



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28th Nov 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another week, I want to address some confusion surrounding the use of toilets at the college. Thank you to those parents and carers who have contacted us around this issue. To address these queries, please see the clarification below.

New gates have been put on the entrance to the toilets in the new- block Blue and Gold corridor for safeguarding reasons and to ensure that students do not truant lessons or vandalise these toilets during lesson time.

- During lessons, the green toilets are open for KS3 students only. The blue toilets (along the blue corridor) are open for KS4 students only.
- At break and lunch, the green toilets are accessible to KS3 students only.
- At break and lunch, the new-block toilets are open for KS4 students only.

Students are expected to use the toilets before school, at break and lunchtime, to avoid missed learning during lessons times. However, I can assure you that other toilets are available during lesson time if students do really need to go to the toilet, as mentioned above.

Yesterday, we were delighted that, as part of UK Parliament Week, we could welcome former Secretary of State for Education, Baroness Shephard, to Sir Harry Smith Community College. Baroness Shephard met with all our Sixth Formers and discussed her career as an MP, Cabinet minister and now member of the House of Lords. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn more about parliamentary democracy and to discuss current affairs. We are grateful to Baroness Shephard for giving up her time to visit the college and talk to so many students.

Year 10 and 11 drama students were also fortunate to receive a visit from actor, Alan Calton, whose most recent role is playing a Secret Service Agent in the new Mission Impossible film. Students had lots of questions for Alan about his experiences in the film industry and were inspired and enthralled at hearing his first-hand account of working on set.

With best wishes for the weekend.

*Dawn White*  
*Principal*



# Gun Run Competition

## The First Ever Army Gun Run at Sir Harry Smith Community College: A Tradition with Purpose

On Friday, 21st November, Sir Harry Smith Community College hosted its first ever Army Gun Run, inspired by a military tradition. Originally scheduled for Remembrance Day but delayed due to weather, the event challenged students, all in support of the Royal British Legion.

The students were broken into three teams of mixed age and ability. The course covered just over 300m with three obstacles; a 20m crawl, and two walls which the equipment needed to be passed over. The format of the event was simple, each team starts with a “field gun”, they then dismantle it and do a lap of the course whilst carrying the “field gun” they then reassemble it once they reach the start/finish point, once it has been reassembled correctly, the teams repeat the course.

Commando Marc, leader of the course, said: “Teamwork and determination were key in the event, and I was massively impressed by the effort put in by every single person who took part. The event is physically demanding, and it was clear to see that even though it was difficult the drive and determination not to let the team down was evident. I’d like to thank everyone involved in the event, staff, spectators, and in particular, the students who took part. You should be proud of your efforts.”

The competitive nature of the competition was clear in the fact that only 1 minute separated all three teams. The results (in order of participation) –

**Team 1 – 13:25**

**Team 2 – 13:01**

**Team 3 – 12:28**

The Army Gun Run has its origins in the Second Boer War (1899-1902), during the Siege of Ladysmith, when British Navy sailors were tasked with moving heavy naval guns across difficult terrain to support the British Army. This operation became a symbol of teamwork and resilience. In 1907, the challenge was formalised as the Field Gun Run at the Royal Tournament in London, where teams had to overcome obstacle courses similar to the ones faced during the Ladysmith march. Though the Royal Tournament ended in 1999, the tradition continues today in both military and civilian competitions.

Year 11 student Alex S, who took part in the event, said: “As a Senior Cadet in the Army Cadet Force, I’ve always had a strong interest in military training and teamwork. I heard about the Army Gun Run and thought this was the perfect opportunity to put all my skills to the test. I’m planning to study Military History at university and pursue a career as an officer in the British Army. My long-term goal is to attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst after university, and after a recent visit, I’m more committed than ever to achieving this. Seeing Sandhurst in person has reinforced my determination to pursue a career in the Armed Forces, so any chance to test my physical ability, discipline, and resilience is something I value greatly. Taking part in the Army Gun Run allowed me not only to challenge myself but also to work within a team under pressure, what made the experience even more meaningful was the chance to raise funds for the Royal British Legion and honour our service members.

A huge thank you to Commando Marc and Mrs Buddle for their support in making this event a success. It was inspiring to see all the teams come together, showing such determination and spirit. I hope the Army Gun Run becomes a regular tradition at Sir Harry Smith Community College. Congratulations to all the teams who took part – I’m proud to have been part of such a meaningful event and look forward to seeing it grow in the future.”

# Gun Run Competition

Some students were able to go outside and watch the event. Year 8 student Scarlett J, said: "People who participate showed teamwork, especially when they had to drag the objects along the floor. They looked like they had so much fun and I think the school should do more things like it!"



**COMMANDO JOE'S**



# Baroness Shephard Visits as part of UK Parliament Week

The college was fortunate to have a visit from Baroness Shephard this week, as part of UK Parliament Week. Baroness Shephard spoke to our 6th Form students and led discussions with them.

Principal, Dawn White, said: "It was an honour to receive a visit from Baroness Shephard to the college this week. Students found their discussions with her engaging and aspirational and she helped to bring parliament and politics to life. We are incredibly grateful to her for taking the time to visit."

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Matthew Laban, said, "We were delighted that, as part of UK Parliament Week, we could welcome former Secretary of State for Education, Baroness Shephard, to Sir Harry Smith Community College. Baroness Shephard met with all our Sixth Formers and discussed her career as an MP, Cabinet Minister and now member of the House of Lords. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn more about parliamentary democracy and to discuss current affairs. We are grateful to Baroness Shephard for giving up her time to visit the college and talk to so many students."



# Hollywood Visits Whittlesey Drama Students!

Our Year 10 and 11 Drama students had an incredible opportunity to take part in a one-hour talk with Alan Calton, a professional actor whose credits include major films such as Mission: Impossible and Murder on the Orient Express. During the session, students were able to meet Alan, hear about his journey in the film and performing arts industry, and ask questions about his career, training, and experiences on set. Alan provided inspiring insights into the world of acting and the realities of working in film.

The students represented the school brilliantly and found the experience both motivational and enlightening. - an unforgettable opportunity for our young people.

Principal, Dawn White, said: "Our drama students were fortunate to receive a visit from actor, Alan Calton, whose most recent role is playing a Secret Service Agent in the new Mission Impossible film. Students had lots of questions for Alan about his experiences in the film industry and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. A big thank you to Alan!"



# Netball Results!

A massive congratulations to our Year 7 girls netball team, who beat Stanground Academy 13-1 last week! A big shout out to Millie for being nominated as MVP and our top goal scorer! Keep it up girls!

An amazing effort by our Year 8 team as well - though the girls did not win they played to the best of their abilities improving every quarter. Congratulations to Jessica for being nominated as MVP and shout out to Elizabeth for being out top goal scorer and to Liberty for her fantastic defending!

Well done girls!

**Miss Ponder.**



# Computer Science Interhouse Competition



The Computing department will be releasing a series of delightful Python coding challenges - one for each day across the final weeks of term.

Successfully solving each challenge will reveal a special code word. Keep track of these codes, as they are the keys to lighting up the Christmas tree!



Check your **Computing Teams Group (Assignments Section)** daily to dive into the journey, unlock the codes, and bask in the festive spirit.

Good luck!

**Mr Crane.**

# Year 9 Guided Choices

## Year 9 GCSE Guided Choices Subject Information Evening: Wednesday 17th December

As part of the GCSE Guided Choices process at Sir Harry Smith Community College, we are holding our Subject Information Evening on **Wednesday 17th December**.

**For those students whose surname begins with A-K, the evening will run from 6pm-7pm and for those students whose surname begins with L-Z, the evening will run from 7pm-8pm.**

The evening is an opportunity for students and their parents/carers to find out more information about the GCSE and equivalent courses available and how students can opt to continue their study into Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4).

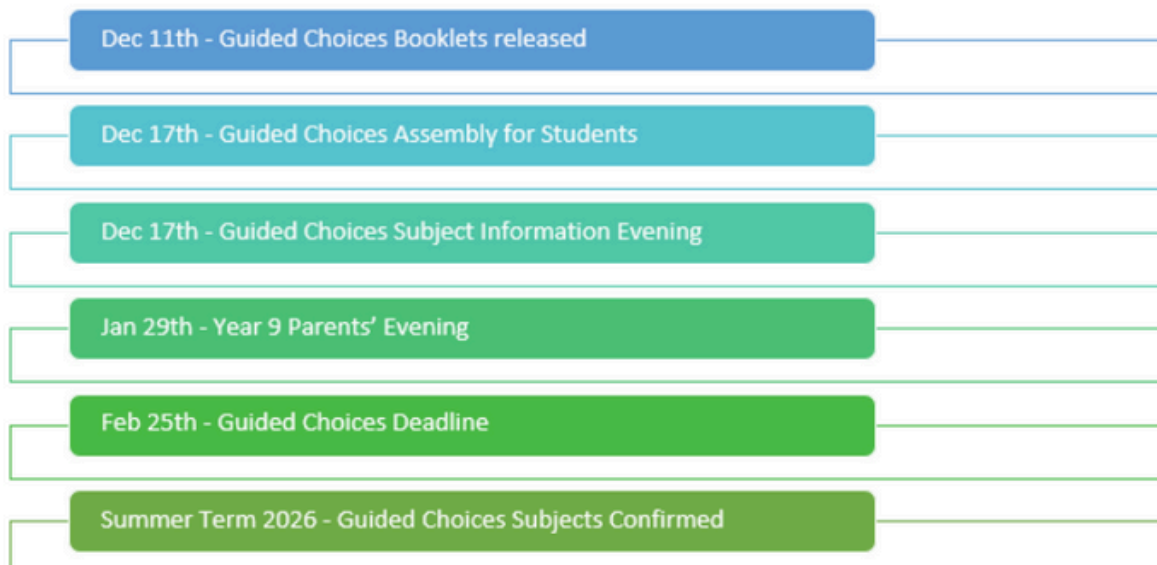
The evening is in addition to the information your child will receive in a Guided Choices assembly and the Guided Choices Student Information Booklet which will be sent electronically before the evening (this will also be available on the College website). The evening will commence with a short presentation in the main hall at either 6pm or 7pm (dependent upon surname), after which students and their parents/carers will be able to meet Curriculum Managers to discuss in more detail the range of courses we have on offer. There will also be an opportunity to discuss any additional queries you may have with our pastoral, support and careers staff.

**Please note that Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 29th January.** This will be an opportunity to talk to individual subject teachers about your child's progress and achievement this year and their suitability for the range of GCSE or equivalent courses, before submitting your son/daughter's final choices online by **Wednesday 25th February**.

Year 9 Progress Checks will be sent home before the Parents' Evening to help inform your discussions with subject teachers.

Mr Holland.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS



# Passport to Prom – 2025/2026

**Date of Prom: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Friday June 2025**

**Venue: Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough**

**Criteria based as of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

**Criteria - The Prom is by invitation only.**

**Attendance – Not less than 96% from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.**



# 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.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Music Evening on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. The concert will take place in the College Hall, beginning at **7pm** and finishing at **approximately 9.00pm**.

This is an informal music evening, designed to give our students the opportunity to showcase the fantastic progress they have made in their musical accolades and to celebrate all the hard work and commitment they have put in over the past term. The concert will feature a variety of performances from students in KS3 and KS4 and there will be a mixture of both festive songs and other popular songs.

**If you would like to attend the concert, tickets are available through Parent Pay.**



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

# Useful Information



Peterborough  
College



Stamford  
College

## POST-16 DECODED

Your A-Z Guide to A Levels, T Levels,  
Diplomas and Apprenticeships

The one event  
Year 11 parents  
and carers  
simply cannot  
afford to miss!



Is the alphabet soup of Post-16 options (A Levels, T Levels, Diplomas, Apprenticeships) leaving you overwhelmed? **Choosing the right path is a huge decision, and you don't have to navigate it alone.**

We are delighted to invite you to a **FREE**, exclusive, one-off event at **Sir Harry Smith Community College**, designed to cut through the confusion and give you the clarity and confidence you need.

We provide a full **A-Z breakdown of every pathway, demystifying the qualifications** so you can guide your child to the best fit for their future.

The unmissable value? Every attendee leaves **empowered with essential, actionable knowledge** for post-16 success! Light refreshments will also be provided.

9 December 2025 | 6.00pm - 7.30pm | Sir Harry Smith Community 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 &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.

