



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3rd Oct 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Time is flying by and we are already in October!

A reminder that we will be hosting our Year 6 Open Evening on Tuesday and the college will be closing at 1.20pm. Thank you to those students who have volunteered to return in the evening to help in department areas to showcase the college to prospective Year 7 students for academic year 2026/27. I am sure that there will be many of you with children currently in Year 6 who will be visiting on Tuesday and we very much look forward to you joining us.

I am really pleased to let you know that we raised over £260 last Friday hosting our Macmillan Coffee Morning. I would like to say a big thank you to our Sixth Form staff and students who organised and ran this event, alongside Caterlink, who donated a large number of cakes.

Next week we also have the vaccination team in school on Thursday providing the nasal flu vaccine for those students in Years 7 to 11 in advance of the winter flu season. If you have not yet completed the link to provide consent for your child to receive the vaccination, please can you do so. Please also complete the link to indicate if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine.

<https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/cambsandpeterborough>

We currently have the Book Fair visiting which is based in our library. If your child hasn't yet visited the Book Fair and would like to do so, it will be here until Tuesday next week and offers a wide range of books to suit all reading tastes and abilities. Please see our payment guide later in the newsletter. The more books that we sell at school means more free books for the college library!

With very best wishes for a relaxing weekend.

*Dawn White
Principal*



 01733 703991

 reception@sirharrysmith.com

 www.sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk



College Book Fair: Open Now!

College Book Fair: Open Now Until Tuesday 7th October.

The College Library is excited to be hosting its annual Book Fair this week until Tuesday 7th October. The Book Fair is always an exciting event on the college calendar, where students can purchase books & stationery, knowing that their purchases help to fund new books for our school!

The easiest way to purchase books is to pay cash at the fair. Stationery items start at just 50p, with books starting at just £2.99. Examples of the types of books on offer at the fair can be found here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases/tt>

If you would prefer to pay online, students can take home a book “wishlist” which will contain details of the books they would like to purchase, along with information about how to pay using a credit/debit card. Once their items are paid for, students can collect them from the College Library the following day. Alternatively, information on how to pay can be found by scanning the QR code:

The Book Fair will also be open to prospective students and their parents/carers at the College Open Evening on Tuesday 7th October.

Every item purchased at the Book Fair helps to fund new books for our school, which in turn helps us on our journey to create a reading culture at SHSCC!



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay

88% of students surveyed in a national study, said they were far more likely to finish a book if they had chosen it themselves, so let your child make their choice from our amazing Book Fair!



Commando Joe's Programme

This week we were pleased to welcome instructors from the Commando Joe's Programme to the college. Commando Joe's provides character education programmes from EYFS to KS3, tailored to pupils' needs.

"At Commando Joe's, we believe every child deserves the tools to thrive, not just academically, but emotionally, socially, and morally. That's why we're on a mission to embed character education at the heart of UK schools."

The programmes work on the Commando Joe RESPECT Framework; a proven structure to build Resilience, Empathy, Self-awareness, Passion, Excellence, Communication and Teamwork. This framework helps schools structure behaviour expectations, enrich well-being strategies, and support pupils' personal development.

We are excited to continue this working partnership over the academic year, to support our students.



Our RESPECT Framework

Everything we do is grounded in our proven RESPECT Framework—a practical and powerful approach to developing seven key character traits:

- Resilience
- Empathy
- Self-awareness
- Positivity
- Excellence
- Communication
- Teamwork

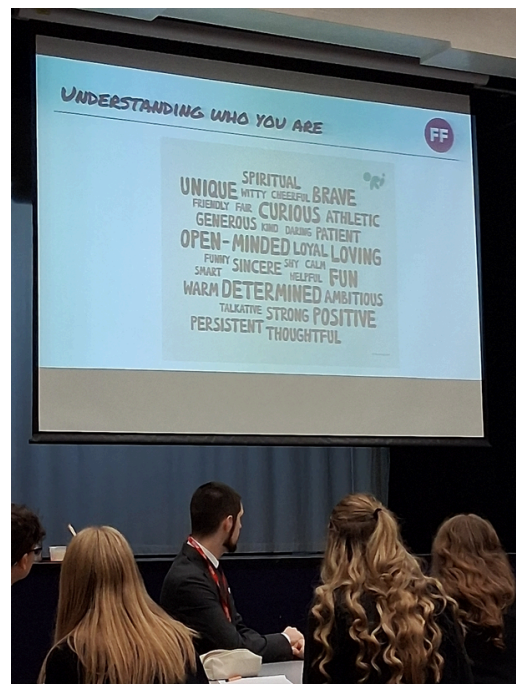
R	Resilience
E	Empathy
S	Self-Awareness
P	Passion
E	Excellence
C	Communication
T	Teamwork

Careers Workshops This Week

This week we welcomed back 4 ex-students to deliver Networking Careers Workshops for our Year 9 & 10 students, delivered by Future First. The presentations talked about career goals and aspirations, and how to achieve those, starting right in KS3 & 4. Ex-students included: Daniel Dipper, who is now working in the Business & Finance sector, Karen Trickey, Jessica Marston & Adam Woollard, who works in the legal profession.

Our Year 11 students had a CV Writing Workshop delivered by an external agency, where they learned skills to help them prepare a CV and talked about preparing for interviews. Students will now create their personal CV in preparation for job applications and mock interviews, taking place at the college in a few weeks' time.

Many thanks to our Careers Co-Ordinator, Mrs Curtis, for organising these opportunities for our students.



Inter-House Photography Competition

We're excited to launch an interhouse photography competition, celebrating the incredible talent and creativity of our student photographers. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their skills, represent their house, and compete for top honours.

Important Guidelines:

- Photos must be taken outside of school grounds.
- Images must not feature any students.

Competition Categories:

- Nature & Environment
- Emotions in Motion
- Culture & Traditions
- Black & White Storytelling

Judging Criteria:

- Creativity & Originality – 30%
- Composition & Technical Skill – 25%
- Relevance to Theme – 25%
- Impact & Emotional Appeal – 20%

Students should submit their entries to their Head of House (HOH). Each HOH will select three standout photographs to represent their house in the final round.

Rewards:

- Every participant will earn 3 house points for their contribution.

Further details will be shared during form time.



Get your cameras ready and let your creativity shine!



Year 6 Open Evening

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

Tuesday 7th 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

Battle of Britain Anniversary: Your WW2 Stories

Many thanks to those students who have already shared WW2 stories from their families. Here are a couple from Vittorio Colella & Alex Stafford. If you still have a WW2 story you would like to share as part of our celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, please send it through to positivenews@sirharrysmith.com

We will share these stories in future issues of the newsletter and they will be featured in our Battle of Britain Memorial Display in the college library.

Charges to pay s. d. RECEIVED

No. OFFICE STAMP

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

test

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From To

Bombardier (Corporal) George Philip Dean
George Dean served in the Royal Artillery 1939-45 and was the driver and in charge of a 25 pounder gun truck in the North Africa Campaign against the Italians and Germans. He served at The battle of Tobruk , El Alamein and after the retreat of Axis forces made his way up to liberated Italy And shelled Monte casino. The war ended when George and his team were in Rome and he didn't leave Italy until early 1946.

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope. B or C



When Sergt. Stafford's unit, 637 Regiment, Royal Artillery, moved to Berduforn Aerodrome, Northern Norway, early in August, he had the good fortune to meet L/Ac. Fitzjohn, R.A.F. Element, whose squadron was stationed there. Both men are seen in the photograph reading this newspaper, with a good view of Norway's Midnight Sun behind them. Sgt. Stafford lived at Saxon Cottages, Whittlesey-road, before the war. L/Ac Fitzjohn at King's Dyke. Both men hope to be home soon.

Charges to pay s. d. RECEIVED

No. OFFICE STAMP

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

test

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From To

Sergt. Stafford - Unit G37 Regiment Royal Artillery.
Sgt Stafford lived at Saxon Cottages, Whittlesey Road.

of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope. B or C



**WHITTLESEY MEN
MEET IN NORWAY**
Reading This Paper in
Light of Midnight Sun

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 7th October 6.00pm-8.00pm

Sixth Form: Tuesday 14th October 6.00pm-8.00pm



We will be hosting a **Book Fair** until **Tuesday 7th October**. The Book Fair will be held in the College Library - every book purchased will help to fund new books for our school! Cash payment in school, but students can create a "wishlist" and pay online at home - please see the guide in this newsletter for details.

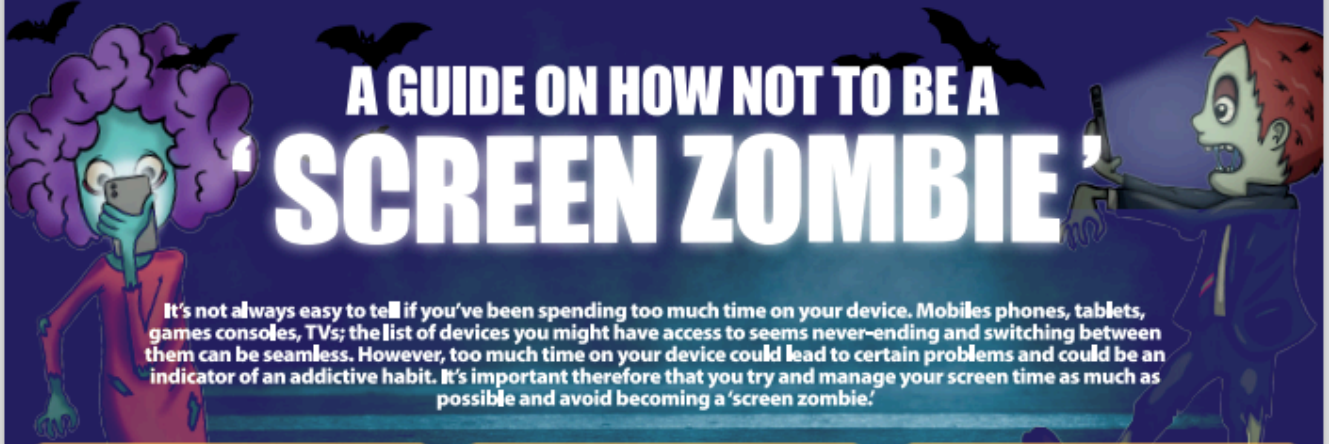
Our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a brilliant £265!
Thank you to all those who came out to support this amazing and worthwhile cause.



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 they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



It's not always easy to tell if you've been spending too much time on your device. Mobiles phones, tablets, games consoles, TVs; the list of devices you might have access to seems never-ending and switching between them can be seamless. However, too much time on your device could lead to certain problems and could be an indicator of an addictive habit. It's important therefore that you try and manage your screen time as much as possible and avoid becoming a 'screen zombie.'

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BRAIN

Spending too much time on social media, watching YouTube or playing games online can result in you becoming a screen zombie. This can affect your mood, how much sleep you get, how you perform at school and how you behave around others. Limiting your screen time will keep you alert, keep your mind focused and help to look after your own mental health and wellbeing.



BE PRESENT, NOT A ZOMBIE

Screen zombies often find that they spend a lot of time alone in front of their tablet or their mobile phone and reduce the time they spend with their friends or talk with their family. Zombies often lack communication skills. Always try to limit your screen time as much as possible – there's so much fun you can have with others!



SCREEN-FREE BEDROOMS

Keeping your phone in your bedroom means that it can be tempting to check every notification you get. Your phone could be the last thing you see at night and the first thing you see in the morning. This can contribute towards poor sleep and a lack of focus the next day. Try to keep your phone out of your bedroom or turn off all notifications before bedtime. This will mean you'll get a good night's rest and be ready for the next day.



DON'T GET TRAPPED INSIDE

Screen zombies usually find that they spend a lot of time inside as they lose interest in other things that don't include their device. It might seem obvious, but meeting your friends outside or doing outdoor activities like playing sports, trampolining, camping or just going for a walk are all healthy replacements for screen time and can help keep your mind fresh and active.



ZOMBIE-FREE MEALTIMES

Mealtimes can be seen as a good time to sit down, relax and switch on your tablet or phone as you eat your food. But it can also mean that you're not interacting with others, sharing jokes at the dinner table or just talking about your day. Keep mealtimes for family time. Eating your food and staring at a screen means you're turning into a zombie.



BEWARE OF OTHER DANGERS

Spending too much time on your device and online can increase your chances of potentially encountering other online dangers. This could range from viewing inappropriate or harmful content to online bullying, grooming or fake news. Controlling how much time you spend online will reduce your risk of exposure. If you do see anything that makes you upset or if you're concerned about contact with others, always report it to a trusted adult.



BEWARE OF SNEAKY TRICKS

A lot of apps and games use certain ways of keeping you online and using their platform for long periods of time. This can include simple things like unlimited scrolling on a newsfeed, 'streaks' or uncovering hidden levels. Be mindful of how much time you're online and try to remember you're in control. You decide when you've had enough, not your device.



SAVE YOUR PARENTS!

Even though your parents will often be the ones telling you to limit your screen time, turn off your tablet or switch off your phone, sometimes they will forget to take their own advice. So it's up to you to make sure you remind them of the dangers of becoming a screen zombie!



UN-ZOMBIFY YOURSELF

If you think that you've already become a screen zombie, then don't worry, it's never too late to get help and support from your friends and family. Talk to your parents if you feel you've become addicted to your device, try to understand why and work with them to help you limit your screen time so that you can leave your zombie character behind.



Meet our expert

Pete Bath is content specialist with over 10+ years in research and analysis. He has written various expert pieces around online safety for children and parents and previously worked in a specialist role for the police, contributing work which was pivotal in successfully winning high profile court cases and writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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.

