

Harris Academy

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Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement

20 November 2020

A Welcome Letter from Harris Academy to our future S1 Families

Dear Prospective Parent / Carer

At this time of year, we would normally invite you and your young person to our P7 Open Evening here within our Perth Road home.

Our Open Evening gives families the chance to meet key staff, hear about our school's Vision, Aims and Values, see our stunning building and the learning spaces within it and start to feel a highly valued part of our school community. Average attendance at this event in the previous three years has been around 600 people. Unfortunately, as a result of Scottish Government guidelines, we are extremely disappointed that we will not be in a position to accommodate any such visit this year as a result of the unprecedented times we find ourselves in at present.

We write to assure you that, although such a visit is impossible at this time, we are busy working with our valued colleagues in our Cluster Primary Schools to ensure we achieve as smooth a transition as possible.

Overleaf, you will find information related to planned events (some of which are subject to change dependant on COVID-19 prevalence at the specific times) which offers you a flavour of how we will work with our prospective S1 pupils and with you over the remainder of the school year.



Your Key Contacts During Transition

Email us at harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot



Michael Stewart (DHT)



Michaela Taylor (Guidance)



Morven Nicolson (Guidance)

Virtual Transition visits from our Principal Teachers of Guidance

We are delighted to announce that we have confirmed a timetable of initial transition sessions, carried out virtually via Microsoft Teams, and led by Principal Teachers of Guidance from Harris Academy:

-  Monday 23rd November 11am – 11.45am CAMPERDOWN PS
-  Monday 23rd November 1.15pm – 1.50pm – INVERGOWRIE PS
-  Wednesday 25th November 9.45am – 10.30am – BLACKNESS PS
-  Monday 30th November 11am – 11.45am – VICTORIA PARK PS
-  Monday 30th November 1pm -1.45pm – ANCRUM ROAD PS
-  Wednesday 2nd December 9.45am – 10.30am – TAYVIEW PS

P7 Roadshows

Over the past two years we have visited all of our cluster primary schools during the months of February and March. These events focus on our curriculum offer, transition updates, information on the roles of House Heads, Guidance colleagues and Support for Learning staff. We also showcase some of the talents of our young people and provide you, and your child, with the chance to ask us any questions. Nearer the time we will know whether these events will run in cluster schools or via digital means.

New S1 Transition Days (June 2021)

We are currently holding the following dates in our calendar:

- Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June 2021 - S1 Transition Days.
- Thursday 10th June 2021 - New S1 Parents' / Carers' Information Evening

We will confirm the timings and format of these sessions nearer the time.

Helpful Links

To keep up to date with everything that goes on at Harris Academy please follow us Twitter - **@harrisacdundee**

Please click on this link which will take you directly to the S1 Transition section of our school website where you will find helpful information and videos of our young people outlining what Transition has meant to them.

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/s1-transition/s1-transition-videos>

Finally, based on our determination to do the very best for every young person who joins our school, and in line with our School's proud Aims and Values, we wish to assure you that we will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition and welcoming start to your young person's time with us here at Harris Academy.

As a parent of a P7 girl, I (Mr Millar) can assure you I am acutely aware of the additional concerns that will arise this year. Any transition can cause stress, never mind the fact that we are within the context of COVID-19. We will work hard, with you, to build a sense of trust and partnership moving forward.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Millar
Head Teacher



Michael D Stewart
Depute Head Teacher
with responsibility for P7 to S1 transition