



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30th Jan 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

The time is flying past and we now have just under 2 weeks remaining until the February half-term break. A reminder that students break up on Thursday 12th February with half-term starting on Friday 13th February.

On Thursday 12th February, we will be holding a charity dress down day to raise money for Great Ormond Street, which has been organised by one of our sixth form students. In return for a £1 donation, students can wear appropriate non uniform, and even better if they can wear an item that is pink, purple, red or has hearts on!

On Wednesday a group of students took part in a trip to the Royal Opera House, where they were absolutely captivated by the tragic love story of La Traviata. A huge thank you to Mrs Gray and Mrs Freeman for organising this amazing opportunity.

On Tuesday after school, we took part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch where a group of keen ornithologists joined Mr Cooper and Mr Treliving to record the different species of birds spotted around the school site. Our results will feed into the national survey carried out by the RSPB.

Please see the next page of the newsletter for an additional message about the news this week from the Secretary of State for Education regarding mobile phone policies in schools.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Dawn White
Principal



A Message From The Principal

As I am sure you have heard on the news this week, the Secretary of State for Education has announced that they expect schools to implement a policy whereby students do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

To reinforce the importance of implementation, Ofsted will, for the first time, from June 2026, examine both schools' mobile phone policies and how effectively they are applied when judging behaviour during inspections.

We have considered this guidance and are currently reviewing it alongside our current behaviour policy [Sir Harry Smith Community College - Behaviour Policy](#) (Appendix 3 – Mobile Phone and Handheld Devices Policy 2025 – 2026 for students.)

This term, many of our students have adhered to our current school rules:

“The use of mobile phones and devices during school hours is now completely forbidden, and students found using their mobile phones or devices during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.”

However, unfortunately the college does still have some issues with a small group of students who do not adhere to our current mobile phone policy and in line with the recent guidance from the DfE we will be considering the college's approach to mobile phones.

We do recognise that for some of our students with medical needs, it is essential that they have access to Apps on their devices to monitor their health. We will of course consider any exceptional circumstances under our new agreed policy going forward.

We also recognise that embedding change takes time and effort and I will communicate with you in the very near future about next steps. In the meantime, we please request your continued support to ensure your children adhere to our current policy.

Best wishes,

Dawn White
Principal

Katharine of Aragon Commemoration

Students from Sir Harry Smith attended the commemoration service for Katharine of Aragon today at Peterborough Cathedral today. The students laid a wreath at her tomb as part of the annual service to commemorate Henry VIII's first queen.



Football Season Successes!

Football Results 2025 – Year 7

OPPOSITION	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Kings	1-0 (Win)	Harry Wicks.	Tommy Agger.
COPA	4-3 (Loss)	Jacob Torrington (2), Immah Ganda	Jacob Torrington.
KSA	4-2 (Win)	Jacob Torrington, Tommy Youdale, Jonah Evans, Harry Wicks	Tom Rowden/Emily Gale.
Final Group Position – 2nd!			



Football Results 2025 – Year 8

OPPOSITION	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
TPS	4-0 (Win)	Lucas Cranwell, Tristan Kennedy, Finley Grant (2)	Harry Reed
NPA	2-0 (Loss)		Tristan Kennedy
QKA	3-0 (Win)	Ollie Banks, Harvey Paterson, Finley Grant	
Final Group Position – 2nd!			



Football Results 2025 – Year 9

OPPOSITION	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Kings	3-2 (Loss)	Noah Pillin, Bandile Tota.	Bandile Tota
KSA	1-0 (Loss)		Jensen Fletcher
COPA	3-0 (Win)	Bandile Tota (2), Jimmy Jakes.	Jimmy Jakes & Koby Mason
Final Group Position – 3rd			



Football Results 2025 – Year 10

OPPOSITION	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
TPS	11-0 (Win)	Tommy Stott (5), Presley Doyle (3), Jenson Brannigan, Finley Peters, Caleb Beebe	Tommy Stott/Presley Doyle
NPA	4-1 (Win)	Tommy Stott (2), Finley Peters, Presley Doyle.	Finley Peters
QKA	2-1 (Win)	Tommy Stott (2)	Harry Whitelock/Jacob Gipson
TDA (Semi-final)	5-2 (Win)	Tommy Stott (3) Finley Peters (2)	Caleb Oluchi/Tommy Stott
KSA (Final)	4-1 (Win)	Tommy Stott (2) Finley Peters Presley Doyle	The whole team!
WINNERS!!!!!!			



Football Results 2025 – Year 11

OPPOSITION	SCORE	GOAL SCORERS	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
TPS	4-1 (Win)	Austin Hastings (2), Jack Welsford, Charlie Weston.	Austin Hastings.
SJF	1-1 (Lost on pens)		
Final Group Position – 2nd!			



Royal Opera House Trip - La Traviata

On Wednesday 29th January, students from Years 9–11 visited London's Royal Opera House to watch a performance of *La Traviata*, composed by the Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi. This prestigious venue has hosted many of opera's most famous performers and is a beautiful, ornate building. Students commented on the gold décor and the stately elegance of the rooms.

The opera was performed with two intervals. In the first section, we were introduced to the main characters, Violetta and Alfredo, who quickly fall in love. In the second part, we see how Alfredo's family disapprove of the relationship and the pair are separated. In the final tragic ending, they are reunited with the blessing of the family just as Violetta dies. Wonderfully performed in Italian, the subtitles were very helpful for the audience.

Little more needed to be said to know that students enjoyed the experience, the standing ovation and applause at the end spoke for themselves. We hope to be able to visit again next year!

Special thanks to the The Taylor Family Foundation and The Gerald and Gail Ronson Family Foundation who gave the school a grant to support travel costs.



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE



Big Schools' Birdwatch

On **27th January**, **Emily, Darcy, Barnaby, Oliver, Jack and Jet** proudly took part in the **Big Schools' Birdwatch** on behalf of **Sir Harry Smith**. The Big Schools' Birdwatch is a **national citizen-science event organised by the RSPB**, which encourages schools across the UK to observe, identify and record bird species within their school grounds. The data collected helps conservationists understand how bird populations are changing and supports vital efforts to protect wildlife.

The session was greatly enriched by **Mr Cooper**, a keen and knowledgeable birdwatcher who has seen **over one third of the world's bird species**. He brought along an impressive range of specialist equipment, including **high-quality binoculars and cameras**, giving students the opportunity to observe birds up close and learn how professionals monitor wildlife in the field.

The students had a **fantastic and memorable experience**, successfully identifying a wide variety of birds during the observation period. Species recorded included **15 Woodpeckers, 4 Blackbirds, 1 Carrion Crow, 5 House Sparrows, 12 Starlings, 7 Black-headed Gulls, 5 Blue Tits, 2 Robins, 3 Feral Pigeons, 2 Great Tits and 1 Chaffinch**.

The event not only developed the students' **observation and identification skills**, but also encouraged teamwork, patience and a deeper appreciation of the natural world. Taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch helped inspire a greater understanding of how everyone can play a role in protecting birds and their habitats.



Random Acts of Kindness Week

Random Acts of Kindness Week is a national celebration inspired by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, which promotes the simple idea of *making kindness the norm*. Although Random Acts of Kindness Day falls during half term this year, we are keen not to miss out on this important opportunity to celebrate compassion, empathy and positive behaviour across our school community.

We are delighted to announce that Sir Harry Smith Community College will be hosting a **Random Acts of Kindness Inter-House Competition Week**, running from **Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February**.

Throughout the week, all staff – both teaching and non-teaching – will be fully equipped with **Random Acts of Kindness reward cards**. When they spot a student demonstrating kindness, they will issue a card to recognise that moment. Acts of kindness can be big or small: holding a door open, picking up litter, helping another student, showing good manners, including others, or simply being polite and respectful. As the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation reminds us, *even the smallest kind act can make a big difference*.

Students will be able to exchange their kindness cards for **house points**, contributing to their house total. There will be a **winning house** at the end of the week, as well as **individual prizes** to celebrate those who go above and beyond in spreading kindness.

We look forward to seeing our students embrace the spirit of kindness and help create a positive, supportive environment where everyone feels valued. Let's work together to make kindness the norm at Sir Harry Smith Community College.



Year 11 Revision Sessions

Revision sessions for Year 11 are well under way. Students should check with their subject teachers or form tutors for a full timetable of sessions available to them. Information for after-school sessions available to all students is below.

Yr 11 Revision Timetable

Monday Food Prep - Sherwood German - BL15	Tuesday Sport - GR05 English - OR01	Tuesday Drama - PR05 D&T - Sherwood
Wednesday Science - Cobalt	Thursday Maths - GL01	Friday French - BL12 (Lunchtime) Art - MG09

Sixth Form Summer Ball Fundraiser

After the success of last years' Valentines event we are running it again! If your child would like to take part remind them to bring in their money during the week of Monday 2nd Feb - Friday 6th Feb and order their rose and sweet treat!

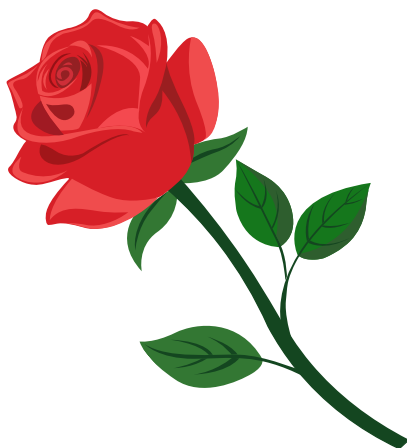
Valentine's Day Fundraiser

To celebrate Valentine's Day on Saturday 14th February the Sixth form Leadership Team are organising a fundraiser.

Help spread some kindness around the school by purchasing a rose and a small sweet treat which will be delivered in secret on Thursday 12th Feb.

Blue 10 will be open every break and lunch from Monday 2nd Feb to Friday 6th Feb so you can make your purchase at the cost of £2.00.

All monies raised goes towards the Sixth Form Summer Ball



Useful Information



The **Year 9 Guided Choices passwords** have been released today. Emails have been sent to parents/carers and to students - these will also appear on your child's Edulink account. The deadline for completion of the online document is **Wednesday 25th February**.

Many thanks for your support, Mr Holland.

Careers Information & Guidance Drop-In Sessions are running in the College Library on **Mondays & Tuesdays, 3.00-4.00pm.**

Please come along if you would like help with: Post-16 & Post-18 Pathways, Apprenticeship & T-Level Routes, applications and CVs.



Selected students from our French Dept have travelled to France **today** and travel home overnight on 2nd February, arriving back at school on **Tuesday 3rd February** at approximately 9am. Have an amazing trip!

Useful Information

6 - 7 February

save the date!


MARKETPLACE ARTS


LIGHT UP THE TOWN


Join us for two **FREE** nights of light and colour celebrating the local environment

Be immersed in this striking visual journey into the hidden world of water. **Water Portals** is an **artwork and video game** by Suffolk artist Henry Driver, inspired by the microbes that live in our rivers, lakes and sea. Explore how these microbes are at risk from climate change, play nature inspired video games, and get hands on with projection art workshops.

 **Friday 6 and Saturday 7 Feb**

 **5 - 8pm**, drop in any time

 **St Mary's Church, Whittlesey,**
6 Manor View, PE7 1TF


 **Free**, no booking required

 **Suitable for all ages**




Get dressed up and join us for a **community light walk** along the heritage trail. Whether you're wearing fairy lights, a fluorescent outfit, glowing accessories or bringing a dog decked out in lights - everyone is welcome. Come and light up the town with us!

 **Friday 6 February only**

 **6pm start**, the route is a 1 km walk which takes roughly 1 hour

 **Meet at The Buttercross, Whittlesey, PE7 1AF** and ending at St Mary's Church

 **Free**, no booking required

 **Suitable for all ages and abilities** - step free route



Key Information

Term Dates

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

SUMMER TERM 2026	
START OF TERM	Monday 13th April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday (college closed)	Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026
Last Day of Term	Friday 17th July 2026
Professional Day (college closed to students)	Monday 20th July 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.

