



Parent / Carer Newsletter Session 2021 – 2022
Issue 1 for all new S1 families

Dear Parent / Carer,

A very warm welcome to our Harris Academy community. I hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break following an incredibly challenging time for everyone last year. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new S1 pupils into our school on Tuesday 17th August and look forward to working in partnership with you to support the learning and wellbeing of your young person.

Arrangements for new S1 pupils on Tuesday 17th August

To support our new S1 pupils on their arrival with us for their first day as members of our Harris Academy family, we have arranged the following:

1. All young people starting S1 should arrive for a **9.15am start**. Our S2-6 pupils will arrive for the normal 8.45am start. This will provide us with the opportunity to target our full support to our new S1 pupils, via a staggered start.
2. On arrival our new S1 pupils should report to the entrance doors noted below (this information was covered during the transition visits):

Tayview PS pupils	Clock Tower entrance
Blackness PS pupils	Art entrance
Ancrum Rd PS pupils	Front entrance
Camperdown PS pupils	Maths entrance
Invergowrie PS	Clock Tower entrance
Victoria Park PS	Maths entrance
All non-cluster pupils	Front entrance

Prefects and staff, including members of the SLT, will be on hand to support at all entrances.

Our new S1 pupils will have an **early lunch, from 12pm, on Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th August**. Normal lunch time (12.15pm – 1.05pm) will start for S1 pupils on **Friday 20th August 2021**.

As noted in previous communications, no S1 pupil should leave the school grounds at lunchtime during the entirety of Term 1. Requests for any young person to leave the school grounds at lunchtime should be forwarded to the school in writing.

On the dates noted above our S1 pupils will be dismissed from school **5 minutes earlier than our S2-S6 pupils – 3.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and 2.40pm on Thursday**. This will allow our S1 pupils to exit in smaller numbers and gain access to school buses first – where appropriate. S1 pupils will be dismissed at our normal finish times of **3.35pm (Monday -Wednesday) and 2.45pm (Thursday and Friday) from Friday 20th August**.

On Wednesday 18th August and thereafter our new S1 pupils should arrive no later than 8.40am for an **8.45am** start and enter the building via **their respective House entry point** as noted below:

Clock Tower – BIRNAM House

Art Doors – CAWDOR House

Maths Doors – FORRES House

Main Doors – KINLOCH House

Once our new S1 pupils have entered via the doors outlined above they should report directly to their **timetabled period 1 class**. We are not operating with a registration period. Prefects and staff will be on hand to support this process. Pupils will follow their timetable, periods 1-7, with some support from Prefects and staff for the first few days.

Contacting school

If we can help you as parents/carers with any queries, please contact the school and ask for your young person's relevant Guidance teacher. If you contact us before you know who the Guidance teacher is, our admin team will support you or direct you to the most relevant member of staff.

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/publications/coronavirus-guidance-reducing-risks-in-schools/pages/1-1-introduction-and-what-to-do-if-you-are-a-teacher-or-staff-member-in-a-school.aspx)

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.

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

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.

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

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

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', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher