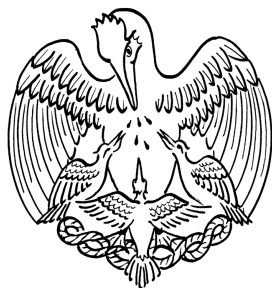


SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

24 September 2008

Dates for your diary

Open Evening/Teacher Training
Day (Pupils not in School)

2 October

Year 7 Tutor Evening

16 October

Half Term

27 October

CAP Post 16 Evening

9 October

Dear Parent

Accident on the Sawston Bypass

I am sure you will already be aware that two of our Year 7 girls were injured in an accident that took place as they attempted to cross the bypass on Thursday morning. We were very relieved that their injuries were not more serious: Sarah was back in school on Friday morning, rather bruised, but otherwise uninjured; Chloe unfortunately broke her leg and will be on crutches for quite some time. Both girls were extraordinarily courageous at a time when they were shocked and in pain; neither complained; both kept their sense of humour and tried to smile when many adults would have been far less stoic.

The object lesson to take from the outcome of the accident is the importance of wearing a cycle helmet; without theirs both Chloe and Sarah would have suffered even more serious injury. Chloe's cycle helmet is clear evidence of

that, cracked as it is across the front. Can I urge you, please, to urge your young people to put their safety before their hairstyles and wear their helmets to cycle to school. We will be reinforcing this message to all of our pupils.

Our established parents will know that the Parish Councils have been campaigning for quite some time for a crossing at the point of the accident. At the moment, the only aid to support children crossing is an inadequate traffic island in the middle of the road that can only accommodate two or three cycles at any one time. Many of you contributed to the Parish Councils' petition last academic year. We are hopeful that Chloe and Sarah's accident may prompt a more serious consideration of a change to the crossing point than was achieved through the petition.

Our pupil Environment Forum will now be making this campaign a focus of their attention and will look to submit their case to the

Highways Authority of the County Council. As part of a national initiative, the speed limits on all A and B roads are to be considered before 2011; it is likely that this 'crossing' will come under the spotlight sooner than that, most probably early next year. In the interim, we will be doing our best at staff and pupil level to highlight the issue with the appropriate agencies. If you would like to have your views represented, please do send your letters to us and we will pass them on with our own representations – strength in numbers.

I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Green, one of our parents, who was one of the first on the scene and did a splendid job of supporting the girls in the immediate aftermath of the accident and stayed with them until the ambulances departed – true community spirit.

It only remains to wish Chloe a speedy recovery from her fractured leg and a swift return to school and to congratulate both girls on

being an absolute credit to themselves, their families and the school at such a difficult time.

Open Evening

Our annual evening for Year 6 parents takes place this year on 2 October. It starts at 6.30 pm and finishes at 9.00 pm. It is an evening on which we look to showcase the work of the school.

We are always delighted that so many of our young people volunteer to help on the evening; last year, some 250 came in to school to act as guides, to help with parking, to serve in the French cafe or to help in departments. We also attract around 600 visitors.

In these circumstances, we need your help to ensure that only those pupils who have booked formally to help their teachers should attend on the evening in full school uniform. Creating a positive – and accurate – picture of our school is crucially important on such an evening. It is vital, therefore, that those pupils who are not formally involved should stay away from school and not treat the evening as a social opportunity – however tempting that might be. We should appreciate parents' cooperation and assistance in this regard.

On the other hand, many new pupils have joined our school from other schools locally and further afield this term, often without having had the opportunity to get to know the school beforehand. This would be an excellent opportunity for such families to visit and enjoy

informal contact with the school community before the more formal parents' evenings that come later in the year. Please do come along; we should be delighted to welcome you.

A Village College for Trumpington

As you know, we joined the competition to found the new school in Trumpington; it is scheduled to open in 2012. We launched our bid alongside the other proposers, The Netherhall School and The Parkside Federation, last week to the community of Trumpington.

I am indebted to our Pupil Executive: Ritwika Sengupta, Head Girl, Tom Byers, Head Boy, Lucy Goodman, Deputy Head Girl, and Sam Love, Deputy Head Boy, who joined us in Trumpington to promote our bid to the visitors. They greeted the visitors with such warmth and friendliness and were outstanding representatives of our school. Tom and Ricky introduced Sawston's bid with a terrific presentation that focused on giving a virtual tour of Trumpington Village College. They spoke confidently but also unassumingly and were given a spontaneous round of applause when they finished – the only one of the evening. So many of those present wrote to us after the event to praise Tom and Ricky's contribution. We are deeply grateful to them.

The formal consultation has now opened. You can read our bid on our website by following this link: [\[s/file/Content/News and Events/SVC%20Trumpington%20Bid.pdf\]\(s/file/Content/News_and_Events/SVC%20Trumpington%20Bid.pdf\)](http://www.sawstonvc.org/doc</p></div><div data-bbox=)

If you would like to support our bid, please e-mail your comments to:

robert.lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Alternatively, we can provide you with the formal consultation papers. Please ring our College Office on 01223 712777; we should be pleased to send them to you via your son or daughter.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE)

We held our first PSHEE day of the year this week. Some years ago we decided that the best way to offer such education to our young people was through a series of conference days, five in all, through the course of the academic year. We arrange a mixture of courses and activities organised by school staff but also by visiting organisations or speakers.

This year we have revamped our approach once more. We have retained the conference days, but rather than having much of the content taught by form tutors, our staff opted in to teach in one of five specialist teams. The teams are based around the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. This requires schools to work to ensure that the following 'outcomes' are achieved for all children, namely that they:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution.

- achieve economic well being.

As a school we endorse these outcomes – even if some of us are still trying to achieve number five ourselves!

Building specialist teams to teach the course relating to each of these outcomes means that teachers are able to develop their expertise in the areas of choice and offer our pupils a vibrant and relevant PSHE education.

Congratulations ...

... to Sam Smith and Kate Hurry who did the unthinkable and joined the teaching staff at one of our morning briefings to advertise the coffee morning their class is organising to raise funds for the MacMillan Cancer Trust. Sam and Kate spoke most engagingly, despite having to face teachers before they had had their first cup of coffee of the day. There was a difficult moment of two when they asked them to empty their pockets for a raffle, but on balance I think their stock with their teachers went up. Full respect to both Kate and Sam for braving the tyrants in their den!

... and to Alastair Cliffe and Josh Ives

Two of our Year 11 boys had a highly successful cricketing summer. A report of their exploits follows.

Following the highly successful tour of the Channel Islands by the Cambridgeshire U15 cricket squad, which proved to be more challenging off the

field than on, Alastair Cliffe (No. 3 bat) and Josh Ives (opening bowler) from Year 11 were both included in the team which played at Oundle School over the Bank Holiday weekend in the ECB U15 cup semi-finals. Unfortunately, Cambridgeshire lost to Devon in the semi-final and then more closely to Derbyshire in the play-off but the two boys are both key members of only the second Cambridgeshire squad to reach this stage of a national competition.”

And finally

I hope the school year has started positively for you and yours. From our perspective, our pupils have made an excellent start to the new year; they are a joy to work with. Without the support of parents our job would be so much harder. Thank you for all you do to help us to help our young people to enjoy school and achieve their potential.

June Cannie
Principal