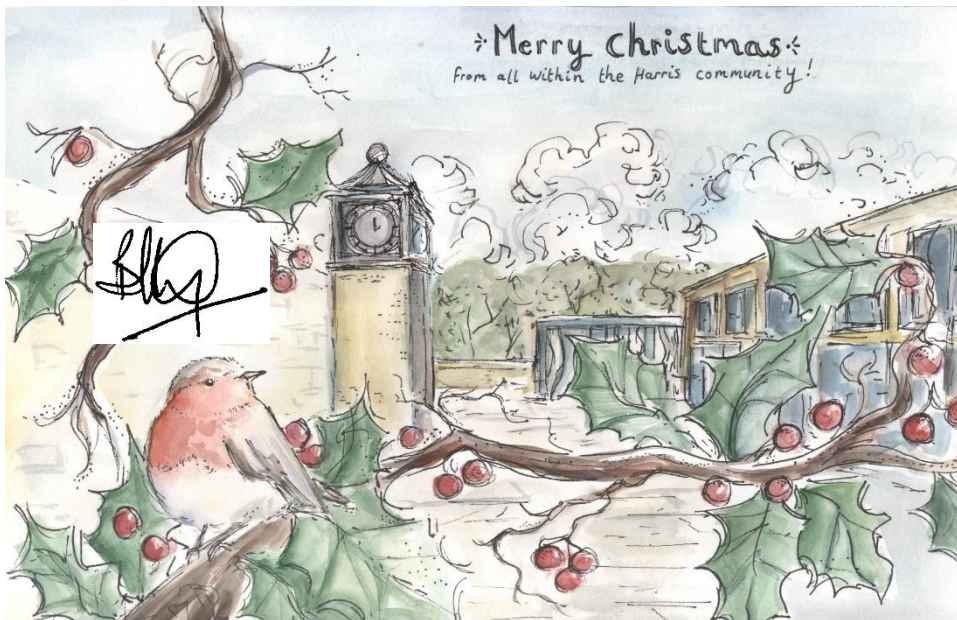




Dear Parent / Carer,

On behalf of all my colleagues here at Harris Academy, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Head Teacher



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### TERM ENDS

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### SPRING TERM BEGINS

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January

### S2 TRACKING REPORT ISSUED

w/b 9<sup>th</sup> January

### S2 PARENT / CARER EVENING

17<sup>th</sup> January

### COURSE CHOICE INFORMATION EVENING (CURRENT S3, S4 AND S5) AND CAREER FAYRE

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

### COURSE CHOICE INFORMATION EVENING (CURRENT S2)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

### S4 – S6 FORMAL ASSESSMENT BLOCK

26<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February





## Our return in January

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We look forward to a new year of learning for us all, starting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January for staff and young people.

Please note however, that our school is closed to young people on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January due to planned strike action. A letter explaining more about this can be found by [clicking here](#).

Although our school will be closed that day, Dundee and Angus College remains open. All seniors who study a course at college on a Wednesday should report to class as normal. This includes any young person who should be on a placement as part of a Foundation Apprenticeship.

Our school bus will leave from our Perth Rd building to both college venues at the usual time that day.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the relevant Guidance teacher.

## Formal Assessment Block

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As intimated over the previous newsletters, our S4 – S6 young people will sit some formal assessments (previously known as prelims) in a blocked approach from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. A period of study leave will be granted for the duration of these dates.

Each day will see young people sit a formal assessment based on the subject they study in any column. *As an example, if a young person studies Modern Studies in Column C, they will sit their assessment on the corresponding day for Column C assessments.*

Our first newsletter back will give much more detail in relation to our planned approach, including an overview timetable and our plan for communicating the assessment timings with you and your young person.






## Christmas Cheer

The Harris Academy Charity Committee has been hard at work again this year and Christmas is the most hectic time of year as our projects have gone from strength to strength. Although we involve our whole school community in many fantastic projects across the year, Christmas is by far the most rewarding time.

This week has been very humbling in many ways as we have visited both Roxburgh House and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Ninewells. Young people have joined us on both visits and by being part of the visits they can see exactly the impact our gifts make to our local community.

On Monday we visited the Neonatal Unit we were given a tour of the new facilities and managed to catch a glimpse of some of the babies who were being cared for. A truly emotional visit but exceptionally worthwhile for all involved. We gifted the unit 20 Christmas Stockings filled with lovely gifts and a mountain of hand knitted hats, cardigans and mittens. We would like to thank the Technology Department for producing the Baby's 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Bauble and our army of knitters out in the wider school community.

←  NICU Ninewells is 😊 feeling thankful. ...  
1 h · 🌐

massive thank you for a lovely visit today from the students at the Harris, delivering Christmas goodies and Santa stockings.





By Wednesday it was time to visit Roxburgh House. Along with our fabulous school choir and music department, several of our S6 pupils and staff toured the Day Care Room and a few wards to bring festive cheer to the patients. A humbling experience for all involved but a time to reflect after another meaningful afternoon.



During the term staff pupils and friends of the school have raised money through a variety of ways to allow us to purchase two handcrafted benches to gift to Roxburgh House. These will be placed in the grounds and this will allow family a space to think and chat during visits to see their loved ones. Once the benches are in place we will take some photos and be sure to share these with you all. Our Fashion and Textile pupils as well as some of our wider community also produced gorgeous handmade Christmas decorations for Roxburgh House, these will be placed onto their tree for families to take which gives them something to help remember loves ones.



In addition to this, we have supported many of our own families within the Harris Academy community. This support has been through a number of different ways and we know that this is truly appreciated by all involved.

As a school we are honoured to be involved in so many wonderful projects however we recognise that we could not do this without the help, support and kindness of pupils, families, staff, former pupils and our wider school community and for this we are truly grateful. All of the above exemplify how our school values come to life in our everyday actions.





## Music and Drama Events

It's been a busy time in the Music & Drama department as we returned to our usual festive programme.

The Drama Department successfully produced Cinderella, which featured pupils in S1-3. Pupils from our associated primary schools enjoyed the matinee performances and the community were welcomed into the school for the evening performances.

Music pupils have been out and about in the community with performances to switch on the Christmas lights in the West End and Menzieshill communities. They performed for patients at Roxburgh and Victoria. We were asked to be part of DC Thomson's first Christmas Concert, which was a huge success.

Several instrumental pupils sat Dundee Graded Exams and were successful. We look forward to celebrating these successes at Prize Giving in the summer term.

We look forward to taking part in more events in the new year.

## Geography Club

This year has seen the start of our Geography club for juniors on a Friday lunch time. This group is open to anyone in S1-S3, and it is an opportunity to get help with Geography homework or to simply play quizzes and learn more about our planet. Our small but incredibly enthusiastic group have become experts in naming flags and identifying countries on a map. We have even invented a little game similar to UNO but with a Geographical twist. We are always on the lookout for new members so feel free to come along for some Geography fun on a Friday lunch time in room 4111.





## S2 Trip to Dynamic Earth

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, an enthusiastic group of S2 pupils made their way through to Edinburgh to visit Dynamic Earth – an interactive museum all about our planet. We started our trip off in the ShowDome where we watched a film all about space and we asked ourselves the important question of “are we alone?” After the film we embarked on our tour of the museum where we were able to go in a “time machine” back to the birth of our planet and see how Earth first formed. We then felt the ground shake beneath our feet in a “earthquake”, there were a few screams during this exhibition! Following on from this we were able to witness how glaciers and ice has shaped the landscape and we even came up close with a giant iceberg – this proved very popular, and everyone loved touching the ice. One of the most exciting things about our trip was being able to experience a 4D adventure which took us across the world looking at various biomes. We finished our journey in the tropical rainforest where we witnessed a thunderstorm and some of us even got a little bit wet during this. We had a fantastic day out and the pupils were a credit to the school. They completed a worksheet which involved finding out facts to wow their friends and family. A great day was had by all!





## **PE Department News**

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The PE department are very pleased with the positive attitude and enthusiasm of all our young people here at Harris, we would like to thank all parents and carers for the support you have shown us throughout the year, ensuring your young people are ready to participate. Our pupils have been heel toe-ing their way into 2023 with our class ceilidhs, all danced with great style and smiles on their faces. Well done!

## **Our Extra- Curricular Clubs - Aug to Dec 2022**

We are very proud to announce we have had 18 clubs (Miss Fits, Netball, Rugby, Dance x 2, fitness, futsal, hockey, table tennis, badminton, running, varsity cup, basketball x 2, football x 4) taking place since August at either lunchtime or after school with 26 volunteers (teachers, school staff, club coaches, senior pupils and a community coach) running and organising these, including a partnership with Dundee & District Table Tennis Association to provide a coach and playing equipment.

333 pupils (210 boys and 123 girls) have attended at least 1 club for 1 session representing 25 % of the school roll.

## **Young Ambassadors and Leadership**

Two new Young Ambassadors (Innes Taylor and Praise Nnamuchi) were appointed, after application and interview process in August. Also appointed were Harris Academy's representatives on the City-Wide Active Girls Committee – Lizzie Lothian and Simya Lohana. These 4 pupils plus 4 others make up the School Sports Committee who work with the 2 Active School Coordinators to promote sport with the pupils in the school

Over half of the senior pupils, who assist with clubs, took part in the City-Wide Sports Leadership Academy, gaining qualifications in the following sports/activities and are using these to gain more experience – dance leaders, sports leaders, netball level 1 & refereeing, basketball





## Competitions

The school has taken part in competitions at a local, regional and national level since August.

Local – Road Relay, Dundee Schools Football Leagues x 4, S1 to S3 hockey, S1 to S3 table tennis, netball

Regional – Tayside Schools Swimming, Spar Cup (Girls Football – S1/S2 & S3/S4 teams), East District Golf Championships

National – Aspire Cup Hockey (under 18 boys, S1/S2 Girls and S1/S2 Boys), Scottish Schools swimming (virtual)

## Dance at Harris Academy

Both the S3 Dance & Aesthetic course and Velocity have been working extremely hard during term 1 and 2. They have been working their skills and techniques as well as working on their teamwork! They have performed at various events including The Harris Academy Christmas fayre. The young people will once again be showcasing their talents along with our cluster primary schools at our very own Harris Academy Cluster Dance show on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023! More information to follow. Well done to everyone involved







## Harris Pledge Update

### Wider Achievement : Experiences

As part of our pledge we have offered wider achievement opportunities based on what our young people asked for.

**Experiences**  
Every young person will have the opportunity to experience an outdoor learning event and attend a club that interests them.

**Career**  
Every young person will receive support to reach their career goals and will have an enriched career experience.

**The Harris Pledge**  
ensuring opportunities for all to support their ambitions and to compliment their academic attainment

**Leadership**  
Every young person will have the opportunity to experience a leadership role.

**Volunteering**  
Every young person will have the opportunity to experience volunteering.

Please follow the link to see that showcases some of the amazing opportunities that our young people have opted in to <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundecity.sch.uk/wider-achievement>.

### Careers Fayre: Career

**Harris Academy Careers Fayre**

Helping our young people to take the next step

THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 7-8:30 p.m





## S3 Prefects: Leadership

Deadline for completed applications is the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Applications are available from the school office and the school website <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/s3-prefect-application-form-23.doc>

## Saltire: Volunteering

Congratulations to the following pupils:

- Paula Perez who has started volunteering

The following pupils have gained 'The Approach' certificate for volunteering 10 hours or more of their time:

- Lucy Bland
- Aimee Shaw
- Beatriz Huertas
- Kayla Lamb
- Jamie Allardice
- Frankie Heary
- Praise Nnamuchi
- Tess Walker
- Carrie Morrison
- Samuel Peacham
- Sehr Iqbal
- Innes Taylor
- Melissa Morris
- Amy Stewart
- Megan Robertson

**Huge well done to Chloe Fox who has gained the 'Ascent' certificate for volunteering more than 50 hours of her time!**

Our young people volunteer within Harris and within our community.

