

Harris Academy

Barry Millar – Head Teacher
Perth Road
Dundee DD2 1NL
Tel: 01382 435700



Email address – harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot
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Respect Equality Enjoyment Achievement

19th February 2021

February 2021 update no.7

Dear Parent / Carer / Young Person,

On Tuesday, the First Minister confirmed that, on a restricted basis to support the completion of practical activities, some Senior Pupils will return to school from Monday 22nd February. This identified group of young people and their parents/carers have been contacted separately with the arrangements for their return.

If you / your young person have/has not been contacted to come into the school, please continue with remote learning at this time.

With this change in mind, and the prospect of the majority of our young people continuing to work from home until after the Easter break, we are continuing to review our remote learning offer and will communicate further with you next week as to any planned changes.

I would like to extend an offer to parents/carers of pupils in S1 and S2 to join a consultation meeting, on Tuesday 23 February 2021 from 9.30am, via Microsoft Teams.

If you would like to join, please email harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot with the email address you would like the link sent to and you will then be sent the meeting link. The meeting will be chaired by Mr Perry, Depute Head. Microsoft Teams works best if you can download the app to your electronic device, for those who are not already regular users.

Harris Hub

Separate communication has been made to our young people and their families in relation to revised Hub arrangements due to the impact of the senior phase return.

We are still working to rationalise the number of young people who are attending our Hub. Any family who are seeking a space in the Hub should now complete the online form via the link below:

[Harris Hub Keyworker Survey](#).

SQA

The Scottish Government and the National Qualifications 2021 Group have made it clear that the focus for our Senior Phase pupils continues to be on learning and teaching for the foreseeable future.

We continue to be committed to organising two further Assessment Blocks for our Senior Pupils – however we are very much aware of the ever-reducing time remaining this school session. Our Assessment Block Working Group will meet after the First Minister's update on 2nd March 2021 to formulate an updated plan. Our second Assessment Block will only take place when all of our Senior pupils have returned to working in the school on

a full-time basis. Time will also be built in for pupils to re-integrate to classroom learning before any assessments are undertaken.

SQA have extended the deadline for secondary schools across the country to submit their provisional results for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher subjects to **Friday 25th June 2021**.

SQA have released the following information for all young people:

[2021 Delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results in 2020-21 – learners \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/2021-Delivering-National-5-Higher-and-Advanced-Higher-results-in-2020-21-learners)

And for parents / carers:

[2021 Delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results in 2020-21 – parents/carers \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/2021-Delivering-National-5-Higher-and-Advanced-Higher-results-in-2020-21-parents-carers)

I can imagine that the news of a continuation of remote learning for the majority of our young people and their families will be met with a sense of disappointment and anxiety.

We should see the gradual return to our building of some senior pupils as a positive step on a long journey towards our new normal. This, combined with the vaccination roll-out and the offer of asymptomatic testing to reduce the spread of the virus, offer us hope for a more positive Term 4.

Your sincerely,

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

Barry Millar
Head Teacher