



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17th Oct 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the final week of this half-term, the weather has certainly started to change!

We have had another busy week in school with our Sixth Form Open Evening taking place for Year 11 students. We had a great turnout and it is wonderful to see so many students excited about the next stage of their education. The mock exam season for Year 11 students is also approaching fast; this is an important few weeks for these students and invaluable practice for the real exams in the summer. During the mock exam period, the library will be closed to lower school students on Thursday lunchtimes to provide a quiet revision space for our Year 11 cohort.

A group of our Sixth Form students took part in a trip to Anglian Ruskin University for an insight into what it is like to take Criminology related studies at university. Students had an informative day and found the experience of visiting a university really beneficial as they begin to consider their Post 18 options.

A reminder that next **Friday, 24th October**, is a Professional Development Day and the college will be closed to students.

Have a relaxing weekend!

Dawn White
Principal



Sixth Form Open Evening

Our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was filled with energy, inspiration, and a real sense of community pride. The event welcomed a fantastic turnout of prospective students and their families, all eager to explore the exciting opportunities that await them in our vibrant and dynamic Sixth Form.

From the moment guests walked through the doors, they were met with a warm, welcoming atmosphere and the unmistakable buzz of possibility. Our Sixth Form Centre and subject specialists delivered, with engaging displays, and passionate discussions from current Sixth Form students about subjects, enrichment, and future aspirations.

Our incredible Year 12 & 13 students, were shining ambassadors for everything our Sixth Form represents. With professionalism, confidence, and genuine enthusiasm, our students answered questions, and shared their own personal journeys with honesty and pride. Whether they were leading presentations, offering insights into subject choices, or simply chatting with younger students about what life is really like in Sixth Form, they did so with maturity and warmth that left a lasting impression on everyone who attended.

Visitors frequently commented on how inspiring our students were—articulate, passionate, and clearly thriving in their new environment. Their pride in being part of our Sixth Form was palpable, and it's safe to say they sparked excitement in the hearts of many future Sixth Formers.

Events like this remind us that Sixth Form is more than just a place to study—it's a launchpad for growth, independence, and ambition. And our current Sixth Form students exemplified this perfectly. We are incredibly proud of the way they stepped up, took ownership, and showed such pride in their school and themselves.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening—staff, students, and families alike. The future looks brighter than ever, and we can't wait to welcome the next generation of Sixth Formers who were undoubtedly inspired by the brilliance they witnessed.

Tim Smith - Head of Sixth Form



Our Historic Stonemasonry

This week Claire Grimwood contacted the college with reference to the stonemasonry coat of arms which sits above our main entrance. Claire is the granddaughter of Robert William Loosemore. Her grandfather was born in Southampton in 1894 and won a scholarship to the Southampton School of Art at the age of ten.

Robert Loosemore moved his family to Wisbech in the 1930s and worked as a stone carver and sculptor. He worked on the coat of arms for SHSCC, as shown in the newspaper cutting below, as well as a bust for St John Fisher Catholic High School.

Claire was pleased to see the coat of arms is still in situ and was delighted to visit the college to see her grandfather's work!



Theatre Trip: “The Play That Goes Wrong”

Drama Department Takes London by Storm with “The Play That Goes Wrong”

Recently, 45 Drama students and four staff members set off from college just before the end of the school day for an exciting trip to London’s renowned Duchess Theatre.

Their mission?

To experience the hilarious and wildly entertaining production of “The Play That Goes Wrong”.

Arriving slightly ahead of schedule, the group seized the opportunity to explore nearby Covent Garden, where they enjoyed a captivating display of street theatre that set the perfect tone for the evening ahead. This outing was especially significant as the play is a new addition to the Drama department’s curriculum. Students are currently studying the production in preparation for their upcoming mock exams, which include a Section B theatre review accounting for 40% of their final written exam. Watching the play live gave them invaluable insight into its farcical style, absurd situations, and comedic timing.

The show’s outrageous humour had the audience in stitches from start to finish, with almost everyone thoroughly enjoying the performance. For many students, this marked their very first experience of live theatre—a memorable introduction to the magic of the stage.

“The Play That Goes Wrong” comes highly recommended for anyone lucky enough to catch it. If you have the chance, don’t miss out on this hilarious theatrical adventure.

Mrs Steele - Teacher of Drama



ARU Crime Seminar - 6th Form Social Sciences

Students studying Social Sciences at Sixth Form were invited to attend a series of workshops at Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge. Seminars were led by leading experts in a variety of different fields such as criminology, policing, cyber crime and explored options for degree apprenticeship routes into policing. Students were excellently attentive, engaged and showed exemplary attitudes.

Mr Nichols - Curriculum Manager of Psychology

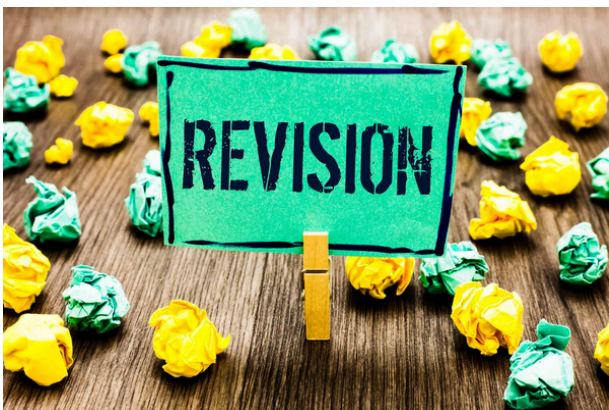


Useful Information



Thank you to all those who attended our 6th Form Open Evening this week. It was lovely to see so many prospective students and their parents/carers. A huge thank you to all of our current students who volunteered to help at the event.

A reminder that college will be closed for a Professional Day on **Friday 24th October**. Therefore Half Term break begins on **Thursday 23rd October**.



During the Year 11 Mock Exam Period after half term, the college library will be closed to lower school students on **Thursday lunchtimes**, to enable Year 11 students to have a quiet place to study & revise. The library is also open for revision on Mondays & Fridays until 3.30pm and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday until 4.15pm.

Useful Information

Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance

for Parents/Carers in Cambridgeshire

Nessie is funded to support families of children and young people who are struggling to attend school.

What we offer:

Free online and face-to-face workshops/webinars

Parent Support line:
Tel: 07396 713632

Private moderated Facebook support group:
[Nessie Parent/Carer Support Group](#)

1-1 support and parent groups

CYP therapeutic support

To make an enquiry, please visit nessieined.com or Scan the QR code and one of the EBSA team will be in touch to assess you, your child, and your families needs.



Useful Information

Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance

for Parents/Carers in Cambridgeshire

We may be able to offer therapeutic support for your families of CYPs that are:

Struggling to access school as a result of mental health and emotional wellbeing

Considered STUC (Significant Trauma and Unmet need in Crisis)

Attendance below 75% (or not able to stay in lessons, so significantly at risk of missing education)

Not accessing other therapeutic services - being on a waiting list is fine, but if they are receiving other therapeutic support we are NOT able to work with them

Tried lots of strategies, with no positive outcome

Family and CYP want help, even if it is hard to engage in services

If so, please either:

- Make a CYP referral [HERE](#)
- Call, Text or WhatsApp our parent phone line: 07396 713632
- Fill out our enquiry form by scanning this QR code!



NESSIE
Helping Children & Young People Thrive



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.nationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making "practice" journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



#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 & 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.

