



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14th Nov 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a busy week we have had this week!

On Sunday, Mr Thornton and five of our students, attended the Whittlesey Remembrance Parade on behalf of the college. I am incredibly proud of the way that they conducted themselves and represented the college. I would also like to say how proud I am of the many students that took part as members of uniformed youth groups. Many of these students were then involved in our college's Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November, paying respects to those who have died fighting in wars across the world.

On Thursday, our Year 13 students took part in mock interviews led by external visitors, many from local industries. I am delighted that every interviewer commented on how outstanding and confident our students were. I hope that the students involved found this a valuable experience. There will be a write-up of this event in next week's newsletter, once all our feedback has been received.

Students also took part in charity fundraising yesterday for Children in Need. The many, many donations have not yet been counted but I look forward to sharing this total with you soon. Thank you all for your generosity.

Sadly, the rain put paid to this week's cross country interhouse competition and the 'gun run' in aid of the Royal British Legion, but these events have been rescheduled. The new dates appear later in this newsletter.

You should have this morning received a copy of the college's Ofsted report following the inspection at the end of September/start of October. Hopefully by now you will also have had time to read my letter which accompanied it.

Best wishes for a hopefully not too wet weekend!

*Dawn White*  
*Principal*



# Remembrance Day 2025

Pupils and staff at Sir Harry Smith Community College today took part in a remembrance parade to honour the fallen of all conflicts, past and present.

Students wore their cadet force uniforms, and represented the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force and the scouts as the school fell silent to mark the moment that, in 1918, the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

The contingent paraded into position at the front of the school, ready for the formal act of remembrance at 11:00. This was announced by a pupil playing the last post on the bugle, and formally ended with Reveille at 11:02.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the school by Miss. Wahlandt to bring the formal procedures to a conclusion.

This year further marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, making this Armistice Day doubly poignant, as those who remember first hand cross the bar to calmer waters. Our students' involvement in these events keep the memories alive for future generations to honour and learn from.

Lt(SCC) John Ashworth RNR said of the parade; "Our students have once again done themselves, their organisations and their parent services proud. Remembering the fallen is a vital mark of respect for our communities – and often far more important for those who have lost a parent, sibling or child to conflict to remind them that in that moment, that they are not alone. I was proud to be able to stand with them and share that moment".

Our students also laid a wreath at the Whittlesey Remembrance Service on Remembrance Sunday, along with Deputy Principal Mr Thornton.



# Remembrance Day 2025



# Children in Need - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November

We held a non-uniform day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November in aid of Children in Need. It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 11 students in fancy dress and organising events to raise money. The total amount raised by SHSCC will be shared soon, but in the meantime, please enjoy some photos from the day!



# Children in Need - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November



# Reward Trip - Cinema

## Years 7–10:

I am delighted to let you know that I have arranged a private screening at Showcase Cinema for us to enjoy during the final week of term.

You are all invited to take part in this special event.

To ensure everyone can attend, please continue to meet college expectations:

- Arrive on time each morning
- Maintain or improve your current level of attendance
- Demonstrate positive behaviour throughout

This will be a fantastic way to celebrate the end of term together, provided these standards are upheld.

More details to follow in the coming weeks.

**Mr Treliving.**



# Football Successes!

## Year 7

The Year 7s finished their group matches with a solid 4-2 win at home against Ken Stimpson. Jacob, Tommy, Jonah and Harry scored the goals in a game they controlled for the duration. The team played some lovely football and were deserving of their win. Emily and Tom picked up joint players of the match.

**Overall Roundup:** The Year 7s have made a very positive start to their football journey at SHS. They won superbly at Kings in a hard fought 1-0 and played great football to beat Ken Stimpson. They also showed great resilience to come back against COPA and nearly beat them but unfortunately lost 4-3. They narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next round on goal difference finishing second to Kings. We are confident that next year they can go one better and make it into the semi-finals. Well done on your first football games at the school.

## Year 8

An excellent performance by the Year 8s saw them comfortably win against QKA in their final group game. They started the game with confidence, passing the ball about nicely and playing intricate through balls into space for the attacking players to mount sustained attacks against the QKA goal. Eventually the sustained pressure led to the first goal on the stroke of half time and what a goal it was! An absolute wonder strike from Ollie, who volleyed the ball into the top corner with his 'weaker' foot! The second half started how the first half finished, with beautiful football being played by SHS. Within the first five minutes of the half, we scored our second goal when Harvey latched onto a through ball, had one touch to set himself and then finished superbly into the far bottom corner. The game continued with chance after chance for SHS. QKA's keeper kept the score down with some good saves even without wearing gloves and we also missed the target a few times, even clearing the fence surrounding the AstroTurf on a few occasions. Towards the end the team got the final goal of the game. Another lovely through ball put Finley in on goal and he finished expertly past the keeper to make it 3-0.

**Overall Roundup:** The Year 8s have now finished their group games and won two of them convincingly. Unfortunately, the crunch match against NPA didn't go our way and the team have finished second in the group with NPA winning the group stage and progressing through to the semi-final. This is the second year in a row that this team have been so close to qualifying for the semi finals and we are all hoping they can make it third time lucky next year and go all the way!



# Football Successes!

## Year 9

**Overall Roundup:** The Year 9s have finished their group games and unfortunately finished third in their group this year. They were very unlucky to lose away at Kings when they were leading with not long to play. They narrowly lost to Ken Stimpson in a close game but then beat the group winners COPA comfortably. With a bit more fortune they could have qualified to the next round; maybe next year!

## Year 10

The Year 10s made the trip to QKA on Monday knowing they needed a draw or victory to top the group. They started the game competitively battling hard against a strong team to gain possession of the ball. QKA made it difficult for us to settle into the usual football we play, but not long into the game a ball in behind allowed Tommy to run through and touch it round the keeper to leave himself an open goal which he confidently rolled the ball into to put us into the lead. The game continued in a scrappy way before Jacob won the ball back superbly in the middle of the pitch and rolled a short pass to Fin who took a touch and clipped a lovely through pass to Tommy. With the keeper rushing out Tommy lobbed the ball over the top of the keeper with his first touch to put us into a 2-nil lead. The rest of the first half went by without much happening although QKA nearly got a goal back with an unmarked player thankfully missing the ball. The second half led to us playing much better football and creating lots of chances. Unfortunately, we were unable to convert any and against the run of play QKA got a goal back to set up a nervy finish to the game. The team defended well and got the victory to take us into the next round.

## Year 11

The Year 11s visited SJF on Bonfire Night to play their decisive group game with the winning team on the night going through to the next round. The game was extremely one sided in SHS' favour with the team creating lots of chances but unfortunately, they didn't convert any and as the game went on it seemed likely that it would be finishing a 0-0 draw. However, with not long left to play SJF scored against the run of play, and it looked as though SHS would be losing the game despite their dominance. Determined not to lose the game in this fashion, the lads responded brilliantly to go straight back up the pitch in the last minute and equalise. A wicked corner delivered by Charlie caused chaos in the box and an own goal being scored to level the match. The full-time whistle went and with that the sudden realisation that the dreaded penalty shoot out was upon us to decide the winner of the group. In the end the lottery of a penalty shootout went against us, and the team narrowly miss out on going into the next round.



# 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

Due to inclement weather, the interhouse Army Gun Run Competition was cancelled this week. It is now scheduled for **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**.



 **COMMANDO JOE'S**



During the Year 11 Mock Exam Period, the college library is 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.

Year 11 Mock Interviews will take place on either **Friday 28th November or Friday 5th December**. Appointment dates and times will be sent out to Tutors nearer the time. **All Year 11 students MUST take a printed CV to their interview.**

ARU came in on 23rd September to deliver a CV Workshop, and students have had two Skills for Life lessons to complete this. If it is still not finished, it is students' responsibility to complete this at home. It will also be set on Unifrog, which has resources to help.



Interhouse cross country has been rearranged for **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**. Students must come to school in correct PE kit, but bring school uniform to get changed into after the event. Students must also bring a filled water bottle and any medical inhalers.

# 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 ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

### 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children; they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

### 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

### 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

### 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

### 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on criticising and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

### 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

### 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

### 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demoralising each other.

### 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

### 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

### Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

Source: See full reference to this guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

# 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              |
| <b>START OF TERM - <u>Year 7 &amp; 12 students only</u></b> | <b>Wednesday 3rd September 2025</b>     |
| <b>START OF TERM - <u>All other year groups</u></b>         | <b>Thursday 4th September 2025</b>      |
| 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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>START OF TERM</b>                          | <b>Monday 5th January 2026</b>           |
| 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.

