



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23rd Oct 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half-term has flown by!

We have been celebrating sporting achievements this week for both our sporting students in football and netball! Well done to all involved.

A group of our Year 11 students visited Churchill College, Cambridge University this week to find out more about the Oxbridge application process and what it is like to study at a prestigious university.

Thank you for your support with ensuring good attendance. Currently Shakespeare House are topping the leader board for attendance. I hope that when we return after half-term the other Houses will be giving them some stiff competition!

I would like to wish you all a relaxing and healthy half-term break and look forward to welcoming all students back to the college on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

*Dawn White*  
*Principal*



# House Attendance Points Rankings

## House Attendance Points – Week-by-Week Breakdown

Each week, houses earn points based on their attendance ranking:

- 1st place = 10 points
- 2nd place = 7 points
- 3rd place = 5 points
- 4th place = 3 points
- 5th place = 1 point

Here's how the houses have performed over the past 7 weeks:

Week	Attenborough	Curie	Einstein	Parks	Shakespeare
1	1	10	7	5	3
2	7	1	5	10	3
3	7	1	3	5	10
4	5	7	1	3	10
5	1	3	10	7	5
6	1	3	10	5	7
7	7	3	1	5	10
8	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>48</b>



## Congratulations to Shakespeare House!

With a commanding lead of 48 points, Shakespeare currently tops the attendance leaderboard. Their consistency and commitment are truly commendable!

## Actual Attendance Percentages

While points reflect weekly rankings, the actual attendance percentages give us deeper insight into how each house is doing:

1<sup>st</sup> - Shakespeare (91.36%)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Einstein (91.13%)

3<sup>rd</sup> - Parks (90.85%)

4<sup>th</sup> - Curie (90.43%)

5<sup>th</sup> - Attenborough (90.19%)



Even small differences in percentage can shift rankings week to week. **Every student's attendance matters!** **Keep It Up, Everyone!** Whether you're leading the pack or climbing steadily, your attendance contributes to your house's success and your own learning journey. Let's aim for even higher numbers after half-term!

Paul Treliving  
Assistant Principal

# Netball Success!

We have some incredibly talented netball players who represent our college teams, they are also achieving great success at club level and are now playing at the next steps of higher-level netball with some joining the pathway to Superleague success.

Neave R - London Mavericks PDP

Connie T, Eva J- Loughborough Lightning Development Hub

Evie C- Loughborough Lightning Development Hub & Cambridgeshire County PDP

Caitlin D- U12 Cambridgeshire County Squad

We are very proud of all of their sporting achievements - sporting students are offered the opportunity to join our School Mentor Scheme with the PE department. Please ask in PE for further details.



# Careers Trips - Post 16 Options

A group of Year 11 students visited the College of West Anglia in Wisbech this week, to look at the courses and facilities on offer for Post-16. Students saw a variety of courses from conventional apprenticeships, to T-Levels and vocational courses. Many thanks to Mrs Curtis for providing careers guidance and a range of opportunities to our students Post-16.



**Open Morning - Wisbech campus, 22nd November 2025**

**22 NOVEMBER 2025 9AM - 12:30PM**

**WISBECH CAMPUS**

Year 11 students have also visited Churchill College at the University of Cambridge this week, where they had an introduction to the University, including courses available, the application process and what to consider when applying. They then went on a tour of Churchill College led by a current student, before attending a 'Next Steps: Making A level Choices' presentation. Students then had lunch in Wolfson Hall before returning to SHSCC.



 **UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

# Football Successes!

## Year 9

The Year 9 team travelled to COPA to finish their league games. They battled well first half and then came out flying second half with them taking all three points. Bandile scored twice with Jimmy scoring a 'screamer' from 30 yards out after neat build up play from Noah and Bandile. The team put in a solid defensive performance limiting COPA to shots from distance with Koby and Nataniel marshalling the defence. The only time they nearly scored, Jimmy was there to clear it off the line. The game finished **3-0 to SHS**. Well done!

## Year 8

Year 8s have played two games this week. The first game saw them come out as **4-0 winners** against TPS. They played some good football and scored some good goals. Finley scored twice with Tristan and Lucas bagging the other two. There are some rumours that Lucas scored a screamer in the top bins, but some of his teammates have played this down.

The second game this week was against NPA their biggest rivals for getting out of the group and into the semi-final. Despite playing some wonderful football and creating lots of chances they were unable to convert any. Unfortunately, NPA also played some good football and managed to score and managed the game well from that point to beat us 2-0. We now must win our last game against QKA and hope NPA lose their last game as we currently have a better goal difference than NPA.

## Year 10

The Year 10 team started their league games with an emphatic **11-0 win** against TPS. It was great for the team to get off to a good start and for so many of the players to get game time with lots of changes being made. They got out of the blocks quickly and had a commanding 9-0 lead at half time. Some greedy decisions in the second half and regular subs meant that we lost some momentum, but we did end up adding a couple more goals. Tommy bagged five goals, Presley notched a hatrick with the other goals coming from Caleb B, Fin, and Jenson.



# Operation Christmas Child: A Shoebox of Joy

This festive season, our school is proud to take part in the **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox appeal, run by the international relief organisation Samaritan's Purse. The initiative brings smiles to children around the world by delivering shoeboxes filled with small gifts and essentials.

Each form group will prepare one shoebox, thoughtfully packed for a specific child based on age and gender. Whether it's a boy aged 2–4 or a girl aged 10–14, every box will be tailored to make a meaningful impact.

## What goes into a shoebox?

- Fun toys, puzzles, or games
- School supplies like pencils and notebooks
- Hygiene items such as toothbrushes and soap
- Optional: a personal note or drawing to brighten their day

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to collaborate, show kindness, and learn about giving to others. Once completed, the boxes will be collected and sent off to children in need across the globe.

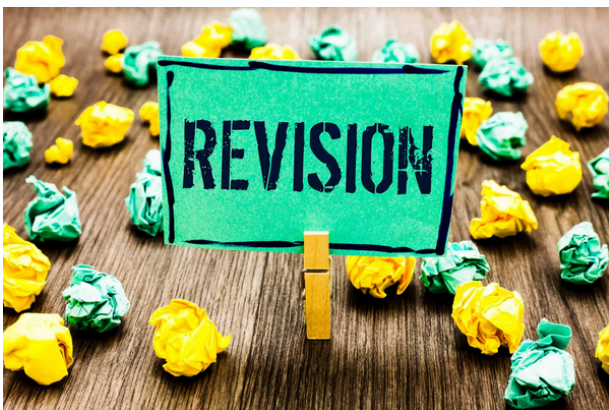
**Let's come together to make a difference—one shoebox at a time!**



Photographs Courtesy of Samaritan's Purse.

# Useful Information

A reminder that college reopens to students on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**



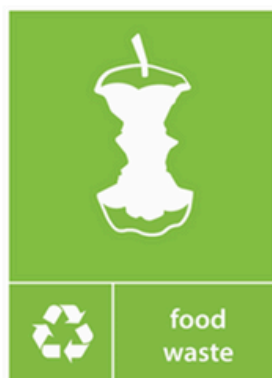
During the Year 11 Mock Exam Period after half term, the college library will be closed to lower school students on **Thursday lunchtimes**, to enable Year 11 students to have a quiet place to study & revise. The library is also open for revision on Mondays & Fridays until 3.30pm and Tuesday, Wednesday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

## A reminder that we are a recycling school:

Please ensure you are using the recycling bins provided so that we can recycle as much as possible.



- Paper/Card (All colours)
- Cardboard
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Envelopes
- Plastic Bottles
- Tins & Foil



- Leftovers
- Teabags
- Coffee Grounds
- Fruit & Veg Peelings



- Crisp packets
- Sweet wrappers
- Polystyrene Containers
- Single use cutlery and plates
- Coffee Cups
- Paper towels & tissues

# Useful Information

## E-BIKES



You can only ride an e-bike if it (and you!) meet certain requirements...

14+

Did you know you can only ride an e-bike if it meets certain requirements and **you are 14 years or over?**



Electric bikes are also known as 'electronically assisted pedal cycles (EAPC)' or e-bikes. E-bikes **must have pedals** that can be used to propel it, and it **must show either the power output, or manufacturer of the motor and either the batteries voltage, or maximum speed of the bike.**



The electric motor **must have a maximum power output of 250W**, and **should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling more than 15.5mph.**

If an e-bike **does not** meet these requirements then it is classed as a motorcycle or moped, and needs to be **registered, taxed and insured**, you also need a **driving licence** and to **wear a helmet**.

If you are riding an e-bike which does not meet these requirements and it is not registered, taxed or insured, your e-bike **COULD BE SEIZED.**

Call: 101  
Visit: [cambs.police.uk](http://cambs.police.uk)

Follow: @CambsCops  
Subscribe: [ecops.org.uk](http://ecops.org.uk)



# 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://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators EXAM-DAY READINESS

The lead-up to exams can be an emotionally challenging time. As the date approaches, nerves can become harder to manage. From nutrition to emotional support, this guide offers 10 practical strategies to reduce stress and enhance performance. Whether at home or in school, these tips encourage focus, resilience, and wellbeing – giving every student the best opportunity to approach exam day with clarity and self-belief.

### 1 FUEL THE BRAIN

Encourage students to eat a balanced breakfast and hydrate before exams. The brain is around 80% water, so even mild dehydration can reduce memory and concentration. Provide water, cereal bars, or fruit on exam day – especially helpful if anxiety affects appetite. A little fuel can go a long way towards better performance.

### 2 PROMOTE POSITIVE SELF-TALK

Support young people to challenge negative thoughts. Help them replace "I'm going to fail" with "I've worked hard; I can do this". Positive affirmations boost confidence and reduce anxiety. Practise these together at home or in school settings.

### 3 PRACTISE RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

Encourage daily use of calming techniques, such as diaphragmatic breathing, guided muscle relaxation, or mindfulness. These techniques help regulate stress responses. Consider running short morning sessions before exams, or practising together at home to promote calm focus.

### 4 CREATE FAMILIAR COMFORT

Ensure a supportive adult is visible and available before exams. The calm presence of a parent or teacher can offer a sense of safety. Schools can provide 'calm zones'; parents can support with consistent routines and reassuring conversation.

### 5 ENCOURAGE VERBAL EXPRESSION

Invite students to talk about their exam worries. Whether it's a quick check-in with a teacher or chat with a parent, open conversations reduce emotional pressure. Active listening is often more powerful than immediate problem solving.

### 6 ORGANISE EXAM-DAY LOGISTICS

Prepare exam-day essentials in advance. Schools can coordinate staff to greet students and manage pre-exam spaces. Parents can prepare clothes, equipment and transport the night before to prevent stress.

got this!

### 7 BUILD A COPING TOOLKIT

Teach students simple 'in-the-moment' coping strategies. These include calm breathing, focusing on what they can control, and using grounding techniques. Practise these together so they become easy to recall under pressure.

### 8 EMBRACE A BALANCED ROUTINE

Reinforce healthy routines: regular sleep, nutritious meals, movement and time to unwind. Families and schools can support students by encouraging outdoor time, screen breaks and restful evenings before exams.

### 9 NORMALISE EXAM NERVES

Let students know that feeling anxious is normal and doesn't mean they're unprepared. Reassure them that a certain level of stress is natural – and can actually improve focus and performance when managed well. A calm, understanding tone – at home and at school – helps build confidence and resilience.

### 10 KEEP SPACES CALM

Reduce pressure in exam-day environments. Whether in the school common room or family kitchen, avoid last-minute cramming. Instead, use soft lighting, gentle music, and quiet time to support a composed mindset.

### Meet Our Expert

Stefan Fusenich is a teacher educator and DfE subject learning coach (advanced practitioner). Stefan has extensive management and teaching experience across various posts in education, and is a qualified lecturer with Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status.



#WakeUpWednesday  
REVISION

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/exam-day-readiness>

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# 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.

