



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the return of the warmer weather over the last couple of days and the current warm forecast for next week, the uniform will again be relaxed next week with students not required to wear their blazers. Please ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle with them to fill up before school, at break time and lunch time as needed.

Coinciding with the warmer weather, this week is also Drowning Prevention week. Teenagers often underestimate the dangers of open water. Cold water shock, hidden currents, and peer pressure can turn what they might think is a bit of fun into an emergency. I would encourage you to have open conversations with your child about staying safe around water and looking out for their friends. Further information can be found inside this week's newsletter.

I am aware that there are a couple of current toy trends – 'monkey noodles' and 'dumpling squishies'. Some students have been bringing these items into school and not using them appropriately, causing injury and mess. Please can I ask that your child does not bring these into school as any inappropriate use will result in confiscation.

Year 12 BTEC Sport students have organised a non-uniform day today in aid of Macmillan. Thank you to all those students involved in the organisation of this and to everyone taking part and supporting this cause.

For those of you looking to plan ahead and book holidays, our term dates for 2027/28 are now available on our website.

Best wishes for the sunny weekend.

Dawn White
Principal



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Carnegie Medal for Illustration - Primary School Reading Festival

SHSCC Reading Ambassadors from our Student Book Club held an amazing event in the college library this week, shadowing the Carnegie Medal for Illustration, which recognises a distinguished illustrated book for children.

This type of project is well established here at SHSCC, where we already shadow the Carnegie Medal for Writing, which recognises an outstanding novel for children. The format of the awards process is that we read a shortlist of eight books over the course of the term, and vote for our favourite.

As the Carnegie Medal for Illustration is awarded to a picture book, our ambassadors arranged a session for local primary schools to come to the library here at SHSCC and spend some time looking at the books – they read the books aloud to the younger students, who then had the opportunity to choose their favourite story! At the end of the session, the children cast their votes and we will pass those votes onto the Carnegie judges.

This was a lovely opportunity for Year One & Two students to spend time in a large school library, as well as developing their confidence in talking to children from other schools and working with their Key Stage 3 peers. Hopefully they had lots of fun choosing their favourite book!

Well done to our Reading Ambassadors for working so hard organising this event!

Miss Timms.



Carnegie Medal for Illustration - Primary School Reading Festival



Drowning Prevention Week: Stay Safe Around Water This Summer

As the warmer weather approaches, many families will be spending more time outdoors enjoying rivers, lakes, beaches, swimming pools, and other open water locations. While water-based activities can be great fun, it is important to remember that they also come with serious risks.

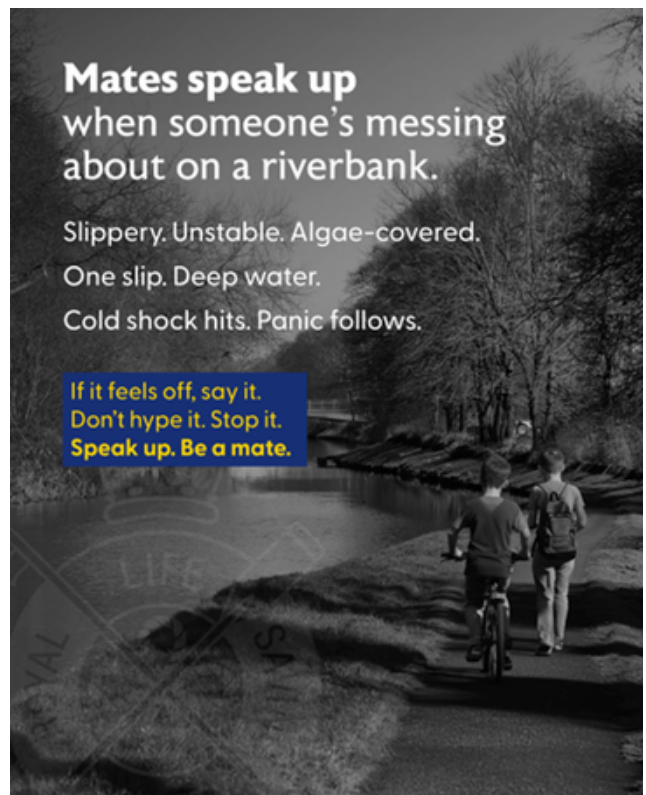
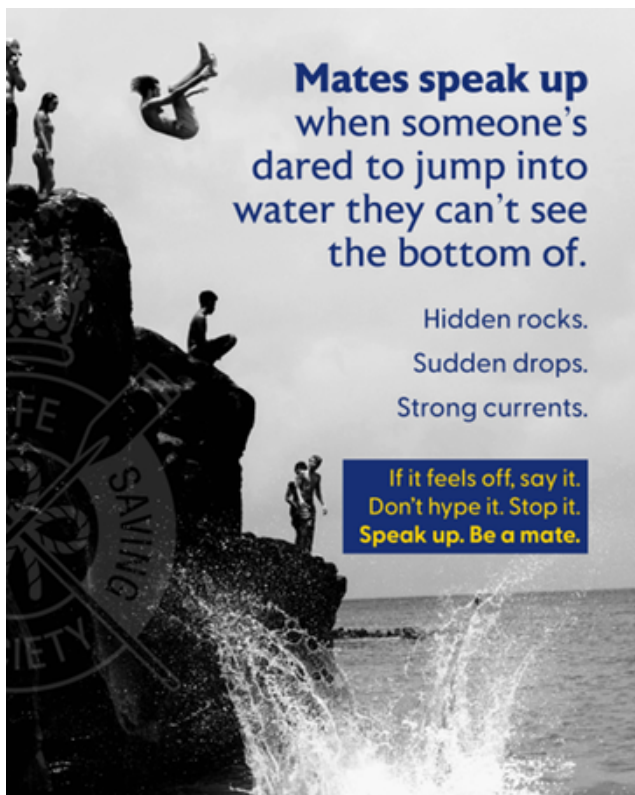
Drowning Prevention Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of water safety and encourage everyone to make informed decisions when near water. Tragically, accidental drownings occur every year, many of which could be prevented through greater awareness and preparation.

We encourage all students and families to:

- Never enter open water without considering the risks.
- Avoid swimming in rivers, lakes, or quarries where hidden dangers such as strong currents, cold water shock, or underwater obstacles may be present.
- Supervise children closely whenever they are near water.
- Wear appropriate flotation devices when taking part in water sports or boating activities.
- Know what to do in an emergency – if you see someone in difficulty, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard if at the coast, or the Fire and Rescue Service if inland. Encourage the person to float on their back and throw them something that floats if possible, rather than entering the water yourself.

A simple but vital message to remember is “Float to Live”: if you unexpectedly find yourself in the water, tilt your head back, keep your ears submerged, relax, and gently move your hands and legs until you can control your breathing.

As a school community, we encourage everyone to enjoy the summer safely by respecting the water and understanding the potential hazards. Taking a few moments to think before entering the water could save a life. Together, we can help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and happy summer



Sports Leaders: Primary School Sports Days

Celebrating Our Outstanding Sports Leaders!

On Monday 15th June, our Sports Leaders did an exceptional job at the Park Lane Sports Day, demonstrating enthusiasm and outstanding leadership throughout the event.

From setting up activities and supporting participants to encouraging teamwork and ensuring events ran smoothly, our Sports Leaders were fantastic role models. They showed great confidence, organisation, and positivity, helping to create a fun, inclusive, and successful day for everyone involved.

Their dedication and commitment did not go unnoticed. They consistently encouraged younger pupils, celebrated achievements, and helped ensure that every participant felt supported and motivated.

We are incredibly proud of all our Sports Leaders and would like to thank them for their hard work, enthusiasm, and willingness to give their time to make the event such a success. They represented the school brilliantly and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Well done to all our Sports Leaders for making the Park Lane Sports Day such a memorable and enjoyable occasion!

Miss Tyson.



Our Sports Leaders also completed a fantastic morning supporting at the Year 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day at AJS. The event began with a carousel of activities that our sports leaders led with amazing enthusiasm and confidence, followed by the running races including the relay. For these events they either organised the students or equipment or led and supported the House Teams at AJS.

It was lovely to see them back at their old primary school and showing their Sport Leaders skills. Many teachers and parents found me during the event to praise them so they should be so proud.

Well done all and thank you!

Mrs Hunt.

Speak Out Challenge Final 2026

On Tuesday 16th June, students from across the Peterborough area gathered at Anglia Ruskin University for the Speak Out Challenge Final 2026. With hundreds of students taking part in speaking workshops to qualify, Tuesday's finalists were the cream of the crop of young public speaking talent in our region.

Representing Sir Harry Smith (and Whittlesey!), Gabriel A (Y10) took to the stage and gave an expert performance in front of a packed auditorium. Gabriel's speech – a personal and engaging piece on his time in the Cadets – was delivered with confidence and composure, and was well-received by both the judging panel and audience.

After weeks of hard work and preparation, Gabriel's natural communicative ability shone through. A future public speaker, and a credit to both himself and our school community.

Mr Molyneux.



Non-Uniform Day in Aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

On Friday, our Year 12 BTEC Sports Students organised a non-uniform day, with all proceeds going towards Macmillan Cancer Support. During the week, students also had the opportunity to guess the sweets in the jar for £1 per guess, and were able to try their luck at a penalty shoot-out against the PE teachers in goal!

Congratulations to all those BTEC students who helped organise this great fundraiser!

Mrs Hunt.



MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Student Success: Ju-jitsu Silver Medal

Congratulations to Eddie, who last week won the Silver Medal for continuous fighting in the Ju-jitsu Southend Internationals for Kokoro Kai Ju-jitsu Fenland.

Eddie will also be representing his club again in August for the British Ju -jitsu Nationals in Walsall.

Well done Eddie!



Sir Harry Smith School World Cup Sweepstake update...

The World Cup is now in full swing, and it has already provided plenty of excitement, dramatic scorelines and a few surprise results. With the knockout stages still to come, it's looking like it could be one of the most open tournaments in years, with several teams staking an early claim to be champions. There has also been lots of friendly rivalry around school as students and staff keep a close eye on "their" sweepstake nation.

England edge past Croatia - One of the standout matches so far saw England defeat Croatia 4–2, giving 8E (England) the bragging rights over 8G (Croatia) in a thrilling contest. Students in both tutor groups have been following the game closely, but for now it's 8E who are smiling after a fantastic opening victory.

Around the school...

There have already been plenty of talking points in the Sir Harry Smith sweepstake:

Miss White will be delighted that Holland have started brightly. If the Dutch go all the way and lift the trophy, the entire school will receive a free non-uniform day – so there are suddenly a lot more orange supporters around the corridors!

Mr Treliving, who drew Spain for the Year 9 prize, may have been expecting a straightforward start. Instead, Spain were held to a shock draw by Cape Verde, meaning Mrs Campbell's 9E can proudly say their team took points off one of the tournament favourites!

Mrs Cutler's 6CLC will be hoping Argentina can live up to expectations, with many experts still tipping them to challenge for the title.

Mr Crane and Mrs Lee's 7E are keeping a close eye on Brazil, who continue to look like one of the strongest sides in the competition and could be serious contenders.

Mrs Freeman and Mrs Gray's 7D have every reason to be optimistic too, with Portugal making an encouraging start and looking capable of a deep run in the tournament.

Mr White's 10F will also be backing Senegal, hoping they can spring a surprise and keep their World Cup dream alive.

Who's looking the strongest?

At this stage, England, Brazil, Argentina, Portugal and Holland have all shown enough quality to suggest they could challenge for the trophy. Of course, every World Cup produces unexpected twists, so there is still plenty of football left to play.

Remember the sweepstake prizes:

If Miss White's Holland wins – the whole school gets a free non-uniform day!

If one of the Year Team entries wins – that entire year group earns a free non-uniform day.

If a tutor group's nation wins the World Cup – that form receives a free non-uniform day in September.

There's even a prize for the tutor group whose team concedes the most goals during the tournament – they'll also receive a free non-uniform day in September!

Good luck to everyone involved, and keep supporting your teams – there's still everything to play for!

There have already been a few twists and turns in the sweepstake. Mr Treliving may have been hoping for a comfortable start for Spain, but La Roja were held to a surprise draw by Cape Verde, leaving their route to the knockout stages a little more complicated than expected. Meanwhile, plenty of staff and tutor groups are already dreaming of footballing glory and the chance to secure that coveted extra day out of uniform!

Good luck to everyone involved – we'll bring you another update as the tournament progresses.

Mr Treliving.



Sir Harry Smith School World Cup: Keepy-Uppy Challenge



Sir Harry Smith
Community College



SIR HARRY SMITH

KEEPY-UPPY CHALLENGE

DURING THE WORLD CUP!

100
KEEPY UPPYS
A DAY



Students are to complete
100 keepy uppy's a day
throughout the World Cup.
If you cannot do 100 in one go,
you do not need to.



DEADLINE:
15TH JULY 2026



Can anyone **record themselves** doing this,
possibly even including a few tricks?



Get sponsored for **cancer research**
if you can – this works towards your
Aspire Awards – Service Award.



One video from everyone that enters.
If you raise some money look at the website
for a **free Bobby Moore tee shirt!**



Please email your video to
challenges@sirharrysmith.com



PLAY. CHALLENGE. INSPIRE.



ASPIRATION FOR ALL



SHSCC Careers Fair

*Your future.
Your choices.
Your opportunity!*

CAREERS FAIR



THURSDAY 9TH JULY

APPRENTICESHIPS

UNIVERSITIES

CAREERS

TRAINING



70+ ORGANISATIONS

Meet employers, universities, colleges, and training providers from a wide range of industries.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

Discover different career paths, apprenticeships, courses and opportunities for your future.



ASK QUESTIONS

Take the time to speak to professionals and ask the questions that matter to you.



PLAN YOUR FUTURE

Get inspired, gain insights and take the next step towards achieving your goals.



BE PREPARED!



THINK about your interests and what you'd like to find out.



PREPARE some questions to ask the exhibitors.



MAKE THE MOST of this amazing opportunity to shape your future!

*Your future starts with
the conversations you have today.*



MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED IN TUTOR TIME.

Get involved. Ask questions. Explore possibilities.

DON'T MISS IT!

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 2.55am.



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.

PC Gareth Price, our Safer School Police Officer has shared the **Youth Safety Survey link**; if you would like to take part please use the QR code here.



PETERBOROUGH

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,
WE NEED YOUR VOICE!
YOUTH SAFETY SURVEY**



Further details: caroline@roc.uk.com or visit: www.roc.uk.com



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 DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES

Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS

Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP

Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.



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.

