Sir Harry Smith Community College

Aspiration and achievement for all

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move through another busy and productive week at Sir Harry Smith Community College, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support and commitment.

This week has once again demonstrated the many strengths of our school community. Across lessons, enrichment activities and the wider life of the college, students have shown enthusiasm, resilience and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. Whether representing the school in sporting fixtures, participating in extra-curricular activities or engaging positively in their learning, many students have embodied our values of being safe, respectful, responsible and proud.

As we enter another important week, we look ahead to several significant events that reflect the rich opportunities we provide for our students and the strong sense of community that exists across the college.

On Wednesday, we will hold what is arguably our most ambitious and inclusive Remembrance Day Service to date, involving the entire school community in an act of reflection and remembrance. This event provides an opportunity for our students to honour those who have served and sacrificed during times of conflict, while developing a deeper understanding of the importance of remembrance in modern Britain.

Following the service, we are delighted to host our Burma Campaign Competition Celebration Event. We are honoured to welcome World War II veteran Wally Newman, whose experiences provide a direct link to one of the most significant periods in modern history. We are also very excited at the prospect of welcoming other honoured guests representing the Burma Star Association, and we look forward to sharing more details and highlights from the event in next week's newsletter. The opportunity for our students to hear personal stories connected to this important chapter in history is truly remarkable and one that will undoubtedly create lasting memories.

This week, our Year 8 Progress Checks have also been issued to parents and carers. Due to the recent technical difficulties experienced with SIMS, these have been distributed electronically through Edulink rather than through our usual reporting process.

Year 8 parents and carers can access Progress Checks through the Documents section of their Edulink account. Please note that documents can take up to 24 hours to appear following notification. We are aware that messages sent through Edulink do not always appear directly within email inboxes, and in some cases, notifications may only be visible when logging into the Edulink app itself. We would therefore encourage all Year 8 families to check their Edulink account to ensure they have received and viewed their child's Progress Check.

If you have any questions regarding your child's Progress Check, please contact their Form Tutor in the first instance. Any issues relating to access to Edulink should be directed to IT@Meridiantrust.co.uk. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through the challenges associated with the recent SIMS issues.

Headteacher's Welcome

We will finish the week by coming together in support of BBC Children in Need, a charity that provides vital support to children and young people facing challenges across the United Kingdom.

As part of our fundraising efforts, Year 11 students will be taking part in a fancy-dress day, and we look forward to seeing the creativity, enthusiasm and school spirit that they always bring to these occasions. In addition, Friday will be a non-school uniform day for all students. We kindly ask students and staff to bring a £1 donation to support this fantastic cause. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help Children in Need continue its life-changing work with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

Events such as these remind us of the importance of community, compassion and helping others. We hope that everyone will get involved and support this worthwhile cause as we aim to raise as much money as possible. Alongside these events, our focus remains firmly on ensuring that every student is supported to achieve their very best. Attendance, punctuality and consistent effort continue to make a significant difference to students' progress, and I would like to thank parents and carers for the support you provide in helping us maintain these high expectations.

In this week's newsletter, we are pleased to share news of recent student successes, upcoming events and some of the fantastic opportunities that students have been enjoying both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Sir Harry Smith Community College.



Stevie Thornton
Acting Headteacher

P.S. I am pleased to share that Mr White will be supporting our Year 11 pastoral team for a period of time. Mr White brings a wealth of experience and has already built positive relationships with our students.

Should any Year 11 student or parent/carer require additional advice, guidance or support, please do not hesitate to contact him directly via email. We are committed to ensuring that all Year 11 students receive the support they need as they continue their studies and preparations for the important months ahead.

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

Sir Harry Smith Community College
Aspiration & Achievement for All

Aspire Learning Trust

OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Stevie Thornton
Acting Headteacher
sthornton@sirharrysmith.com



Helen Cassady
Associate Headteacher
hcassady@sirharrysmith.com



Anna Wahlandt
Deputy Principal
awahlandt@sirharrysmith.com



Tim Smith
Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form
tsmith@sirharrysmith.com



Paul Treliving
Assistant Headteacher
ptreliving@sirharrysmith.com



Tom Holland
Assistant Headteacher
tholland@sirharrysmith.com



Rachel Atkins
Associate Assistant Headteacher
ratkins@sirharrysmith.com

Clair Meadows
PA to Mr Thornton
Cmeadows@sirharrysmith.com

SAFE . RESPECTFUL . RESPONSIBLE . PROUD

Attendance Focus: Celebrating Fantastic Attendance!

This week, we have been delighted to celebrate our students' fantastic attendance achievements from last half term.

Excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in supporting academic success, wellbeing, and positive engagement in school life, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by so many of our students.

Throughout the week, we have held special attendance celebration assemblies for students in Years 7 to 11. During these assemblies, we recognised and rewarded students who have demonstrated outstanding attendance. Prizes awarded included **£10 Amazon vouchers, fast passes for the dining hall queue, and vouchers for delicious breakfast muffins from our canteen.**

We have also taken the opportunity to celebrate the **highest-attending form groups** in each year group. These forms have shown exceptional commitment to being in school every day and have each received a large tub of sweets to share, along with a certificate to display proudly in their form room.

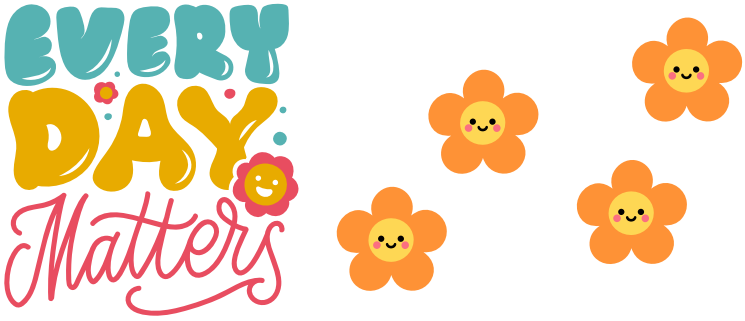
Our Top Forms for Attendance:



- **Year 7: 7F**
- **Year 8: 8B**
- **Year 9: 9A**
- **Year 10: 10G**
- **Year 11: 11G**

In addition, we are thrilled to recognise the large number of students who achieved attendance of 95% or above during the last half term:

Year Group - Students with 95%+ Attendance:



- **Year 7: 156**
- **Year 8: 105**
- **Year 9: 104**
- **Year 10: 120**
- **Year 11: 107**

These figures represent a fantastic achievement and demonstrate the dedication of our students and the invaluable support provided by parents and carers in ensuring that young people attend school regularly and are ready to learn.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our students for their hard work and commitment, and to our parents and carers for your continued support. Together, we are helping our students make the most of every learning opportunity and build habits that will support their success both now and in the future.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners, top forms, and students with excellent attendance. We look forward to celebrating even more attendance success in the months ahead!

Lockdown Procedures

At Sir Harry Smith Community College, we are committed to regularly reviewing our policies to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff remain our highest priority. Following a recent review, we have updated our lockdown procedures to ensure we are fully prepared to respond effectively to any incidents that may arise either within the school or in the local Whittlesey community.

Our procedures are designed to enable a safe, calm, and proportionate response. We operate a two tier lockdown system, allowing us to respond appropriately to varying levels of risk while minimising unnecessary disruption or distress.

Category A – Critical Lockdown
This represents the highest level of response. In such circumstances, students will remain inside their classrooms, doors will be locked and barricaded, lights switched off, and students instructed to silence mobile phones. While this is a situation we hope will never occur, it is essential that we are fully prepared should it be necessary.

Category B – Precautionary Lockdown
In this scenario, students will remain in their classrooms with doors locked and windows closed. Doors will not be barricaded, and teaching and learning will continue as normal wherever possible.

These measures are designed to maximise safety while maintaining a calm and supportive environment for students. In line with government guidance, we will practise these invacuation procedures annually alongside our established evacuation (fire drill) routines.

During any lockdown, students will be expected to remain off their mobile phones. However, if a student does contact home, we kindly request that parents and carers do not come to the school site. In the event of a lockdown, we will be working closely with the emergency services, and additional visitors to the site may hinder our ability to manage the situation safely and effectively. **We plan to have a Lockdown Drill this half term.**

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all members of our school community.

Inter-Form Cross Country

On Monday 9th November, KS3 students will be participating in Interform Cross Country. Please see the allocated periods below:

Period 1 - Year 8
Period 4 - Year 9
Period 5 - Year 7

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to earn points for their form and take part in a fun competition.

All Year 8 and 9 students must come to school and bring their school uniform to change into.

All Year 7 students are expected to come to school in their full PE kit and will remain in their PE kit for the duration of the school day.

Students will be given the opportunity to decide whether they would like to participate in the shorter or longer race.

Whether students are aiming for a top finish or simply challenging themselves to complete the course, this event is about participation, enjoyment, resilience, and teamwork. We encourage all students to make their form proud and, most importantly, make themselves proud by giving 100% effort.

Miss Ponder





Sixth Form Students Aim High with Cambridge Opportunity

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of Sophie, Lizy and Lily, who have each secured a place on the prestigious **Academic Attainment Programme at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge.**

Lucy Cavendish College is renowned for its commitment to widening participation in higher education, with over 90% of its UK students coming from state schools. Since its launch six years ago, the Academic Attainment Programme has supported thousands of talented students, helping them develop the academic skills, knowledge and confidence needed to apply to some of the UK's most competitive universities.

This year, Sophie, Lizy and Lily successfully earned places on the programme from a highly competitive field of more than 3,000 applicants. The free programme provides high-achieving state school students with exceptional academic support tailored to their stage of study, enabling them to reach their full potential and pursue ambitious university aspirations.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the future.

Congratulations, Sophie, Lizy and Lily!



Lucy Cavendish College
University of Cambridge

Sports Leaders - Football Festival

Outstanding Leadership at the Year 5/6 Boys' Football Festival!

A huge well done to our Sports Leaders, who did a fantastic job at the Primary Schools Year 5/6 Boys' Football Festival. The leaders played a vital role in making the festival such a success, showing excellent organisation, teamwork and responsibility throughout the event. They confidently organised the matches, took on the important roles of refereeing and keeping score, and ensured that everything ran smoothly. Well done also to the winning team Coates 1 and to all the other teams who played some amazing football.

It was particularly pleasing to see some new Sports Leaders taking part in their very first festival. They rose to the challenge brilliantly, showing confidence, enthusiasm and a real willingness to get involved. They were a credit to the College and demonstrated that they are already developing into fantastic young leaders.

We are incredibly proud of all our Sports Leaders for the way they represented the College, supported the teams and helped create a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Well done, everyone – you were fantastic ambassadors!

Mrs Hunt



Fantastic Start for Year 7 and 8 Netball Teams!

On Wednesday, our Year 7 and Year 8 girls' netball teams played their first fixtures of the year against Hampton Gardens, with both teams securing fantastic victories!

The Year 7 girls made an excellent start to their netball journey, showing great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm throughout the match. Their hard work paid off as they secured an impressive 11–7 victory!

The Year 8 girls also put in a brilliant performance, demonstrating excellent communication, teamwork and resilience to come away with a well-deserved 9–6 win!

A huge well done to all the girls who represented the school. It was a fantastic start to the season, and we look forward to seeing both teams continue to develop and build on their success in future fixtures!

Mrs Staggs





Boxing Futures

Students at Sir Harry Smith Community College have thoroughly enjoyed their first week working with Boxing Futures, taking part in three exciting programmes: Sisters to Box, Box Out of It and AP Box.

These sessions use non-contact boxing activities to develop much more than fitness. Through boxing-inspired exercises, students are encouraged to improve their coordination, stamina, confidence, resilience and self-discipline, while also developing teamwork, communication and respect for others.

The programmes provide a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves, learn new skills and enjoy being active in a positive and supportive environment.

The feedback from our first week has been terrific, and we are looking forward to seeing the students continue to develop and make the most of this brilliant opportunity. A huge thank you to the team at Boxing Futures for getting things off to such a positive start!



Dancing Success in Las Vegas!

Megan & Lola dance for Elizabeth Boardman Dance Company and this half term won the opportunity to dance in Las Vegas!

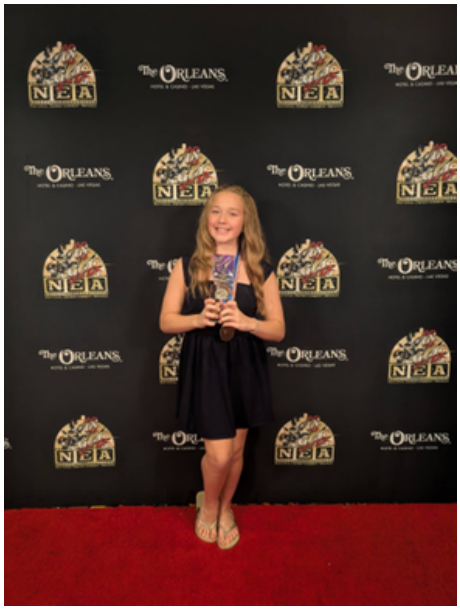
During the National Entertainment Awards, the dance troupe won the opportunity to dance in a competition at the New Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas this October. Along with other dancers from the Company, Megan & Lola took part in rehearsals ready to perform on stage during the half term.

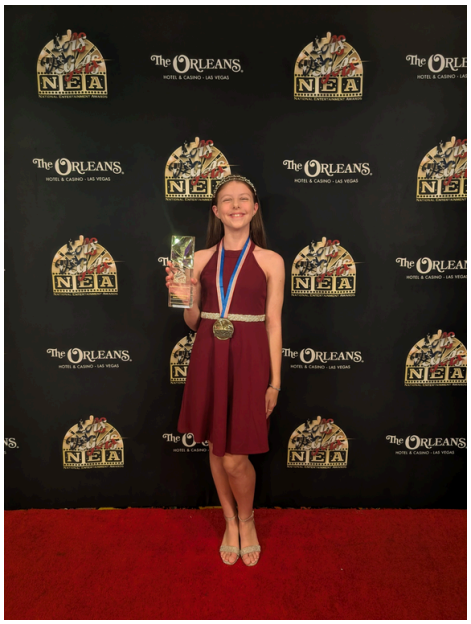
Megan has danced with Elizabeth Boardman for a number of years. As part of this, she participates in every genre of dance available as well as assisting in classes throughout the week. At competitions she has eight solos as well as one duet and many troupes.

She was very excited about the experience and really enjoyed every aspect. She had the opportunity to visit various places whilst there, including watching the Wizard of Oz at the Sphere and visiting both the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. The highlight however, was still dancing as part of the troupe which led to the Dance Company winning a trophy as the International Dance Collective.

Lola has also danced at Elizabeth Boardman since she was very young. She has loved it ever since! She said: “We quialified in 2024 by being awarded a Golden Buzzer that sent us straight through to Las Vegas. I had the best time ever!”

Well done girls!







Extra Curricular Sports Success!

Mia in Year 9 was selected to represent Cambridgeshire at the National County Team Championships in Sheffield over half term where she competed in the Division 1 section of the Championship. She swam the 100m Breaststroke and achieved a new personal best time, which she was absolutely thrilled with!

She also competed at the Rob Wellbourn Competition in Grantham and achieved several more personal bests and won two golds and one silver medal.

Mia has also recently been selected to take part in the Cambridgeshire County Development Programme, which is another achievement she is very proud of.

This is a great start to the season for her considering she is only 5 weeks in. We look forward to hearing more about her achievements as the season continues!

Well done Mia!





A huge congratulations to Nano, who has recently been offered a place at the prestigious Loughborough College Rugby Program!

Nano's rugby journey began at just five years old, playing for several clubs, including Ampthill RUFC and Oundle RUFC, before joining Peterborough RUFC, where she has played for the past five years. Her dedication, hard work and talent saw her progress to county level at the age of 15, representing East Midlands Rugby.

On 21st October, Nano attended a trial at Loughborough College and received the fantastic news the very next day that she had been offered a place! Although Nano successfully trialled and received offers from other ACE colleges, Loughborough had always been her first choice. This ambition began when the Loughborough head coach watched her first county game and personally complimented her on her strengths and abilities.

This is an incredible achievement and a reflection of Nano's commitment, determination and passion for rugby. The PE department is extremely proud of her success, and we look forward to seeing her continue to develop and achieve great things in the future.

Well done, Nano! We wish you every success in the next chapter of your rugby journey!

Student Success: Sea Cadets

Congratulations to Isaac in Year 12 passing his Leading Cadet board over last weekend, demonstrating his skills in drill, leadership and teaching others. He has earned his new rate as a Leading Cadet.

Well done Isaac!



Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Award

We are excited to offer the opportunity for Year 9 & 10 students to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award this year. If your child is interested, please complete the form that will be emailed to parents/carers.

More information on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LevnLlbxouc



THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

Meet Our Head of Year Team

Sir Harry Smith Community College
Aspiration & Achievement for All

Aspire Learning Trust

OUR HEAD OF YEAR TEAM



Will Johnson

Head of Year 11

Wjohnson@sirharrysmith.com



Sophie Garton

Head of Year 10

Sgarton@sirharrysmith.com



Molly Izatt

Head of Year 9

Mizatt@sirharrysmith.com



Aimee Jones

Head of Year 8

Ajones@sirharrysmith.com



Danielle Reeder

Head of Year 7

Dreeder@sirharrysmith.com

Finn Tymon

Pastoral Leader for Year 9 and 10

Ftymon@sirharrysmith.com

Adam Rothery

Pastoral Leader for Year 7, 8 and 11

Arothery@sirharrysmith.com

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Careers Information







Join our Alumni Network!

As a college, we want to reconnect with our former students so that we can keep in touch and let you know about volunteering opportunities that will benefit our current students. We want to show them the variety of pathways available to them after leaving SHSCC, and who better to showcase this information, than you!

We're working with education charity **@FutureFirstOrg** to set this up and all you need to do to get involved is sign up here: **https://www.furturefirsthub.org.uk/register/sirharrysmith**

More information is on our website insert link to alumni page on website and if you have any questions please contact our Careers Officer, Angela Curtis: **acurtis@sirharrysmith.com**

Useful Information

We will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 13th November** in aid of Children in Need.

Students not wearing uniform will be asked to contribute £1.00 each as they enter the College that morning.

Year 11 students only may wear fancy dress, if they wish. As with previous fund-raising non-uniform days, we must stress that it is vital that all students are dressed appropriately. If we consider any student's dress is unacceptable then parents will be contacted to arrange for the student to be sent home to change.



As part of the college's ongoing commitment to improving parent communication and sharing success, we have a dedicated platform where students, teachers, parents and carers can share positive news stories and successes both in and outside of school. We have created an email address for us to collate all of the stories: positivenews@sirharrysmith.com





We take the safety and wellbeing of all our students extremely seriously. We would like to remind all families about the importance of nut awareness and the role we can all play in keeping students with allergies safe.

How parents and students can help:

- Please do not send nuts or nut-containing products into school.
- Please check food packaging carefully before sending snacks or packed lunches into school.
- If your child has an allergy, make sure the school is aware of their requirements.
- Please speak to us if you have any concerns about particular products or arrangements.

By working together, we can help make Sir Harry Smith a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

Useful Information



Useful Information

Sleep:

An online parent information session

Date: **Monday 30th November 2026**

Time: **12.30pm-2pm**

Location: **Online via Microsoft Teams**

Join us for an informative and supportive one-hour session to help you better understand and support your child's sleep.



What we will cover:

- What might impact good sleep
- Sleep behaviour
- Healthy sleep habits
- How to use a sleep diary
- Helpful relaxation techniques
- Caring for you



Please click on the link to book your place:

https://bookwhen.com/fenland-parent-webinar



More information:

eec.mhst@nhs.net

www.cambspborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk

@cambspborocyp

Useful Information



Useful Information



UPCOMING EVENTS & PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Sir Harry Smith Community College invites you to attend

15 SEP | 6th Form Welcome Evening
15 SEP | Y11 Welcome Evening
22 SEP | UCAS Evening
24 SEP | Y7 Welcome Evening
6 OCT | Y6 Open Evening
20 OCT | 6th Form Open Evening
19 NOV | Y8 Parents Evening
3 DEC | Y9 Parents Evening
5 JAN | Y11 Parents Evening
12 JAN | Y9 Guided Choices Evening
21 JAN | Y10 Parents Evening
11 FEB | Y13 Parents Evening
25 FEB | Y7 Parents Evening
23 MAR | Y12 Parents Evening
22 APR | Y11 Parents Evening
27 APR | Y13 Parents Evening
24 JUN | Y10 Parents Evening
6 JUL | Awards Evening

Have an idea to support our renewed focus on community engagement?

We'd love to hear it. Email suggestions@sirharrysmith.com. Suggestions are reviewed monthly by SLT.



From Friday 16 October, parents, carers and prospective families can book a one-hour tour of the college. Tour classrooms and facilities, meet staff and students, and ask any questions you may have.

Tours must be booked in advance with Miss Meadows via email: cmeadows@sirharrysmith.com

Useful Information

SHSCC ENRICHMENT CLUBS

CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL AND AT LUNCHTIME MAY CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPDATES!

Lunchtime PE Clubs

Monday

BADMINTON (KS3) - MR TYMON

Wednesday

BADMINTON (KS4) - MRS STAGGS

Where In The World?

Tuesday After School

MRS PAYNE - PR10

Christian Union

Monday Lunchtime

OLIVE 05 - MRS GRAY

Diversity Club

Wednesday Lunchtime

MRS CUTLER - BL32

Coding Club

Monday Lunchtime

GOLD 01 - MR CRANE

CNAT Intervention

Tuesday Lunchtime

PE DEPT - MISS PONDER

First Aid Training

Tuesday After School

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH MRS GOSLING IN FIRST AID

Creative Writing

Monday After School

LIBRARY - MISS TIMMS

Lunchtime Games

Monday & Wednesday

CHESS CLUB - LIBRARY

Friday

LEGO CLUB - MRS SHEPHERD - GL08

Art Club

Thursday - After School

MISS ALDIS- MG09

Carnegie Book Club

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

8.30-9.00AM IN THE LIBRARY

BY INVITATION ONLY - MISS TIMMS

Homework Club

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

3.00PM - 4.15PM IN THE LIBRARY

Swimming

Friday 3.30-4.30pm

DISCOUNTED PRICE: £3.40

MANOR LEISURE CENTRE

Band

Wednesday After School

OLIVE 05- MUSIC STAFF

Lunchtime Music

Thursday

CHOIR - MRS GRAY - OL05

Friday

DJEMBE DRUMMING - MRS FREEMAN - OL05

Journalism Club

Wednesday - Lunchtime

LIBRARY - MISS TIMMS

Drama & Dance

Tuesday After School

DANCE - MISS KUC

Thursday After School

MUSICAL THEATRE - MRS STEELE

Worlds of Fantasy

Wednesday After School

WARHAMMER - MR CURTIS - PR07

Thursday After School

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - MRS CURTIS - GL11

After School PE Clubs

Monday

HANDBALL - MRS SHEPHERD

BASKETBALL - MR TYMON

Wednesday

FOOTBALL - MR ROTHERY/MR TYMON

NETBALL - MRS STAGGS/MRS HUNT

Thursday

VOLLEYBALL - ALL PE STAFF

CROSS COUNTRY - ALL PE STAFF

Useful Information



Useful Information









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 - Year 7 & 12 students only	Thursday 3rd September 2026
START OF TERM - All other year groups	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.