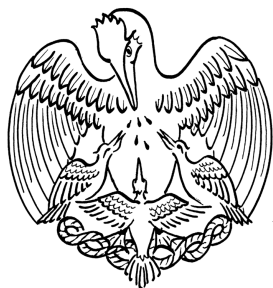


SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

1 October 2007

Dates For Your Diary

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|--|---------------|--|----------------|
| Open Evening/training day (school closed to pupils) | 4 October | Yr 9 Royal Opera visit | 30 October |
| 16+ evening | 9 October | PSHE Day | 14 November |
| Yrs 8, 9 and 10 Photographs | 10 October | Yr 11 GCSE mock examinations | 26–30 November |
| Yr 10 trip to Battlefields | 11–14 October | Yr 10 GCSE coursework tapes | 3–7 December |
| Yrs 9–11 'Romeo in the City' (3.30) | 16 October | Yr 12 Prize Giving Evening | 6 December |
| Yr 7 Tutor Evening | 18 October | Annual Review Day (school closed to pupils) | 13 December |
| Yr 11 trip to Paris | 20–23 October | Autumn term ends | 19 December |
| Half Term | 22–26 October | Spring term begins | 3 January |

Dear Parent

At the time of writing, early bird staff are driving on to the campus as dawn breaks, the storm clouds are gathering over Fountain Court and the school heating is on: autumn is well established and has begun the relentless march towards winter.

We had planned a fire drill for the early part of the week but called it off as the rain lashed across the campus – I know, no moral fibre, but we couldn't face a day of sauna-like classrooms as pupils gently steamed away an early morning soaking.

Some reminders

Open Evening

Our annual evening for Year 6 parents takes place this year on

4th October. On that evening, 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.

Parking close to the school

Our established parents will know that it is extremely important to leave the entrances and exits to the College free of cars at the start and end of the school day. If you are collecting your son or daughter at the end of school, please park in one of the side streets adjacent to the College. Please do not come on to the College site – this includes the Youth Centre site – in any circumstances. Supervising the safe exit of some 1100 young

people within a 10-minute period is quite a challenge; cars parked either side of the entrance and obscuring the line of sight of pupils and duty staff puts our young people at significant risk. I should be very grateful for your help in avoiding any risk of accident.

Duxford Quarry, Dernford Lane, Sawston

We have been asked by RJD Limited, the company that is constructing a large agricultural reservoir over the next three years on this site, to alert all of our pupils and their parents to the fact that there will be increased activity crossing the cycle path in this area and to take extra care when crossing it. They have also urged our pupils to stay well clear of the quarry; as they say, quarries are very enticing places for young people, but they are fraught with danger. Parents' help in underlining these very serious messages would be greatly appreciated.

Youth Award Groups

Trip to Bassingbourn

Our young people who have chosen Youth Award as one of their KS4 options have had a very busy start to their year. The Year 10 groups set off to Bassingbourn last week for some team building activities. The photos taken reveal a very energetic experience for all as they scrambled over, under and along various precarious hurdles and met the challenges devised for them by the soldiers in charge. In truth, the experience our pupils had is

experienced by all new recruits to the army. The Youth Award Group had terrific fun, but a straw poll taken when I visited one of their lessons revealed that not many of the group are currently considering signing up. Mrs Moore has also accumulated some wonderful photos of members of the group which could prove a very good bargaining tool in the days to come ...

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 28th September gave our cafeteria staff a rest as the Youth Award pupils moved in to the staffroom to provide coffee for our teachers at morning break. They also visited Bircham House to provide refreshments for the elderly residents there. The feedback from the visit was very positive – it's always terrific when older people have the opportunity to mix and mingle with teenagers and discover that the vast majority are as they always have been – open, friendly, fun – and not the demons painted in the press!

The money they raised – some £173.62 – will go towards the McMillan Cancer Trust.

ParentMail

If you are one of our existing parents you will already know that you can sign up for e-mailed school communications. This ensures that anything sent out from school comes home to you via your computer, rather than having to rely on pupil

post, which can, at times be a little erratic.

To access ParentMail you will need to register your email address with them by taking the following steps:

- log on to www.parentMail.co.uk;
- take the link to *Parents*;
- On the 'Welcome to ParentMail' page, click on *register*;
- accept the terms and conditions;
- complete registration details;
- find the school;
- after registering, an initial password will be sent to you via email with further instructions;
- to ensure that you receive all information, select all year groups instead of just your child's year group.

Parent handbooks

You will shortly be receiving a copy of the handbook prepared for your child's year group. This will give you the overview of the courses he or she is studying and include a great deal of useful information including extra-curricular activities, homework timetables and key dates for the year. We are looking next year to ensure that the handbooks are with parents at the start of the school year; as this is the first year we have issued them it

has taken rather longer to prepare them. I hope you will find it useful to have all of the information you need in one place – and not to have to rummage at the bottom of school bags, with all the dangers that poses, to find it.

The Next Attempt

I always think that is such a philosophical name for a band – so optimistic and forward-looking. Indeed, devotees of the band – its members are Rowan Austin, Martin Rolfe and Francis Botcherby - will be able to hear them play at their after-school 'gig' on Friday October 5th in the Henry Morris Hall. Funds raised from their performance will go towards the purchase of new sound equipment for our arts events.

Year 7 Form Tutor Evening: Thursday 18th October

Year 7 parents will shortly receive details of this first opportunity to find out how well their children have settled in to SVC. From our perspective, they have made a terrific start.

I have been very impressed with Michael Middleton and Lilli Newson , both in Year 7, who will be speaking at our open evening next week. They have made an excellent start at secondary school and are terrific representatives of their year group. If Michael and Lilli are any kind of touchstone, then our new pupils have taken the move from primary school in their stride and met their new challenges with a high degree of maturity and good

humour – and had a great deal of fun in the process.

I hope genuinely that has been the experience for all of our new pupils ... and that their parents are coping equally well with the challenges ...

June Cannie
Principal

