



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5th Sept 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and that students are rested ready for the school year ahead!

It was wonderful to welcome the new Year 7 and 12 students on Wednesday and then the remainder of our school family on Thursday. I am incredibly proud of how smartly dressed the students have returned.

We were delighted to celebrate the successes of our GCSE and A-level students on the results days in August and are pleased to welcome many students back to our Sixth Form to continue their studies. Many of our A-level students are now preparing for the next stage of their educational journey including one student who will be attending the prestigious University of Oxford and another who will be studying medicine.

On Tuesday 7th October we have our annual open evening for Year 6 students who are looking to join us in Year 7 next September. As we have done in previous years, the college will close to students on that day at 1.20pm to allow us to prepare for the evening ahead. On this day, there will be no canteen service at lunch time but students can still access this at break time. For any students that use local authority school transport, this will be arranged to collect students at 1.20pm.

Best wishes for the weekend.

*Dawn White
Principal*



Welcome to Our New Year 7 Cohort

Our Year 7 Cohort have made a fantastic start to the new school year and all look so smart in their new uniforms. We really hope they have enjoyed their first few days, experiencing new lessons, meeting their teachers and making new friends.

You can find an introduction to our House System on the next page, where you will also find useful contacts for each House, should you have any queries. Students can also speak to their Form Tutors, who will always be happy to help and guide them.



An Introduction to the House System

At SHSCC, we work under a House System. There are five houses within school: Einstein, Shakespeare, Attenborough, Parks & Curie. When you arrive at college, you are assigned a Tutor Group, which belongs to one of the houses. Each house has a Head of House, supported by a Student Support Assistant; these, along with their tutor, are the people who support our students pastorally.



Einstein

Head of House: Mr Gregory, Teacher of English & Media Studies

Student Support Assistant: Miss Izatt

The house is inspired by theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein.



Shakespeare

Head of House: Mr Tymon, Teacher of PE

Student Support Assistant: Mrs Buddle

The house is inspired by renowned playwright, William Shakespeare.



Attenborough

Head of House: Mr Cooper, Teacher of Geography

Student Support Assistant: Mrs Redhead

The house is inspired by biologist & natural historian, David Attenborough.



Parks

Head of House: Mr White, Teacher of History

Student Support Assistant: Miss Jones

The house is inspired by civil rights activist, Rosa Parks.



Curie

Head of House: Mr Rothery, Teacher of PE

Student Support Assistant: Mrs Warrenner

The house is inspired by pioneering physicist & chemist, Marie Curie.

Vertical Tutoring: Our form groups work under a vertical tutoring system, which means every form contains a mixture of students from Years 7-11. This means our younger students will get to know their older peers, and can feel encouraged and supported by them.

House Points: Students can earn house points by behaving positively around the college, helping with events and clubs, representing the college through sports or arts, by working hard and showing pride in their work. At the end of the academic year, one House is crowned champion! For the last two years, Curie have taken the title and the trophy with much pride. Will Mr Rothery go for the treble or could another House emerge victorious this year?!



GCSE Results

Students celebrated another year of excellent GCSE results, reflecting their determination, focus, and ambition throughout Year 11.

Dawn White, Principal said: "I'm incredibly proud of our students and everything they have achieved. These results reflect not only their academic success but also their personal growth and the bright futures that lie ahead."

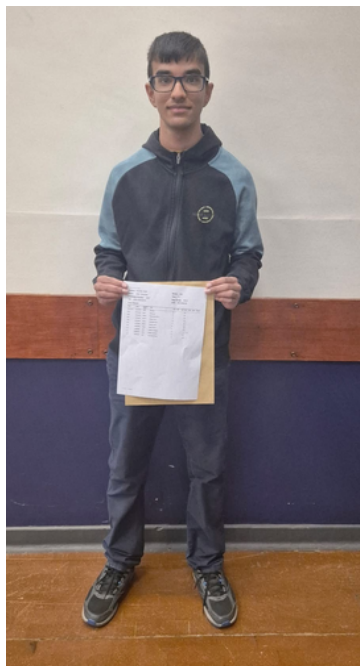
She added: "We wish every student the very best as they embark on the next stage of their journey, and we look forward to welcoming many of them back in September to continue their studies in our Sixth Form."

With a cohort of 190 students, many achieved outstanding grades this year. Among them, Jeremi Trojak, Samuel King, Elliot Reader, Amir Chauhan, and Nikola Surdy secured impressive results, with grades ranging from 7 to 9 across their subjects.

Elliot said he is now looking ahead to studying A-levels in Physics, Maths, Further Maths, and Computer Science. Amir was most proud of his grade in Chemistry and will study A-levels at Sir Harry Smith Community College in Physics, Maths, Geography, and Business Studies.

Kamile Burokaite was another high achiever and will study A-levels in Economics, Politics, Sociology, and French.

Rachel Mason, Chief Operating Officer at Aspire Learning Trust, said: "We are celebrating the outstanding achievements of Sir Harry Smith Community College's GCSE students. Over the past two years, their commitment, perseverance, and resilience have been truly remarkable. They have grown into confident, enthusiastic young adults, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities. I couldn't be prouder of them and look forward to seeing the paths they choose next."



A Level Results

Students celebrate another year of exceptional A-level results, marking a significant milestone in their academic journeys. This year's achievements exemplify the hard work, resilience, and determination shown by the school's young people, supported every step of the way by the dedicated staff.

Tim Smith, Assistant Principal and Director of Sixth Form, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the achievements of our students this year. They have faced challenges with determination and embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. These results reflect their commitment and the tireless dedication of our staff, who have gone above and beyond to support them.

"Each and every one of our students should feel proud of what they have accomplished. We wish them the very best as they embark on the next stage of their lives, confident that the skills, knowledge, and values they have developed here will serve them well in whatever route they choose."

Notable performers:

- Emogen achieved grades A*, A, A and is going on to read Sociology at the University of Manchester
- Ciara achieved grades A*, A, A and is going on to read Psychology at Anglian Ruskin University.
- Lewis achieved grades A, A, A and is going on to study Medicine at St Andrews
- Caleb achieved grades A*, B, B and is going on to read German and Linguistics at the University of Oxford

Dawn White, Principal, added: "I am immensely proud of the determination and commitment our students have shown. This year's success is not just about grades - it's about the personal growth, perseverance, and ambition demonstrated by every student.

"From those progressing to university, higher-level apprenticeships, or further training, to those stepping directly into the world of work, we are immensely proud of the diverse and exciting paths our students are choosing to take."

Dawn continued: "On behalf of all the staff, I want to wish each of our students the very best as they take their next steps, whether that's university, an apprenticeship, or the world of work."

Rachel Mason, Chief Operating Officer at Aspire Learning Trust said: "I am proud of Sir Harry Smith Community College's Year 13 students. Through their consistent effort and ambition, they have truly embodied our value of 'Aspiration and Achievement for All.' I'm excited to see the great things they will go on to achieve in the years ahead."



Alumni Network

Sir Harry Smith is establishing an alumni network!

We want to build an alumni community to inspire our students and are delighted to inform you that we are working with the education charity Future First to build a thriving alumni community. Amongst our former students is a whole host of talented role models who we want to connect with in order to celebrate their success and inspire our current students. Alumni can be brought back to offer careers and education advice, mentor students, provide work experience placements and much more besides.

We need you!

If you are a former student, we would love to hear what you have done since leaving us. Whether you attended university, completed an apprenticeship, or went straight into work, you are a valued member of our alumni community. From doctors to dancers, pilots to plumbers, we need alumni from a range of careers to open our students' eyes to what's possible. We would love for you to join the alumni network so that we can stay connected and let you know about exciting opportunities to get involved.

There is no obligation to do anything after you have signed up, but you will receive a few emails letting you know about opportunities to get involved. Please feel free to forward this to any friends or family who attended Sir Harry Smith who you think may want to get involved.

**Join our alumni network
today!**



<https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/sirharrysmith>

Useful Information

Young Technicians

For those students who have already signed up to Young Technicians, it will begin again on **Tuesday 9th September** after school until 4.30pm. At the moment, this club is only for students who signed up before the end of the Summer Term.



**SHSCC
CAREERS**

Contact Mrs Curtis
acurtis@sirharrysmith.com

Careers Information & Guidance Drop-In Sessions are running in the College Library on **Mondays & Tuesdays, 3.00-4.00pm.**

Please come along if you would like help with: Year 9 Options, Post-16 & Post-18 Pathways, Apprenticeship & T-Level Routes, applications and CVs.

A reminder that college will close at 1.20pm on **Tuesday 7th October**, to allow us to prepare for our Year 6 Open Evening.



Useful Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).

Key Information

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Professional Day (college closed to students)	Monday 1st September 2025
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Tuesday 2nd September 2025
START OF TERM - <u>Year 7 & 12 students only</u>	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
START OF TERM - <u>All other year groups</u>	Thursday 4th September 2025
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Friday 24th October 2025
Half Term	Monday 27th to Friday 31st October 2025
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

START OF TERM	Monday 5th January 2026
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Friday 13th February 2026
Half Term	Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026
Last Day of Term	Friday 27th March 2026

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.

