14 January 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on our December attendance initiative at Harris Academy, **#In2Win, and our celebration of attendance success certificates for term 2.**

December is, year on year, the month with the lowest pupil attendance at our school. With the support of you and your young person, we made the following improvements at Harris Academy: -

* Overall school attendance increased by **1.4%** when compared to December 2023.
* **637** young people attended every day in December 2024. In December 2023, **453** young peopleattended every day.
* Our overall attendance figure for December 2024 was **86.5%.** This was our **highest December attendance figure for four years and the highest December attendance figure across all DCC secondary schools.**

100% attendance in S1 improved by **49** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

100% attendance in S2 improved by **20** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

100% attendance in S3 improved by **34** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

100% attendance in S4 improved by **15** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

100% attendance in S5 improved by **12** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

100% attendance in S6 improved by **56** pupils compared to December 2023 equivalent

There was a very positive and exciting feel around the school during December which culminated in our exciting prize-draw and open mic session for the final two hours before we broke up for the holidays.

The Attendance Team, with support from Guidance colleagues, will evaluate the #In2Win initiative with our young people and staff over the next few weeks. A letter of thanks has been sent to our valued partners who donated various prizes to support our initiative. We were hugely grateful for their support.

I am also delighted to report that **487** young people will receive positive attendance certificates in their PSHE class (lilac colour) for achieving between 95% - 100% attendance for **both terms one and two**. **206** young people will receive a white certificate for achieving 95% - 100% attendance for **term two** alone.

We are acutely aware that there are reasons as to why some young people cannot attend school to meet this threshold and our House Teams work very closely on an individual case basis to ensure all young people are supported to best meet their individual needs, both in and out of our building.

Thank you again for helping us to improve presence in our school. I look forward to working together to improve attendance further during 2025.

Yours sincerely



Mr M D Stewart

Depute Head Teacher