



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21st Nov 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another week has gone past and there is definitely a chill in the air! With more students now bringing their coats for the journeys to and from school, please can you ensure that they are named so that they can easily be reunited with their owner if they become misplaced!

Congratulations to our Year 10 boys' football team who won 5-2 against Thomas Deacon Academy in the Peterborough City Schools Championship semi-finals. They are now looking forward to the final. Good luck to them all!

Students in Years 7 to 9 took part in a chilly cross country on Tuesday. There were different options for the course which included a running and walking route. Well done to all who took part.

Year 11 students have had a good start to their mock exam period and I am pleased to see how hard they have been working. This is an excellent opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with the process for the exams in the summer. Excellent attendance is important for all students, but especially for those students who will be sitting exams in the summer as they cannot afford to miss lessons which are crucial for their exams.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Dawn White

Dawn White
Principal



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A Gift of Reading for Year 7

This week our Year 7 students were gifted a reading book as part of their library lesson programme. The college has once again partnered with BookTrust to offer a free book to every Year 7 student, through their Bookbuzz initiative. Bookbuzz gives students the chance to choose and keep a book they'll love from 16 fantastic titles, newly selected each year by an expert panel of librarians and teachers.

We are extremely proud of our library lesson offering at SHSCC, which means our Year 7 & 8 students are given a lesson every week dedicated to reading for pleasure and enjoying the library space. Lessons are designed to help our students broaden their reading horizons, giving them access to new books and authors they may not have heard of before. There are dedicated library staff leading these lessons, who are there to support students in making book recommendations, help students to learn the skills they need to access the library and its resources, and to foster an enthusiasm for reading.

The lessons are led by Library Manager, Miss Timms, who said: "I am delighted to be able to offer a free book as a gift to our Year 7 students, once again this year. We have partnered with Bookbuzz for many years now and it is lovely to see the excitement and enthusiasm when our students are choosing which books they would like, and then to see their smiles when they receive their books in the Christmas term. In a world where the printed word is definitely in decline, it is fantastic to be able to offer a physical book to our students, who can then all proudly say that it is theirs. In my experience, students are far more likely to read and enjoy a book they have chosen themselves and this initiative is a vital part of our mission in the library to get all of our students excited about books!"

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Matthew Laban, said: "I am really pleased that we are able to present our Year 7 students with a reading book. Reading is so important and, as I keep saying, 'Kids who read, succeed' and this is what we want for our students. It truly is the gateway to greater opportunities. I hope that the Year 7 students enjoy their books and that they go onto read many more."

SHSCC recently unveiled its newly transformed school library, following investment from Aspire Learning Trust. The result is an inspiring, modern, and multi-functional Learning Resource Hub that is already having a positive impact on students' learning and wellbeing.



Inter-House Cross Country

The week saw our Interhouse Cross Country Competition. It was a great event, seeing all students from each year group out and running for their house. There were also some notable performances and letters have been sent home for the students who will be representing the college at the City Schools Cross Country event next Friday (28th November) at Ferry Meadows.

First place in each race were:

Year 7 girls: India L
Year 7 boys: Ayrton W
Year 8 girls: Annie P
Year 8 boys: Bentley A
Year 9 Girls: Eva J-N
Year 9 boys: Jacob U



Well done to everyone who took part and gave all their effort.

House Results:

Overall results (taken from Years 7-9)



1st - Curie



2nd - Attenborough



3rd - Einstein



4th - Parks



5th - Shakespeare



Mrs Hunt



Maths Trip: Cambridge Building Society

On 20th November, a group of Year 9 students visited the head office of Cambridge Building Society to find out about careers that link with Maths.

Students had the opportunity to tour the site and facilities, and then to question a group of staff to see if they could find out what their jobs were, what was involved and what pathway they took to their current careers.

After, they played a very active 'Game of Life' where they had to work in teams to make real life decisions, whilst being given jobs, bills, investment opportunities and the chance to buy houses. This all involved using their Maths skills to determine which would be good decisions and which would be bad.

The winning team received a trophy, and also a £50 voucher each to open an account with Cambridge Building Society. The rest of the students received £10. All visitors were given a very fetching pink bucket hat and sunglasses. Students and staff had a thoroughly enjoyable day, and the building society praised the students as the best group they had ever had.

Mrs Curtis.



Question of Sport Primary Festival

Our sports leaders led a Question of Sport Primary Festival at New Road School this morning. Our leaders were once again fantastic. Each of them supported a different quiz team from each of our four primary feeder schools, interacting with the students confidently and enthusiastically. Two of the leaders were also on the score table and confidently requested the results after each round and added up the final results in order to announce the overall winners. A very enjoyable festival for all involved.

Mrs Hunt.



Year 13 Mock Interviews

Last week our Year 13 students completed mock interview with people from a variety of career sectors, including many local and national businesses. Our students conducted themselves really professionally, looked incredibly smart and we received some excellent feedback from the interviewers.

“I had a great time at the interviews. All of the students seemed very well prepared for the interview, with a good knowledge of what they may be asked, had done their research about the role and came across really well.”

“I was impressed by the preparation evidenced and the strength of the students. They were clearly well prepared, eloquent and focussed on their career and educational goals. With that in mind I would ask that you provide positive feedback to both the students and to the team who have supported them in their development, not just in this year but in their earlier years too.” - **Mark Wade, Financial Services Manager, NHS.**

We are extremely proud of our Year 13 students.



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.



Passport to Prom – 2025/2026

Date of Prom: Friday 26th Friday June 2025

Venue: Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough

Criteria based as of Monday 24th November 2025 – 1st June 2026

Criteria - The Prom is by invitation only.

Attendance – Not less than 96% from Monday 24th November 2025.

Punctuality – No more than 4 late marks – a student is deemed late if they arrive at school after 8:30. All students must be in form time before 8.30.

Behaviour – No suspensions, no truancy from lessons, no issues with uniform, less than 8 negative points.

Exams – Must attend all exams including mocks and demonstrate exemplary behaviour during exam and mock period.

The following circumstances will mean immediate, non-attendance to the Prom – from Monday 24th November 2025:

- **An external suspension.**
- **Bringing the school's reputation into disrepute.**

Each student will be monitored closely throughout the year and deposits will be able to be paid via ParentPay from January 2026, providing they have met the criteria.

If students fail to meet the criteria during the set time period, then any invitation to the prom will be at the college's discretion.

If the school feels that a student's behaviour, attitude, or attendance falls below expectations, we reserve the right to withdraw their invite to the Prom at any time during the year.

Miss Wahlandt.



E-Scooters: Why They're Risky, and Often Illegal, for Under-16s in the UK

E-scooters might look fun and fast, but they come with real dangers — and some important UK laws that young people need to know.

Why E-Scooters Can Be Dangerous

- Wobbly on bumps: The small wheels make it easy to fall if you hit a pothole, kerb, or even a small stone.
- Serious injuries: Many riders end up in hospital with broken bones, cuts, and even head injuries.
- Hard to see: Cars and bikes don't always spot e-scooters, especially in the dark or in busy areas.
- Very quiet: Because scooters make almost no noise, people walking nearby may not realise you're coming.

What the Law Says in the UK

- It is illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on any public road, pavement, cycle lane, or park.
- Police can stop riders, give fines, and even take the scooter away.
- Only special rental e-scooters in certain trial areas are legal on public roads — but you must be at least 16 AND have a provisional or full driving licence to use one.
- That means anyone under 16 cannot legally ride an e-scooter in public, even a rental one.

So What's Safe and Allowed?

- You can ride a private e-scooter only on private land, and only if the landowner says it's OK.
- If you do ride, even on private land, always wear a helmet, stay alert, and keep speeds sensible.

Mr Treliving.



Parent Forum

Thank you to those of you who have previously attended our Parent Forum at Sir Harry Smith Community College.

We would like to open up the Forum again to invite additional members to join us - it has been set up to enable parents and carers to have an opportunity to meet, discuss items linked to college improvement priorities and have an opportunity for feedback from parents/carers on other matters. Although not a decision-making body, the forum has the opportunity to influence decisions through an open dialogue.

It is a genuine attempt to seek the views of parents and carers and to develop a stronger partnership, by improving understanding through communication.

The forum will be an opportunity to raise college standards and reach its goal to gain outstanding outcomes for all students.

The forum is currently led by Miss Wahlandt, Deputy Principal, and the intention is to meet with parents and carers once per half term.

Forum members will work collaboratively together to:

- Promote a strong partnership and positive relationships between the college, students, and its parents/carers.
- Support the college in consulting with the wider parent/carer body on college matters.
- Identify and represent the views of parents/carers on the education provided by the college and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the students.
- Highlight ways in which parents/carers can be involved in their children's learning to improve achievement.
- Provide positive and constructive help and feedback to improve college outcomes.
- Provide formal and informal channels for communication about college events and how parents/carers can become involved.

If you would be interested in joining our Parent Forum, please email office@sirharrysmith.com expressing your interest.

Useful Information



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.



A reminder that college will close for the Christmas break on **Friday 19th December**. College will close at 1.20pm on this day.

Useful Information

Christmas Holiday Scheme Places

FULLY
FUNDED



Your child can book onto a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas with fun experiences and food offered.



Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals are eligible and can attend for up to 16 hours.

For details and the wider eligibility criteria please scan the QR Code or visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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.

