

Harris Academy

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Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement

9th August 2021

Parent / Carer Newsletter Session 2021 – 2022 Issue 1

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you and your family have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break following an incredibly challenging time for everyone last year. We are looking forward to welcoming our young people back to school on Tuesday 17th August and continuing to work with you as parents/carers to support the wellbeing and progress of your young person.

Arrangements for the return of our young people

Learning resumes for all pupils from Tuesday 17th August. S2 – S6 pupils should arrive no later than 8.40am so that period 1 starts on time at 8.45am. Our new S1 families will receive a separate letter with slightly different arrangements.

All young people should return to school in full school uniform.

Young people should continue to enter the building via **their respective House entry point** as noted below:

Clock Tower – BIRNAM House
Main Doors – KINLOCH House
Maths Doors – FORRES House
Art Doors – CAWDOR House

Safe Working Practices

During the summer, the Scottish Government have made some amendments to their Guidance on reducing the risks from COVID-19 in schools document. In reading the update, the following safety mitigations will remain in place at Harris Academy:

Face coverings remain in place for all staff and young people (other than those who have a medical reason for exemption). This includes all classrooms, corridors and social spaces within the school building. Face coverings remain an expectation on public transport and in local shops.

Social distancing remains desirable wherever possible in the school building. Although this is very difficult to achieve in classrooms, young people and staff will be asked to walk on the left-hand side of corridors and stairwells.

Hand sanitising will still be supervised on entry to the building and then again at the start and end of every class. Young people and staff will also be asked to **sanitise their workspace** on entry to every classroom.

Our planned **staggered intervals / lunch breaks** will remain in place for the full session. All S1 – S3 will have interval and lunch at the same time with our S4 – S6 having their break at a different time to create more space for socialising.

The government have stated that they will update their advice again, four weeks after we have returned to school. I assure you that you will be kept up to date whenever any changes are made. A copy of the Scottish Government's latest version of their guidance can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on reducing the risks in schools - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/plain-language/coronavirus-guidance-reducing-risks-schools-2020-09-23.pdf)

Harris Academy Face Coverings

Our face coverings can be purchased via ParentPay at the cost of £3 per mask. If you have not yet been able to access ParentPay, please contact the school office.

Confirmed COVID Cases – Change to Scottish Government arrangements for close contacts

From the start of term, any young person who is identified as a close contact will be required to:

- Arrange a PCR test, either at a test centre or via a home kit as soon as possible and self-isolate until the test result is known
- If the PCR test returns as positive, the young person will be required to self-isolate as per NHS guidance
- If the PCR test is negative, the young person can return to school (as long as they are asymptomatic) without having to self-isolate any longer
- To support us, please send proof of the negative test result by email in advance of your young person's return.

Lateral Flow Testing

As noted in my final newsletter of last term, all staff and young people are encouraged to test for symptoms via Lateral Flow Tests (LFDs) in the lead up to our return. The tests should be taken on a Monday and Thursday.

If you require a supply of LFDs, please collect them from the school office this week during the hours of 10am – 2.30pm. Consent forms (link attached below) are required to be completed before the kits can be issued. If you have already completed a consent form for last session, you do not need to repeat the process.

More information on LFDs can be found here <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.sch.uk/aysmptomatic-testing-letter-s1-s6-version.pdf>

Our consent form can be found here <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.sch.uk/consent-form-update.pdf>

Pre-loved school uniform

We have a stock of used school clothes, including blazers, that are in very good condition. Racks of these clothes will be available in the school foyer in the week leading up to our return. You would be most welcome to come into school between 10am and 2pm to collect any items that would be of use to your young person.

Ride On Bike Scheme

If you have passed our building during the summer, you may have noticed that we have a new structure at the front of the building. This is a charging point for 'pay as you use' electric bikes that Dundee City Council are installing throughout the city.

Embark Dundee

Powered by Ride On

Ride On was selected by Dundee City Council to be the exclusive operator of e-bike sharing services in the city. The service started operating in 2020 and will be completely deployed in Spring 2021.



Although we fully support active travel, we are **discouraging** young people from accessing the bikes at lunchtimes unless:

- Parents/carers are fully supportive of them being used
- A safety helmet is worn

Once we have more information on the bikes, and the related costs for families to use them out with school hours, I will let you know.

I look forward to us all working together throughout the coming session in the support of our young people.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Millar'.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher