



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

It is starting to look hopeful that the warmer weather is here to stay! As mentioned last week, the black jumper which students can choose to wear underneath their blazer is optional only for the colder weather. Once students return after the Easter break, the expectation is that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will no longer wear this. Students can however, choose to wear a long or short-sleeved shirt/blouse underneath their blazer.

Thank you to you all for your support of our non-uniform day today in aid of Comic Relief. The final fundraising total is still in the process of being counted and I look forward to sharing this information with you next week.

On the final day of term, Friday 27th March, we will be supporting the National Autistic Society's 'Wear it Blue Day'. Students can wear non-uniform on this day and ideally, something blue, for a £1 donation.

As we approach the final week of term, we have a lot taking place next week with three performances of Oliver Junior by our amazing students. If you haven't yet got your tickets for this, they can be purchased via ParentPay. Students and staff have been working hard and putting in lots of late nights for final rehearsals for what promises to be a spectacular show! Year 10 & 11 Drama students also have a trip to the theatre to watch 'The Woman in Black' on Wednesday and some Year 8 & 9 students will be visiting Peterborough Cathedral.

Next week, we are trialling a new centralised "late to lesson" detention system. Students that were recorded this week as having 10 late to lesson marks or more will be expected to attend a 40-minute detention with the Deputy Principal, Miss Wahlandt, on Tuesday after school. Students will be identified on Monday morning and parents/carers will be notified on Monday afternoon, if this involves their child/children. Staff will also be notified on Monday and will escort the identified students from the end of Period 5 to the gym where the detention will be held. If the detention is not attended, then the student will be placed in their house hub for isolation the next day.

After May half-term, and once Year 11 students have commenced their study leave (the date for which will follow), students in years 7 to 10 will remain part of their current allocated House, however, their form time group will be made up of students from their own year group only. Further information will follow after the Easter break.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Dawn White
Principal



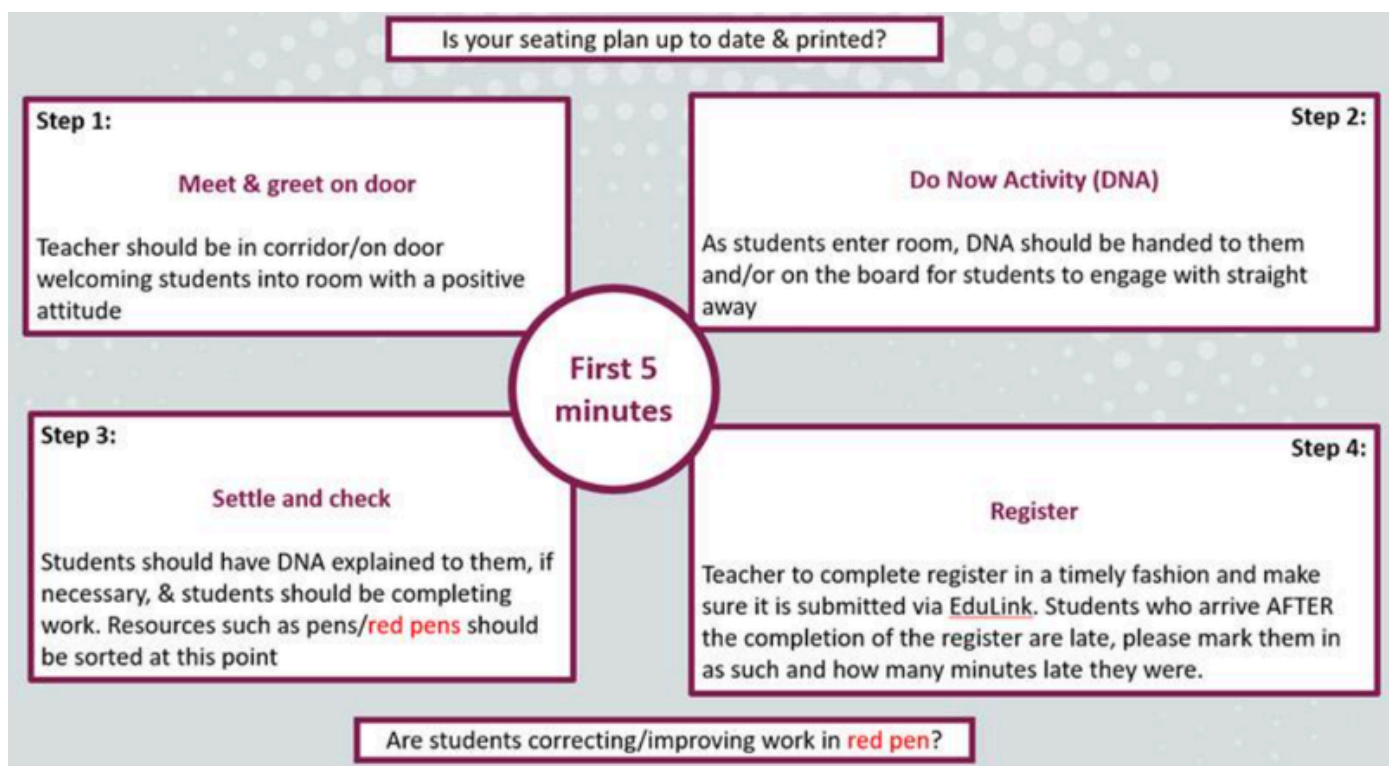
Teaching and Learning

Dear Parent/Carer,

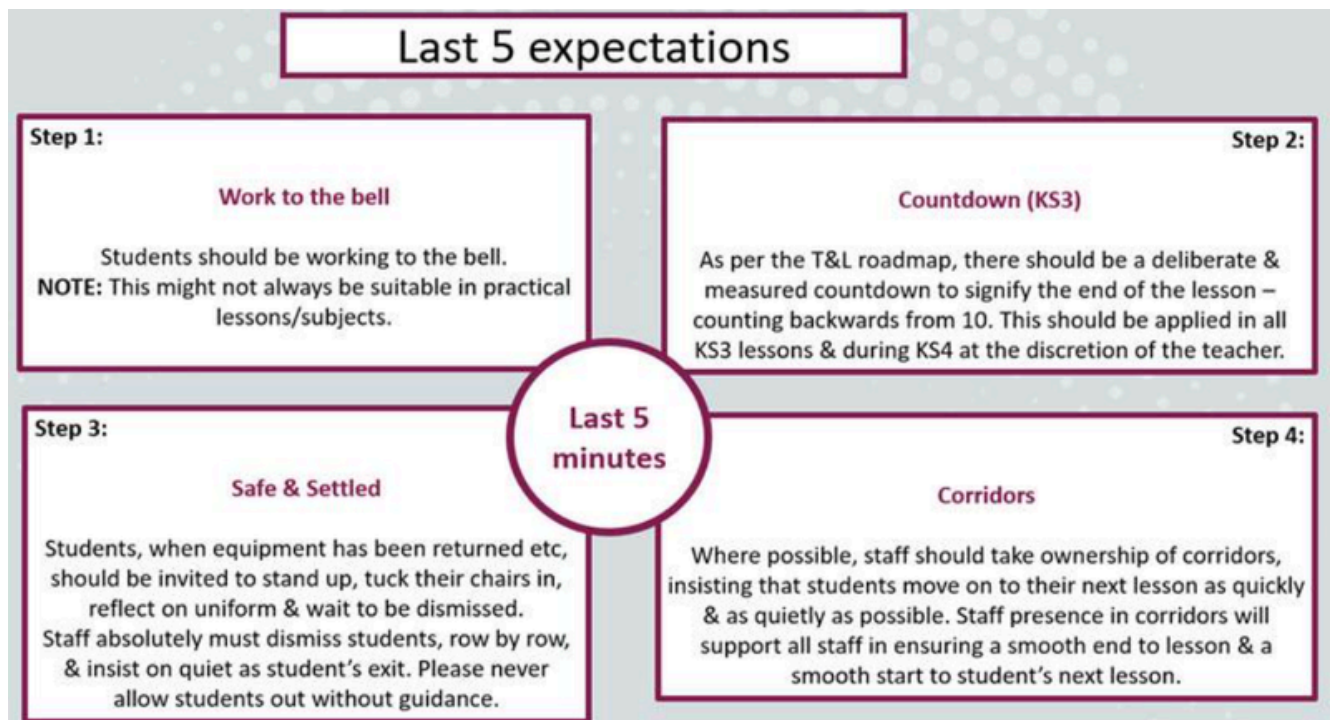
I thought it would be a good opportunity, as we fast approach the Easter break, to discuss with you some of the Teaching and Learning elements we've been working on at Sir Harry's this term in support of your child/children's education.

I'm delighted to see some much-needed consistency in the classrooms regarding T&L expectations & students have been responding well to changes & adaptations to practice. As they say, Rome was not built in a day, and our T&L roadmap will take time to embed & perfect, but I'm pleased to see much progress around the college.

Please find below our expectations surrounding start and end of lesson routines, these help embed good practice, build on sequential knowledge and learning and allow students to know expectations in all lessons. It would be helpful, from the college's perspective, that you discuss this with your child/children to make sure they know what is expected of them. As you'll see from Step 4 of our 'First 5', a timely start to the lesson is very important & student should be making their way to lessons with minimal delay.



Teaching and Learning



Staff are keen to look at ways to improve their own practice. Currently, we are working with all teaching staff on the use of formative and summative assessment to assess progress, whilst also looking to support adapted teaching (so that all learners can achieve and make progress) and challenge in the curriculum. All of this is compiled in our weekly Teaching & Learning bulletins that staff get sent & spend time together to prioritise next steps in their classroom.

All of us here at Sir Harry Smith, appreciate the transformative nature that education can have on the lives of young people, and are constantly striving to do better & to adapt our practice to relevant research & the most up to date teaching methods. I look forward to writing to you again soon with an update on progress and our next steps.

Stevie Thornton
Deputy Principal

Whittlesey Schools Community Belonging & Diversity Group

On Friday 20th March students from Sir Harry Smith Community College, Alderman Jacobs School, Coates School, New Road School and Park Lane School all met up together for the inaugural meeting of the Whittlesey Schools Community Belonging and Diversity Group.

The session was led by Sixth Form Senior Prefects and students took part in a number of activities and scenarios based around diversity and how we can promote belonging for all students in our school community.

Students will continue to meet on a regular basis and are planning on taking part in community based events to promote belonging and diversity not just within schools but within our local community as a whole.



Tip of the Iceberg

Sir Harry Smith welcomed Tip of the Iceberg theatre company in to work with all year groups this week on important topics linked to PSHE and RSHE. All students in KS3 were treated to a full show and then various workshops to support their development on topics linked to anti-bullying, empathy and understanding as well as the dangers of addiction. KS4 students focused on RHSE topics linked to positive, healthy relationships and consent. The team, who run workshops up and down the UK, were incredibly impressed with Sir Harry Smith students and noted how many of them were eager to participate and willing to offer opinions. We will be following up some of the work started in these workshops later in the academic year both in tutor time and future learning opportunities.

Data from sample student voice (300 students):

- **82%** said they found the session/workshop informative
- **82%** enjoyed taking part in the session/workshop
- **94%** understood why it was important to learn about the topic studied
- **94%** think we should do more days at SHS like this to support PSHE/RSHE
- **98%** think it's important to learn about topics linked to staying safe, health, sex & relationships

Stevie Thornton
Deputy Principal



PE Mentor Scheme Resilience Workshop

Our KS3 and KS4 PE Mentor Scheme students recently had a fantastic opportunity to work with international bronze medallist, Danielle Bagacay. Dani delivered an inspiring and engaging session designed to encourage students to believe in themselves and build resilience.

Through a series of fun, interactive fitness challenges, students were pushed to step outside their comfort zones and demonstrate determination, even when tasks became difficult. The focus throughout was on perseverance and the importance of pushing through challenges—both in sport and in everyday life.

Dani shared a powerful message with our students: “Respawn, try again, stronger!”—a reminder that setbacks are simply opportunities to come back with greater strength and resilience.

We are incredibly proud of how our students embraced the session, showing enthusiasm, effort, and a willingness to challenge themselves. We hope they found the experience both enjoyable and motivating, and we look forward to continuing to develop resilience and confidence within our students across the PE Mentor scheme this year.

Miss Ponder.



Visit From Historian, Jackson van Uden

On Friday 13th March, students were lucky to have a visit from award winning historian, political theorist and history podcaster Jackson van Uden. Jackson is a specialist on the life of Katharine of Aragon, as one of the organisers of the Katharine of Aragon festival in Peterborough Cathedral. Jackson spoke first to an assembly of students in Shakespeare House, before speaking to the History students in Sixth Form as well as some Year 11s. Jackson entranced students with the moving and tragic story of Katharine's life, marriage to Arthur and then Henry Tudor, before her abandonment by Henry and death at Kimbolton Castle, before her eventual burial in Peterborough Cathedral.

Students learn about the Tudors and the Reformation in Year 8, as well as touching upon the topics again at GCSE and A-level, so Jackson's speech was a powerful reminder of the links between what students learn at school, and the links between national/international history and our local area.

Students enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet an up-and-coming historian (Jackson has been named in BBC History Extra's 30 Under 30 list as one of the best young historians in the country), and were able to ask lots of interesting questions about his areas of specialism, as well as his wider work as a historian.

We thank Jackson for visiting and would like to welcome him back again.



Young Carers Trip to Cambridge

On Tuesday 17th March, Miss Restaino and I had the privilege of taking 11 of the young carers from our college to the Scott Polar Museum, part of Cambridge University. It was a day packed with discovery, adventure, and a real sense of wonder.

Exploring Cambridge

After arriving in the city, I led the students on a walking tour through the historic heart of Cambridge. We passed many of the iconic university buildings, watched the punts gliding along the river, and paused to share the famous stories behind the Mathematical Bridge.

The group enjoyed seeing several of the Cambridge colleges up close, and we even stopped for lunch along King's Parade — with an enthusiastic search for ice cream afterwards, of course.

Inside the Scott Polar Museum

Our visit to the museum opened up a world of Antarctic exploration. Students examined artefacts from historic expeditions and heard directly from researchers working to protect Antarctica from environmental damage.

One of the highlights was the hands-on session in a real university lecture theatre, where students were able to handle genuine artefacts — including a narwhal tusk taller than any of us. Being in that academic setting made the experience feel even more special.

Looking Ahead

I hope to share a student's perspective on the trip soon, as their excitement and curiosity were at the heart of what made the day so memorable.

Mr White.



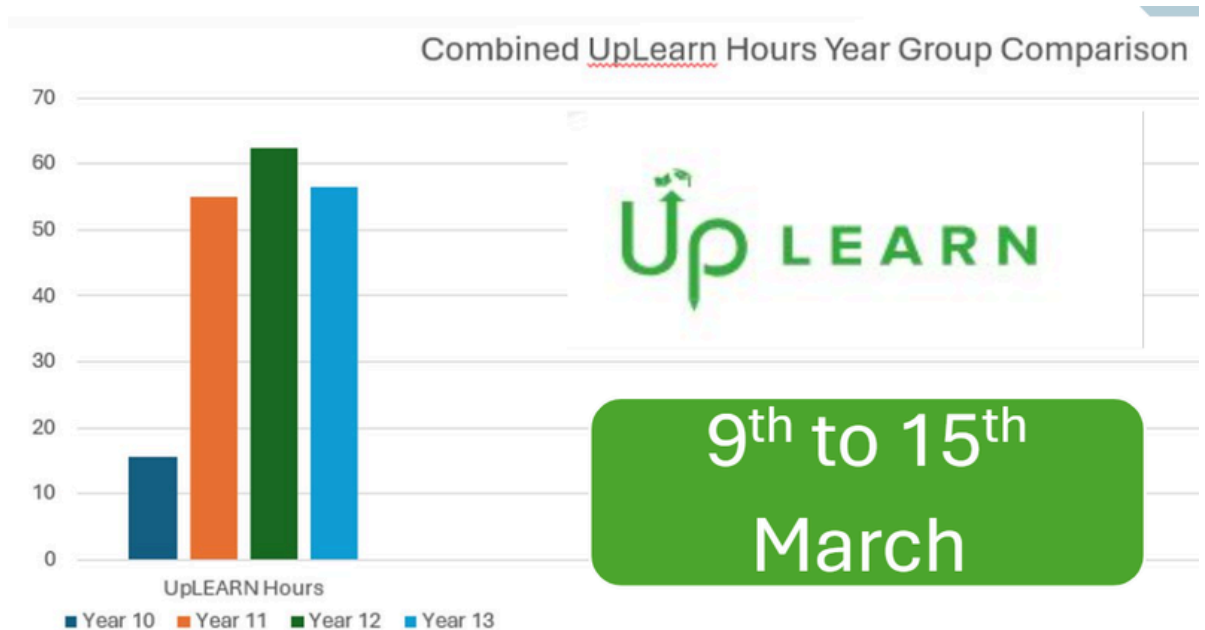
Scott
Polar
Research
Institute

UpLearn Champions

UpLearn is tutoring programme for GCSE & ALevel Science, which we are offering to our students. UpLearn delivers a unique formula of learning journeys founded in cognitive science and tailored using adaptive technology, with exceptional content spanning the entire curriculum from start to finish. It's not just about completing sections – mastery is what makes the learning stick and supercharges the path to great grades.

Students are able to track their progress, understand topics covered and mastered, identify strengths and easily spot areas that need extra focus. Last week's champions are below - fantastic work!

Mr Smith.



Up LEARN CHAMPIONS

Keep climbing! Next update in 7 days
Ranked on sections mastered each week

RANK	STUDENT NAME	SECTIONS MASTERED
1	Amelie FT (Yr 10)	26
2	Kait C (Yr 13)	14
3	Elizabeth S (Yr 13)	12
4.	Sam K (Yr 12)	11
5.	Ethan L (Yr 11)	9

Careers Fair - Can You Help?

As a part of our Careers Information and Guidance programme we are planning to hold a Careers Fair on **Thursday 9th July 2026**. It will be open to all of our students throughout the day between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

In order to provide our students with as much information and guidance as possible we would like a very wide range of organisations to be present, covering FE and HE opportunities, apprenticeships, employment, traineeships, technical qualification providers, different career sectors and pathways, and work experience and gap year information.

We wondered if any of our parents/carers would be able to send a representative/s from their organisation to attend our Careers Fair to offer guidance to our students and help them with their future plans.

If you feel the organisation you work for could help, please contact our Careers Coordinator, Angela Curtis: acurtis@sirharrysmith.com or 01733 703991.

It would be fantastic to see you there!



Useful Information

Dates for your diary:



We are pleased to announce that tickets are now on sale for our upcoming production of Oliver JR. Tickets can be purchased via ParentPay or directly through our reception.

Performances will be on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th & Thursday 26th March.

Tickets:

- **Adults: £10.00**
- **Students/ Concessions: £6.50**
- **Family Ticket (2 Adults/ 2 Children): £32.50**

The production will begin at **7:00pm**, with doors opening at **6:30pm**. Refreshments will be available before the show and during the interval.

On **Friday 27th March** students are invited to wear blue to raise money for Autism Awareness. Students should bring a £1 donation.



30th June – Art Exhibition

Our fabulous Art Exhibition will showcase our students' wonderful artistic achievements from this year.

Useful Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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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.

