



Success @ Swavesey

Issue No.18 December 2025



Welcome

Welcome to this edition of [Success@Swavesey](#). I am extremely proud to showcase this selection of amazing achievements of our students.

Since September, we have seen [Success at Swavesey](#) in many forms across the wide range of the school curriculum. The Illuminate Christmas performances were certainly a personal highlight, but as you can see from this edition, we have a great deal to celebrate this term.

All the staff at the college, from teachers to the support staff have worked exceptionally hard this term and have played an integral part in maintaining the high expectations and standards we expect here at [Swavesey Village College](#) and providing [countless extra curricular opportunities](#) for our students. I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their support during the last year, and I hope you all enjoy this edition of [Success@Swavesey](#).

Very best wishes

Jim Stavrou
Headteacher



[Swavesey Village College](#) was designated as a Parent Friendly School at Silver Level this term. This award is designated through a charity called [Parentkind](#) which works with hundreds of schools across the country. [Swavesey](#) is one of only 10 schools nationwide who have reached this award.

[Parentkind](#) promotes parent involvement in education. Their "Parent-Friendly Schools" initiative is a framework and accreditation for schools to boost parent engagement through better communication, support, and shared decision-making, leading to better student outcomes. Schools can use the [Parentkind](#) audit tool to assess their parent participation, access training, and work towards [Parentkind's](#) awards (Standard, Silver, Gold) to build stronger home-school links.

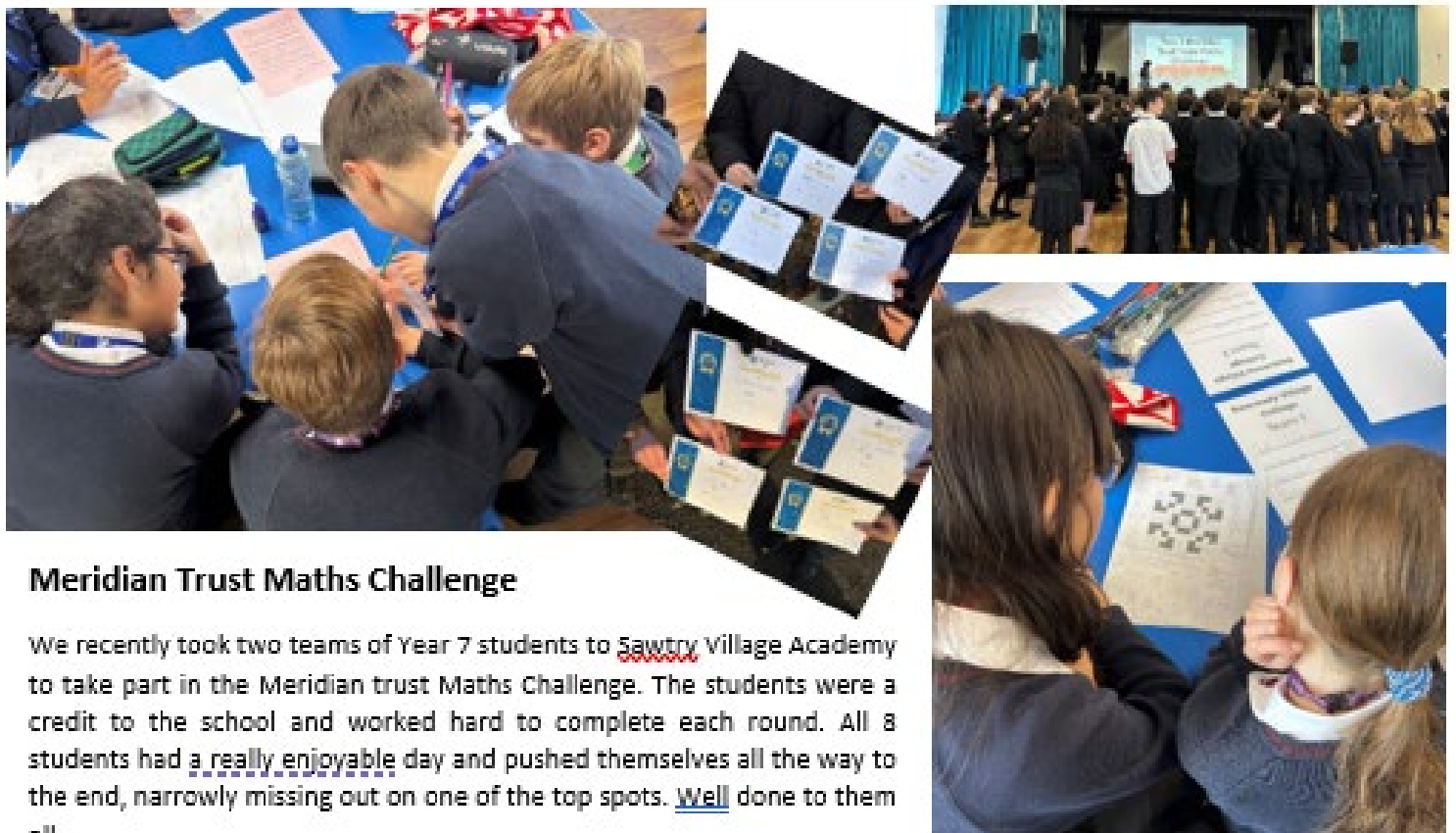
Racheal Smith from [Parentkind](#) said of our submission: "What was clear to us is that the team at [Swavesey Village College](#) care a considerable amount about the whole community, while still putting young people at the heart of all decisions. There was so much to celebrate, such as the extra effort staff go to so that all parents receive feedback during academic monitoring. Then there are the PLEDGES, which bring the family together to extend the children's experience beyond the academic. It has been a pleasure to work with Mr Stavrou and the team at the school - and we can't wait to continue the journey"

We hope to continue this journey to being an inclusive school where parents feel that they are involved and included in all aspects of school life, and we will be working towards the Gold Award in the new year.



Working in Publishing Week

A group of Year 10 students went on a trip to Cambridge University Press on Monday 17th November to take part in a workshop for *Working in Publishing Week*. With the theme 'thriving in a changing world' the students worked in a team to design a product using gaming to help young people build essential future-ready skills and then pitched this in a *Dragons Den* style presentation to an expert panel. They then took part in a careers carousel to find out more about a career in publishing. The students all enjoyed the afternoon and were a fantastic representation of [Swavesey!](#)



Meridian Trust Maths Challenge

We recently took two teams of Year 7 students to [Sawtry Village Academy](#) to take part in the Meridian trust Maths Challenge. The students were a credit to the school and worked hard to complete each round. All 8 students had a really enjoyable day and pushed themselves all the way to the end, narrowly missing out on one of the top spots. Well done to them all.



VALUE OUR PEOPLE



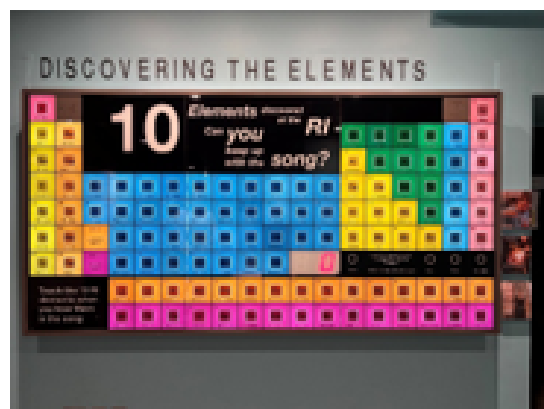
PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Cosmetic Chemistry

Year 9 Hair and Beauty students enjoyed a packed workshop with L'Oréal Young Scientist. In the morning, students investigated neutralisation and the pH scale, and how that knowledge can be used to make the best bath bombs. In the afternoon, they gained an understanding of states of matter through making their own lip balms to take home. The workshop gave our students an opportunity to use their chemistry knowledge to create authentic products in a professional environment. The students made products using beauty industry ingredients.



Salon International

Salon International 2025 is the world's leading hairdressing and hair design fair, taking place in October at ExCeL London. This event brings together industry professionals, brands, and innovations, providing a platform to showcase the latest trends and techniques.

Our Year 10 Hair and Beauty students had a fun filled day at Salon International trying on wigs, talking to professionals, and collecting lots of freebies. For our students that would like to progress into further training and working in the hair and beauty industry this was an excellent showcase of emerging products, techniques and skills.





Visual Arts

The Visual Arts department has been a flurry of activity this term, with a wide range of artwork being produced by all year groups. During lessons, KS3 students have researched artists Biza Butler and Roy Lichtenstein, while KS4 students have chosen artists and photographers that relate to their themes and connect with them on a personal level. The KS3 clay club and textiles club have been hugely successful, and students have eagerly awaited whether their work has been selected as Artwork of the Week. The annual trip to the Tate Modern, focusing on the theme "Me," encouraged Year 9 students to link the artworks they saw with their own lives, while Year 9 photographers enjoyed exploring the elements of art in Cambridge City Centre.



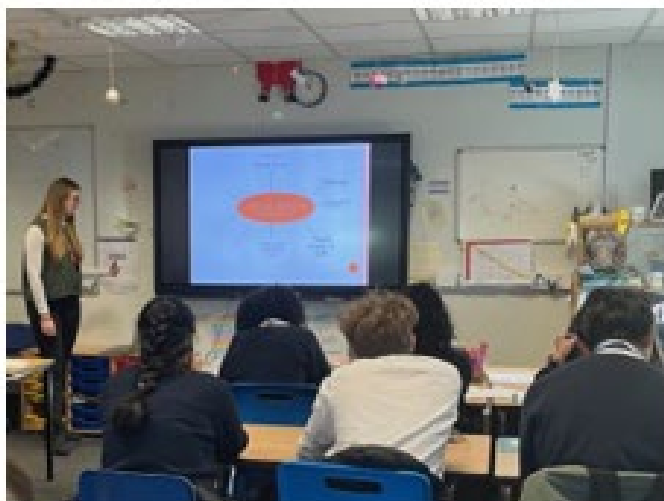
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Careers

A huge thank you to all the amazing employers that came into school last week to talk to our year 9 students about their career journey's.

These are really valuable experiences for our students, and we couldn't run these events without your support!

If you would be able to offer your expertise at one of these events please contact Sophie Raven.

SRaven@swaveseyvc.co.uk



EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING



A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Performing Arts

A massive thank you to all our students and staff who have worked so hard this term in our lessons, on our theatre productions of Find Me and Twelfth Night at the ADC in Cambridge, our exciting ongoing Sadlers Wells Dance project, music exams and each and every ensemble and performance.

We have celebrated with our fabulous Illuminate Festival; three nights of creativity and joy! Huge congratulations to all.

We also finished the term with some brilliant performances at Swavesey Music School (our Saturday Music and Rock school) and then St Cecilia Choir rounded off the Illuminate Festival with performances as part of the Gravelly Nativity and then at Cambridge University Concert Hall in the Rotary Charity Christmas Concert.

What a term! We can't wait for the next...

Wishing you all a creative Christmas!



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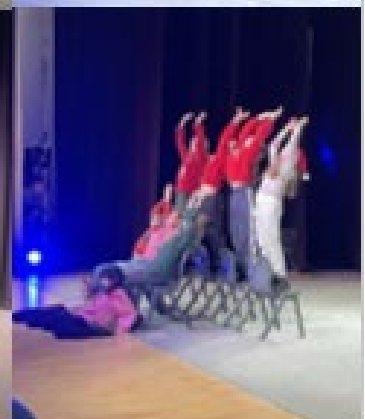
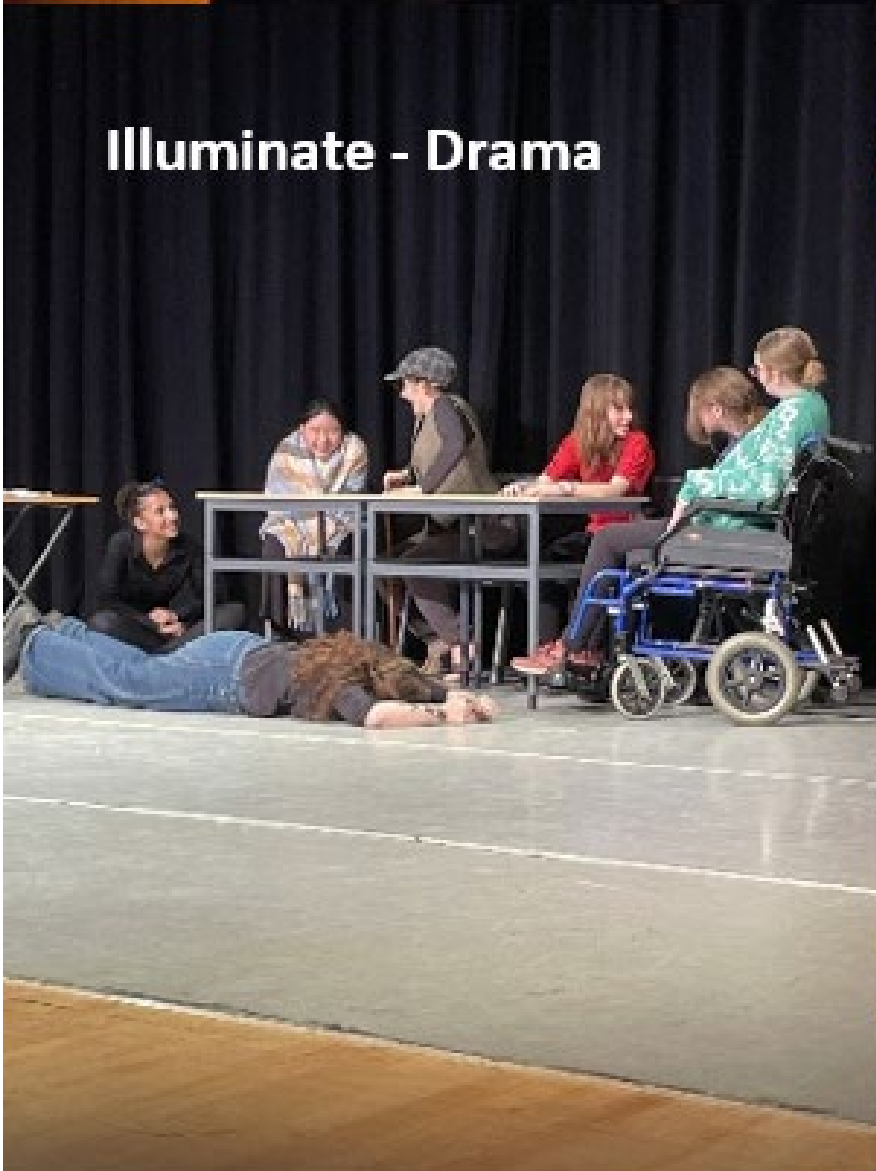


ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

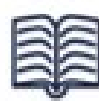
Illuminate - Dance



Illuminate - Drama



EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING



A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Saturday Music School

Our community orchestra, youth choir and Rock School at their Festive concert enjoying the chance to perform together.



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ADC October Productions of 12th Night and Find Me



Rotary and Nativity

Cambridge Rotary Charity Concerts at West Road Concert Hall and joining in with the community Nativity production at Graveley made sure our performers were supporting the festive spirit.



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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Netball

The Netball District Tournaments have been well attended by all of our Swavesey teams, with particular highlights of Year 7 coming 1st, Year 11 coming 2nd and Year 9 coming 3rd. The U16 Team also attended the County Finals in Cambridge, where they got the Swavesey name out there!



Cross Country

A great day out for Swavesey taking on the Netherhall Hill! Students took to the course fantastically, with some highlights being:

- Alistair R 1st
- Moses S 1st
- Gareth B 9th
- Hattie R 9th
- Amelia C 13th

All of the above students have qualified for next Regional Round.



Rugby

Our U15s boys competed in the first ever Trust Rugby Tournament, competing very well against some strong teams.





Sports Personality of the Year

Sports Personality Awards

We hosted our Sports Personality of the Year Awards, where we celebrated the success of students and teams within school. We were joined by Shaun Whiter, who was incredible with an inspiring speech, encouraging our students to channel their resilience on the sporting field. The evening was a huge success with a number of students winning an array of awards.

Football

As a PE Department, we have kicked off the new Academic Year with a number of successful football fixtures. The Year 7 boys have progressed into the National Cup and remain unbeaten across the term. The Year 7 girls have reached the Semi Finals of the County Cup and have played some fantastic football. Our U16 boys beat Arthur Mellows to progress to the Quarter Finals of the Cambridge FA Cup.



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PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL



German Department

It has been a busy term in the German department, which has seen a successful and enjoyable German exchange visit to Bad Urach, this valuable trip is now celebrating its 41st anniversary; students and staff were warmly welcomed and took part in truly enriching and memorable experiences, including: a walking trip to the local waterfall where everyone enjoyed an open-air BBQ, visiting the local thermal baths, hearing about how the pretzel was invented in the town, visiting the local orchard, and other day trips, making memories to last a lifetime. We are really looking forward to welcoming our German guests in the spring term, 2026.

Our connection to the German department at Cambridge is one that we value and year 8 Germanists have been in regular contact with Alice, our link student, hearing about her exchange year in Berlin.



German Unity Day

We enjoyed celebrating German Unity Day at ~~Swavesey~~ last week with special food in the canteen and a fun 'learn German' lesson with year 7. We had lots of very strong entries for the mug competition, and would like to acknowledge the runners up JS, AD and AL. The overall winners were Emily and Nina! Well done to all participants for their fantastic designs! We enjoyed greeting Cambridge University staff into our year 8 lesson, when students learned all about the reunification of Germany, and about studying German at Cambridge.

MFL Department

At the end of September we celebrated the European Day of Languages with a variety of activities and competitions. One of our students was crowned winner and one of our students received a commendation for their entries to the Association for Language Learning competition, where they had to submit a piece of creative writing in any language on the theme of 'Hearts and Minds'. Well done to Douglas for his winning entry in Toko Pona a minimalist constructed language and Armelle for her commended entries in French and Spanish.

The MFL department also received a commendation for the quality and numbers of entries from Swavesey linguists.

Well done everyone!



GCHQ

We are thrilled to celebrate the participation of 8 Yr9 students in the prestigious National Language Challenge Competition designed by GCHQ from 17th -21st November. The contest tests language skills, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork in a way that's both fun and engaging. With tasks ranging from translating puzzles to decoding foreign-language clues, it is a true test of the out-of-the-box thinking, creativity and linguistic talent. The competition saw over 2500 teams across different schools from across the UK participating. Our students rose to the challenge with great enthusiasm and demonstrated their passion for languages and dedication to excellence by working through their break, lunch and after-school with their team.

We are super proud of the achievement of our teams whose national ranking is impressive.

A huge well done and congratulations to team Artic Gorilla who came at 54th place (George, Alaire, Viraat and Boseong) and team Mysterious Pelican (Loretta, Isla, Douglas and Jocelyn) who came at 57th place despite finishing all the challenges in a record-breaking time. Well done for your great commitment, teamwork and interest in Languages. You have done the school proud

Let's continue to nurture our love for languages and celebrate the power of communication across culture.

