

Harris Academy

Parent / Carer Newsletter | *Session 2021 - 2022*

Issue 27 | 22nd April 2022



Dear Parent / Carer,

A warm welcome back to our school community for the fourth, and final, term of the school session.

Pupil Successes

Over the Easter break, Torin Dubiel (pictured left) represented Scotland in Basketball at Under 18 level.

Torin's younger brother, Oscar has also been selected to represent Basketball Scotland's Under 14 National Academy team in the Tri Nations competition against England and Wales in May.

Congratulations to both boys!



Lewis Lorimer has recently been awarded his International tie for representing Scotland at Football. The picture shows Lewis receiving both his Cap and his award for Man of the Match in a game vs England.

In a sporting sense, finally, Dominick Jaglar (3Kb) will represent Great Britain at ice-hockey in an international tournament in Latvia this weekend.

Congratulations to all of our young people who are performing at such a high standard.



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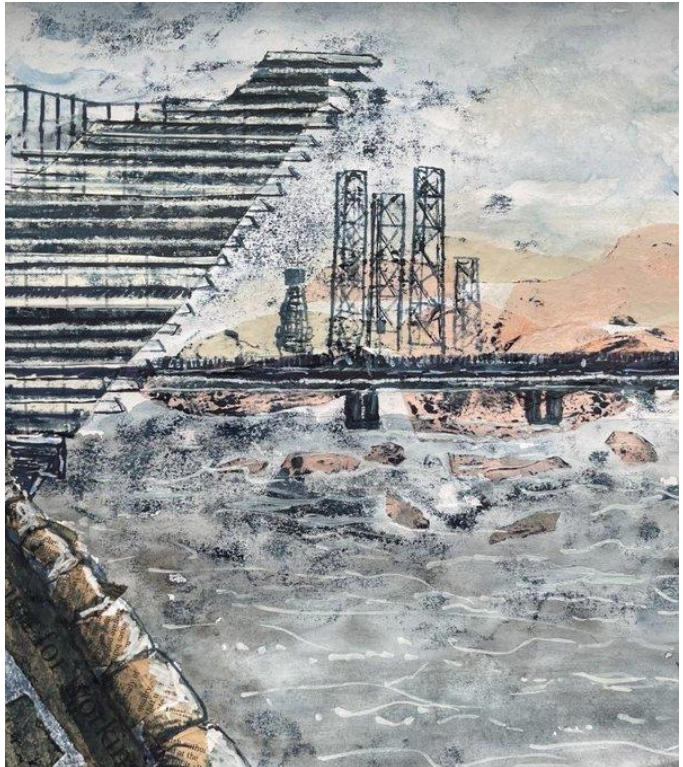
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In a similar vein, congratulations to Oliver Forbes-Graham in S1. Oliver's winning entry for the Royal Scottish Academy Schools Awards 2022 is fantastic – I am sure you will agree.

Oliver's painting came out on top from over 350 other national entrants and is being showcased in the RSA Virtual Exhibition.



Saturday School and Subject Masterclasses

As we move into the formal SQA exam period we will be running two initiatives to further support our senior phase young people, our 'Saturday school' and 'Subject Masterclasses'.

Saturday School

Our Saturday school will run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am on a Saturday morning. It will start this Saturday (23rd of April) and continue through the beginning of the formal SQA exam period.

This Saturday we will be offering National 5 and Higher English, National 5 and Higher Maths, as well as a study skills tutorial and study spaces for general revision. All S4 to S6 pupils are welcome, please come along.

Masterclasses

Many of our subjects will be running Masterclasses for two hours after school, on the day before their SQA exams. Departments will make pupils aware of this provision during classes if it is taking place in their subject area.

Thank you for your continued support in trying to help our young people realise and release their potential. If there are any questions or you would like more information, please email tbeattie520@dundeeschools.scot.

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SQA

The SQA examinations start next week on Tuesday 26th April and run until Wednesday 1st June (dates inclusive). We wish every young person sitting SQA examinations this session at Harris Academy the very best of luck.

Our Invigilation Team met in school this week to go over procedures and protocols for supporting our young people over the next five and a half weeks. We are extremely grateful for their commitment to our school in a challenging year.

Study Leave

Dundee City Council's Education Department has agreed that all pupils in S4 and S5 sitting **one or more National 5, Higher or A Higher** SQA examination/s, with a final examination included, will be entitled to examination preparation time (study leave) during this year's SQA Examination Diet, as will **all** S6 pupils.

Pupils in S4 and S5 being presented at National 3, National 4 levels and/or Skills for Work courses and National Progression Awards do not sit a final examination and should **attend school as normal throughout the SQA Examination Diet**. Those young people not entitled to be absent from school during the examination preparation period should follow their present timetable from Tuesday 3rd May. Further information will be made available in due course.

This year's SQA Examination Preparation Period begins on **Tuesday 3rd May 2022 and ends on Friday 27th May 2022 (both dates inclusive)**. Senior pupils should return to school on **Monday 30th May 2022**.

If any pupil has an examination out with the exam preparation period, then s/he is permitted to prepare at home **the day before the examination and will be excused from classes on the day of the examination. This comes into effect from Monday 25th April 2022**.

For full detail of our specific SQA arrangements here at Harris Academy, please click on the link below and choose the **SQA Examination Diet Letter 2022 tab** for a copy of the SQA examination letter which was shared with all S4, 5 & 6 pupils as well as parents & carers prior to the Easter holiday.

[Harris Academy SQA Letter 2022](#)

Pupil absence from SQA exams

Please note that if your young person is prevented from attending an examination for any reason is essential that you contact the school office as early as possible on the morning of the examination to report the reason for the absence. This will allow school staff to ascertain if an examination exceptional circumstances request should be made.



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Arriving late for SQA exams

If your young person arrives late for their SQA examination, they will not be entitled to any extra time and will finish the examination at the scheduled time. Pupils are allowed into the examination room up to **30 minutes late after the start of any examination longer than one hour in length**. If a young person arrives after this time s/he will **not** be allowed into the examination room in accordance with SQA procedures. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience if your young person is going to be late for an SQA examination in order that the SQA Co-ordinator and Chief Invigilator can be made aware as early as possible.

SQA exams this week:

Tuesday 26th - Higher Politics

Wednesday 27th - N5, Higher and Adv Higher Geography

Thursday 28th - Higher Photography & Higher PE

Friday 29th - N5, Higher and Adv Higher Chemistry

Dundee University Summer Taster Sessions

I'm pleased to confirm that Dundee University will be running three days of events in June aimed at providing prospective students an insight into Higher Education and a "taster" of the subjects they might be interested in pursuing. This event would be aimed specifically at our new S6 pupils (currently S5) who would be about to begin work on their UCAS application and would be applying to university for 2023 intake. The subjects available on each day are as follows:

All pupils planning to attend on their chosen day will need to register for a place.

Booking a place will be done during their PHSE class or by giving a note of interest to Miss R Walker (Birnam). This can also be done by emailing the school and giving your child's name and a note of their preferred subjects.

The event is restricted to 100 pupils per day, so it is on a first come first served basis.

S3 Work Experience

The majority of our S3 cohort (Forres and Kinloch pupils this week) start their Work Experience from Monday. If any pupil is absent during their work experience placement, please contact both school and the organisation your young person is working with.

We wish all of these young people our best wishes for a productive and inciteful week.



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S6 Leavers' Event

In consultation with the School Captains, our S6 cohort will be invited into school on the afternoon of Tuesday 7th June. During the afternoon, the S6 will have a Yearbook Awards Ceremony; their group photograph and Prefect photos will be taken and then, after school a Barbeque, which all staff have also been invited to.

This will also be the date for S6 to have their shirts signed by peers and staff members. This date should be the only one used for shirt signing to keep disruption in the school to a minimum.

Parental Involvement and Engagement Census – a message from Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service

Parents and carers are by far the most important influence on children's lives. Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's learning, children do better at school and throughout their lives. We would like to get an idea of how you feel about your child's school and to give you a chance to reflect on the involvement and engagement you are experiencing.

Please take the time to answer the questions below, we value all of your responses and will use them to plan for our next steps in parental engagement opportunities and programmes.

Completing the questionnaire should take no longer than 10 minutes and your answers will be kept completely confidential

The link to the survey is: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/17V0Z1/>

Barry Millar, Head Teacher