



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carers,

11th September 2026

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year — and what a start to the term it has been!

I want to welcome all new parents/carers who may be reading this for the first time (and, of course, those of you who have been here before!) As I hope I have been able to convey in my letters to you over the past few weeks, I feel very strongly that this is an exciting time to be part of the **Sir Harry Smith Community**. I look forward to meeting many of you at our event on **21 September**. In the meantime, if there is anything that we, as a school, can support you with, please do get in touch with your child's Form Tutor and/or Head of Year.

Year 7 have had a great start to the year, with lots of students happily telling me about their 'amazing lessons' and 'kind teachers'. It has been fantastic to hear such positive feedback from our newest members of the Sir Harry Smith community. As you will know, **attendance is one of our absolute priorities for the year**, and I was genuinely overwhelmed to see that, on Tuesday, our Year 7 attendance was an incredible **99.54%** — this is brilliant!

Ms Wahlandt and I wanted to mark such a successful start to the academic year for Year 7, so we went into our own pockets and bought every Year 7 student a breakfast treat this morning.

Keep up the good work, Year 7! You have made a fantastic start, and we are incredibly proud of you.

As the rhythm of the school year starts to take shape, please can I ask you to remind students about the importance of not only being on time to lessons, but also taking responsibility for their learning.

Our Sir Harry Smith lessons have been designed so that students recall and retrieve core information at the beginning of each lesson. This allows staff to identify and address any misconceptions or gaps in knowledge. Being present — both physically and mentally — is essential to ensuring that students get the most from this process.

Students also need to take an active role in their learning and work collaboratively with their teachers to be successful. Each lesson has a clear learning intention, which demonstrates what students are expected to learn, followed by success criteria that are broken down and adapted to ensure that all students can make progress. Staff will explain, model and work through the learning with students throughout the lesson.

We adopt a '**I do, We do, You do**' approach. This means that students are provided with worked examples and teacher modelling, opportunities to collaborate with staff and peers, and, finally, opportunities to work independently to demonstrate and assess their understanding.

Please support us in reinforcing these expectations with your child/children. By working together, we can ensure that every student develops the knowledge, skills and habits they need to be successful.

Together, we can achieve great things.



Warm wishes for a great weekend and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the academic year.

Stevie Thornton

Acting Headteacher



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Welcome to Our New Year 7 Students

Year 7 have had such a positive start to the academic year. They have shown kindness and respect to teachers and their peers and we look forward to getting to know them more as the term progresses.

This morning they were treated to a celebratory breakfast with Mr Thornton to reward them for their excellent enthusiasm and positive attitudes. Amazing work!



Year 7 PGL Residential Trip Offer

We are delighted to offer our new Year 7 students the opportunity to attend a PGL residential trip from 7th to 9th July. The trip will include a variety of exciting activities, providing students with the chance to develop confidence, teamwork and independence while having fun and making new friends. Further information will be shared in due course, and we look forward to an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Miss Ponder



Sports Day

On Tuesday 14th of July, students took part in our annual Sir Harry Smith Community College Sports Day, which proved to be a successful event filled with enthusiasm and excellent team spirit.

Throughout the day, students competed to earn points for their form groups across a wide range of activities. During periods 1–4, forms participated in events including football, netball, rounders, dodgeball, tug of war, as well as a variety of track and field competitions. Students demonstrated great determination and sportsmanship as they represented their forms, with every point contributing towards the overall standings.

The excitement continued into period 5, when each form selected one boy and one girl to compete in the 100m sprint finals. These races showed some outstanding performances and were cheered on by fellow students and staff. The day concluded with the relay races as competitors battled for the final points of the day.

After a fantastic day of competition, we are delighted to announce the winning forms for each year group:

- **Year 7: 7C (Miss Goodall)**
- **Year 8: 8C (Miss Penhaligon)**
- **Year 9: 9C (Mr Gatty)**
- **Year 10: 10G (Miss Tyson)**

Congratulations to all of the winning forms on their achievement and to every student who took part and contributed points to their form throughout the day.

Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of participation and teamwork. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, encouraging one another and representing their forms.

A huge thank you goes to all staff for their support in helping the day run smoothly and to the PE Department for organising such a successful event. Most importantly, congratulations to all of our students for their effort and positive attitude throughout the day.

We look forward to another fantastic Sports Day next year!

Miss Tyson



Sir Harry Smith Fantasy Premier League is Back!

Think you've got what it takes to outsmart your friends, your teachers... and maybe even Mr Treliving?

The Sir Harry Smith Fantasy Premier League is now open, and everyone is welcome to join! Whether you're a football expert or simply enjoy a bit of friendly competition, it's a great way to make the Premier League season even more exciting.

How to Join:

- Download the Official Fantasy Premier League app or visit the Fantasy Premier League website.
- Create your team.
- Join the Sir Harry Smith league using the code: **League Code: sm2l4m**

To give everyone a fair chance, league scoring won't begin until Gameweek 3, so there's still plenty of time to build your dream team and join the action.

Will a student lift the Sir Harry Smith title? Will a member of staff prove they're the ultimate football manager? Or will Mr Treliving's confidence be justified...

"Only one of us can win... and it will probably be me!"

Good luck, and may the best manager win!

Regards

P Treliving.



6th Form Ball

Year 13 students marked the end of their school journey with a spectacular Summer Ball held at the elegant Bull Hotel in Peterborough.

The evening provided a fitting celebration of the students' hard work and achievements throughout their time in sixth form. Dressed to impress, students arrived in stunning cocktail dresses and smart three-piece suits, creating a glamorous atmosphere as they gathered with friends and staff to celebrate this important milestone.

The venue was beautifully set for the occasion, offering the perfect backdrop for an evening of laughter, memories, and celebration. After enjoying the festivities, students filled the dance floor, dancing the night away and making the most of their final opportunity to celebrate together before embarking on the next chapter of their lives.

The Summer Ball was a wonderful occasion, reflecting the strong friendships and lasting memories that have been built during their time at school. It was a night filled with joy, celebration, and a sense of excitement for the future.

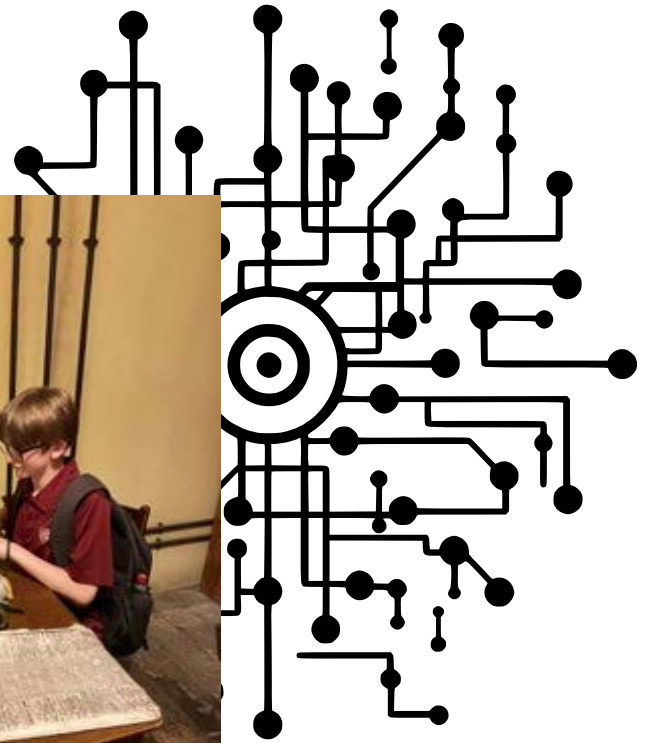
We would like to thank everyone who helped organise the event and made it such a memorable success. We wish all of our Year 13 students every success as they move on to university, apprenticeships, employment, and other exciting opportunities. They leave with our very best wishes and will always remain a valued part of our school community.

Mr Smith



Year 8 Trip to Bletchley Park

Before the Summer break, Year 8 students took a trip to Bletchley Park. The students got to explore the park and roam in two groups - Mr Ashworth's group definitely got the most information as he was playing tour guide for the day! The students got involved and stuck in learning about how important the code breaking was to us during WW2 and how different life would look today if we didn't have those working at Bletchley Park.



Art Exhibition

Our annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition was a wonderful celebration of creativity, dedication and achievement. Throughout the year, our students have worked exceptionally hard, demonstrating remarkable commitment to developing their artistic skills and personal ideas. We were delighted that every art student had the opportunity to exhibit their work, showcasing the breadth of talent across the department.

The standard of work this year was particularly impressive, with the final pieces displaying outstanding technical skill, originality and creativity. We are immensely proud of this year's cohort and all that they have accomplished. Their exhibition pieces are a true reflection of the passion, resilience and determination they have shown throughout their courses.

The exhibition was attended by friends and family of those exhibiting and we were also honoured to welcome the Mayor, who expressed how impressed he was by the exceptionally high standard of work on display.

The feedback left by visitors was overwhelmingly positive and serves as a testament to the talent and hard work of our students. Comments praised not only the quality and diversity of the artwork but also the professionalism and maturity with which our students presented their creative journeys. It was a fitting celebration of an outstanding year and we congratulate all of our young artists on their remarkable achievements.

Mrs Campbell.



National Police Air Service Trip

On Tuesday 14th July, a group of students who are possibly considering a career in the Police Force, had the opportunity to visit the National Police Air Service Centre in Lutterworth. We were hosted by an ex-student who is currently seconded to the unit.

Students listened to a talk about life and a career as a Police Officer and the role of the NPAS operational base and were then able to ask questions. They then had an opportunity to see the helicopter and find out about more about how it is used and the equipment on board.

Mrs Curtis



Netball Regional Qualifier Success

East Region Youth Qualifiers

We are proud to celebrate the success of some of our netball players from SHSCC that qualified for Regionals this weekend with our local netball team Whittlesey Warriors.

Evie, Connie, Eva and Leyla were part of the squad that headed to the East Region Youth Qualifiers Sunday knowing they had a tough challenge ahead. Starting in a very strong pool alongside some of the best Division 1 teams in the region. The girls didn't let that faze them. They held their own, showed great composure and put out some really strong performances against some incredibly tough opposition.

They moved into the second pool, which was another challenging group, but once again the girls continued to compete, showing skill, determination and resilience throughout.

The final pool was where everything was on the line as they battled it out for Division 3 qualification. The girls found another level, putting together some fantastic performances and securing three wins. Qualification came down to the final game, and when it was needed most, the girls pulled everything together, showed incredible teamwork and secured the win!

That result means the team from Whittlesey Warriors finished 19th out of 31 teams, putting our small town amongst some of the best junior teams in the East Region and, most importantly, we have qualified for Regionals for the second consecutive year! Not forgetting that 3 of the girls from our school are still only 14 and have qualified for the U16 division!

What an achievement for this team. They showed everything their coaches could have asked for, skill, resilience, determination, teamwork and belief in each other. They kept fighting, kept learning and came together when it mattered most. Whittlesey Warriors Netball Club and Sir Harry Smiths Community College are unbelievably proud of every single one of you.



Useful Information



Sir Harry Smith Community College
invites you to attend

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

for September 2027 students

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 6PM - 8PM

Sir Harry Smith
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



- Join Acting Head Teacher Mr S. Thornton for a brief welcome presentation at 6.10pm, repeated at 7.00pm and 7.30pm
- Meet our teaching and pastoral teams
- Meet our students and hear about life at Sir Harry Smith
- Explore lessons and activities across all subject areas

Ofsted 2025



"The school provides pupils with a broad and often ambitious curriculum."

"Pupils have many opportunities to broaden their interests."

"The school has thought about the important knowledge that pupils need to know and the order in which they should learn it."

Contact Us

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Telephone: 01733 703991

Website: www.sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk

Scan the QR code to RSVP and
confirm your attendance



Useful Information



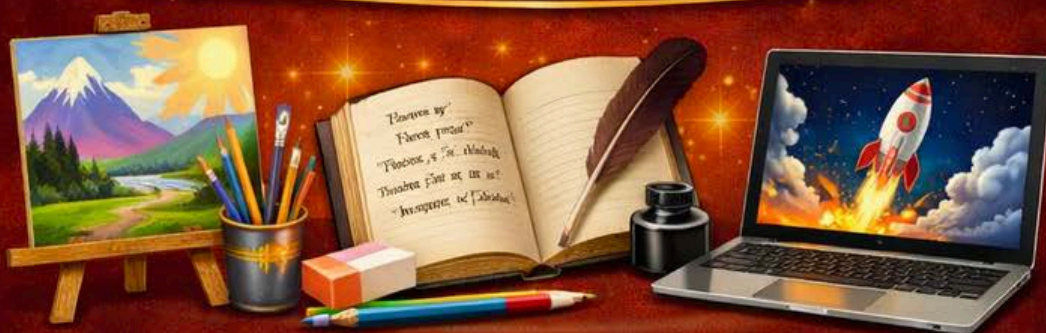
Sir Harry Smith

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aspiration For All

CREATIVITY WEEK COMPETITION!

Unleash Your Imagination & Showcase Your Talent!



Create a Poster, Poem, or Digital Artwork!

- Theme: "Aspiration For All"
- Showcase your creativity
- Win Fantastic Prizes & Aspire Awards!

Deadline: 18th September!

*Enter your best work for a chance to
— earn a Aspire Award! —*



Useful Information

Sir Harry Smith
Community College
Invites you to

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



Thursday 24th September
9:30-10:30



Sixth Form Centre, SHS

Macmillan
CANCER SUPPORT

Better days together

Together, we can raise money for
Macmillan Cancer Support and make a difference
to people living with cancer and their families.



Join us for a morning of
coffee and cake accompanied by
the college choir and musical
performances



Free entry,
please bring
cash only for
refreshments



Useful Information

2026		SEPTEMBER					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

For those of you looking to plan ahead and book holidays, **our term dates for 2027/28 are now available on our website.**

As part of our commitment to working collaboratively with our wider community, we would like to invite you to a **Parent and Carer Meeting on Monday 21st September, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm**, in the school hall.

This will provide an opportunity for you to hear more about the plans and priorities for supporting and improving provision at Sir Harry Smith Community College. You will also have the opportunity to hear from Dr Laban and other key members of staff, as well as ask questions and share your views.

Please book your space(s) via the booking link below.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/LdCdNk9NK1>

We very much hope you will be able to join us.



A polite reminder to parent/carers. Only school transport and/or pre-arranged taxis should be parking on site at the end of the day. Parents/carers picking up students should do so outside the school grounds. There has been a recent increase in traffic and this has caused safety issues and concerns. Please support us with this **by not parking inside the school grounds.**

Useful Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



The
National
College

Key Information

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2026	
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
START OF TERM - <u>Year 7 & 12 students only</u>	Thursday 3rd September 2026
START OF TERM - <u>All other year groups</u>	Friday 4th September 2026
Half Term	Monday 26th to Friday 30th October 2026
Last Day of Term - Finish at 12:20pm	Friday 18th December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027	
START OF TERM	Monday 4th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2027
Last Day of Term - Finish at 12:20pm	Thursday 25th March 2027

Contacting Us

Please visit our website to find out the best way of contacting the person you would like to get in touch with. Please do remember that if you are contacting a member of our teaching staff, they will have teaching commitments during the day so please bear with them. If you would like to meet with a member of staff then please do arrange an appointment first.

In any cases of an emergency, please call the school on **01733 703991**.

Social Media

Please be sure to follow us on social media. We have Facebook pages for Sir Harry Smith Community College, Park Lane Primary School, New Road Primary School and the Aspire Learning Trust.

