

Harris Academy

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Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement

22nd June 2020

Newsletter for young people, parents and carers

Dear S2- S6 Pupil / Parent / Carer,

With the last week of term upon us, I write to offer you a final update along with information that will support our school's return in August.

The information below has been shared with, and supported by, our Parent Council in advance of publishing.

Please be reassured that all the decisions and plans we have made are driven by our commitment to provide a safe and positive environment for our whole school community. We know that these arrangements will cause some challenges for some of our families. We have done all we can to try and minimise the impact of these but still ensure the safety of all.

The speed upon which our landscape is changing is incredibly fast. This makes planning for the future, even in the short term, very difficult.

All the plans we have shared with you here could be subject to change should Government guidance and advice shift between now and August.

Should this be the case we will continue to run with our intended plan for at least two weeks unless the Scottish Government increases restrictions at which point we will respond immediately.

If on reading this newsletter there is any key information you feel has not been covered please get in touch with us at the email address noted above by the end of this week.

Week beginning 10th August

On our return in August, the first week back in the building will predominantly be an induction week apart from Friday where our Seniors will begin classes.

Pupils do not need to wear school uniform of any kind during the induction day in August.

The plan for the week is as follows:

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Staff Inservice Day	Staff Inservice Day Prefect Induction (1.30 – 3.30pm)
Tuesday	S6 Induction (9 – 11am) S5 Induction (10am – 12pm)	S4 Induction (1-3pm)
Wednesday	S1 Birnam (9-11am) Induction S1 Cawdor (9.30–11.30am) Induction	S1 Forres (12.30-2.30pm) Induction S1 Kinloch (1.30-3.30pm) Induction
Thursday	S2 Induction Birnam (9 – 10.30am) Cawdor (10 – 11.30am) Forres (11am – 12.30pm) Kinloch (12 – 1.30pm)	S3 Induction Birnam (12.30 – 2pm) Cawdor (1 – 2.30pm) Forres (1.30 – 3pm) Kinloch (2 – 3.30pm)
Friday	S4-S6 (group A) Column D 9.15 – 11.15am	S4-S6 (group B) Column D 12.15 – 2.15pm

Prefect Induction, Monday 10th August (1.30pm – 3.30pm)

All newly appointed prefects should assemble in the Plaza (clock tower), **arriving no earlier** than 1.20pm.

S6 Induction, Tuesday 11th August (9am – 11am)

All S6 pupils should **arrive no earlier** than 8.45am and make their way, **via the East gate entrance** (next to the janitor's house), to the **Upper South Playground** by walking around the outside of the building.

S5 Induction, Tuesday 11th August (10am – 12pm)

All S5 pupils should **arrive no earlier** than 9.45am and make their way, **via the East gate entrance** (next to the janitor's house), to the **Upper South Playground** by walking around the outside of the building.

S4 Induction, Tuesday 11th August (1 – 3pm)

All S4 pupils should **arrive no earlier** than 12.45pm and make their way, **via the East gate entrance** (next to the janitor's house), to the **Upper South Playground** by walking around the outside of the building.

S1 Induction, Wednesday 12th August

Information related to our new S1 induction has been communicated via their own separate newsletter.

S2 Induction, Thursday 13th August

All S2 pupils should **arrive no earlier** than 15 minutes before their allocated time (below) and make their way, **via the East gate entrance** (next to the janitor's house), to the **Upper South Playground** by walking around the outside of the building:

- Birnam (9 – 10.30am)
- Cawdor (10 – 11.30am)
- Forres (11am – 12.30pm)
- Kinloch (12 – 1.30pm)

S3 Induction, Thursday 13th August

All S3 pupils should **arrive no earlier** than 15 minutes before their allocated time (below) and make their way, **via the East gate entrance** (next to the janitor's house), to the **Upper South Playground** by walking around the outside of the building:

- Birnam (12.30 – 2pm)
- Cawdor (1 – 2.30pm)
- Forres (1.30 – 3pm)
- Kinloch (2 – 3.30pm)

S4-6 Column D classes, Friday 14th August (AM / PM)

Information related to how the year groups are split (Maroon Learning Set or Gold Learning Set) and the timings of the two session will be shared with young people during their induction earlier in the week.

Timetable for August

Our August timetable begins in earnest for all year groups from week beginning 17th August. We will review our curriculum offer in line with National and Local advice on a week-by-week basis but currently our plan is:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	S5-S6 (full cohort) Column E 9.15 – 11.15am S4 (full cohort) 9am – 10.45am (Eng/Maths) 11am – 12.45pm (Maths / Eng)	S4-S6 (group A) Column B 9.15 – 11.15am S1 (full cohort) 9am – 12pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group A) Column A 9.15 – 11.15am S1 (full cohort) 9am – 12pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group A) Column C 9.15 – 11.15am S1 (full cohort) 9am – 12pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group A) Column D 9.15 – 11.15am S2 (full cohort) 9am – 12pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>
PM	S3 (full cohort) 12.30 – 3.30pm	S4-S6 (group B) Column B 12.15 – 2.15pm S3 (full cohort) 12.30 – 3.30pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group B) Column A 12.15 – 2.15pm S2 (full cohort) 12.30 – 3.30pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group B) Column C 12.15 – 2.15pm S2 (full cohort) 12.30 – 3.30pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>	S4-S6 (group B) Column D 12.15 – 2.15pm S3 (full cohort) 12.30 – 3.30 pm <i>Three learning episodes</i>

The blended learning approach includes structured online learning.

More details related to this timetable will be shared with each year group during their induction.

We would ask that young people arrive in time for entry into the building for their allocated start time. **With this in mind, our doors will open 10 minutes before the allocated start date but not before this time.**

The school bell will be turned off during this amended timetable. This will allow a soft start and end to learning episodes to support pupil flow in and around the building.

Uniform

We want our young people to be as comfortable as possible when we re-enter our building in August but at the same time, we place a high value on school uniform.

After consultation with pupils, staff and our Parent Council, we have decided to change our uniform to a Harris branded hooded sweatshirt for Term 1 (August – October). **Our aim is that all young people return to full school uniform from Term 2.**

Families will **not** be expected to pay for a school hooded sweatshirt. One will be provided for you / your child. A suggestion from the Parent Council at last week's meeting was that some families may wish to make a contribution towards the cost of the sweatshirt. As a result, there will be a facility to do so via our survey (below).

We do wish all young people to wear this sweatshirt when arriving at school.

Please complete the survey below by the end of this week to ensure delivery for August.

www.bit.ly/hoodieuniform

Families can also order additional sweatshirts at a cost of £12 per item.

All sweatshirts will be able to be collected during the induction day on Wednesday 12th August.

Young people can wear comfortable, easily washable attire that they already possess to compliment the hooded sweatshirt.

Transport

Discussions are underway with colleagues in City Transport in both Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council to ensure that transport is in place to support our young people who need to take the bus to travel to and from school.

To support in the planning of this Dundee City Council are asking all parents and carers of young people in Harris Academy to complete the following survey by Friday 26th June: <https://bit.ly/2YbenGX>

Whilst we are still awaiting further detail around school bus services for next session what we do know is that due to current social distancing requirements the capacity on all bus services has greatly reduced, with only 20 persons being allowed on a Double Decker bus.

Perth and Kinross Council have informed us that at the commencement of next term there will be no concessionary places available on their school bus service and that only those who are entitled to transport to school will be offered a place.

Further information will be shared with the school community via the normal channels as soon as it becomes available to us. ***At the time of printing, the Scottish Government have made face masks compulsory on public transport.***

Please note that, although we are still in discussions with the bus companies, there is no guarantee that they can support our amended timetable arrangements in full.

Arrangements for lunch

Although we strongly encourage lunch to be eaten at home after our morning learning episodes or before our afternoon learning episodes, a packed lunch service (am) and packed tea (pm) will be available to order on a takeaway basis.

The logistics required were still being discussed with Tayside Contracts as we went to print and will be finalised for our August start and communicated to both pupils and parents/carers in due course.

Toilets

We are finalising our procedures for access to toilets. The use of toilets will need to be tightly monitored to try to ensure social distancing is adhered to. Pupils should be aware that there may be a queue for toilets and that social distancing must be observed when waiting. All pupils should wash their hands and use hand sanitiser after using the toilet. We will make individual arrangements for those young people who will require immediate access to toilets due to medical conditions. We will share procedures for accessing toilets during the induction visits.

Curriculum

Due to COVID-19, all year groups will have a reduced amount of time in school. To maximise the time available in school, we have reorganised our curriculum offer in the following way.

S1 and S2

One period each (approx. 1 hour long) of:

 Maths  English  Modern Language	 Social Subjects  Science  Expressive Arts	 Technologies  Health & Wellbeing  SE/RE on a bi-weekly rota
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When the young people are not in school, they will continue their learning at home. This home learning will both compliment and progress the work carried out in school.

To ensure there is not an overload of work issued to pupils, our remote learning will be delivered in a Week A/B model from 17th August onwards. The table below gives more detail.

	Week A <i>w/b 17th August and every second week thereafter</i>	Week B <i>w/b 24th August and every second week thereafter</i>
S1	Maths English Modern Languages RE Modern Studies Music and Drama Business Studies Science Technical Education	Maths English History Geography Art Computing Science Home Economics PE
S2	Maths English History Geography Art Computing Science Home Economics PE	Maths English Modern Languages RE Modern Studies Music and Drama Business Studies Science Technical Education

S3

One period each (approx. 1 hour long) of:

 Maths	 English	 6 individual subjects chosen by the young person
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When the S3 young people are not in school, they will continue their learning at home. This home learning will both compliment and progress the work carried out in school.

Work will be set for all subjects on a weekly basis.

S4

Our S4 pupils will be in every day (either AM or PM) and will receive the following time allocation in each subject:

 Maths – 1hour, 45 minutes	 English – 1 hour, 45 minutes	 4 individual subjects chosen by the young person x 2 hour class per subject.
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When the S4 young people are not in school, they will continue their learning at home. This home learning will both compliment and progress the work carried out in school.

Work should be set for all 9 subjects on a weekly basis.

S5/6

Our Senior pupils will be in every day (either AM or PM) and will receive 2 hours of contact time per subject they have chosen. For those young people in S6 who have a non-contact column, they should not attend the school on that day.

When the Seniors are not in school, they will continue their learning at home. This home learning will both compliment and progress the work carried out in school.

Work should be set for all subjects on a weekly basis.

In all year groups, our approach to remote learning will continue to centre around the use of Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams.

Equipment

Pupils should bring their own pencil case with all necessary equipment with them from class to class. Pencil case equipment should not be shared with any other pupil.

Pupil Support Update

As our pupils return to our blended learning opportunities in August 2020, a major focus for the Pupil Support Team will be to manage the health and wellbeing of all our young people. The team consists of a Guidance teacher and House Head supported by our Inclusion and Support Worker, Pupil Support Worker, Health and Wellbeing Worker, Support for Learning teachers and our Nurture teacher. We will continue to liaise with Dundee Educational Psychology Service (DEPS) along with our new counselling service for advice and support. Our strong links with Dundee Young Carers and Breakthrough will be invaluable.

This is a strong, close knit team of highly skilled and highly committed professionals who want only the very best outcomes for all our young people. The service they will provide will be second to none. The work they have been doing since lockdown started has been recognised as an example of excellent practice.

Pupils will have access to help and support within a timely and bespoke framework as they are identified or identify themselves as needing some help.

This information will be shared with pupils as part of their induction process back into school life.

Any parental enquiries should be directed to the school email address: harris@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Class structure for August

S1 and S2

From August 2020 and until further notice young people will be placed in a Learning Set of **10** pupils within their respective House Group class. E.g. Ba 1- House Birnam, Ba half of the House, Learning Set 1. Young people will attend class with this group when they are in the building and most of the classes will take place in a Home Room. Pupils will only move to certain practical subjects where specialised equipment is required (e.g. Music & Science).

Young people will be given more information related to this during their induction day.

S3

From August 2020 and until further notice each class chosen by our young people will be split into 2 or 3 sections to satisfy the latest Scottish Government advice. Young people will be given more information related to this during their induction days.

S4-S6

From August 2020 and until further notice each class chosen by our young people will be split into 2 with half of the class coming to school in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. The exception to this is S4 English and Maths. These sections will be split into 2 or 3 sub-sections due to our timetable model.

Young people will be given more information related to this during their induction days.

Our House Teams

Working alongside Mr Millar, each House has an associated Depute Head Teacher (House Head) and two Guidance Teachers as noted below:

Birnam House Head Mrs MacDonald	Cawdor House Head Miss Chacko	Forres House Head Mr Perry	Kinloch House Head Mr Stewart
Mrs M Taylor - Ba (Mon-Wed) Ms R Walker (Thur-Fri) - Ba Mr A Cunningham - Bb / Bc	Mr R Lesslie - Ca Miss C Meldrum - Cb	Mr V Clements - Fa Mrs M Nicolson - Fb / Fc	Mr D Milne - Ka Mrs L Gow - Kb

Mr Millar (Head Teacher)



Birnam House



Mrs MacDonald (DHT)

Cawdor House



Miss Chacko - DHT



Ms Walker



Mrs Taylor



Mr Lesslie



Miss Meldrum



Mr Cunningham

Forres House



Mr Perry (DHT)

Kinloch House



Mr Stewart (DHT)



Mrs Nicolson



Mr Clements



Mrs Gow



Mr Milne

Remote Learning Survey

All parents, carers and young people were invited to share their views on our Remote Learning Offer at the start of June.

On the whole, feedback from the survey was positive with the following points being most noteworthy:

- Most of those who took part in the survey told us they are able to access our remote learning offer using a mobile phone
- Less than half of those who took part in the survey have access to their own computer, tablet or laptop
- The majority of those who took part in the survey told us they spend between 1 and 3 hours engaged in online learning each day
- The majority of those who took part in the survey told us they found the online learning materials easy to find and that instructions were clear to follow
- Most of those who took part in the survey told us they found it easy to submit work online and that they found Show My Homework easy to use

The results of the survey will be use to influence our evolving approach to blended learning.

Last week of term

During this last week of term, learning will continue for young people but there may well be some subjects that will allocate time to consolidate learning.

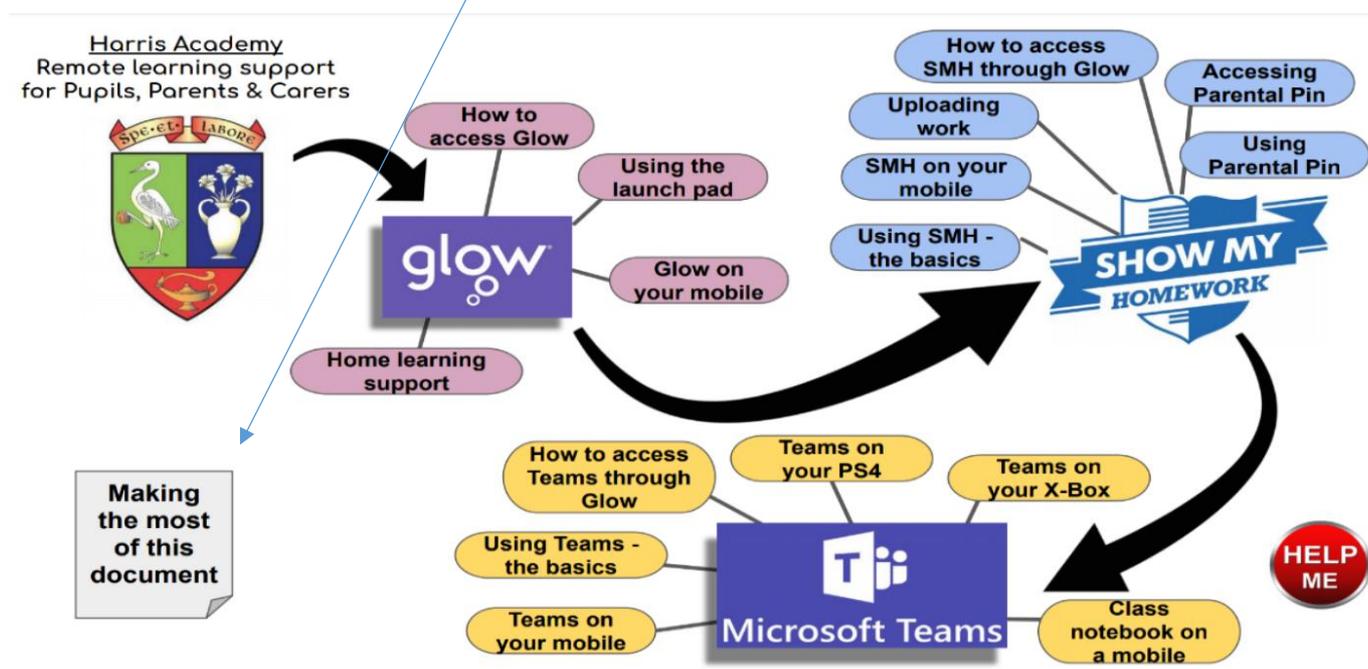
This will allow our young people the chance to catch up if required and hopefully allow them to be in a position to draw a line under the work they have undertaken in advance of a well-earned rest for the summer.

The time will also be used to allow staff to prepare remote learning for week one of the autumn term in August.

Supporting Parents, Carers and Pupils with remote & blended learning

The interactive guide, for supporting Harris Academy parents, carers and pupils as they navigate the digital platforms for remote & blended learning is now live. Download it here and click on making the most of this document for an overview.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HqrHAQD6BOXe1v4Ba3nAs-uK18u1FNzH/view?usp=drivesdk>



Dundee City Council FAQs

Up to date information is available for parents, carers and young people by clicking on the following link. These FAQs will be updated as and when more questions are asked and more information becomes available from the Scottish Government.

https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/20200615_parent_faqs_for_school_return_.pdf

SQA

SQA results are due on 4th August 2020 and we would encourage all of our pupils waiting on results to sign up to MySQA so they receive the latest news and updates. Before the start of the new term we will share further information with pupils and parents about the process for appeals which has been reintroduced this session due to the cancellation of exams. We are waiting for further detail on this from SQA.

At the same time we will also share our procedures for pupils who may require to make changes to their choices for next session in the event they have done better or not as well as anticipated.

Support from Parents / Carers

To help us ensure the safety of your child, along with all other young people and staff, I would ask that you support us in the following ways:

Please encourage and support your child to be at school in good time for their designated start times. Please remember that early entry (other than 10 minutes before the allotted start time) will not be possible.

If you are dropping your child off by car, please do so either on West Park Road (at the wide point of the road rather than the bottom of the hill) or on Shaftesbury Avenue.

To maximise our ability to focus on safety of young people and staff, I am afraid we will not be offering parents / carers the ability to arrange an appointment to enter the school building during school hours when we return in August. This will of course be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Keeping in touch

We would like you to follow us on Twitter. Here, you will find the most up to date information as our plans progress in response to local and National advice.

Our Twitter feed is also heavily used to share all of the fantastic achievements of our young people.

Our school website will also continue to be updated with key information from week beginning 3rd August onwards.

Follow us [@harrisacdundee](https://twitter.com/harrisacdundee)

Message to Parents / Carers

I would like to thank you for the tremendous level of support you have shown your children and the school during such an unprecedented time of challenge.

There has been a sense of tremendous community spirit through such desperate times and your support has been greatly received.

Parent Club - <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus> - and The National Parent Forum of Scotland - <https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/06/10/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-curriculum-for-excellence-in-the-recovery-phase/> - have excellent information and FAQs pages which may help you and your child prepare for returning to school.

Message for our fantastic young people

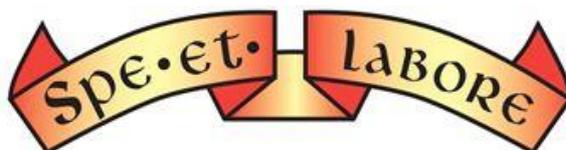
My colleagues and I are so proud of you for your perseverance, resilience, adaptability and ambition through these difficult times.

On the same day of writing this newsletter, I was joined by a panel of staff and pupils as we watched some of your peers who had produced a video as part of the process for being appointed School Captain. I left heartened that our seniors are well able and will be equipped to support peers and staff alike in the year ahead.

One video had a reflective message in there that resonated with me and it is one that I am determined to make a reality. The message was this - *we know we have to be distanced we return to school but we should never feel alone.*

You will have every member of staff's support when we see you in August. I genuinely cannot wait to welcome you all back to our Perth Road home.

Have a fantastic, safe holiday – you have all more than earned it.



On behalf of all of our colleagues here at Harris, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well and have a warm, enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Millar
Head Teacher