



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

It is good to see students back in school after what I hope was a restful Easter break for all. It has been a busy start to the Summer Term already! A group of excited students went to Wembley on Tuesday evening to watch the England Lionesses beat Spain 1:0! On Wednesday, a group of Year 7 and 8 Students had the opportunity to visit The Inspiration Lab at a state-of-the-art global science research and development facility located in the heart of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Students had the opportunity to tour the facility and learn how medicines are researched and tested. This was an incredible opportunity and we are very grateful to AstraZeneca for facilitating this.

Year 9 students have started their mock exam period and this will continue next week. This is an excellent opportunity for students to begin to experience exams in a formal setting in preparation for their GCSEs at the end of Year 11. The formal exam period for Year 11 and year 13 students is fast approaching with Year 11 drama students having had their practical exam this week already! Outstanding attendance is especially critical for these year groups, with every lesson counting in the run up to exams. Please encourage your child/ren to take advantage of the many revision sessions that we have on offer.

As you are already aware, the college closes early to staff and students on the last day of the Autumn and Summer Terms. Moving forwards, the finish time on these days will be at the end of period 3, i.e. at 12.20pm and not 1.20pm as on previous occasions. While we appreciate the 17<sup>th</sup> July is a few months away still, we wanted to give you ample notice of this to allow you to plan accordingly. As of the school year 2026/27, we will also finish at this earlier time at the end of the Spring Term too. Students who travel via Local Authority school transport will be collected at this time.

Best wishes for the weekend.

*Dawn White*  
*Principal*



# AstraZeneca Trip

Students had the opportunity this week to visit The Inspiration Lab at a state-of-the-art global science research and development facility located in the heart of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

Cambridge, one of the most exciting bioscience hotspots in the world, is home to the largest UK research and development centre – The DISC. Here more than 2,000 scientists work in drug discovery and development, across our therapy areas, each playing a central role in our mission to deliver life-changing medicines to patients.

Students toured the facility, learning how medicines are researched and tested. They also worked in the laboratory carrying out an experiment on chromatography. Students had a great day and the experience complemented their science provision in school.



# Wembley Trip - European Champions v World Champions

Possibly the toughest test our Lionesses will face while attempting an unprecedented three straight European Championships, this fixture promised to be a memorable occasion—and it certainly delivered. Some of our football team representatives attended the England Lionesses v Spain European qualifier match at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday 14th March.

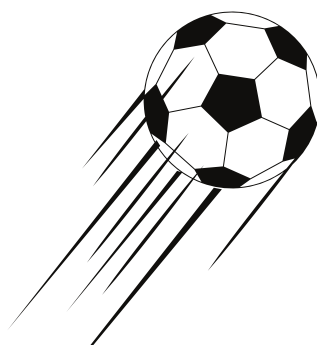
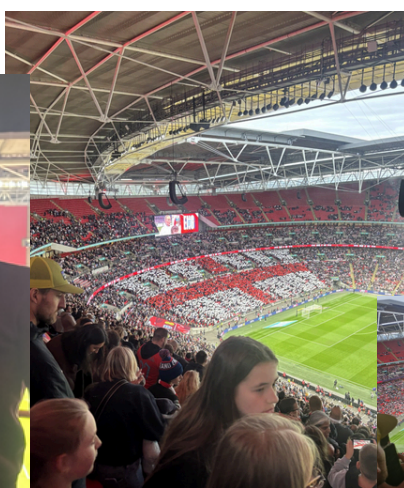
The atmosphere inside the stadium was electric from the moment we took our seats. With thousands of fans proudly wearing England colours and waving flags, the sense of anticipation built as kick-off approached. The opportunity to watch world-class players compete at the highest level was inspiring for everyone in attendance, particularly for our aspiring footballers.

Throughout the match, students were fully engaged, analysing the pace, skill, and tactical awareness on display. Spain proved to be a strong and technically gifted opponent, making it a thrilling and competitive game that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The determination and teamwork shown by the Lionesses highlighted exactly what it takes to perform on the international stage.

Beyond the football itself, the trip provided a fantastic opportunity for students to bond, share experiences, and represent the school with pride. It was a memorable evening that will no doubt motivate many of our players to continue developing their own skills and passion for the game.

A huge thank you goes to the staff who attended the trip and made this incredible experience possible. We look forward to many more opportunities like this in the future.

**Mr Smith.**



# Staff Dodgeball Match 2026

On the last day of the Spring Term, nine brave members of staff took part in the staff bench ball and dodgeball competition. A great time was had by all, and it was a lovely way to finish the term. MVP has to go to Mr Rothery, who no one managed to get out in the Dodgeball competition (despite trying our hardest!)

The next staff sports events are being lined up for the summer term and will be the annual staff tennis competition (can the winners retain their title this year?) as well as an exciting new event - Staff Rounders!



# Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a rich and varied choice of extra-curricular activities available both at lunchtime and after school. During lunch, pupils can join clubs that foster creative, academic and sporting interests—such as music meet-ups, computing and informal sports or fitness challenges. After school, the programme expands further with structured opportunities in team sports, performing arts (drama, choir and band), academic enrichment (e.g. homework support, subject-based clubs), and leadership or service initiatives. These activities not only give students time to pursue interests outside the curriculum, but also help build friendships, confidence, and skills such as teamwork, time management and self-expression.

All activities are free of charge (except swimming at The Manor Leisure Centre)

Students to just come along (unless stated on the activity)

## Extra Curricular Activities Summer Term 2026

LUNCHTIME CLUBS	
<b>MONDAY LUNCHTIME</b>	
Performance	Practice rooms available
Christian Union	Mrs Grey - Olive 5
SSD Homework Club	Mrs Grant - Yellow 11
Multifaith Prayer Room	Purple 15
<b>TUESDAY LUNCHTIME</b>	
Performance	Practice rooms available
SSD Homework Club	Mrs Grant - Yellow 11
Multifaith Prayer Room	Purple 15
Pokemon	Mrs Cutler - Blue 32
Debate Club	Mrs Ibrahim - Orange 05
<b>WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME</b>	
Basketball (KS3)	Miss Tyson
SSD Homework Club	Mrs Grant - Yellow 11
Multifaith Prayer Room	Purple 15
<b>THURSDAY LUNCHTIME</b>	
Choir	Olive 5
Volleyball	Miss Ponder
Pokemon	Mr Ashworth Gold 21
SSD Homework Club	Mrs Grant - Yellow 11
Multifaith Prayer Room	Purple 15
<b>FRIDAY LUNCHTIME</b>	
Basketball (KS4)	Miss Tyson
SSD Homework Club	Mrs Grant - Yellow 11
Multifaith Prayer Room	Purple 15
Djembe Drumming Club (Year 7)	Olive 5

# Extra-Curricular Activities

## Extra Curricular Activities Summer Term 2026

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS	
<u>MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL</u>	
Trampolining	Miss <u>Ponder</u> - Gym
<u>AJS Astro</u> (small)	
Netball Recreation	Miss Tyson & Miss Lee
Creative Writing	Library until 4:00pm
<u>TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL</u>	
Cricket	Mr <u>Rothery</u>
Tennis	Mr <u>Tymon</u>
Cheerleading	Miss <u>Ponder</u> - Gym
Year 11 R186 Intervention	Miss Tyson & Ms Hunt - Gold 03
PE Department Detentions	Miss Tyson - Gold 03
Homework Club	Library until 4:15pm
<u>WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL</u>	
<u>Warhammer</u>	Mr Curtis Colbalt
Science Revision (Year 11)	<u>Colbalt</u>
School Band	Olive 5 & 10
Homework Club	Library until 4:15pm
<u>THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL</u>	
Athletics	Mr Smith & Miss Goodall
Rounders	Ms Hunt
Year 10 R184 Intervention	Mr <u>Tymon</u> - Gold 03
Art Club (KS3)	Miss Aldis - Magenta 07/09
Maths Revision	Gold 01
Dungeons & Dragons	Gold 19
Homework Club	Library until 4:15pm
Book Club	Library until 4:00pm
<u>FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL</u>	
PE Staff & 6th form use of facilities	
Swimming at the Manor Leisure Centre	(3:30pm to 4:30pm) <i>This will be at the discounted price of £2.90</i>

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:acurtis@sirharrysmith.com) or 01733 703991.**

It would be fantastic to see you there!



# Whittlesey Tennis Club at the Manor

Please see the below information from Whittlesey Tennis Club:

**FREE** Tennis coaching for juniors!

Very cheap membership for adults.

Parent(s) or guardian joins the club for **£20** annual subscription.

This enables the family to access the following sessions;

**Mondays** at 4.30pm until 5.30pm primary & secondary school age **FREE** coaching. Then 5.30 until dusk **FREE** club session for adult members (14 and over).

**Wednesdays** 5.30 until dusk **FREE** club session for adult members (14 and over).

**Thursdays** at 4.30pm until 5.30pm secondary school age **FREE** coaching.

**Saturdays** 1pm until 4pm **FREE** club session for adult members (14 and over).

**Sundays** 10 am until 2pm **FREE** club session for adult members (14 and over).

Be aware that in the summer some Mondays and Wednesdays are taken by the teams playing local league matches and in the winter these matches are during the Sunday morning session.

To join email club secretary Peter Bibb on [bbibbs@talktalk.net](mailto:bbibbs@talktalk.net) and ask for a membership form. Please put “**Tennis Membership**” in the title.



# Useful Information



## 21<sup>st</sup> April - Parent Forum Meeting

Our next Parent Forum Meeting will be at 6.00pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

## 30th June – Art Exhibition

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



## 7th July – Sports Awards

A celebration of sporting success at Sir Harry Smith this year, with guest speaker **Mark Sagers – former England hockey player, talkSPORT presenter and BBC broadcaster**. Mark has interviewed some of the very best, including Muhammad Ali and Tiger Woods, and is a wonderfully entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. He has covered all of the major sporting events worldwide including several World Cups, International Cricket and won a Sony Award for his work on the Grand National that never was.

## 8th July – Summer Concert

Our musicians will showcase their talent one final time this year.



# 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 SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

### 1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

### 2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

### 3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

### 4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

### 5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

### 6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

### 7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school, whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

### 8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

### 9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

### 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

### Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at:

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/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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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.

