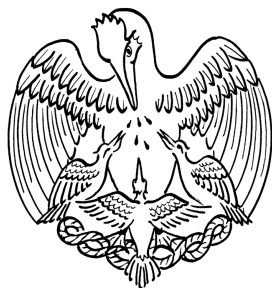


# SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



## NEWSLETTER

January 2008

### *Dates For Your Diary*

Yr 9 examinations	7–11 January	Science Modular examinations	29 January
Yr 11 Health & Social Care and Science Modular examinations	15 January	PSHE Day	1 February
Yr 11 Parents' Evening	17 January	Languages Mock oral examinations	4–8 February
Science Modular examinations	18 January	Intermediate Maths Challenge	7 February
Science Modular examinations	21 January	Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils)	8 February
Science Modular examinations	23 January	Half term	11–15 February
Science Modular examinations	25 January	Science Day	25 February
Yr 8 examinations	28–31 January		

Dear Parent

### **Happy New Year!**

I hope you were able to enjoy the Christmas festivities unaffected by the colds, flu and bugs that seem to have proliferated across the country. We have all returned refreshed – and recovered – from our winter convalescent spell, although it must be said that the staff looked faintly bewildered to find themselves sitting in briefing before dawn on the first day back.

### **Retrospective**

We ended the school year very positively thanks to my colleagues' willingness to tread the boards ... with varying degrees of success: Mr Lockwood, for example – or Mr Rockwood, as we know him – made a very convincing rock

star in the staff revue for Years 10 and 11; Mr Culpin, Mr Russell and Dr Peak performed the Madness number 'It must be love ...' admirably and very convincingly with the Next Attempt; on the other hand, the casting of Mr Doust as a flying angel in the pantomime for Years 7 and 8 possibly stretched credibility a shade too far. Still, the joint performances of these and many other colleagues did a great deal to entertain our young people at the end of a very busy term; it might even have convinced them that their teachers are almost human.

Without question, however, Christmas really started for all of us at Great St Mary's on the last night of the school year with the annual school carol service where our young people

delighted and inspired the congregation with a wonderful programme of carols, readings and performance. The standard of the choral work of the Madrigal Singers, the Chamber and Junior Choirs was outstanding; the Brass Band performed faultlessly under the leadership of Mr Roberts; the Recorder Group played wonderfully well: in short, it was a superb occasion where our young people achieved the highest standards of performance. I am deeply indebted to Mrs Macleod and Miss Haworth for all they do to support and inspire such standards.

It was a very good evening for the Kendall family: The Rev Giles Kendall performed the religious offices on the evening while Deborah, his daughter,

gave a faultless rendering of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Giles and his family have our very best wishes as they move towards the end of this term to take up a new living. They have our thanks for all they have done for the community they have served and our very best wishes for their future happiness.

### **Snow days**

The media disappointed our pupils dreadfully at the start of term by stressing the high possibility of snow that never came in the early days of January. Our pupils were hoping for an extended holiday; it never crossed our teachers' minds.

Seriously, however, we only ever close the school if there is a risk to safety – and not from flying snowballs! When we did so last year, it was because those colleagues who arrived early at school had found the roads treacherous. We were very concerned about the risks to pupils' safety of bus drivers having the same experience of gliding helplessly across main roads with a full complement of SVC young people. The year before, we only closed because the bus companies told us they were unable to travel. Please be assured, therefore, that the show will go on, unless we consider there to be a serious risk to safety.

If, however, we do close, you will be able to find the information on our website at [www.sawstonvc.org](http://www.sawstonvc.org) from early morning. Alternatively, please

tune in to Radio Cambridgeshire; they act as the voice of the county's schools and will ensure that all closures are notified before school start.

### **Sickness**

As you know, Christmas brought with it the Norovirus, a nasty and somewhat dramatic bug. We have ordered supplies of hand gel to encourage pupils to use it in the hope that it will keep them free from infection – prevention is better than cure, if only it works! The advice from the Health Centre is that anyone who is suffering from it should stay clear of school for 48 hours to avoid infecting others.

### **The Judith Parnwell Awards**

Our congratulations go to three groups whose projects have all been recognised by a Judith Parnwell Award. Mrs Parnwell was a much-loved employee of the College for many years. She was the School Nurse and then Lower School Secretary. She left the College to join NST Travel Group and died after 8 years' service with the company.

In her memory NST created this award to recognise projects led by young people which had at their heart some form of community service or contribution.

The projects honoured this year by the Award are all very different. 'Bikes for Africa' is seeking to re-cycle (!) unwanted bicycles and to ship them out to Africa for the use of doctors and nurses to allow

them to access remote villages where there is little medical care. The £300 grant will help towards the shipping costs for the significant number of cycles collected by our Year 9 pupils – it stands at the moment at 141, but those driving the project are hoping for still more with an eventual target of 150.

Our CoPE (Certificate of Personal Enterprise) group has worked very hard to create individual gardens on the school site. Their £100 grant will enable them to buy much needed equipment so that they can expand their efforts.

The biggest award goes, deservedly, to Sawston Youth Drama. One of their members, Meghan Warth, has written a play called 'Cracked' which highlights the dangerous consequences of drug abuse in young people. SYD plans to roll the play out to schools across the area and will use the £600 award to support their efforts.

We are very grateful to Mark Sanders, Director of NST, and Judith's children, Giles Parnwell and Lisa Bedford for their continuing support of the College through this excellent award. They will present the awards to the worthy winners next week.

### **Former pupil's dream job**

The following article appeared recently in the Cambridge Evening News.

'Tottenham Hotspur have come to Sawston for their latest signing - and Harry Boxell is likely to get some time on the

pitch straight away. The 20-year-old groundsman for Sawston Parish Council has been appointed to the staff at the London club's White Hart Lane stadium.

And if a move to the Premier League was not exciting enough, Boxell is also a big Spurs supporter.

"I've always dreamed of working at a top club," he said. "And being at Tottenham, the club all my family supports, is just the best I could have hoped for."

The former Sawston Village College pupil was surprised to land the role, but now hopes to make the most of the opportunity. He added: "I thought they would be looking for someone older with more experience. In Sawston I look after the pitches for local village teams, so it's a big step up. But Tottenham have said they will help me through college qualifications, so there may be an opportunity to work my way up there. I'm really looking forward to starting."

Harry has our congratulations on his significant success and our very best wishes for the future.

June Cannie  
Principal

## **Year 12 Presentation Evening - Prize Winners**

Mark Jackson  
Nicola Slater  
Ben Wallace  
Kerry Sayer  
Euan Bright  
Nathan Whittaker  
Muhmin Ahmed  
Charlotte Duthie-Smith  
Sultanath Chowdhury  
Matthew James  
Nina Taggart  
Clare Baglin  
Rachel Telfer  
Siobhan Fay  
Claudia Cope  
Michael Colbert  
Clare Green  
Isabelle Foote  
Joe Ash  
Olivia Tenberg  
Callum Rookes  
Elliott McAusland  
Paul Shields  
Sophie Lloyd  
Claire Woodstock  
Greg Pugh  
Vanessa Cann  
Ashley Willmott  
Louisa Hodge  
Russell Boatman

Special congratulations go to Joseph Ash, Rachel Telfer and Shawn Cohen, whose results in GCSE Spanish, German and French respectively put them in the top five nationally; to Mark Jackson for his outstanding achievement in gaining A Level Mathematics and to Claudia Cope who came top in the country for RE, gaining 100% in her GCSE examination.