

## Harris Academy

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25<sup>th</sup> June 2020



### *Newsletter for young people, parents, and carers*

*Updated version based on the Deputy First Minister's announcement that schools will re-open to all pupils in August.*

Dear Pupil / Parent / Carer,

On Tuesday, the Deputy First Minister Mr Swinney announced that, if the positive progress continues in the fight against COVID-19, all young people will return to school in August.

When I wrote to you on Monday, I had stated that we would run with our Recovery Plan for at least two weeks however due to National and Local information, this will no longer be possible. **Therefore, please treat my initial newsletter, which was issued on Monday as our contingency plan; one that will only be utilised if the Government's advice shifts towards a staggered re-entry.**

The following content is our current 'Plan A' based on the most up-to-date information. Please be assured that in the background, Mrs MacDonald, our school timetabler, has been working on a 'full return' timetable.

## Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> August

Our revised plan, to allow for safe, staggered return to school which allows all year groups to have an induction to our new safe working practices is detailed below:

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	<b>Staff Inservice Day</b>	<b>Staff Inservice Day</b> <b>Prefect</b> Induction (1.30 – 3.30pm) All newly appointed prefects should assemble in the Plaza (clock tower), <b>arriving no earlier</b> than 1.20pm.
Tuesday	<p><b>S1</b> begin their timetabled classes <b>School day starts at 8.45am with our warning bell ringing at 8.40am</b> All S1 pupils should report to the Tiered Seating / Dining Centre for 8.45am</p> <p><b>S5 or S6 pupils</b> who have course choice change requests (11am onwards). Any senior pupil who has course choice change requests should come into the building between 11am – 3pm. <b>Please note that no other senior pupil should come to school that day unless they wish to discuss their courses.</b></p>	
Wednesday	<p><b>S1</b> continue in their timetabled classes</p> <p><b>S4 – S6</b> begin their timetabled classes Senior pupils should report to an allocated room for an extended registration and information session before normal classes resume. <i>The week before school returns, we will send information via our website, emails and Twitter that will inform young people as to which room they should report to.</i></p>	
Thursday	<p><b>S1, S4, S5 and S6 pupils</b> continue in their timetabled classes</p> <p><b>S3</b> begin their timetabled classes All S3 pupils should report to an allocated room for an extended registration and information session before normal classes resume. The week before school returns, we will send information via our website, emails and Twitter that will inform young people as to which room they should report to.</p>	<p><b>S1, S3, S4, S5 and S6 pupils</b> continue in their timetabled classes</p> <p><b>S2</b> begin their timetabled classes <b>(PM) at 1.10pm</b> All S2 pupils should report to an allocated room for an extended registration and information session before normal classes resume. The week before school returns, we will send information via our website, emails and Twitter that will inform young people as to which room they should report to.</p>
Friday	<b>All year groups</b> return to their timetabled classes.	

## Uniform

In light of the fact that all young people will return in August on a full-time basis, **full school uniform** will be our preferred dress code for young people.

If, for any reason, families will not be in a position to provide school uniform, please contact the relevant Guidance teacher via the following, relevant email address. We will do all we can to help.

[forresguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:forresguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk)

[cawdorguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:cawdorguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk)

[kinlochguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:kinlochguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk)

[birnamguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:birnamguidance@dundeecity.gov.uk)

**Please note that our alternative uniform of a hooded sweatshirt from August to October has now been cancelled.** The rationale behind this plan rested on the fact that young people would not be in the building full time and therefore we did not want parents / carers to have to purchase uniform that would not be fully utilised.

We will hold a uniform event on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August (4-6pm) here at school where ties, blazers and other articles of school uniform will be available to purchase.

**All of our new S1 pupils will be given a tie as a gift from the school and can either be picked up at our uniform event on the 5<sup>th</sup> August or at the school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>.**

As a reminder to most, our school uniform consists of:

- Black Trousers or Skirt
- Black shoes *or plain black trainers*
- Harris tie (*available to purchase from the school the week before school starts or at the Schoolwear shop at a cost of £6 per tie*)
- White shirt or blouse
- And, preferable but not compulsory, our Harris blazer which can be ordered via Academy Uniforms. Wool and polyester options are both available.

For more information on our blazer, please go to <https://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk/>

## Transport

Discussions are ongoing with the relevant Dundee City Council department. As soon as more information is available in relation to social distancing / restrictions on school buses, we will publish them via Twitter and our website.

***Please note that at the time of publishing, face masks are compulsory on public transport.***

## Hand washing

Our school building will be fully supplied with hand sanitisers, tissues and anti-bacterial wipes that will be a part of our regular practice on entry/exit from the school and every classroom.

## Arrangements for lunch

Discussions will continue with Tayside Contracts during the summer however a lunch service will be provided. More details will follow in August.

## Equipment

Our initial request remains:

Pupils should bring their own pencil case with all necessary equipment with them from class to class. Pencil case equipment should not be shared with any other pupil.

## Pupil Support Update

We are acutely aware that some of our school community will be anxious about returning to our building. Our extended pupil support team will be available to support in any way required.

## Keeping in touch

Our original advice remains:

We would like you to follow us on Twitter. Here, you will find the most up to date information as our plans progress in response to local and national advice.

Our Twitter feed is also heavily used to share all of the fantastic achievements of our young people.

As well as sending emails, our school website will also continue to be updated with key information from week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> August onwards.

Follow us [@harrisacdundee](https://twitter.com/harrisacdundee)

## Message to Parents / Carers

My request to our parent / carer body is for your patience and understanding as we finalise our plans for our August re-entry. We will communicate with you as often as possible during the Summer break as we gather important update information.

To balance this, my colleagues have all worked extremely hard over these past months, many of whom voluntarily supported our young people in the Tayview CSC during their Easter holiday and will again during the Summer holiday, and I want to ensure they get the chance to rest and relax to ensure they come back revitalised for a challenging term ahead.

*Please note that emails will not be responded to until week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> August at the earliest.*

## Message for our fantastic young people

We look forward to seeing you all back in school in August. Please be assured, we will have your health and safety at the front of our mind in planning our re-entry.

Again, have a fantastic, safe holiday – and get ready for a busy term in August!

*Finally, thank you to our school community for your support of each other. Enjoy what I hope will be a fantastic, long, warm and safe summer.*

*Yours sincerely,*



Barry Millar  
Head Teacher

