

## Harris Academy

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*Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement*

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Return to school in January 2021 – updated version

Dear Parent / Carer / Young Person,

Happy New Year and I sincerely hope you and your family had restful, enjoyable holiday.

Following the First Minister's announcement on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, our school building will remain closed for the majority of our young people until the beginning of February. The First Minister indicated that this decision will be reviewed on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Our remote learning provision starts from next Monday (11<sup>th</sup> January).

Harris Academy did however reopen yesterday for staff and **for young people of key workers and other, targeted, young people only.**

Please note that this is a **targeted offer of support** and that the school should be aware of a young person's attendance **in advance of their presence** at the school building.

### Our approach to Remote learning

**Young people should follow their timetable whilst working at home.** For example, if your young person has English period 1 on Monday then they should focus on the bespoke work set for their class between 8.45 and 9.35am on a Monday. This way, they will not miss any interactions with fellow classmates and their teacher or, in some cases, another subject specialist.

Young people and parents/ carers will be able to view the planned learning via their Satchel One (Show My Homework) account. All young people have access to this via their Glow launchpad.

Our teachers will be following our current timetable rigorously and will offer a variety of differentiated ways to access the learning i.e., some lessons will be 'live' taught whilst others may have pre-set tasks with teachers available (via Teams) to answer questions and support individually.

As noted in December, a great deal of preparatory work has been completed by departments which means that we are in a good place to support remote learning for the week of 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Please also note that due to a significant staffing shortage, there will be on delivery of Technical education to S1 and S2 year groups. Mr Dickson is however preparing a lesson for later in January related to course choice options for our S2s.

You will also find that some of our practically based subjects may have less online tasks than others.

Our teaching staff will also be supervising the young people within our Harris Hub on a rota. Your teacher will not be available to support online learning at this time but will notify young people in advance.

Please click on the link below and watch the short video which will explain to you how to approach Remote Learning for the month of January, including how to use Satchel One.

[Remote learning \(adobe.com\)](#)

Any parents / carers who require a 'parental pin' for Satchel One can contact the main office.

### **Senior Phase (SQA) Assessment Block 2**

Due to the delayed return of schools, our second assessment block will be delayed and will now take place soon after our full return to the school building. We will review this timeline on the 18th of January when the Scottish Government are due to review the current school closures and communicate to you as soon as possible as to confirmed dates.

My advice to our senior pupils is to focus your efforts in preparing for these assessments by keeping up to speed with all work set by your teachers.

### **Young People / Parent / Carer information update meeting (via Zoom)**

In conjunction with our Parent Council, I will host an information session via Zoom within the next two weeks (date and time will be sent at a later date). This will allow our school community to receive an update from the school as to our plans around:

- Remote Learning
- SQA Assessments including our Assessment Blocks timeline
- Our return to the school building
- Additional online resources (eSgoil / West OS etc)

Details as to how to log in to this meeting will be issued within the next week.

### **UCAS Catch-up session**

UCAS have announced that the deadline for applications has been extended until the end of January. Although our internal deadline for University applications through UCAS has passed, we are aware of some young people who have not yet completed their applications or have yet to pay the UCAS fee.

Young people in this position are encouraged to contact their Guidance teacher as soon as possible.

## Course Choice Process

Parents / Carers / Pupils of S2, S3, S4 and S5 may receive some phone calls directly from school in the coming weeks and unfortunately it appears as a withheld number on caller ID. The Guidance staff will be making a number of calls in relation to Course Choice for next session and also how your son/daughter is progressing. If you are unable to answer, then a message will be left for you.

More information on course choice can be found at <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.sch.uk/course-choice>

## Communication between school and home

If you need to contact your son/daughters Guidance teacher, and are unable to make a telephone call, this can be through the House Team email which is now active during lockdown. They are as follows:

[harrisbirnamguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harrisbirnamguidance@dundeeschools.scot)  
[harriscawdorguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harriscawdorguidance@dundeeschools.scot)  
[harrisforresguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harrisforresguidance@dundeeschools.scot)  
[harriskinlochguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harriskinlochguidance@dundeeschools.scot)

For subject-specific queries, young people should contact their class teacher directly via their Glow email address.

Our school office will be open during normal school hours as noted below:

Monday – Wednesday	8.30am – 3.40pm
Thursday – Friday	8.30am – 2.50pm

## Additional Resources provided by Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative

In addition to the online learning approach being provided at Harris Academy, support is being made available through the [Education Scotland National e-Learning Offer](#). The National e-Learning Offer has a range of recorded and supported resources which are available for learners to use, as directed by their teacher. These recorded and supported materials are being generated by Scotland's education community and the range of resources will increase over time. There are currently three elements of support available:

- **LIVE lessons** are being organised and delivered through eSgoil – for more information on their live webinar sessions and other learning supports, including how to register, please visit [www.e-sgoil.com](http://www.e-sgoil.com).
- **RECORDED learning video sessions** are available via **West OS\***, who provide recorded learning experiences for children and young people. All staff and young people are able to access these resources using the West OS tile on the Glow Launchpad. Young people can search for this tile in the App library within Glow.
- **SUPPORTED content material** created by practitioners searchable via an online blog. As part of the National e-Learning Offer, a series of spreadsheets that cover a number of senior phase national qualifications have been curated to share resources. You can access the supported content via the following link: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/nationalelearning/resources-2/>

## Uniform

School uniform is not expected to be worn by any young person, whilst engaged in the Harris Hub until February when all young people are due to return.

## Transport

All school service buses will run as normal for young people of key workers and other identified young people from the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Xplore Dundee may however review the service, based on numbers attending the Hub. We will communicate with all relevant parents/carers as soon as a new, relevant information is known.

## Senior Phase College courses

Dundee & Angus have informed all schools that remote learning will be the delivery method until schools return. Online learning for college courses begins on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

## Requesting a place at the Harris Hub

As a reminder, you can apply for a place using the most relevant link below:

***If you held Key Worker status during the initial lockdown period***, and require a place, please complete the form below.

<https://bit.ly/3pjWS29>

**If you regard your employment to have changed from the summer and now have key worker status** and require a place, please complete the form below.

<https://bit.ly/38tGAN5>

**Please note that spaces within the Harris Hub, based in our Perth Road building, should only be taken if no alternative childcare is available.**

Our Harris Hub will be open during normal school hours as noted below:

Monday – Wednesday	8.30am – 3.40pm
Thursday – Friday	8.30am – 2.50pm

Please note that face coverings will be expected to be worn by S4 – S6 pupils and staff whilst in the school building at all times. In the interests of staff and fellow pupils' health, I am strongly requesting that all S1 – S3 pupils also wear their covering whilst in class as well as when in corridors and social spaces.

I appreciate that for **medical reasons** some young people and staff are not wearing a face covering.

### **Access to a school netbook**

If your young person would benefit from a loaned netbook for the month of January, please complete the form below. Please note that this is a finite resource and will be allocated on a level of need basis.

<https://bit.ly/3aCRgvF>

These netbooks will be available for collection from the school office at the following times:

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> January, 9am – 11am

### **Lunches and Free School Meals**

All young people eligible for Free School Meals and attending the Harris Hub will continue to receive a free hot or cold meal as ordered.

All other young people attending the Hub can purchase a school meal at the normal cost via the normal means. All money credited to your young person's account continues to be only via ParentPay.

Please note that young people accessing the Harris Hub during the month of January will be required to stay in the school grounds at lunchtime and therefore should either use the dining facilities or bring a packed lunch. The young people are welcome to go into the playgrounds, and are encouraged to do so, for fresh air.

Your sincerely,



Barry Millar  
Head Teacher