



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you all enjoyed the glorious weather over the half-term break. What a change it has been this week though!

Year 9 students have, this week, received their options choices ready for when they return in Year 10 in September. This was sent via email to students and parents and is also available to view on Edulink.

Students in Years 7 and 8 received a visit from BAE Systems, who provide some of the world's most advanced, technology-led defence, aerospace and security solutions. This was a fascinating session where students discovered how the materials around them connect to cutting-edge technologies in aerospace, engineering and beyond.

We appreciate that there may be times that your child forgets to bring their tie to school or misplaces it. In this circumstance, we do have spare ties available from reception for your child to borrow. In return for borrowing a tie, your child will be expected to leave a personal effect at reception which will be given back to them upon return of the tie. If for any reason your child does not return the tie that they have borrowed, you will be issued with a bill for the tie (£9.50). Financial support is available for those meeting the criteria. Further information relating to this can be obtained from your child's Head of Year. If your child currently has a tie that they have borrowed from the college and have not returned, please can you ensure that they do so as soon as possible.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, there has been an increasing number of vehicles coming on to the school site at the start and end of the school day. This is making our school site dangerous and at times has meant that the school buses cannot get parked or even onsite! I must reinforce that unless you have a parking permit issued by the college or are accessing the college's disabled parking bays with a valid badge, parents and carers are not permitted to come on to the school site at the start and end of the school day. Please help us in keeping our school site as safe as possible for students and staff.

Fingers crossed that the sunny weather returns soon. Have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes

Dawn White
Principal



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Discovering the Material World: STEM Workshop

Students were excited to receive information this week about the Material World Education Roadshow 2026, an engaging STEM programme designed to bring science and engineering to life.

The roadshow features a range of hands-on activities, including creating bioplastics, investigating smart materials, exploring non-Newtonian fluids and testing waterproof fabrics. These practical challenges help students understand how materials are designed and used in everyday life.

The programme also highlights a variety of careers in science and engineering, encouraging students to consider future opportunities in industries such as aerospace, manufacturing, sustainability and healthcare.

We look forward to seeing our students develop their curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills through this exciting STEM initiative.

Mr Holland.



National Storytelling Week Competition

A big congratulations to Elsa P and Emily G in Year 7 who are having their short stories published.

Elsa and Emily wrote stories for a competition on National Storytelling Week. The pair participated in a live storytelling workshop and wrote their tales for the National Literacy Trust.

The competition proved so popular with schools all over the country that the deadline for entries was extended, so they both deserve a huge congratulations for getting their stories into print.

We are very proud of them both and hope that this will be the beginning of two fabulous literary careers!

You will be able to read 'The Other Island' by Elsa P and 'Kylie's Dream' by Emily G as soon as the collection is printed. There will be a copy in the library.

Dr. Swannell



Young Artist Showcases Work in London

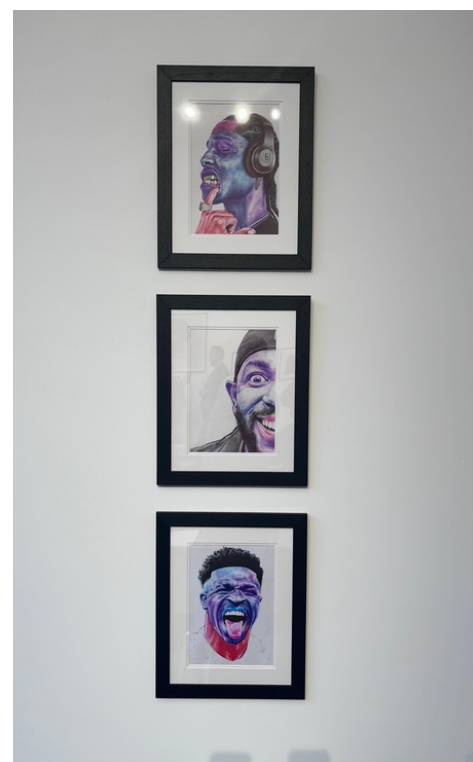
A few weeks ago, I had the exciting opportunity to exhibit my artwork in London after being invited by BIC. It was a fantastic experience and a real honour to be the youngest artist displaying work in the gallery.

During the event, I met many talented and well-known artists from across the creative industry. One of the highlights was meeting an artist whom I had recently featured on my own artist page. To make the experience even more memorable, they now follow me on Instagram!

The exhibition provided a valuable opportunity to share my work with a wider audience, learn from experienced artists, and gain inspiration from the incredible range of artwork on display. It was an unforgettable experience that has motivated me to continue developing my artistic skills and pursuing new creative opportunities.

I am very grateful to BIC for inviting me and giving me the chance to be part of such a special event.

Lucas G-H - Year 12

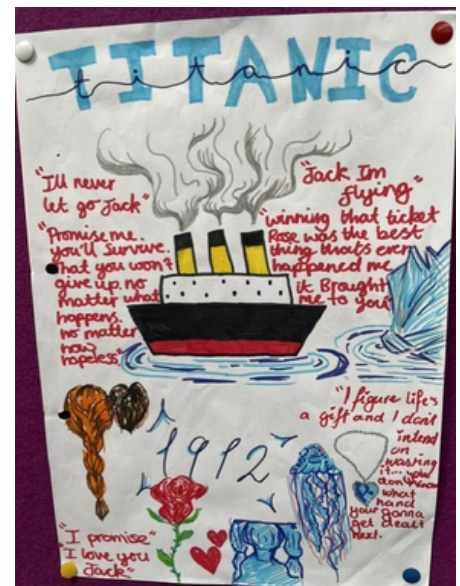
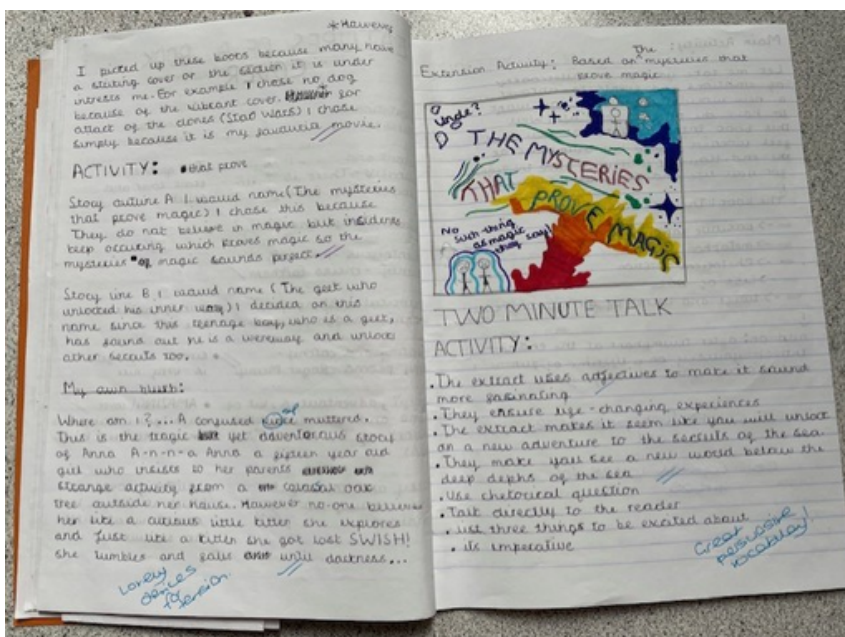
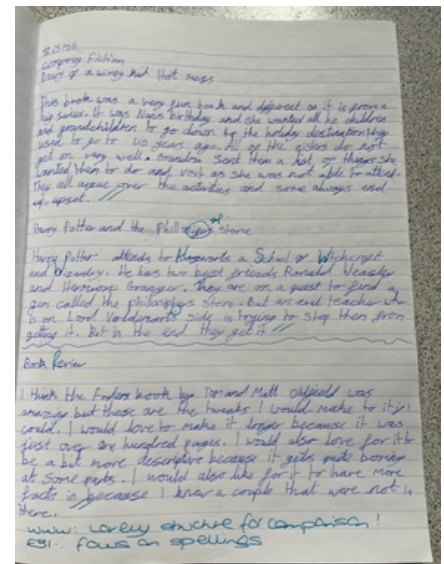
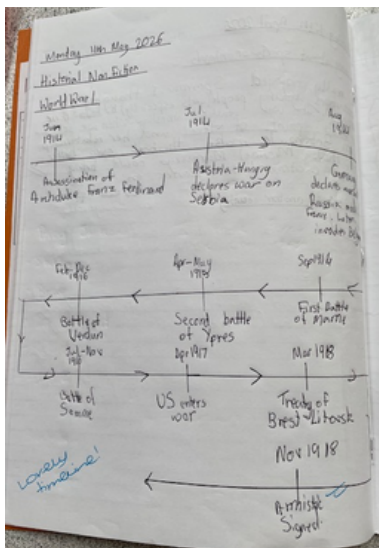
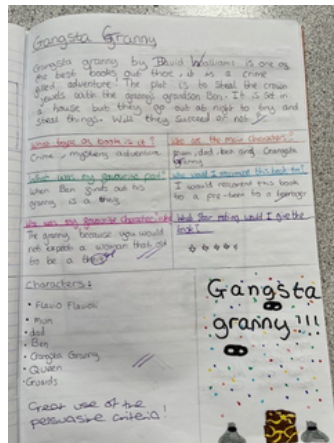


Pride in Work: Library Lessons

We would like to share some amazing work from our Year 7 and 8 students in our library lessons. Students have been working really hard through their Bronze, Silver & Gold library booklets, and on a media project about the sinking of the Titanic.

Well done everyone!

Miss Timms.



New Social Media Rules For Teens

Recent government consultation asks whether the UK should follow in Australia's footsteps by making it illegal for under-16s to have access to many social media sites. In light of this, there are new guidelines on TikTok and Instagram for teen accounts, which we have displayed below for your information.

CP Team.

How Teen Accounts protect your teen

-  **Built-in protections**
Teens aged 13-17 on Instagram automatically get updated settings that limit who can contact them and the content that they see. Teens under 16 need parent approval to change these.
-  **Profile privacy**
Teens aged 13-15 with public accounts will be switched to private. Any new accounts created by a teen will be private by default.
-  **Protection from unwanted contact**
Messages will be limited to people your teen follows or has chatted with before. Your teen can't live broadcast, and only people they follow can tag or mention them.
-  **Content that's right for their age**
Your teen will see content generally aligned with content ratings for ages 13+.
-  **Limits to their time spent**
We'll remind your teen to close Instagram from 22:00 to 07:00 and after they've spent one hour each day.

How supervision works with Teen Accounts

-  **Your teen needs your permission to make safety settings less strict**
You can both make their safety settings even more strict, but your teen needs your permission to make them less strict. You can also give them permission to make changes without you.
-  **Your involvement is your choice**
Teens will still get built-in protections if supervision is removed. You and your teen can remove supervision at any time.
-  **Insights about how your teen uses Instagram**
Supervision offers insights on who your teen follows, who follows them, who they have chats with and how much time they spend on Instagram.
-  **Insights about Meta AI**
You can see insights about what they asked Meta AI in the last 7 days.
-  **Notifications to help keep your teen safe**
If they repeatedly search for topics related to suicide or self-harm, we'll notify you so that you can support them, without sharing specific search terms. (This feature is not yet available in all areas.)

Student Success: Bentley Shines at the Eastern Counties Championships

Congratulations to Bentley on an excellent performance at the Eastern Counties Championships on Saturday.

Competing against a strong field of 13 of the region's top athletes, Bentley finished an impressive 4th place in the 1500m event. He also achieved a new personal best time of 4:44.93, a fantastic achievement at such a high-level competition.

Adding to his recent success, Bentley has been selected to represent his county at the County Schools Athletics Championships on 13 June. He will also be competing at Loughborough next week as he continues his busy athletics season.

We wish Bentley the very best in his upcoming events and look forward to hearing more about his progress.



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 - R184	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 Literature	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 August	Alevel Results Day					

Useful Information

Friday 26th June - Saturday 27th June – Somme Trip

Those Year 10 students who are attending the Somme Battlefields Trip should pay close attention to the itinerary on the letter sent home. Please arrive at college promptly for 3.10am.



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of bathtubs, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112. Immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



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.

