



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

22nd May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

What glorious weather to end this half-term on and move into the half-term break!

Students this afternoon have spent time with their new form tutor and fellow tutor group students getting to know one another in preparation for the return after half term. Within this week's newsletter, you will see welcomes from Mr Rothery and Mr Tymon, our Pastoral Leads and Miss Izatt and Miss Jones, our Heads of Year, introducing themselves and their roles. After the half-term break, students will have an assembly with their new Head of Year.

I am excited to report that some of our students have had local sporting success in football with the Y7 Whittlesey U12 Blues and Y10 Whittlesey U15 Blacks both winning the double! Congratulations to them all, this is an excellent achievement!

We have been extremely fortunate to receive a generous donation of first aid equipment from Cambridgeshire County Council, including training defibs and CPR mannequins. Mrs Gosling, our First Aider, will be running First Aid training sessions as an after school club for those students interested in learning these life-saving skills. If your child would be interested in taking part in this, please ask them to put their name down with her.

Year 11 students have now commenced their study leave for the remainder of the exam period. I am proud of the hard work and commitment that they and our Year 13 students are displaying at this important time. Students in Years 10 and 12 will shortly be receiving their mock exam timetables in preparation for their summer mock exam period. We are excited that Year 12 students, for the first time at the college, will be embarking on work experience once we return after half-term.

I would like to wish you all a relaxing half-term break. Enjoy the amazing weather that is forecast! I look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Best wishes,

*Dawn White*  
*Principal*



# Introducing Our New Pastoral Team

## **Mr A Rothery - Pastoral Lead for Year 7, 8 & 11**

Hi, I'm Mr Rothery and some of you will know me as the current head of Curie house. I will be stepping into one of the Pastoral Lead roles as part of the new pastoral structure. I have been working at Sir Harry Smith now as a Head of Year/House for around nine years and I am excited for the next step. My role will be overseeing Years 7, 8 and 11. I am looking forward to supporting them to achieve their very best and to keep providing them with as many opportunities to thrive as possible.

School is a rollercoaster, and we will be here to support and guide them along the way. I look forward to working with you to support them with enjoying this journey whilst also making it a successful one.



## **Mr F Tymon - Pastoral Lead for Year 9 & 10**

I would like to introduce myself to you all. I am Mr Tymon and currently the Acting Head of Shakespeare.

I am delighted to be taking on the role of Pastoral Lead, responsible for Years 9 and 10 as we move into the summer term and next academic year. I am passionate about supporting students to achieve success both inside and outside the classroom, and I look forward to working closely with students, families, and staff to ensure every student feels supported, valued, and encouraged to achieve their very best.



# Introducing Our New Pastoral Team

## **Miss Jones - Head of Year 7 (Temporary Head of Year 10)**

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Head of Year for our current Year 7 students as they move into Year 8. I will also be taking on the role of temporary Head of Year for the current Year 10 as they move into Year 11. I feel excited to step into this position, and I am excited to help our students as they grow, learn, and take on new challenges.

In these roles, I will be working closely with colleagues to help students feel understood and equipped to succeed by monitoring the progress and development of students within the year group. As a Head of Year, I will take the lead in identifying students who would benefit from additional support with regard to attendance, achievement, or behaviour, and we work together to ensure the right interventions are put in place. Through the Pastoral Hub, we aim to provide consistency for all.

Our work is aligned with the school's wider aims and plans and together, we are committed to creating a positive, inclusive place where all students can feel a strong sense of belonging.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to a successful year ahead.

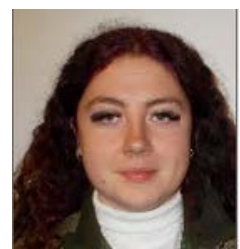


## **Miss Izatt - Head of Year 8 (Temporary Head of Year 9)**

My name is Miss Izatt and I would like to introduce myself to you as the Head of Year for the current Year 8s (moving to Year 9 in September) and as Temporary Head of Year for current Year 9s (moving to Year 10 in September). I am very motivated in making sure that attendance is outstanding, and attitudes to learning are positive to ensure that all students can meet their full potential. With the upcoming Year 10s, it will be the start of their GCSE year so support and advice will be key for them.

I look forward to working with both year groups, supporting, as well as monitoring the standards of progress, attendance, punctuality, behaviour and welfare within their year groups, regularly communicating with you as parents and carers. My work will also include liaising with staff across the college to make sure that every child has access to the curriculum and ensuring that they are making progress.

I look forward to supporting and guiding the students within my year groups.



# Testimony 360: Holocaust Educational Trust

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 60 Year 9s were selected to take part in a special virtual reality session, delivered by representatives from the Holocaust Educational Trust. Using the latest virtual reality technology, students learned about the story of Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg and his experience of life in Germany as a young Jewish boy, before the deportation of him and his family to Stutthof concentration camp, where his brother was murdered.

Although Manfred died last year, students were able to listen to his words while being virtually transported to locations throughout his life, such as the street where he grew up, Stutthof concentration camp, and eventually his living room, filled with photographs and memories of his life and his family. Students were able to use the latest technology to ask questions to an avatar of Manfred, who recorded thousands of responses to questions before he died, allowing his testimony to live on beyond his life.

Overall, students and staff alike found the experience extremely powerful and moving. Mr Tomlin would like to thank Donna and Laurie from the Holocaust Educational Trust for giving up their time to give our students such a valuable experience.

**The History Dept.**

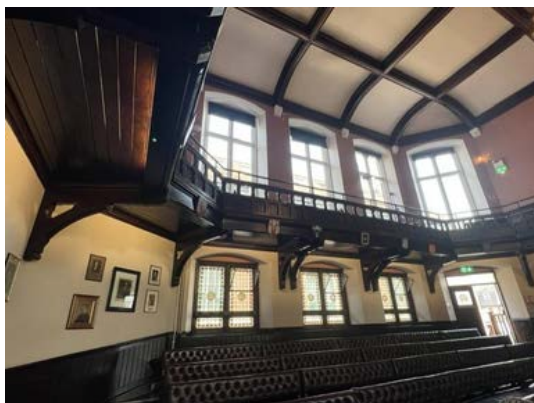


# Cambridge Literary Festival

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, selected Year 10 students visited Cambridge Union Debate Hall to listen to a poetry reading and Q&A with Scottish Poet Jackie Kay. From 2016 to 2021, Jackie Kay was the Makar, the poet laureate of Scotland. Jackie Kay is known for her works *Other Lovers*, *Trumpet* and *Red Dust Road*, some of which she read from to the students.

The Debating Hall itself was an amazing building for students to visit. Founded in 1815, it has welcomed speakers such as Winston Churchill, Sir Ian McKellan, Stephen Hawking, Theodore Roosevelt and The Dalai Lama. It was a privilege to attend an event there.

The event was organised by Cambridge University's Trinity College as part of the Cambridge Literary Festival. It was inspired by The Litmus School Writing Project - which opens up different themes to students. Jackie read from her newest book *May Day*, which casts an eye over several decades of political activism and re-instates the unique role that poetry can play in answering some important questions. All students received a free signed copy of one of Jackie's books.



# Thank You to Cambridgeshire County Council

The college would like to extend a huge thank you to Cambridgeshire County Council for their incredibly generous donation of medical training supplies.

The donation included choke vests, Resusci Annies, practice defibrillators, bandages, and realistic fake wounds, all of which will make a significant difference to the opportunities we can offer our students.

These resources will be used to help launch a new series of certificated first aid courses and enrichment clubs, giving students the chance to develop valuable practical skills and confidence in emergency first aid situations. The equipment will allow students to take part in realistic, hands-on training and gain experience using professional-standard resources.

This support will have a lasting impact on our school community and help equip students with important life-saving skills for the future. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and community spirit shown by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Any student that would be interested achieving this certificate should email: [JGosling@sirharrysmith.com](mailto:JGosling@sirharrysmith.com)



# British Sign Language (BSL) in the Supportive Skills Department

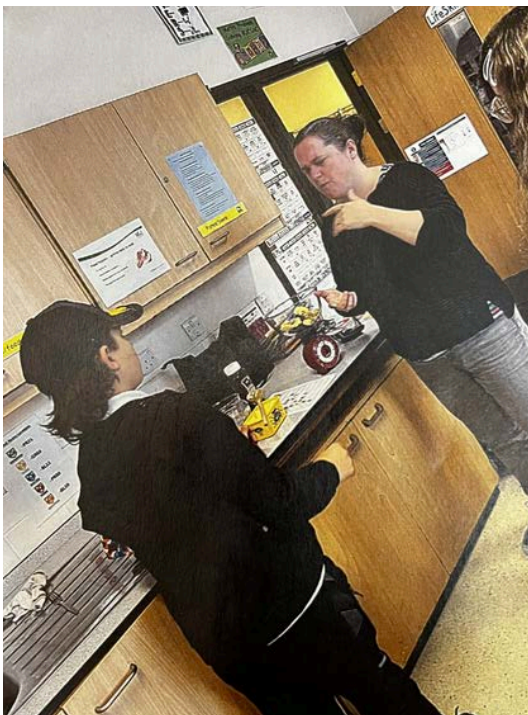
We are proud to offer British Sign Language (BSL) sessions through our Supportive Skills Department, providing pupils with a valuable opportunity to develop both their communication skills and their understanding of inclusion. Through these lessons, students are learning how to communicate using key signs, greetings and everyday phrases. This not only builds a practical new skill, but also helps them to appreciate different ways of communicating and the importance of making interactions accessible for everyone.

The impact of the sessions has been extremely positive. Students have shown growing confidence in using BSL, both within lessons and when interacting with others around the school. Many have demonstrated increased self-assurance when performing signs, and a real sense of pride in acquiring a new language.

Importantly, these lessons are also fostering empathy and awareness. Pupils are developing a deeper understanding of how small adjustments can make a big difference in helping others to feel included, valued and able to communicate effectively.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by students so far and look forward to continuing to develop this offer, giving more pupils the opportunity to gain this meaningful and lifelong skill.

**Mrs Hunter.**



# Pride in Work: Design Technology

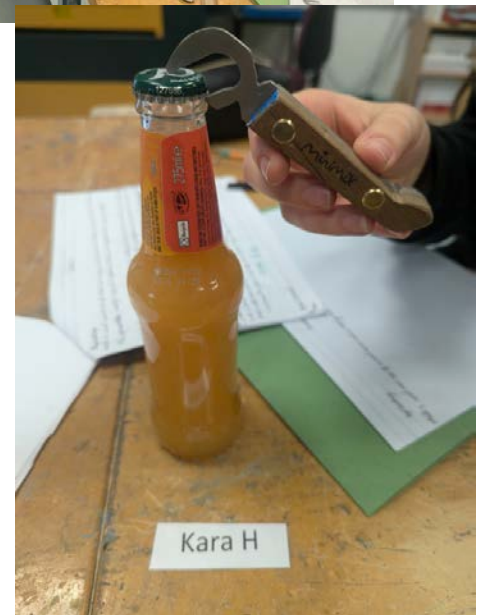
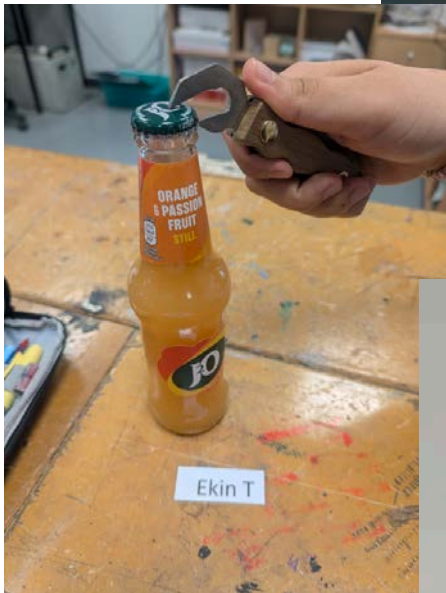
The DT Department would like to share some great design practice from both Year 10 and Year 12 pupils.

Year 10 have been working hard on designing, developing and manufacturing their steel and wooden bottle openers.

Bea C in Year 12 has also designed and manufactured a really nice Charles Rennie Makintosh inspired Bluetooth speaker.

Well done to all our tech students!

**Mr Wales.**



# Primary Football Festival

Our sports leaders were once again fabulous at our Year 3 and 4 boys' Primary Football Festival.

There is lots to do before the festival even starts; checking the goals are safe, creating 3 equal sized pitches, setting out the score table and practicing using the whistle ready for clear refereeing decisions. During the event their skills are used to warm up the teams and then referee and score the games or time and record the scores on the score table. All amazing skills that can be used outside of sport.

Well done to you all, we couldn't run these events without you.

The winning primary school team today was Coates.

**Mrs Hunt.**



# Whittlesey Juniors U12 Blue Complete the Double!

Whittlesey Juniors U12 Blue capped off an incredible season by winning the Hunts Youth League U12 Cup Final after an incredible penalty shootout victory and have been crowned league champions, completing an impressive league and cup double this season.

The team won 19 of their 25 matches, scoring a remarkable 96 goals across the season, underlining what has been a fantastic campaign from start to finish.

Congratulations to our Year 7s Harry, Isaac, Jacob, Jonah, Ollie, Zac, Zach, and all of their teammates on an outstanding achievement and a season to remember.



# Whittlesey Juniors U15 Black Complete the Double As Well!

Congratulations to Whittlesey Juniors U15 Black on another big win! They won their league undefeated with three games still to be played with 17 points clear!

They then qualified for the cup and went on to play Sandy in the final, winning 3-0 on the 22nd April.

Congratulations to our Year 10s: Alfie C, Jack S, Finley P, Thomas H, Harry W, Presley D, Jacob G, Jacko K, Ripley N, Jaiden R, Zach S, and all their teammates on a fantastic season!



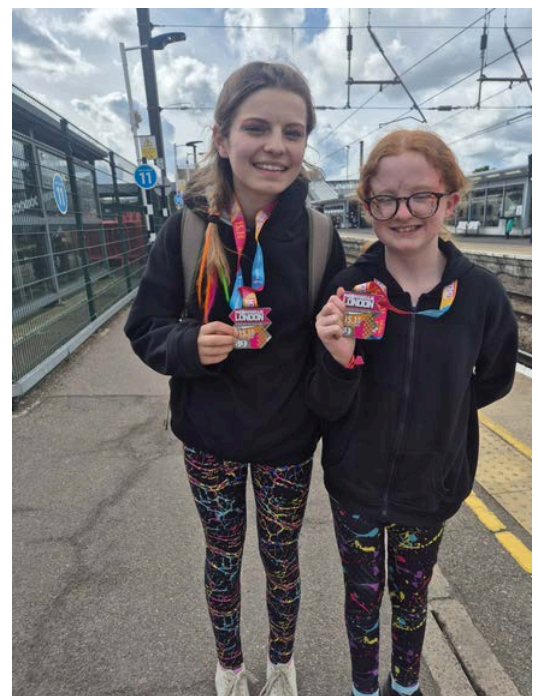
# Student Success: Moonwalk Challenge

On the 16th May, Lola and Libby in Year 9, part of "The Sassy Steppers", took on the MoonWalk Challenge, walking 15.1 miles through the streets of London in the middle of the night.

They raised £980 for breast cancer charities based here in the UK.

The MoonWalk London is a significant event in the fight against breast cancer, with participants donning neon fancy dress to raise awareness and funds for cancer causes. The event has been a staple of the Walk the Walk charity, which has raised over £143 million for breast cancer prevention, research, and support.

Well done girls - we are really proud of you!



# Student Success: Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to Elliott on completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award through cadets.

Elliott completed his volunteering with the Royal Anglia Regiment Museum at Duxford. He helps on the stall at the airshows - talking about all the artefacts. He was there again for the airshow on 9th May 2026, so he has carried on his volunteering.

Well done Elliott - we are really proud of you!



# Year 11 Exam Season

Written examinations are well under way - please find below a copy of the exam timetable, for your reference.

Mrs Reed.

Summer 2026 Exam Timetable GCSE								
Week	Date	Morning - 9am	Duration	Level	Afternoon - 1:10pm	Duration	Level	
Wk A	13th April	GCSE Drama Prep & Music Composition - All Day						
Wk A	14th April	GCSE Drama Prep - All Day						
Wk A	15th April	GCSE Drama Exam - All Day						
Wk A	16th April	GCSE Music Composition - All Day						
	21st April	Deadline to withdraw / change tier and be refunded						
Wk B	22nd April	GCSE Polish Speaking Exam						
Wk B	23rd April	GCSE Turkish Speaking Exam						
Wk B	24th April	GCSE Art Exam - All Day						
Wk A	27th April	GCSE Art & MFL Speaking Exams - All Day						
Wk A	28th April	GCSE MFL Speaking Exams - All Day						
Wk A	29th April	GCSE MFL Speaking, ALevel French & Spanish Speaking & ALevel Art Exams - All Day						
Wk A	30th April	GCSE MFL Speaking & ALevel Art Exams - All Day						
Wk A	1st May	GCSE MFL Speaking & ALevel Art Exams - All Day						
4th May		May Day Bank Holiday						
Wk B	5th May	3DD Exam - All Day						
Wk B	6th May	3DD Exam - All Day						
Wk B	7th May	Turkish L&R - H	1hr 50	GCSE	Citizenship	1hr 45	GCSE	
					German L&R	1hr 20 / 1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk B	8th May	Sport - R1B4	1hr 15	Camb Nat	Drama	1hr 30	GCSE	
		Sociology	1hr 45	GCSE				
Wk A	11th May	English Literature	1hr 45	GCSE	Business	1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk A	12th May				Biology	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE	
Wk A	13th May	Geography	1hr 30	GCSE				
Wk A	14th May	Maths	1hr 30	GCSE	Citizenship	1hr 45	GCSE	
					German Writing	1hr 15 / 10	GCSE	
Wk A	15th May	History	1hr 20	GCSE	Sociology	1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk B	18th May	Chemistry	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE				
Wk B	19th May	English Literature	2hrs 15	GCSE	Child Development - RO57	1hr 15	Camb Nat	
Wk B	20th May	French L&R	1hr 20 / 1hr 45	GCSE	Enterprise & Marketing - RO67	1hr 15	Camb Nat	
Wk B	21st May	English Language	1hr 45	GCSE	Business	1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk B	22nd May	Turkish Writing	1hr 25	GCSE				
Half Term								
Wk A	1st June	Japanese L&R	1hr50	GCSE				
Wk A	2nd June	Physics	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE	Polish L&R	1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk A	3rd June	Maths	1hr 30	GCSE	Geography	1hr 30	GCSE	
Wk A	4th June	History	1hr 50	GCSE	French Writing	1hr 15 / 1hr 10	GCSE	
Wk A	5th June	English Language	1hr 45	GCSE	Music	1hr 15	GCSE	
Wk B	8th June	Biology	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE				
Wk B	9th June	Japanese Writing	1hr 25	GCSE	History	1hr 30	GCSE	
Wk B	10th June	Maths	1hr 30	GCSE	DT	2hrs	GCSE	
Wk B	11th June	Geography	1hr 30	GCSE	Food	1hr 45	GCSE	
Wk B	12th June	Chemistry	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE	Polish Writing	1hr 15	GCSE	
					Dance	1hr 30	GCSE	
Wk A	15th June	Physics	1hr 45 / 1hr 15	GCSE				

# Year 13 Exam Season

A-level examinations have begun this week - please find below a copy of the exam timetable, for your reference.

Mrs Reed.

## Summer 2026 Exam Timetable A-Level

Week	Date	Morning - 9am	Duration	Level	Afternoon - 1:10pm	Duration	Level
	21st April	Deadline to withdraw / change tier and be refunded					
4th June		May Day Bank Holiday					
Wk A	12th May	Geography	2hrs 15	Alevel			
Wk A	13th May	Eng Lit	3hrs	Alevel	Business	2hrs	Alevel
					Sport - Unit 1	1hr 30	BTEC
Wk A	14th May				Media	2hrs 15	Alevel
Wk A	15th May	Psychology	2hrs	Alevel			
Wk B	18th May	Sociology	1hr 30	Alevel			
Wk B	19th May	Business	2hrs	Alevel	History	2hrs 30	Alevel
					Arabic	2hrs 30	Alevel
Wk B	20th May	Psychology	2hrs	Alevel	Physics	2hrs 15	Alevel
Wk B	21st May				Geography	2hrs 15	Alevel
Wk B	22nd May	D&T	2hrs 30	Alevel			
		Half Term					
Wk A	1st June	English Literatu	2hrs 30	Alevel			
		Physics	2hrs 15	Alevel			
		Arabic	2hrs 40	Alevel			
Wk A	2nd June	Chemistry	2hrs	Alevel	History	1hr 30	Alevel
Wk A	3rd June	Sociology	2hrs 15	Alevel	Maths	2hrs	Alevel
Wk A	4th June	Spanish LRW	2hrs 30	Alevel	Biology	2hrs 15	Alevel
		Religious	2hrs	Alevel	Media	2hrs 30	Alevel
Wk A	5th June	Psychology	2hrs	Alevel			
Wk B	8th June	French LRW	2hrs 30	Alevel	Geography	2hrs 15	Alevel
		Physics	1hr 30	Alevel			
Wk B	9th June	Chemistry	2hrs	Alevel	Business	2hrs	Alevel
		Religious	2hrs	Alevel			
Wk B	10th June	DT	1hr 30	Alevel			
Wk B	11th June	History	1hr	Alevel	Maths	2hrs	Alevel
		Arabic	2hrs 15	Alevel			
Wk B	12th June	Biology	2hrs 15	Alevel	Spanish Writing	2hrs	Alevel
					Sociology	2hrs 15	Alevel
Wk A	15th June	Chemistry	2hrs	Alevel	Religious	2hrs	Alevel
Wk A	16th June	Biology	1hr 30	Alevel			
Wk A	17th June	French Writing	2hrs	Alevel			
Wk A	18th June				Maths	2hrs	Alevel
	24th June	Contingency Day					
	1st July	Special Considerations Deadline Day					
	13th Augus	Alevel Results Day					

# Useful Information



To celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough** on 8<sup>th</sup> May, the Social Science department ran a competition to come up with an idea for a documentary. Congratulations to our winner **Misha S** who has won an Amazon voucher for coming up with a fabulous idea for a documentary about the Artemis 2 mission. Our runners up were **Sienna F, Addison G and Katie L**, who had a very creative idea for a documentary titled "Ex-School, New Mall." They have won some sweets.

The competition was judged by Head Boy and Head Girl, who were impressed with the creativity of our students!

Just a reminder, we return to college after half term on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.



## 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 Music Evening, 7.00pm

Our musicians will showcase their talent one final time this year. Tickets are available on ParentPay: Adults - £5.50, Concessions £3.50



# 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://www.thenationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH MISINFORMATION ONLINE

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A research study by Ofcom revealed that children aged 9–15 increasingly use online platforms like TikTok for mental health advice, with 50% relying on social media for information. Unverified medical content online is concerning, with the potential to cause confusion, anxiety, or incorrect self-diagnoses. This guide provides expert strategies to help parents and educators tackle misinformation effectively and ensure safer digital experiences for young people.

### POPULAR ONLINE SOURCES

Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are two of the main sources of young people's mental health content. Videos and posts frequently feature unqualified influencers, contributing to misinformation, myths, and oversimplifications. While appealing to young audiences, this unverified content can distort perceptions, and create unrealistic expectations and misunderstandings about mental health conditions.

### RISK OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS

Social media's misleading content encourages young people to self-diagnose complex mental health conditions inaccurately. Misdiagnosis can exacerbate anxiety, cause unnecessary worry, or delay essential professional intervention. This has the potential to escalate manageable conditions into more significant mental health issues requiring comprehensive clinical support.

### LACK OF FILTERS

Social media platforms struggle to filter misinformation effectively, allowing false content to spread widely and quickly. Without proper guidance, young viewers may not discern fact from fiction, potentially internalising inaccurate beliefs about mental health. This can negatively influence their decisions about seeking professional help or managing mental wellbeing.

### IMPACTFUL PAST TRENDS

Historically, online mental health misinformation has led to harmful trends, including inappropriate coping strategies or sensationalised symptoms. For example, past TikTok trends on self-harm or anxiety 'hacks' have spread damaging advice, underscoring the risk when misinformation is not promptly addressed or corrected by knowledgeable adults.

### MISLEADING CLINICAL TERMS

Online trends often include the misuse of clinical terms, such as 'trauma' or 'OCD', making serious conditions seem trivial or inaccurately understood. Such misinformation can diminish empathy, and lead young people to misunderstand mental health complexities, potentially preventing them from identifying real mental health issues in themselves or others.

### REPLACING PROFESSIONAL HELP

Frequent reliance on digital content can deter young people from seeking professional mental health care, substituting expert support with unverified online advice. This substitution can prolong issues, complicate recovery, and reduce the effectiveness of future professional interventions, ultimately impacting overall mental health and wellbeing negatively.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Regularly review and discuss a young person's online activity, providing appropriate guidance on discerning accurate content. Tools such as parental controls or co-viewing content can help mediate exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital habits and informed critical thinking about mental health.

### IDENTIFY RELIABLE SOURCES

Teach young people to critically evaluate mental health content by checking credentials, source authenticity, and evidence-based information. Encourage them to refer to trusted medical or educational platforms and to consult healthcare professionals for clarification. This reduces young people's reliance on potentially harmful or misleading online sources.

### SCHOOL-HOME COLLABORATION

Strengthen collaboration with educators to integrate digital literacy into the school curriculum, emphasising misinformation awareness. Jointly delivered education sessions on identifying and responding to misinformation can significantly improve pupils' ability to critically assess mental health content, supporting their mental wellbeing effectively both online and offline.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Foster a non-judgemental environment where young people feel comfortable discussing online content. Regularly talking about their online experiences and perceived mental health concerns helps clarify misunderstandings, mitigates misinformation, and builds trust, thereby enhancing their resilience and digital literacy. Model situations where you have sought advice from accurate sources and not solely relied on social media for health advice.

### Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# 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.

