

## Harris Academy

Barry Millar – Head Teacher

Perth Road  
Dundee DD2 1NL

Tel: 01382 435700

Email address – [harris@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:harris@dundeecity.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter - @harrisacdundee



*Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement*

29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Update for young people, parents and carers

Dear Pupil / Parent / Carer,

It is now over two months since we were together in our own building. During this time, however, our school community has continued to support each other as best as possible. I want to thank each and every one of you for the part you are playing in keeping learning, in its widest sense and where possible, a priority.

Please find below an update, based on all current information.

#### Re-entry phase

Our Chief Education Officer wrote to all parents / carers yesterday, explaining the initial steps that would be taken to return to our Perth Road home. The Leadership Team will begin to carefully plan our re-entry, initially for staff and a small number of pupils in June, followed by our phased return for all year groups from week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 onwards.

I will write to you as soon as we have more details related to this important next step.

A copy of Mrs. May's letter can be accessed on our website, our twitter feed, or by (holding the CTRL button) and clicking on the link below

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/20200527-parents-carers.pdf>

#### Learning Surveys

To help us understand how we can support remote learning the best way possible, please complete our online survey by (holding the CTRL button) and clicking on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/76RW3DL>

## Curriculum / Timetable Change

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, we will change timetable for our current S1 and S2 cohorts. On Tuesday of next week, a separate email will be sent to all young people and their families in these year groups with further details.

**Please note that next week (week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June) the majority of our engagement with S1 and S2 will be consolidation work.** This will hopefully alleviate some of the pressure that our young people have felt to complete work. As well as this, it will give my colleagues some time to plan work for their new classes, in advance of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Senior Phase learning will continue, as has been the case.

We are constantly reviewing our home learning offer and, based on feedback from young people, staff and parents/carers, teaching staff have been asked to allocate work in the following way:

Week	S2	S3
Week A W/b 8 <sup>th</sup> June W/b 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Maths English Modern Languages RE PE Music and Drama Business Studies Science Technical Education	All chosen subjects (6) <b>excluding</b> Maths, English and Modern languages
Week B W/b 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Maths English Social subjects Art Computing Science Home Economics Citizenship	Maths English Modern Languages  <b><i>Core subjects of RE, SE and PE have been removed from June's curriculum offering to allow more time for young people to get established in their new (chosen) subjects.</i></b>

This planned approach has been implemented to support the wellbeing of our young people, parents/carers and our colleagues.

As a reminder, the easiest way to access all of our online Home Learning will continue to be through our ***Harris at Home Learning Portal***, which can be accessed through our school website, Twitter feed or by clicking on the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/view/harrishomelearning/>

## Learning Packs

Our current S1 and S2 Learning Packs are still available from the Tayview Community Support Centre for any family who is finding access to digital learning challenging.

Although our year groups will have moved on, the work within the packs is still relevant for new S2/3 young people.

## SQA Estimates

Departments have completed, and I have now signed off, all SQA estimates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

I assure you that a great deal of time and effort has gone in to ensuring all of our young people are treated as fairly as possible in relation to our estimated grades. There has been a total of seven quality assurance steps in our attempts to give this process the time and attention it absolutely deserves.

Our attention now turns to National 2, 3 and 4 courses, along with National Progression Awards and Skills for Work courses. Unit passes and Course Awards notifications are now being quality assured after considerable time and effort taken by each individual department. These will be fully submitted to SQA by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

## IT Support / Office 365

All pupils can download the latest version of Microsoft Office software for free, all through their Glow account! Follow this link for more information [ow.ly/7UUN50zzn5Q](https://ow.ly/7UUN50zzn5Q)

## IT Support

We have an IT support section within our Home Portal  
<https://sites.google.com/view/harrishomelearning/>

If you cannot find what you are looking for or require a password reset for Glow please contact us  
[harrisacademy@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:harrisacademy@dundee.gov.uk)

## Show My Homework

Thank you to all our parents / carers that have been accessing SMH to support their young people.

If your parental pin has expired or has been misplaced do not hesitate to contact us and we will send a new one. Email [harrisacademy@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:harrisacademy@dundee.gov.uk)

Show My Homework offers support including help pages. Additional information can be found here  
<https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/collections/1695420-parents>

## Prefects and School Captain appointments

House Teams are currently studying more than 60 application forms to help select our prefects for Session 20-21. Never has a school relied more heavily on senior pupil leaders to support us through our unknown times in the coming months.

The process of appointing prefects this year will be based on:

- *Quality of application form*
- *Conduct and leadership qualities displayed in previous years (especially last year)*
- *Attendance*

Our School Captains and House Captains will be appointed later in June. Those invited to, (based on the criteria above) will be asked to send a video presentation in, explaining why they would be best placed to lead our pupil body next session.

## Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of our young people

From the very outset of the lockdown, the response from staff has been tremendous. As a school, we have coordinated 'Virtual Guidance and Pupil Support Base'. The team involved in doing this involves: Guidance Principal Teachers, Support for Learning Principal Teacher, Support for Learning Teachers, Learning and Care Assistants, Pupil Support Workers, Health & Wellbeing Worker, Inclusion & Support Worker, Breakthrough Worker, Nurture Teacher and our Secondary School Support Assistants

The 'Virtual Guidance Base' has created bespoke email addresses and been provided with specially purchased mobile phones to allow maximum opportunity for contact with pupils and families allowing staff to work from home while still providing maximum support.

The 'Virtual Pupil Support Base' also has a bespoke email and newly purchased mobile phones to allow maximum opportunity for contact with pupils and families. They are running and managing:

- Virtual nurture groups
- Virtual Support Groups
- Virtual 1:1s
- Foodbank (which operated for 8 weeks supporting 17 families)
- Hot Meals daily service
- Lunch Delivery Service
- Learning Pack Delivery

The course choice process has been superbly managed and coordinated by the 'Team'. This involved personal contact with every pupil who had made a course choice.

Pupil Contacts have been rigorous and welcomed by all parents. Over 147 pupils are contacted weekly to provide additional support and checks, while attempts have been made to contact every other pupil in the school.

We have started a virtual counselling service for a limited number of pupils.

Prefect application deadline has been extended and managed differently throughout the process and appointments will be made imminently.

To coordinate the response and manage the demand we have a Guidance Departmental Meeting weekly, DHTs manage their House Meetings Weekly, there is individual weekly contact by our Pupil Support Coordinator with our PT Support for Learning and every PT Guidance to offer support and assistance. Link DHTs are meeting with the departments they help manage to discuss and improve pupil support from a departmental view.

Weekly reports to the local authority are completed accurately and on time.

Fifty pupils without technology to support their learning, have all been individually contacted and learning packs provided until we can secure technological help.

We have stationery provision available at the Hub and this has also been available within Harris Academy at advertised times.

Pupils have had curriculum content through the Show My Homework learning tile and the ability to have email contact through Glow. All of this is communicated to the PT Guidance to offer another layer of support if it appears any pupil is having access issues.

## Our current S6 pupils as Peer Supporters

Led by one of our outgoing School Captains, Abbie McDonald, a group of S6 pupils are offering a peer support service for any young person in the new S4 – S6 cohort.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please email your / your young person's Guidance teacher (via the Virtual Guidance base) in the first instance.

## Prizegiving Ceremonies

I am delighted to inform you that we are planning both Junior and Senior Celebration of Achievement evenings at the start of next session.

These ceremonies will be in a digital format, with early plans suggesting they may be live-streamed. They will highlight the achievements of the last session and award young people for both academic and wider achievements.

Dates are still to be confirmed but our early thoughts are:

- **Junior Awards Ceremony** by the end of August 2020
- **Senior Awards Ceremony** by the middle of September 2020

## Parent Council meeting

The Parent Council held a meeting on Wednesday night, via Zoom, which was well attended by parents, staff, local councillors and senior leaders.

I offered an update (most of which is included in this newsletter) on our progress to date through COVID -19 and our emerging plans as we move forward. Although many of the main points discussed are contained in this newsletter, the minute of the meeting will be posted on our website as soon as they are available.

I would like to thank the Parent Council for their overwhelming support with particular thanks to the Chair, Graham MacKay for his steadfast council and support.

## Continued thanks to our parents / carers



I use this picture during our S1 Induction Parents' Evening, in an attempt to symbolise how important the partnership between home and school is for us here at Harris.

I never (who could have) thought we would ever be in the position we are in, where parents and carers, are even more critical to the learning progress for our young people.

From all our 'colleagues', the staff here at Harris, thank you for the amazing work you are doing.

## Message for all Harris pupils

I have been in to our building on numerous occasions lately. It is a quiet, lonely place. The heartbeat of the school is missing – that is you, our amazing young people; collectively.

I miss you; we miss you and we cannot wait to see you in our Perth Road as soon as the time is right to do so.

Please continue to do the best you can possibly do. Work hard but balance this with your mental and physical health in mind.

As ever, I hope this update is of some use to you. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us via email, telephone or via the Virtual Guidance Base

On behalf of all of my colleagues here at Harris, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Millar', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Barry Millar  
Head Teacher