

11 September 2026



Sawston
Village College

Principal: Mr J P Russell

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Round Up

There was a lively buzz at the Freshers' Fair this week; over 50 clubs encouraged Y7s to sign up to an eclectic range from the usual sports, STEM and arts clubs to Warhammer, Lego Robotics and Herpetology. Hopefully, there is something for everyone. Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition takes place this weekend in the Peak District with three nights of camping, trekking and developing leadership skills. PE has been busy with the Jubilee Cup and a potential record-breaking run - well done to all involved. Now they are preparing for the imminent move to the new Sports building which, unfortunately, has been delayed until September 25th. Pupils were excellent during our Fire Drill and have started really positively overall, so thank you very much for supporting our values and expectations at home. Please note the worrying social media influenced trend happening here and nationally, below.

NEW My Child At School (MCAS) App

The MCAS app is available for all parents to view key information relating to your child's time at the College. This includes parents of Y7 pupils, who should have received invitation emails over the past week. We have been really pleased to see the number of parents who have downloaded this app and activated their accounts since we launched the new system in the summer term - thank you for your support. If you have not yet been able to activate your MCAS account and would like to request a new activation link, please complete the short form linked [here](#).

Alongside the Attendance, Timetable and Homework sections which were introduced last academic year, we have begun to use this system to record behaviour information. Through the Behaviour module of the app, you will be able to see all behaviour events which have been recorded for your child. This includes positive events such as house points and praise cards, as well as any negative behaviours and detentions.

For parents of pupils in Y8-11, this replaces the behaviour section of Go4Schools which you may be familiar with from previous years. Go4Schools continues to be used for assessment and reporting.

NEW National social media trend

We are aware of a national social media trend that is encouraging young people to bring household items into school. We are keen to ensure that this does not become an issue at Sawston Village College.



ANGLIAN LEARNING

FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDERTHE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE
2026
STATE-IN-
SECONDARY SCHOOL
OF THE YEARArtsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council EnglandPROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2024 - 2025

We would be grateful for your support in reminding your child that they should only bring essential items to school, such as their lunch, snacks, equipment needed for learning, and any items that have been specifically requested by a member of staff to support their learning.

Any other household items should be left at home. By working together, we can help maintain a safe and focused learning environment for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support.

NEW Advance Notice - Y11 Post-16 evening: 28th September

Y11 pupils and their parents are warmly invited to attend our post-16 information evening on Monday 28th September. This is a chance to hear from staff involved in the post-16 process, as well as for you and your child to meet with representatives from a range of local post-16 providers at our post-16 fair. More details including exact timings will follow.

NEW Training Day in summer term 2027

Anglian Learning schools have one additional disaggregated training day to support the increasing mandatory health and safety and safeguarding training. Therefore, school will be closed to pupils one day earlier than advertised on Wednesday 21st July 2027. Pupils' last day of term will be Tuesday 20th July.

NEW Catering account

If you wish your child to use the school catering outlets, please ensure that they have sufficient funds on their catering account. If you are having trouble logging into WisePay to top up, please email finance@sawstonvc.org.

REMINDER Cycle safety

With the evenings turning darker, we would like to remind parents/carers to encourage cyclists to wear helmets, be visible and use bike lights. It is also a good time of year to check breaks, tyres and general maintenance. Please also remind your child of the need to stay vigilant, follow the Highway Code and be courteous to all other road, cycleway users and pedestrians. We will be encouraging them next week to be especially careful when leaving any of the school exits at the end of the day.

NICE TO KNOW Jubilee Cup

A fantastic day was had by everyone at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track for the annual Jubilee Cup County District Athletics event.

We had some brilliant successes throughout the day, both individually and as a team. Pupils achieved medal-winning performances, while many others recorded fantastic Personal Bests, a great reflection of their hard work, determination and commitment. In particular, well done to our Y11 boys' relay team, who are now District Champions. The team produced an incredible performance, recording a time which we believe, pending confirmation of the official records, may have broken the Sawston 4x100m relay record with a time of 49.29 seconds. What an achievement! We were also incredibly proud of the behaviour, attitude and determination shown by all of our Sawston pupils. Their positive approach and sportsmanship were outstanding and were even noted by members of staff from other schools.

It was a really lovely day, and everyone should be incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done to all of our athletes, let's do it all again in July!

NICE TO KNOW LAMDA Acting exam

Over the summer, three of our pupils passed their LAMDA exams, achieving fantastic results. Congratulations!

Josie Schneider Grade 4 Acting: Distinction

Tim Vedernikov Grade 4 Acting: Distinction

Lucy McFarlane Grade 3 Acting: Distinction

COMMUNITY Papyrus

Papyrus – the charity which provides support for young people with suicide crises, including the national helpline (Hopeline247) has very sadly closed with immediate effect. This is, of course, a major loss to our sector as so many young people, families and professionals have accessed their services to help in difficult times. A statement has said that they are seeking to transfer some services to other organisations, but there's no timeline on when that may happen.

Here are some organisations to signpost you towards if needed:

First Response Service – 111 option 2 (mental health option) or 111 online

Samaritans – 116 123

Childline – 0800 1111

HEAR – text HEAR to 85258

COMMUNITY Cambridge South Hockey Club

South Cambridge Hockey Club is currently recruiting new junior members for next season. Please see [here](#) for further details.

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Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Jonathan Russell