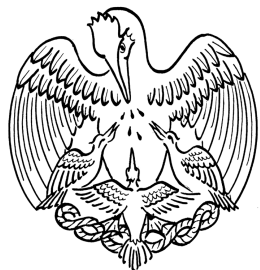


SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

1 April 2009

Dates for your diary

Year 10 GCSE Performance	1-2 April	SYD Juniors Bugsy Malone	30 April - 2 May
Year 9 Black Cat Theatre	3 April	May Day	4 May
Spring Term ends	3 April	Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccination	7 May
Year 11 Berlin Trip	14-17 April	Year 10 Parents Evening	7 May
Summer Term begins	20 April	Sawston Fun Run	10 May
Pop Idol final	22 April	Year 7 Examinations commence	11 May
Year 11 GCSE Orals	22-28 April	Commence of GCSE examinations	11 May
Year 10 Examinations commence	27 April	Year 10 Work Experience	11-22 May
Years 6, 7 & 8 Maths Challenge	30 April	Specialist College Activities Week	18-22 May

Dear Parent

Well, here we are on the brink of another holiday – or convalescent spell, as we in the profession call it – and at the end of a very busy and successful term. I should say at this stage that school finishes at the usual time on Friday, not at lunchtime, as some young scamps have been telling their parents.

School success

Every year the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) celebrates schools' examination achievements. We have regularly been recipients of their congratulations in the past; this year was rather special: we were noted as having made very significant progress in standards over the past three years.

We were very pleased to receive an invitation to a celebratory dinner in London to

acknowledge the more than 10% increase in the percentage of our pupils who gained 5 A*-C over the past three years, something on which we had been congratulated in the previous three-year cycle. It was then a further pleasure to receive the second invitation on the basis of the significant improvement in the percentage of our pupils who had gained 5A* - C with English and Maths, although I have to confess we were rather blasé by the time the third invitation hit the doormat to acknowledge our success in raising the GCSE points score very significantly. Selflessly we have trudged to London to mix with the glitterati of the world of education (not a lot of glitter actually) and consume gourmet food in the cause of representing our school nobly; it must never be said we have shirked our duty.

Seriously, though, I must pay tribute to my colleagues for their hard work in support of such achievement. Everyone, no matter his or her rôle in the school, drives for the highest standards. They have my warmest thanks.

Community Education

We are relieved and pleased that we have been able to sustain our community education provision in spite of insidious funding cuts year on year. Our governors are committed to the continuation of such provision, believing entirely in the vision of College's Founder, Henry Morris, of education for all ages on the college campus.

We are in the process of building our new programme for the autumn term and are keen to add new adult classes to our current offer. Please let

us know if you have a particular interest or hobby that you would like us to include in our programme. We are also seeking tutors with new courses to offer.

This year, too, we are offering Train2Gain through a contract with Cambridge Regional College; this is a workplace-based qualification that we are keen to offer to local employers for their employees.

If you are interested in any of these strands of our community education provision, please contact Mrs Sue King at the College on 01223 712856 or by e-mail at sking@sawstonvc.org. She would be delighted to hear from you.

Comic Relief retrospective

I last wrote to you as we were gearing up for the Comic Relief fund-raiser, many of us having been in training for the fun run and walk for at least an hour or so. I am delighted to inform you that some of us exceeded our ambitions. For example, I was thrilled to come 4th of the staff runners. Quite an achievement, I thought ... until I discovered that only 4 had actually run. The other 'athletes' were busy 'supervising' which required them to undertake the onerous duty of accompanying their forms on the walk in their pyjamas (very stylish and clearly purchased specially to show off).

Hannes Whittingham came first of the pupil athletes, breezing to the finish line very soon after he started and approximately half an hour before his headteacher. Congratulations, Hannes. Really.

Joking apart, however, it was a terrific community occasion and greatly enjoyed by all. I am very grateful to the PE Department for devising the course – that seemed endless if you were running it – and the system of marshalling that got the whole community of 1100 on to the field to the exciting accompaniment of the Samba Band, perfect outdoor music.

But, of course, the fun run and walk was only the culmination of a lunch hour of fund-raising activities. Each year group contributed to the fun in their own way. The 7s and 8s took over the multi-purpose hall and ran a wide range of stalls. Year 7 led the field by raising an astonishing £207.59 in the 40 minutes available by designing games, raffles and activities for all visitors; this included hair-dyeing that was only temporary ... thankfully.

Mrs Maltby was delighted by Year 8's wonderful response to their cake-selling plans: her office was packed to the brim with the most delicious cakes, all of which were home made; she commented that at one stage she thought she might have to eat her way out of her office! The Year 8s made a grand total of £126.70; those adept mathematicians among you will realise that, at 20p a cake, a great deal of baking, and eating, had taken place. (I am personally unsure where the spare 10p came from ...)

Year 9s took over the Henry Morris Hall to serve their vast platters of fruit, cakes and marshmallow for dipping in the chocolate fountain. This was certainly the most sophisticated option and attracted a very

genteel crowd.

Year 10s had the most creative fund-raising approach, bless them. They decided on a gruesome eating competition. Well over a hundred of the year group crowded in to the Youth Centre to watch 4 teams compete to eat the most appalling food combinations their peers had been able to conceive: spinach and custard; peaches and tomato ketchup; chillies on crackers and shredded wheat and baked beans - absolutely foul and the whole spectacle watched in fascination and admiration by a vastly entertained audience.

Year 11s allowed themselves to be represented by a skilled group of basketball players who took on a staff team of indiscriminate number, each of whom, with the exception of the PE staff who are made of sterner stuff and also rather good at it, played for a total of roughly three minutes before passing the 'honour' on to another colleague. Despite the obvious talent of the Year 11 pupils, the staff team won resoundingly. Calls of 'stitch up' and 'fix' were ignored by the referee who was, harrumph, a member of staff.

Thank you to all of you, parents, pupils and staff who contributed to a terrific school community afternoon, raising almost £2,000 for this excellent cause.

Calling all Times readers ...

Please do pass on to us any Books for Schools tokens from the Times. Mrs Young, our Librarian, would be very grateful to be able to add

painlessly to our ever-burgeoning book stock. Simply ask your son or daughter to hand them in to Reception or to his or her form tutor.

Year 11

The clock is running down for our Year 11 pupils – a fine group of young people whom we will miss greatly when they leave us to focus on the GCSEs on May 15th.

We had our first formal leaving occasion with them this week when we all gathered on Fountain Court to have the Year 11 photo taken. They were, as usual, wonderful.

Undaunted by the challenges of their forthcoming examinations they have been setting to work with a will to raise money for their leavers' ball and demonstrating outstanding leadership and organisational skills at the same time.

They held a fashion show in the Henry Morris Hall, much transformed by a glamorous catwalk. A local company brought in a range of ball gowns and suits and Year 10 pupils were invited to hone their modelling skills with great success, managing to negotiate steps in high heels and show the clothing off to good effect; the girls looked terrific too ... Our thanks and congratulations go to Chloe Thompson and Georgette Searle for masterminding the event with minimal staff help. Thank you, too, to the Year 11 band who provided entertainment for the audience during the intervals.

It is not only in matters sartorial that they lead the field. The Year 11 netball team

managed to persuade some female staff – who probably should have known better never having played netball since they left school - to play a match to raise funds. Despite some 'surprising' (Miss Plant's word) performances from staff, the Year 11 pupils were delighted to gain an 11 – 8 victory. Rumour has it that the staff won the competition to consume most cakes from the cake stalls run alongside the event!

Maths Challenge Success

Every year we enter our 100 most able mathematicians in years 10 and 11 into the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge.

This year we again achieved great levels of success with 12 pupils gaining a gold certificate, 21 silver and 30 bronze.

Four of our year 11 pupils, Li Xie, Sam Fleck, Samir Sattar and Beni Bienz achieved such a high score that they qualified to take part in a further additional national round of the challenge which took place on 19 March. We await the results of that with great interest.

Special mention must go to Li Xie who scored 100% in the challenge. This is an amazing feat which we have never experienced here at Sawston. To put the achievement into context, **only 11 pupils nationwide scored 100% out of nearly 200,000 participants. Well done Li!**

On 10 March, we took a team of 4 Year 10 pupils to participate in the Cambridgeshire Further

Mathematics Centre Year 10 Team Challenge. Rob Tovey, Aaron Gashi, Martin Carta and Lukas Scholtes responded really positively in a VERY challenging competition. Unfortunately they didn't win, but they did score well and beat the local rivals, Linton VC.

Sporting news

The Year 8 District Football Tournament involving the 12 other district schools was held last week at St Bede's school. Our Year 8 Team qualified for the 1st place play-off but topped their group with five wins and a draw; they beat Netherhall, Comberton, Swavesey, St Bede's and Linton and drew with Cottenham in our first game. This led to our playing Melbourn in the final, which was a very closely-fought game, eventually ending with Sawston winning 1-0. It was an immensely sporting competition with all of the boys in our squad playing their part throughout the competition and representing SVC with honour. Congratulations, therefore, to: Aaron Chapman, Harry Bright, Cameron Watson, Charlie Irvine, Ted Bishop, Jack Willbye and Ryan Bass.

The B Team also covered themselves in glory. They finished runners-up in their qualifying group leading to their playing off for 3rd and 4th places. The play-off, this time against Comberton, was another very close contest, which was decided by a penalty shoot-out; Kane Munday made two crucial saves allowing Sawston to win 3-1. Our thanks and congratulations go to the team: Kane Munday, Chris Dix, Max Annetts, Max Judd, Connor

Diver, Will Abercrombie, David Barrett and Jed Pearl.

Cambridge District School Sports Awards

Each year, outstanding achievements by young people in our district schools are recognised on the prestigious Roy Burrell Awards Evening.

Our congratulations go to Andrew Wilkinson and Fay Westwood who received awards for swimming; to Ben Kelk and Hayley Sayer for athletics; Josh Ives and Ali Cliffe for Cricket; Vicky Reynolds-Cocroft for Netball and Cameron Sondhi, Rhys Davies and Dan Golder for football.

We were particularly delighted this year that **Ben Kelk was the joint winner of the Male Individual Achievement Award.** Ben's sporting achievements in his time at SVC have been very impressive: in his main sport of athletics, he has qualified twice for the National Schools' Championships, finishing 2nd in the AAA National Club Championships and representing the East of England in the UK Schools' games last Summer at Bath University in his main event of the Sprint Hurdles; he represented the County athletics team in the 100m, the high jump and the relay; he has also played for the Cambridgeshire Rugby team and for the District Schools' Football team at U14 and U15 level.

In addition to his many sporting commitments and achievements he represented the College as our Sports

Ambassador at a number of events and has also completed the Level 1 Sports Leader Award. He is an outstanding sportsman who has responded to his success with admirable modesty. We are all very proud of him.

Congratulations

Toby Andrews, Jake Andrews and Jakob Vikner in Year 9 have been selected to represent the County in the U15 County Basketball Squad.

Andrew Wilkinson (Year 11) has been asked to attend for Great Britain Water Polo trials on 18th April to join the National squad.

The boys take our best wishes with them for their continuing success in their chosen fields.

Music

Those of us who were privileged to attend our spring concert at West Road were stunned by the quality of our young musicians. This year's programme was even wider than usual with some inspirational performances from so many of the groups. Whatever they played or sang, they did it with great skill and enthusiasm. The large group work – the bands, the choirs – performed outstandingly well; the Year 11 GCSE piece was the most original I have ever seen; but there are very few school concerts where minimalist composer Steve Reich's 6 Planos is performed by 6 pianists.

I am deeply grateful to Mrs Macleod and Miss Haworth, a winning combination, and to the team of wonderful

peripatetic teachers who support them to achieve such incredible standards.

A special mention to a young musical star ... Luke Fitzgerald accompanied the Jesus Choir to Arundel Castle to film the musical accompaniment to a new series following the life of Henry VIII. The series written by Dr David Starkey is due to be aired on Channel 4, starting in early April. Luke is proving to be a musical and dramatic asset to the school, having already shone in the Snap Academy production of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' at February half term.

Drama

Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils for providing an evening's entertainment for their peers and their families when they performed their GCSE examination pieces for the examiner. Year 10 have their turn this week when they perform their own devised pieces for the invited audience.

Mr Higgins has my warmest thanks for the many hours of rehearsal time he devotes to ensure that his pupils have the best possible chance to succeed.

Cinema

Do watch out for the future showings at the first youth-led cinema in the country – ours! Our Arts Development Manager, Lesley Morgan, and her willing band of enthusiasts have planned a programme of screenings to test the audience demand. Please do go along for a real cinema experience on your doorstep at affordable prices.

Sawston Cinema is showing:

The Duchess (Cert 12A) on
Tuesday 28 April, at 6.30 pm;

Wall-E (Cert U) on Tuesday
19 May at 6.30 pm;

Man on Wire (Cert 12) on
Tuesday 9 June at 6.30 pm (*to
be confirmed*).

And now to thoughts of Easter.
May the holiday bring you
peace and joy and, secularly,
chocolate.

June Cannie
Principal

Extended Schools Parents' Questionnaire

In September 09, we are hoping to launch 'a safe place to be' in our Youth and Community Centre, onsite at Sawston Village College - this will be a safe, supervised place that pupils can access after school until 6pm, as part of the Extended Schools' government agenda.

Child's year group (please tick):	7	8	9	10	11
1	Would your child wish to have access to the 'safe place to be', a supervised space, after school? He/she will be able to play games (such as pool/board games) and computer games, use the Internet, read, meet and chat with friends, access study support and specialist support agencies, until he/she can be collected and transported home - up to 6pm term time? (pupils will be able to take part in after school clubs organised during this period, and then go on to the 'safe place to be' at the Youth and Community Centre.)			Yes	
				No	
2	If you answered yes to question 1, would you be willing to pay for your child to use the 'safe place to be' after school? (The childcare element of the Working Tax Credits can be claimed for regular supervised provision up to age 15 years, or 16 years for disabled children.)			Yes	
				No	
3	If you answered yes to question 2, how much would you be willing to pay per session? Please tick:				
	Up to £1	Up to £2	Up to £3	Up to £4	Up to £5
4	Which nights each week might your child use the 'safe place to be'? Please tick:				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	As part of the 'safe place to be', pupils will be able to access helpful information, guidance and advice and support. If you answered yes to question 1, please indicate which types of information your child might find it useful to access. Please tick any applicable box.				
	Drugs/alcohol awareness		Sexual health advice		
	Healthy Lifestyles		Volunteering opportunities		
	Careers/further education		Study support/homework club		
6	We have employed a Parent Support Advisor (PSA), as part of the Extended Schools' government agenda.			Yes	
	Would you like help in managing your child's behaviour?			No	
	If yes, and you would like the PSA to contact you, please write your name/child's name and your contact details here: This referral will be treated in confidence.				
7	Would you welcome access to accredited parenting programmes?			Yes	
				No	
8	Would you like to attend themed parenting information events? (e.g. cyber bullying, drugs/alcohol awareness)			Yes	
				No	
	If yes, do you have any suggestions for themes:				

Please return to the 'Extended Schools' questionnaire' box in Reception - thank you.