book, visit our website at:
www.sawstonvc.org/adult-learning.

Mrs Catherine Hayes, Adult Learning Manager



We are delighted to announce that
our Sports Hall and Gymnasium Hall
will be reopening in November!

After a period of closure for refurbishment, we are excited to welcome our members, local community and sporting groups back through the doors! The reopening marks an exciting new chapter for the centre, with opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active, improve their fitness and enjoy being part of our community. We look forward to being able to offer these much-improved facilities for activities such as Badminton, Judo, Gymnastics and Birthday Parties. For club booking enquiries, please email aperry@anglianleisure.co.uk. For all other enquiries, please email sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk

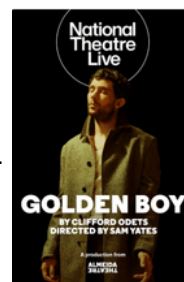
As part of the next phase for the development works, our swimming pool is due to close shortly for refurbishment, but all other facilities will remain open, including the fitness suite and squash court.

Fleur Harrower, Assistant Manager



Our season is off to a good start! Our next screening will be *NT Live: Golden Boy*, on 5 Nov. For tickets and to see what else is coming up, check out our website:
www.sawstoncinema.org.

Mr Williams, Sawston Cinema



Update from Geography

It has been a busy half term in Geography. Year 7 has impressed with their enthusiasm in lessons, and they have developed their ability to complete geographic skills. Year 8 are enjoying our Tectonics topic, investigating hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis. We received some excellent fact files about past earthquakes and eruptions. Year 9s have been reflecting on the idea of development across the world.

At GCSE level, Year 11s have been out to Hunstanton to complete data collection for the fieldwork element of their exam. In lessons they have been busy presenting and analysing their data on the impacts of tourism and effectiveness of coastal management. We wish Year 11s the best of luck with their mock exams after half term.

Miss Evans, Head of Geography



Unlocking Potential | Creating Opportunities | Achieving Excellence

Drama Update

We are the throes of creating a festive play to mark the Year of Reading 2026; written, produced and performed by pupils from KS3 and KS4, including some super enthusiastic Year 7's. This will raise money for future Drama enrichment and equipment.

Year 7 are at the beginning of their KS3 drama journey, adapting to the creative demands, discipline and focus needed to develop their skills, initially through mime and physical theatre. Year 8 have been learning about slapstick comedy and discovering its roots in Commedia dell'arte, bringing plenty of laughter to their lessons. Year 9 are developing their skills and imagination to apply Non-Naturalistic Devices to a piece of Verbatim Theatre.

Year 10 have just watched Blood Brothers, their GCSE text, performed at the Cambridge Arts Theatre and have now deepened their knowledge in an in-school workshop delivered by West End Blood Brothers cast members. This was an invaluable experience which will contribute hugely in preparing the pupils for their GCSE examination. They are also beginning their epic journey to their own piece of theatre, with workshop lessons to help them decide the style and genre of theatre they would like to create.

Year 11 are hard at work preparing for their mock exam and beginning to block their final practical assessment pieces which they will perform in Spring term. They are also refining and editing their devising portfolios, due to be handed in before half term.

Thirty pupils represented the department at our recent Open Evening with infectious enthusiasm and insightful perspectives that made me very proud.

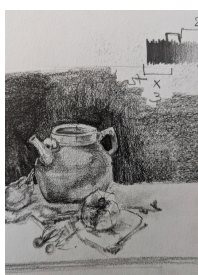
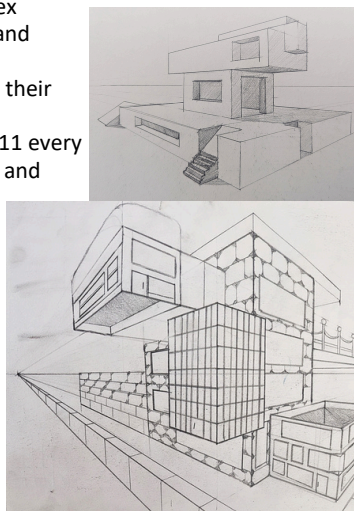
Mrs Meikle, Head of Drama

Art Update

While Year 7 develops their observational drawing skills through still-life studies, exploring proportion, light, shadow and composition, Year 8 refine their understanding of one-point perspective and begin designing imaginative comic-book cities. Meanwhile, Year 9 advances their technical skills through complex perspective studies, creating dynamic architectural and imaginative spaces.

Congratulations to Year 10 Art and Photography for their commitment, motivation and passion in tackling the demanding start-of-year coursework. We wish Year 11 every success as they enter the final stage of their courses and prepare for mock examinations, with their ambition and dedication promising exceptional outcomes.

Dr De Sainte Cluque,
Head of Art

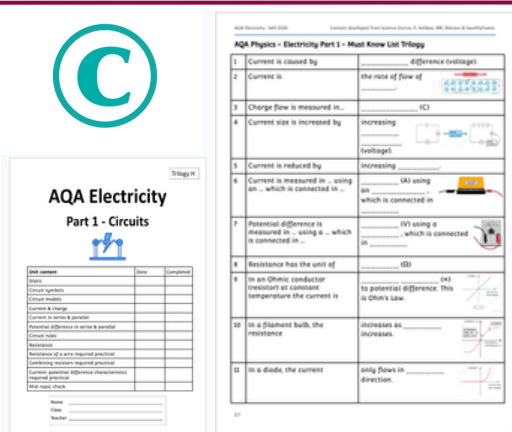


Artwork created by Key Stage 3 pupils this half term

Science Update

This half-term, the Science Department has continued to develop our mastery booklets, which are now embedded across lessons and have been designed in-house to match both our curriculum and AQA GCSE specifications. These resources reflect our commitment to evidence-informed teaching, drawing on approaches that reduce cognitive load and support pupils in building secure knowledge over time.

Pupils read and annotate key information, complete carefully scaffolded questions, and follow teacher modelling during lessons to complement practical work. Each booklet includes keyword lists, 'must-know' lists, and knowledge organisers to support revision and independent study. Pupils can access digital copies via the Science Department website: science.sawstonvc.org.



Mrs Armsby-Moore, Head of Science

Update from Maths

Homework plays an important role in helping pupils consolidate their learning, practise key skills and identify areas where they need further support. In Maths this half term, we have been encouraging pupils to focus on the quality of their homework, not simply completing it. This means showing clear working, correcting mistakes and demonstrating the steps taken to reach an answer. With technology and AI making answers increasingly easy to access, showing working is more important than ever, as it demonstrates genuine understanding.

We would really appreciate parents' support in reinforcing this message and encouraging pupils to take pride in producing thoughtful, high-quality homework.

Mrs Shearn, Head of Maths



Coming soon

ANGIAN LEARNING
Presents

PLATFORM 26

an exhibition of artwork from
Anglian Learning secondary schools
9 - 22 November 2026
Michaelhouse Café, Trinity St,
Cambridge, CB2 1SU

Featuring artwork from:
Bassingbourn Village College
Bottisham Village College
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport
Linton Village College
Sawston Village College
Soham Village College
Stour Valley Community School



House News

This half term has been action packed. From Active Week and celebrations of Black History Month to Year 7 and Year 11 photographs, there has been plenty to get involved in. We welcomed pupils to our Freshers' Fair, which helped launch the wide range of clubs and enrichment opportunities available this year.

Our new Year 7 pupils have settled in exceptionally well and have embraced all that SVC has to offer. Pupils have also had opportunities to contribute to school life through our pupil forums, led by the Senate, ensuring that every pupil has a voice and can help shape our school community and ethos.

Other highlights have included the Year 11 Conference Day and the fantastic Year 7 Last Choir Standing, which showcased some truly amazing performances from our talented pupils.

As we reach the end of a busy and successful half term, we hope all families find time to relax and recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another term filled with learning, challenges and opportunities.

Mrs Riondino, Year 7 Lead and Head of Turing,
on behalf of the Heads of House



Update from Music

There is a real sense of excitement and energy surrounding music at school this term. The enthusiasm across all year groups has been effervescent, with pupils embracing every opportunity to perform, rehearse and develop their musical talents. One of the most encouraging developments has been the remarkable increase in participation in our extracurricular music clubs. Whether singing, instrumental ensembles or specialist groups, pupils have shown tremendous commitment and enthusiasm, creating a vibrant musical community that extends well beyond the classroom.

A particular highlight of the term was the Year 7 Last Choir Standing Competition, which proved to be a wonderful celebration of music-making and teamwork. The school hall was packed with parents and carers, whose support created a fantastic atmosphere for the performers. The confidence, dedication and enjoyment displayed by our youngest pupils were a testament to the hard work of both pupils and staff, and it was inspiring to see so many families sharing in the occasion.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating our forthcoming concert at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on 17 December. Performing in such a magnificent and historic setting will be an exciting opportunity for our musicians, and preparations are already well underway.

As we continue to build on this momentum, it is wonderful to see music thriving throughout the school. We look forward to seeing even more pupils getting involved and sharing many more memorable performances with our school community in the coming months ahead. We are blessed to have a wonderful peripatetic teaching team, curriculum specialists and pupils who go the extra mile to make music a special community in our school.

Mr Cairns, Head of Music (maternity cover)



Update from Year 11 DT

The new term has seen our Year 11 Design & Technology pupils embark on an exciting stage of their GCSE journey. Pupils have been introduced to three design contexts; 'Changing Climate', 'Future Generations' and 'Inspiration from Nature' and have now selected the context that will shape their project. Pupils have also begun working with their chosen clients, using their needs and requirements to inform the development of their ideas. This marks the beginning of an exciting period of creativity, experimentation and problem-solving as pupils move from initial concepts towards fully developed design solutions. The exceptional work produced by last year's Year 11 cohort continues to provide inspiration, setting a strong benchmark for creativity, quality and ambition.

Over the coming half term, we look forward to seeing pupils' ideas take shape through sketching, modelling, prototyping and CAD development. These iterative stages will be key in refining and strengthening their designs as they progress towards their final outcomes.

Mr Bannister, Subject Leader of DT



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www.sawstonvc.org



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Professional Learning

The start of every school year brings the opportunity for a fresh focus on our development objectives and for staff to engage in professional learning. Our Inclusive Classroom Principles have, once again, been a key driver for teachers this half term. Checking for understanding and developing learners' independent practice have been the two areas we have been thinking about in staff meetings and training days. New staff have been inducted, subject leaders have met across Anglian Learning to discuss their curricula, and the Excellent Teaching Team have been planning the year ahead.

Miss Gelder, Deputy Principal

Update from Religion and Worldviews

What a brilliant start to the term in Religion and Worldviews! Across KS3, we've been developing our oracy for writing through lively debates on topics ranging from 'How did the universe begin?' to 'Do we have the right to test on animals?' Year 10 Philosophy pupils have begun their Higher Project Qualification. They have selected their own philosophical question and are now embarking on their independent project through which they will develop academic planning, research and evaluation skills. Meanwhile, our dedicated Year 11 GCSE pupils are preparing for November mocks. I wish them well in their revision and upcoming exams.

Mrs Venn, Head of Religion and Worldviews



PE Update - Year 9 Football Fixture against Melbourn Village College

A challenging start saw Sawston fall 1-0 behind in the early minutes of the game. The boys responded quickly, building up their possession and creating a stream of attacking plays, and Charlie soon levelled the score. With Melbourn under heavy pressure, Lenny then scored a fantastic goal from a corner to put Sawston in front, and the boys began to play with real confidence and aggressive attacking intent.

Charlie struck again with a superb solo goal, dribbling from the halfway line into the box before finishing in style. Gilly quickly followed with a penalty to make it 4-1. Melbourn pulled a goal back, but Charlie soon completed his hat trick to restore the three goal lead. Rufus had the final say, smashing the ball into the net to seal a 6-2 win. I am proud of the boys, and a special mention goes to Rocco for a star performance, with tireless work in midfield and plenty of quality balls delivered across the game.

Mr Trent, Second in PE



And finally...

We hope everyone has a relaxing half term break. School begins again on Monday, 2 November. We look forward to seeing everyone then.