



14th May 2021

Term 4 newsletter / issue 5

Dear Parent / Carer,

Please find attached our most up to date, pertinent information. Although I suggested that these letters would not be issued weekly, the pace of change has dictated the need for weekly updates. I will continue to offer information as and when it is available.

Temporary Timetable to support Senior Phase Assessments

To allow more focused time for senior phase assessments and, at the same time, ensure our S1 – S3 pupils continue to have curriculum delivery with their own teachers, we will begin an amended timetable from Thursday 20th May – Wednesday 26th May.

This amended timetable will result in young people going to their classes at different times in the week from the norm. All S1 – S3 pupils will have this timetable explained to them at an assembly (physically distanced and no more than three classes at a time).

A copy of the amended timetable can be accessed by clicking on the following link
<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/phase-2-assessment-block-timetable.pdf>

Phase 2 Assessments (for parents / carers of S4 – S6)

Our Phase 2 Assessment Timetable was published on Wednesday. These assessments, in the main, are SQA secure assessments which give high predictive value.

Assessments throughout the year, and specifically in Phase 1, have been geared to support best outcome in these SQA secure papers. They are, however, not the only thing we will consider when processing our provisional grades. The school will be taking a holistic approach to find the best available, robust evidence to use in determining the grades that will ensure best outcomes for young people.

As noted in our communication on Wednesday:

Wednesday 19th May

S4 pupils who are studying National 5 English have an assessment. All other S4 – S6 have a study day and are not required in school.

Thursday 20th – Wednesday 26th May

Each column will have a day dedicated to it for assessment purposes. The assessment calendar can be found at the following link

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundeeecity.sch.uk/phase-2-assessment-calendar.pdf>

Thursday 27th – Friday 28th May

Both days have been set aside for assessment catch ups. Any young person who requires to sit an assessment on one or both days will be informed in advance.

Earlier this week, I wrote to all S4 – S6 young people to offer them some information related to SQA Assessments as we move in to Phase 2. A copy of the letter can be viewed by clicking on to the following link

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundeeecity.sch.uk/ht-senior-phase-1.pdf>

Reporting

We do not intend to issue any further reports this session for young people in S1-S3.

We make it a priority to ensure that our reporting is robust and purposeful and allows families and school to work together to achieve the very best outcomes for young people. Tracking reports are always evidence based and reflect learner performance in formal and informal classroom assessments. We do not want to take time away from learning in the classrooms for the collection of evidence at this time.

It is our intention to build in additional parents' evenings early next session for young people currently in S1-S3. We hope to give families the opportunity to come into school and meet with teachers to discuss their young person's progress.

If you have any significant concerns that you wish to discuss, please contact the school. Rest assured that if any specific concerns had been raised by your young person's teachers, contact would already have been made by their Guidance Teacher.

S2 Elective Courses

As part of our S2 curriculum offer we have added the opportunity for our young people to personalise their curriculum by choosing an extra subject known as an '**elective**'. The elective will run for 1 period per week for half the academic year. Young people will have the opportunity to study two electives in during the academic session.

Each elective has been designed to provide additional opportunities for achievement and to build skills for learning, life, and work.

Please see the elective booklet, which includes a link to the course choice form, for more information

<http://harrisacademy.ea.dundeeecity.sch.uk/s2-electives-harris-academy-2021-2022-003.pdf>

Our guidance team will work with your young people in PSE to answer any questions they may have before completing the course choice option form.

S6 Photograph

To mark the end of their time in school, we have arranged a photographer to take a year group photo for those S6 pupils who would like to be a part of it.

This will take place on Thursday 3rd June at 9.30am. The photograph will take place outside and follow all safety precautions.

Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme Survey **Surveys for Secondary School Pupils and Parents/Guardians of Secondary Pupils**

The Scottish Government would like your help to improve the schools asymptomatic testing programme.

What is the Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme?

Some people may have COVID-19 but not have any symptoms. The testing programme aims to help secondary school pupils and staff in schools and childcare settings to find out if they have the virus, so that they and their close contacts can self-isolate. This should help reduce the extent to which the COVID-19 is likely to be passed on in school/childcare communities, reducing the likelihood of outbreaks.

Why are we being asked to complete a survey?

The Scottish Government would like to learn how to improve the testing experience for school communities. In order to do this, we are asking secondary school pupils and the parents/guardians of secondary pupils a few questions about their experience of and views on the testing programme. The surveys should take about 5-10 minutes to complete. Pupils aged 15 and under will be prompted to discuss their participation in the survey with a parent or guardian.

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Please watch this **short video from Professor Jason Leitch** encouraging people to participate: <https://youtu.be/nMletsFhOBU>.

Do we have to fill out the surveys?

Your participation in the surveys is voluntary. You may choose not to participate. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time. All replies are anonymous. We will only use the information you provide to help improve the testing programme and the support we give to those involved. Thank you for your help.

Is anyone else being asked to do a survey?

Yes, we will be asking school staff and others involved in managing the testing programme for their views too.

Links to the surveys

Here are the links to the surveys:

- [Survey for secondary school pupils](#) (click on the underlined text/hyperlink)
- [Survey for parents/guardians of secondary school pupils](#) (click on the underlined text/hyperlink)

If you have any questions about these surveys, please feel free to get in touch with clare.magill@gov.scot.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Millar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher