

## Harris Academy

**Barry Millar** – Head Teacher  
Perth Road  
Dundee DD2 1NL  
Tel: 01382 435700



Email address – [harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot)  
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### **Parent / Carer Newsletter Session 2021 – 2022 Issue 6**

The following serves as information that will hopefully of use to parents / carers of our young people here at Harris Academy:

#### **Parents' Nights**

We have two parent/carer contact evenings scheduled for this term, specifically for S2 and S3 parents and carers. Due to ongoing concerns related COVID, these will, unfortunately, not be able to go ahead. Dundee City Council is working to offer schools an online platform for virtual parents' nights that we hope will be in place for all future parent / carer contact evenings.

Our S2 and S3 families will have a further opportunity to meet with class teachers later in the session.

#### **Face Coverings in all Secondary Schools**

The First Minister announced that face coverings will remain mandatory in all secondary schools until, at least, the October break.

I am seeking parents / carers support in both supplying face coverings for their young person and strongly encouraging the appropriate wearing of the masks until this time.

#### **Staffing news**

Mrs Pamela Brock leaves us this week after 13 years of service to both the Menzieshill HS and Harris Academy school communities.

Mrs Brock has played a significant part in our Support for Learning Team and will be sorely missed.

She leaves with our best wishes in her new role as a teacher in Dundee City Council's Accessibility and Inclusion Team.

#### **UCAS Engagement Event**

Our first senior phase engagement session will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 6pm. Craig Fraser from Dundee University will lead this session. The content will include the UCAS process, applying to university and personal statements. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

If you would like to join, please follow the link below

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Pupil pick ups**

Local residents have raised a concern with the school related to idling cars in nearby streets as they wait to collect young people at the end of the school day. After having contact with local Councillors and MSPs, I suggested that I would reach out to all parents / carers via this newsletter to seek support.

To support our neighbours' requests, please turn off your engine whilst waiting to collect your young person at the end of the school day.

### **School Dining Centre**

Unfortunately, COVID is having a negative impact on staffing levels in our Dining Centre, just as it is with our school staff.

Due to a shortage in staff numbers, our Tayside Contracts colleagues can only staff one service point at interval, resulting in some young people not being served by the time the bell rings at the end of interval.

Below, we have added in one suggestion (related to National Entitlement Cards) that will help speed up service. You may also wish to consider supplying an interval snack for young person to avoid them having to queue to purchase one.

I can assure you I am working with Tayside Contracts to see normal service resume as soon as possible.

### **Supporting Wellbeing**

As I have previously shared with you, we work closely with our counselling partners at Wellbeing Scotland. We have individual 1:1 counselling available Monday – Thursday referred through our Pupil Support systems and we are now able to launch a drop-in service for pupils on Tuesday's and Wednesday's. This will be managed by our Guidance Principal Teachers and Mr Perry in his role as Pupil Support Coordinator.

If you think this service is something your young person may benefit from, please contact your young person's Guidance Teacher in the first instance or ask them to speak to their Guidance Teacher or House Head.

### **NEC Cards and Young Scot Cards**

Over the past week we have noticed that many pupils, specifically S3, S4, S5 & S6 pupils do not have a National Entitlement Card (NEC), also sometimes referred to as a Young Scots Card. This card entitles young people to discounts in some shops, it can also be used as their bus pass and in school it can be linked to paying for their lunch. This is a much quicker method than our canteen staff having to look up pupils by their names, meaning queues would be tackled more quickly.

Please encourage your child to use their card if they have this. If for any reason they don't have a card: follow the link below this will allow you to apply for a card or order a replacement.

[www.dundee.gov.uk/national-entitlement-card-how-to-apply-or-replace](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/national-entitlement-card-how-to-apply-or-replace)

### Lateral Flow Testing

As noted last week, we are strongly encouraging our young people to take part in the LFD programme. I received information from Public Health last week to indicate that, over the previous full week, **less than 7% of our pupil population** had tested and recorded the results of their test.

I urge all families to please consider taking part, not only by testing but also by recording the results via the NHS website.

More information can be found below

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/aymptomatic-testing-letter-s1-s6-version.pdf>

A copy of the consent form can be accessed below

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/consent-form-update.pdf>

Regards,



Barry Millar  
Head Teacher

