



Harris Academy Newsletter



June 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian

As we near the end of another busy, successful year, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all staff, pupils and parents and to wish you a thoroughly enjoyable summer break.

The school's recent extended review team commented on the warm welcome and positive feel of the school and that the school knew what was required to enable continued improvement.

Key strengths included:

- Our young people who are willing to learn, committed, engaged, well behaved and respectful

And

- Commitment of staff to move the school forward.

For me, these are the two key strengths that will allow our school to continue to flourish.

Our School Improvement Plan for next session will focus on the outcomes of our extended review, ensuring we continue on the road of reaching our full potential.

There have been many successes that our young people have been involved in over the last session. If you have not had the opportunity to do so yet, please watch our Prizegiving video, which is now available on the website.

Finally, I would like to wish every member of our school community a fantastic summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new session.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher

Art & Design

Winners of the secondary school Category HMS Unicorn schools competition 2018 (Changing the Face of Dundee)

1st place - Scott McDonald S1

2nd Place - Nathan Craig S1

3rd Place - Erin Miller S1

Winners attended a presentation aboard the Unicorn.

Friends of the RSA 2 Highly commended entries 2018

Yasmin Ash S4

David Mallinson S1

Maggie's Penguin Parade 2018

Well done and congratulations to Mrs Mel McCormack, chosen penguin to be a Penguin Parade Artist and designer of the 'Robert the Bruce Penguin' that will be part of the city wide parade and will be located in Caird Park

A Harris Academy Family Learning Event took place to design the Harris Academy Penguin in Menzieshill community centre. The following pupils and their families attended and helped create our 'Explosion of Emotion' Penguin inspired by the social and emotional needs of a young person, all linked to the HWB indicators.

Taryn Herd S2 and her father

Brothers Thomas and William Dixon S2/S5 and their mother

Sisters Jessica and Morgan Allan S1/S3

Sara McGillvray S2 and her Grandmother

Katrina Klavina S2

Laura Kaninska S2

With special thanks to Miss Allan's new Higher class and Melissa Romero S3.

S6 pupils who submitted successful folio's to DJCAD and or other Art Universities:-

DJCAD:-

Rachel Adam S6

Elle Mcleod S6

Kanza Rehan S6

Finley Fyffe S6 - Architecture DJCAD

Paige Fairweather S6 - Fashion Management at Robert Gordon

Catherine Chan S6 - Communication Design Robert Gordon and Visual Communication University of Highlands and Islands

Daniella Levins S5 -Product Design DJCAD and Glasgow University

S6 pupils attended 'Girls in Digital Event' on International Women's at Outplay Games part of the Vision building Dundee. A truly inspiring experience of the young women of Harris.

Computing

May 2018 Powering Transformation

In May sixty S1 and S2 Pupils attended a 'Powering Transformation' workshop with Dell. The pupils had the opportunity to explore new technology including virtual reality headsets and use a range of exciting tools produced by Dell such as 3D printers and attended a range of workshops. The pupils all enjoyed the workshops, one of which placed them in groups and asked them to design a piece of technology that does not exist and in some way could benefit society. We had some great ideas from street cleaning robots to roads that charge street lights by using kinetic energy and batteries.



December 2017 Cyber Security lectures.

In December pupils from the Cyber Security NPA classes attended Abertay Christmas lectures. This year's event focused on the increased problem of Cybercrime. Abertay lecturers Dr Lynsay Shepherd and Dr Gavin Hales delivered a talk entitled "A Fridge Full of Spam", discussing the Internet of Things and showing how easily a malicious hacker could take control of a smart fridge to send unwanted emails.

There was also some exciting demonstrations from the cyber industry on how easy it is to steal someone's log in credentials, and an excellent, eye opening presentation by Police Scotland about keeping safe online and the consequences of not using technology responsibly. The pupils absolutely love this event and it is something that we try to attend each year as a department.

English Department

Reading Award



S1 and S2 pupils embraced Harris Academy's Reading Award challenge. Over the course of the year approximately one hundred pupils were awarded either a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate for their efforts. The reading award is designed to encourage engagement in reading. "In order to be good at English, you have to read. Most things I have learnt have come from books to read. When I received my Gold Award it made me feel like I could take on any book." (Scarlett S1) The Reading Award challenge will continue to run next year; we hope to award even more certificates!

DCA Film Festival

National 5 and Higher Media classes attended the DCA Discovery Film Festival 2017 Media Studies Day. Pupils spent the day at the DCA where they watched two films, *Goodbye Berlin* and the low-budget independent feature film, *As you Are*. In addition to these films, students also received a presentation from the BBFC and the DCA Head of Communications. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day, pupils gained a valuable insight into media establishments and were able to use information gained from the presentations to support their understanding of key media concepts.



Burgess Charity Short Story Competition

S3 pupils participated in Dundee City Council's Burgess Charity Short Story Competition. Pupils used their creativity to produce responses which reflected their local context and their understanding of the short story genre. Pupils enjoyed participating in the competition and produced interesting, original stories.

Enterprising Math's in Dundee Competition

Two teams of four students, from both S2 and S3, enjoyed much success in this annual mathematics event, held this year at St John's High School. Great credit goes to Mrs R. Christie and Mr G. Rew for the efforts by them to prepare these teams of students who collectively won three of the five mini competitions within the event.

Our Red team (Martin Wilson, Ryszard Wypijewski, Tamer Chakarov, and Anwita Strivastava) won the Individual Games contest, Relay contest and overall 2nd place in the competition.

Our Blue team (Hamada Al-Rubayee, Andrew Nimmo, Roberto Sincu and Sammy Karim) won the individual Acvtivote contest.

The Red team now go through to the national finals which will be held in Glasgow later this year.

Sportsday 2018

On the 24th of May we held our annual sports day for the S1-S3 pupils. We witnessed some fantastic performances, a new school record in the shot putt for Abigael Lindsay, some great competitions in the sprinting events and a very loud and fast house relay competition. All pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day and our new individual sports champions crowned for 2018 were:

S1 Deniz Petkov and Romilly Beveridge

S2 Fraser Allan and Carly Stephenson

S3 Jack McNab and Aimee Robertson



Our fabulous athletes went on to represent the school at Dundee schools athletics championships at Mayfield. This gave some athletes who weren't able to participate in our school competition the chance to shine. Gold medals were won by K Hornyik in the Javelin, Gino Brock in the 400m and Fraser Allan in the shot putt, we brought home a total of 20 medals, a great result in the face of fierce competition from all other schools.

Interhouse Sports Championship

Birnam have won the Interhouse Sports Championship for this year, Birnam were they winners of the in school Cross Country championships however Kinloch were the winners of our own Sportsday. Birnam sneaked the win by only 4 points – well done.

School Competitions

We have competed in a variety of events across this school term and are very proud to be the base school for numerous outstanding athletes in our cohort of pupils, whether in the pool, on an ice rink, on a karate mat, a hockey pitch the list goes on.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

We are proud to announce that thirty one pupils took advantage of the fantastic offer to gain valuable experience and qualifications in the field of sport during the first week in June. We now have pupils qualified to lead dance, basketball, football, athletics, RLSS life guarding and first aid. We are looking forward to these pupils developing the skills they have learnt when leading our extensive extra-curricular programme.

LSA

The LSA group have worked well with outside agencies, developing their leadership, communication and organisational skills. The pupils worked with Ross Taylor from tennis Scotland, Insights, Positive Coaching Scotland and Blackness Primary School to develop their skills and attributes necessary to be successful in their chosen field.



Dance Competition

This term we competed in the annual citywide dance competition in the Caird Hall, the group competed in two categories, Street and Contemporary, and although we were not placed our performances were outstanding. We are now very happy to announce the introduction of both National 5 and Higher Dance to our repertoire of courses available in the PE dept. We performed at Prizegiving this year and we look forward to bringing you more performances throughout the year.



Wakeboard Project

A small group from the school have been working with Foxlake to try new skills on water, including paddle boarding and wakeboarding, great fun has been had by all and hopefully our links with Foxlake will continue in the new term.



Giant Heptathlon

On Tuesday 6th February thirteen S1/2 pupils competed in the Dundee Schools Giant Heptathlon in Douglas Sports Centre. The pupils pushed themselves to the limit and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship encouraging and cheering each other on.



Hockey

Harris Academy are the proud winners of the Palte National Aspire Cup. The players travelled the length and breadth of the country playing the semi finals in Inverness and then the finals day in Glasgow. Well done Mr Friel and a big thank you to Mr D Martin, Mr K Dyer and all the parents and supporters who travelled with our pupils.



Personal achievement:

Carrie-Ann Taylor and Grace Rohde both won Gold for Team Fighting at the Scottish Karate Championships.

Elizabeth Lothian- has had her own photography display.

Lizzie Lothian, an S2 pupil, has recently been working closely with local photographer Kathryn Rattray to develop her photography interests and skills. Lizzie has a natural creative flair for photography and over the past six weeks she has created stunning images including gorgeous flower/nature shots. She was also involved in photo documenting the recent redesign of the Riverside graffiti wall in conjunction with the local Westfest event. On Sunday 10th June Lizzie opened her own solo photography exhibition show casing twenty two pieces of her work. The event was a huge success with Lizzie deciding that all profits from photograph sales will go to local charity, The Archie Foundation. The exhibition is called 'Pink Two'.

Watersports trip

At the beginning of June 2018, thirty eight pupils and five staff travelled to the South of France to enjoy a week of watersports arranged by the PGL Company. We spent three nights each in Mimosa beach and the Ardèche river

Whilst at Mimosa beach the students took part in a variety of different activities; catamarans, sailing in picos and fun boats, the banana boat, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and raft building. During the raft building the students learned how to work together in teams and to work as a team to achieve the best outcome and learn new and valuable life skills as a group.

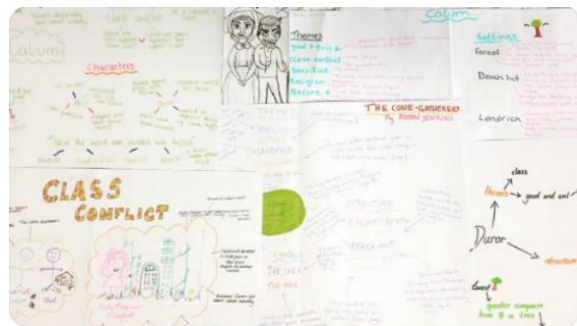
We spent a day in Avignon exploring the old town and doing some shopping before heading onto our next stay. We then spent three days canoeing down the Ardèche river before the bus journey home.

For most of the students many of the activities they participated in during this trip were done for the first time and a great deal of fun was had by both students and teachers during the trip. A great sense of achievement was also seen when activities were mastered for the first time and a feeling of camaraderie within the group who all worked well with each other and enjoyed the trip.

Study Support

The English Department continued to support pupils to achieve. This year five separate study sessions per week were offered to National 5 and Higher pupils. These valuable sessions were tailored to the needs of attending students and helped prepare them for their upcoming exams.

"I thought the study support last year was brilliant as I got the chance to ask questions on things I didn't want to ask in class. Classwork became clearer which made it easier to study for my exams." (Lauren, S4)



The Bridge Writing Workshops

This year eleven students were given the opportunity to work with Geoff Barker from *The Bridge*. The workshops helped prepare students for the demands of academic writing at university level. All students who attended spoke highly of the programme; hopefully they will feel confident as they embark on their university careers. Due to the success of this programme, Harris Academy has strengthened its link with *The Bridge* by offering the writing workshops to senior pupils as an enrichment course in session 2018/2019.

S3 Media Course

To meet the interest and demand of junior pupils, Harris Academy created a Media course for S3 pupils. Harris Academy is the only school in Dundee to provide this opportunity. Thirty pupils selected this as an option with many continuing their study of Media in S4. This course focussed on teaching vital skills which would support their learning and understanding of Media.

"I liked how the class taught us how films were constructed."

"Classes were fun and enjoyable."

Outdoor Learning

Luckily the sunshine came out during the final weeks of the S1 time table. Pupils were able to take their learning to the outdoor classroom. The change of learning environment was welcomed and pupils demonstrated adaptability and enthusiasm.



Disneyland Paris:

The Disneyland Paris 2018 Maths trip ran from 13th to 17th May. Mr Harvey, Mrs Maynes, Mrs Beer, Ms Watt, Miss Murray and Paul our school support worker along with forty one S1 & S2 pupils travelled to Paris to enjoy the thrills of Disneyland Paris. There was never a dull moment during the trip including the singing competitions on the bus, the jokes that kept coming from our bus driver and the fun had by all on both sailings to, and from Hull. The pupils (and staff) made the most of the two day pass to the Disney parks. There were too many good rides to mention but overall favourites were Rockin' Roller Coaster, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad and the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror. Everyone managed to get some good selfies, whether it was with their Mickey Mouse ears on, standing in front of Sleeping Beauty's castle or in front of the Tower of Terror Hotel. During our last day at Disney we went to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show where there were plenty of 'Yeehaws' coming from our pupils and staff during the stunt filled dinner show. After Disney, we visited the 'Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie' where pupils could see and take part in activities to show the many ways that Maths is used in everyday life. The trip was a major success and all the staff agreed that this was down to the behaviour and maturity of the pupils. They were fantastic representatives of Harris Academy!

Harris Golf Claret Jug

An enjoyable day was had by nine of the Harris pupils as they played for the Harris Golf Claret Jug. Thanks go to George Laidlaw for organising the use of the Ashludie Golf Course for this event. The day was helped by warm sunshine and light winds. Balls were sent straight down the fairway, onto beautiful greens and dropped crisply into the waiting cup; well mostly. Over the 18 holes of this beautiful course the pupils had the chance to show and improve their golfing skills. For some this was their first complete round of golf, but they declared not their last.

On this occasion Elliot Hughes came out victorious with a superb stableford score of 41 points. The pupils all said they are ready to enjoy some golf during the summer holidays, and come back to play in the competition next year.



Ski Trip to Italy, February 2018

The morning of Saturday 3rd February saw thirty four pupils and five staff setting off, on a rather long journey, by coach and ferry, to the Italian Alps. By the Sunday morning, we had finally reached the Mont Blanc tunnel, crossed the border into Italy, and reached our destination of Pila, in the beautiful Aosta valley.

However, before we could unpack and rest at our hotel, we were whisked off to ski hire to be fitted with our equipment for the week ahead. This involved a rather complicated routine of boot fittings, locker assignments, skis, poles and helmets, which had to be carried out with military precision! Once everyone had been processed through ski hire, we were finally ready to be taken to the hotel for some lunch, and then we had the chance to unpack, unwind and take a shower before our evening meal and a much needed early night.

Our first day on the slopes involved a very early start, and again a very precise routine of checking everyone had what they needed for the day. A daily chant of “gloves, goggles, helmet, lunch token” became our anthem before leaving the hotel, and then “boots, skis, poles” when we got to ski hire. A 16 minute ride on the gondola followed, and then we were on the mountain and ready to meet our instructors. This was the routine that followed for the next five days, with 4 hours of instruction and a break for lunch in one of the lovely mountain restaurants every day. A number of our pupils had never skied before or had very limited experience, and it was fantastic to see the progress they all made throughout the week. From the first day of simply getting to grips with putting skis on and standing up, to the last day of perfect turns down the piste, everyone had achieved their goals of learning to ski or improving their existing skills. The snow conditions were fantastic, and we were lucky enough to enjoy some sunshine too, even if the temperatures were as low as -4 degrees some days!

We also enjoyed a whole range of après ski activities throughout the week, including a pizza night, karaoke, bowling, and shopping in Aosta. We had awards every evening for the star of the day, as well as “splat of the day” and a special award for anything funny that had happened too. Certificates were also given out to the pupils from their ski instructors at the end of the week to recognise their achievements on the slopes.

The Hotel Chateau provided wonderful accommodation for our group, and delicious food in a great location with amazing views of the Aosta valley. Our pupils had a fantastic week away, returning home tired but happy. Thanks for being such a great group, and thanks also to Mr Walker, Mr Consitt, Miss McWhannell, Miss Gibson and Mrs Leppard for organising and running this trip. It has proven to be very popular again with all the spaces already filled for February 2018.



S6 Induction Days

At the beginning of the new term, our new S6 Cohort of pupils took part in two days training at Menzieshill Community Centre. Focusing on Leadership skills and working as Peer Supporters for our junior pupils, all of the S6 pupils involved showed their determination to achieve academically and gave a commitment to become active members of the school and its wider community.

Our new S6 volunteered to support others both within and out with school. This showed staff the qualities and skills that the new S6 possess in their determination to give something back to their Harris community.

Following their two days training each pupil was awarded a Peer Support Training Certificate and the opportunity to participate in the Saltaire Award Scheme.

**** Dates for your Diary ****

**** School closes for Summer Term 2018****
Friday 29th June 2018 (noon)

**** School opens for Autumn Term 2018****
Tuesday 14th August 2018 (Pupils)

**** S1 & S6 Photographs ****
Monday 3rd September 2018

A full list of key dates will be available in our school calendar and year group calendars on the school website. This will be available in August.



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