



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

The time is flying by and the summer holidays already seem like a distant memory. I am really impressed with how students have settled into their learning and the new school year.

Thank you for your support with ensuring that we have excellent attendance across the college. I cannot stress how important it is for students to be in school and this will continue to be a priority for us in order to maintain high standards. A reminder that students should be in their form rooms at 8.30am ready for tutor time.

Inside this week's newsletter are details of the extracurricular activities on offer at the college. These clubs and activities are an excellent opportunity for your child to have fun after school, try new activities and make some new friends along the way!

There are some additional details about next Friday's Macmillan Coffee Morning inside too. If you are free on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September between 9.30am and 10.30am, it would be great to see you for a cup of coffee and piece of cake while supporting Macmillan and the wonderful work that they do.

Enjoy the weekend!

Best wishes

*Dawn White  
Principal*



# Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a rich and varied choice of extra-curricular activities available both at lunchtime and after school. During lunch, pupils can join clubs that foster creative, academic and sporting interests—such as music meet-ups, computing and informal sports or fitness challenges. After school, the programme expands further with structured opportunities in team sports, performing arts (drama, choir and band), academic enrichment (e.g. homework support, subject-based clubs), and leadership or service initiatives. These activities not only give students time to pursue interests outside the curriculum, but also help build friendships, confidence, and skills such as teamwork, time management and self-expression.

**All activities are free of charge (except swimming at The Manor Leisure Centre)**

**Students to just come along (unless stated on the activity)**

## Extra Curricular Activities 2025/2026

### Lunchtime - 1:20pm

Day	Dept	Activity
MONDAY	Music	Practice rooms available (please visit the music sept to book all lunchtime practice rooms on a Monday breaktime)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Musical Social Meet - Main Hall (optional)
TUESDAY	Music	Practice rooms available (please visit the music sept to book all lunchtime practice rooms on a Monday breaktime)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Musical Social Meet - Main Hall (optional)
WEDNESDAY	PE	Badminton KS4 (Miss Tyson)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Musical Rehearsal - Main Hall
Computing	Robotics Club with Marty the Robot in Gold 01 (Mr Crane)	

# Extra-Curricular Activities

THURSDAY	Music	Choir (Mrs Grey)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Musical Rehearsal - Main Hall
Computing	Homework Club Gold 01 (Mr Crane)	

FRIDAY	Music	Practice rooms available (please visit the music sept to book all lunchtime practice rooms on a Monday breaktime)
	PE	Badminton KS4 (Ms Hunt)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
	Musical Social Meet - Main Hall (optional)	

## After School

**Clubs finish around 4pm unless otherwise stated.**

Day	Dept	Activity
MONDAY	Music	School Band (Mrs Grey) <i>Come and learn an instrument for the first time. Instruments available electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard, piano, singing.</i>
	PE	Handball - All Years (Miss Goodall)
		Basketball - All Years (Mr Tymon)
		Netball Yrs 7, 8 & 9 (Miss Tyson & Miss Ponder)
		Netball Yrs 10 & 11 (Miss Lee)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance		
Library	Creative Writing	

TUESDAY	Music	KS4 Composition Intervention (Mr Grey)
	PE	Football - All Years (Mr Rothery & Mr Tymon)
		Year 11 R185 Intervention in Gold 03 (Miss Tyson & Ms Hunt)
		Department Detentions in Gold 03 (Miss Tyson)
	Drama & Dance	KS4 Intervention in Purple 5 (Miss Steele)
		Vi17 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
Library	Homework Club until 4:15pm	

# Extra-Curricular Activities

WEDNESDAY	Music	Band Club (Mrs Freeman) <i>An opportunity for more experienced musicians to come together and practice in small groups. Please speak to Mrs Freeman if you would like to join.</i>
	Drama & Dance	Musical Rehearsal until 4:15pm <i>(will extend as we move closer to the show)</i>
	Library	Homework Club until 4:15pm
THURSDAY	PE	Hockey - All Years (Mr Smith)
		Volleyball - All Years (Ms Hunt)
		Cross Country (Miss Pondeer)
	Drama & Dance	Vi15 Drama studio available to book for KS4 Drama/Dance
		Dance Club (Miss Kuc)
	Library	Homework Club until 4:15pm
		Book Club until 3:45pm
Computing	KS3 Coding Club Purple 02 (Mr Scott external visitor from Raspberry Pi Foundation)	
	KS4 Computer Science Intervention Gold 01 (Mr Crane)	
FRIDAY	PE	Staff & 6th form use of facilities
		Swimming at <u>the Manor Leisure Centre</u> (3:30pm to 4:30pm) <i>This will be at the discounted price of £2.90</i>

# Year 6 Open Evening

**We would like to invite you to attend our  
Year 7 Open Evening for September 2026**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

The Principal, Miss D. White, will give a brief presentation at 6:10pm and again at 7:00pm. You will be welcomed by our teaching and pastoral staff and our students who will be showcasing lessons in all subject areas across the College.



*"The school has a well-planned and ambitious programme of learning. The school has ensured that the curriculum reflects the diversity of modern life."  
"Pupils trust the teachers who have developed positive relationships with them. They work hard for these teachers and produce high quality work."*

*Ofsted 2024*

# Macmillan Coffee Morning

## Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 26th September 2025

We would like to invite parents/carers to attend our Macmillan Coffee Morning between **9.30am and 10.30am** on Friday 26th September. This event will be held in our **Sixth Form Centre**, which can be accessed at the side of the college - It will be clearly signposted! As parking will be extremely limited, we ask that any visitors please walk onto site.

This is an opportunity to support a cause that affects many of us in one way or another, while having a cup of tea/coffee with a piece of cake. We would suggest a donation of £1 per piece of cake and ask that you bring cash as we unfortunately don't have the facility to accept card payments.

We would like to say a big thank you to Caterlink, our catering provider, who have very kindly offered to donate some cakes and cookies for this charitable event.

We hope to see you there!



**It's time for  
a Macmillan  
Coffee  
Morning  
and you're invited**

Let's do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.



# Share Your Stories: WW2

## Do you have Battle of Britain story to share?

In honour of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we are keen to hear your World War Two family stories, especially if a member of your family served in the RAF or was involved in the Battle of Britain in any way.

- ***Was someone in your family a pilot or a parachutist?***
- ***Did someone in your family work as an engineer or in a munitions factory?***
- ***Do you have a Land Girl or an evacuee in your family?***
- ***Or does someone you know just have a memory of growing up in World War Two that they would like to share?***

We think this would be a really lovely way to connect our college to our local community and share experiences of what it was like to live through this momentous period in history.

Send your stories to [positivenews@sirharrysmith.com](mailto:positivenews@sirharrysmith.com) and we will put them on our Battle of Britain Memorial Display in the college library, share them to our college news screens and on our social media pages.



# 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

## Upcoming Opening Evenings

Our Open Evenings for September 2026 are as follows:

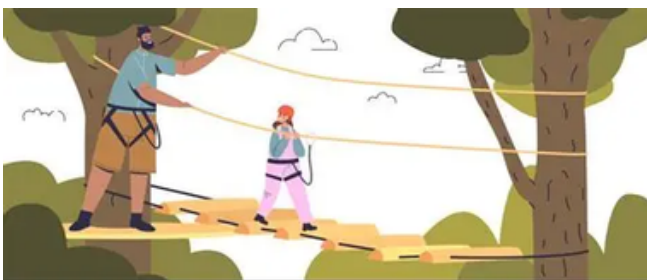
**Year 6: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm-8.00pm**

**Sixth Form: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm-8.00pm**



We would like to invite parents/carers to attend our **Macmillan Coffee Morning between 9.30am and 10.30am on Friday 26th September**. This event will be held in our Sixth Form Centre, which can be accessed at the side of the college - It will be clearly signposted!

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



**The PGL trip for Year 7 will go live on ParentPay at 15:55 today (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September).**

There are only 50 places for the trip so will be first come first served. The deposit is £50.00pp.

# 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](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

### 1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

### 2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.

### 3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

### 4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

### 5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.

### 6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

### 7 TEACH EMPATHY

'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean 'perfect'. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship, to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

### 8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they're older as well.

### 9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

### 10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

## Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# 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 &amp; 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.

