



Harris Academy Newsletter

December 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Harris Academy's Winter newsletter.

2016 has been a truly significant year for our school. We have grown in size, moved in to our new home and introduced our amended curriculum, based on a 33 period week.

Our young people are adapting well to their new surroundings and, although we remain in a period of transition and change, I am convinced that our school will continue to flourish.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the young people of the school, the Parent Council and the wider parent body for their support over this past year and wish each and every one of you an enjoyable and restful winter holiday.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher

Official Opening



The official opening of our new building took place on Wednesday 7th December by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Mr John Swinney MSP.

Ciar Milne, S4, played his bagpipes to welcome the invited guests. The plaque was unveiled by John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and the school captains – Kirsten Ferrier and Sam Pirrie compered the event. Over 120 musicians provided entertainment during the ceremony which included our school orchestra featuring the pipe band, the choir and the jazz band. The event was organised by the Creative Industries class, who also provided some musical entertainment during the refreshments which were supplied by the staff and young people of our Home Economics department.



BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

George R Donald Enterprise Challenge

The George R Donald Enterprise Challenge event was held at the Michelin Athletic Club on 9 November. This was organised by the George R Donald Fund in conjunction with the Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce. A team of 4 pupils from each secondary school in Dundee and Angus participated in the event. Each team had a local sponsor. The Harris team were - from S4: Craig McDonald and Elliot Tosh and from S5: Jordyn Barlow and Yasmin Dunn. The pupils were asked to put forward an idea for a small business based in Dundee for tourists visiting the area. They were asked to formulate a business plan and present a pitch to the team of business expert judges from the Bank of Scotland and the Chamber of Commerce.

Although they did not win, our team worked extremely hard and came up with some brilliant ideas. A good day was had by all!

Charities Committee

As a result of various fund raising activities, our House Teams have raised an incredible amount of money for extremely worthwhile causes.

- Birnam** Special Care Baby Unit / Neonatal Intensive Care Unit - £250 + 23 Christmas Stockings filled with gifts as well as a gift bag for each baby. Also a massive donation of hand knitted items.
- Cawdor** Ward 29 Children's Ward - £722 of toys donated.
- Forres** Roxburgh House - £304 cheque
- Kinloch** Tay FM Mission Christmas Appeal = £610 cheque (this is for children who are in need in the local area).



COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Since August the Computing Department has taken part in lots of exciting projects and events including

National Coding Week 19th of September

Have a look! We are on the map for the coding work our pupils completed during this week. All year groups were involved from S1 coding Microbits to the AH developing database driven websites.

<https://www.codingweek.org/>

Build It Scotland – Creative Technologies Ambassadors. 6th October

This was a very exciting opportunity for 3 of our S1 pupils. During their visit pupils will gain an insight into different Computer Aided Design (CAD) software, focusing on MinecraftEDU and Google SketchUp.



Huge well done to Drew Alexander, Grace Wilken and Eilidh van Aalten for volunteering and successfully becoming Harris Academy's Creative Technologies Ambassadors.

Our new Cyber Security courses are a big hit!

The pupils have enjoyed working in partnership with Abertay University. The Cyber class has benefited from working with students who are completing their degrees. We have also benefited from a Cyber Security talk from Graeme McKay (Microsoft: Data Protection Program Manager)

November was the month of visitors!

Senior pupils had the opportunity to develop code and debugging techniques with Mark McDade a software engineer from NCR and enjoy a masterclass from Graeme McKay (Microsoft: Data Protection Program Manager) on the best way to create effective video.

Advanced Higher have visited the Learning Lab at Dundee College

Pupils and staff enjoyed a session in Dundee and Angus College's Learning Lab. We explored the wide range of physical applications and technologies which can be used within industry and education including 3D printers, hand scanners, augmented and virtual reality headsets, drones and more.

December

All computing pupils have participated in the International **Hour of Code**. Go on, try it out yourself <https://code.org/>

First Lego League has been up and running since August. We finally have our team which is led by our very own 5th and 6th year pupils. The pupils have worked extremely hard to design and build their robot, program the robot and complete a project. The regional final is on Monday the 19th of December. Please wish them good luck.



The Harris Academy Little Big Awards. We have been working in partnership with CISCO to connect the unconnected. Only one team can represent Harris Academy in January but we wanted all S1 & S2 pupils to take part. On the 22nd of December at 6pm the Dragons Den Styled Little Big Awards will take place. Thanks to sponsorship from SPIE and SSE each member of the winning team will each receive a raspberry pi. Our Dragons will have a tough job.

Christmas Lecture Cyber Security All of our senior Computing students attended a very thought provoking and exciting lecture at Abertay University. One of the presenters is a former pupil, Dr Gavin Hales.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

S2 Geography Trip to Dynamic Earth

A group of S2 pupils from Harris Academy were given the opportunity to visit Dynamic Earth on Friday 25th November. This museum, in Edinburgh, tells the story of Scotland's geological history and pupils get to experience the volcanoes and earthquakes that were once found in Scotland. Pupils also enjoyed seeing a real iceberg and going on a trip around the world's climate zones with everyone getting covered with snow! The visit also involved a workshop on Supervolcanoes where pupils had to deal with the aftermath of a super eruption and got to develop their map skills.



Higher Geography Fieldtrip

On Wednesday 14th September, the Higher Geography class, along with Miss Menzies, Mrs Leppard and Miss Huzzey, took a trip across the Tay to Tentsmuir in Fife. The aim of the trip was to carry out fieldwork on plant succession on coastal sand dunes for the added value unit of the Higher course. The pupils worked in groups on the beach and sand dunes at Tentsmuir, measuring slope angles and distances, and recording information on landforms, vegetation and soils along a transect in order to test the theories of sand dune succession that they had been learning about in the classroom. It was a lovely day to be at the beach and stayed dry which was the main thing! The groups worked well together, learning to use instruments and fieldwork equipment they hadn't used before and recording their findings as they moved through the dunes, from the sea to the forest. They rewarded themselves with an unbelievable amount of food that emerged from their bags for a picnic, before boarding the bus to head back over the Tay bridge to Dundee. The pupils have now taken their data back to the classroom to process and analyse for their assignment. Hopefully, they will have found this experience particularly valuable in bringing the classroom alive, allowing them to see first-hand what they've been learning about and also bringing them together to work as a team and get to know their fellow classmates.

N4/5 Geography Fieldwork

The N4/5 Geography classes were also out in September, doing urban fieldwork in the local area for their added value unit. Each class was divided into two groups, with one group gathering data in the inner city, and the other in the suburbs. They carried out a land use survey, environmental quality survey, traffic survey and pedestrian count, before taking their data back to the classroom to swap with the other group and make comparisons between the two different parts of the city for their assignment.



Harris Education and Recreation Association (HERA)

The HERA programme will commence in January 2017 offering a wide range of evening classes. Drawing and Painting, Foods of the World, Crochet, Ballroom Dance for Beginners, an Introduction to Photography, Holiday Spanish and Art and Design Meets Form and Function will all commence on 25th January for 10 weeks. Pilates will commence on 1st March for 9 weeks.

Enrolment night will take place on Wednesday 11th January 2017, 6-7.30pm in Harris Academy, DD2 1NL. Places will be allocated upon registration.

For more information or if you would like to be involved in the HERA Committee please contact Natalie Mackland on 435873, email natalie.mackland@dundeecity.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HERAdundee/>

Home Economics Department

Craft Club

Craft Club runs on a Wednesday at lunchtime in the Home economics department. This term we have been busy making different Christmas decorations. As you can see from the picture our little elves have been very creative.

Craft club is open to all pupils and we hope to welcome new members in the New Year when we will be starting a new project in January. Come and speak to Miss Stott if you are interested.



Chefs' Club

A group of S1 – S3 budding chefs attend a chefs' Club on Tuesday night after school from 3:40pm – 4:45pm. This club was set up to encourage pupils to develop their cookery skills and confidence in the kitchen. Pupils who attend this club really enjoy the activities and the recipes they have created. Anyone who would like to join Chefs' Club please see Miss Ferguson.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Black Watch Visit

The History Department was again very fortunate in being visited by the Black Watch Association. Mr Brown gave a talk to National pupils which will certainly help them in their studies of 'The Great War' topic. It was again extremely informative and pupils were given the opportunity to see and handle items of uniform and weaponry.

Poppy Assemblies

The History Department would like to thank all Senior House Officials and S2 pupils who contributed to the Poppy assemblies. All pupils were also given an opportunity to dedicate a poppy and these were put on a wall for each house.

Lessons from Auschwitz Trip

The History department was fortunate to have had the opportunity to take part in the 2016 'Lessons from Auschwitz' trip in November. Advanced Higher History pupils Sam Pirrie and Alison Cannon, along with Mr. MacDonald took part in the day trip from Edinburgh to Krakow and onto the infamous camps of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Both pupils were a credit to the school and not once complained of being tired despite the 2am start and midnight arrival back in Dundee. Their contributions to the orientation and post-trip seminars were insightful and showed great maturity when faced with such a harrowing topic. Sam and Alison are in the process of deciding how best to use their experience to educate others about the Holocaust and are currently investigating the possibility of a Holocaust survivor visiting the school. More on this in the New Year.

MATHS DEPARTMENT

On the 15th November 2016 four S3 Harris Academy pupils, along with their teacher Mrs Kidd made their way to the Glasgow Science Centre for the Scottish Final of the Enterprising Maths Competition.

To get to the final, the team qualified in the Dundee Heat which took place last academic year. The team of Kristof Hornyik, Josh Muir, Rosa Holm – Huxley and Callum McDonald were raring to go!

The team worked well together throughout the 4 rounds. In the morning there was the Team Round – working together to answer a series of questions and the Speed Contest – moving around a set of 6 logic puzzles, trying to complete them in 5 minutes. After lunch, the Swiss Contest was held – each member of the team playing against a member of an opposing team to try and defeat them in a best of three scenario. The relay race rounded up the afternoon, the team splitting into two and each pair having to answer questions alternatively.

They all enjoyed the day, represented the school well and returned with a trophy to add to the Harris Academy trophy cabinet.

MODERN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

It's the festive time of year again! And what a good year it's been for visits and speakers, not to mention referenda and elections! Congratulations first and foremost to Denen Anderson S3 who won the Harry McLevy award within Harris Academy, and was put forward for the citywide prize for the same award. Denen was presented with a certificate and a £20 prize at a ceremony at Baldragon Academy in October, along with pupils from the other 8 secondary schools across the city.

For this competition, pupils had to produce an investigation on a political or social issue of their choice. We had so many excellent entries, that – as a department – we decided to have our own little in-house ceremony and award vouchers to runner-ups Charlotte Clifford, Jenny MacDougall and Daisy Walker.

Apart from this, the Modern Studies Association (MSA), across Dundee, still hold different events for each of the year groups. We have just had our Christmas Lecture – very kindly hosted by the Sociology Department of Abertay University – and the topic this year was Brexit. 68 of our senior pupils had an opportunity to listen and take part in a Q/A session. This has been running for about 8 years now and as teachers, we are never ceased to be amazed at the level of articulate opinions that come from our pupils, citywide.

S4 will have an opportunity to take part in the S4 Powerpoint Challenge in February, and before the main exams, we will hold a citywide Modern Studies Higher Revision Conference, and finally, finishing off the academic year with a quiz for S1/2s, usually held at Grove Academy.

2017 will also see a conference for Advanced Higher students who are studying 'Crime: Law and Order'. Again, this is usually very well attended and speakers from across the Criminal Justice System attend, giving seniors an opportunity to gather valuable primary source information pertaining to their 5,000 word dissertations. The conference will be followed by visits to Perth Prison and Castle Huntly Open Estate.

My colleagues and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Billy Elliot

78 pupils and 7 staff went to see Billy Elliot the Musical at the Edinburgh Playhouse. On arrival in Edinburgh, they had lunch at Frankie and Benny's before attending the performance. The pupils (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Watch this space for next year's musical trip! Thank you to Mrs Taylor for organising this event and all staff who accompanied the pupils.

Dundee Rotary Competitions

A number of Harris pupils took part in the annual Dundee Rotary Vocalist and Instrumentalist of the Year competitions. Well done to Beth Wood, Corben Bruce, Hazel Bengough and Rosanna Scott.



Armistice Service

The annual Armistice Service took place on Wednesday 9th November in the school. The lament was played by Ciar Milne on bagpipes and the last post by Oscar Holm-Huxley. The Wind Band led by Miss Bird accompanied the hymns – The Lord's My Shepherd and Abide With Me.

Dundee Christmas Lights

The Choir accompanied by the Woodwind Ensemble played some Christmas Carols and songs in St Paul's Cathedral as part of the Dundee Christmas Lights switch on. Well done to all pupils involved and thank you to Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Mackenzie, Mr Peters and Miss Findlater for supporting the pupils at this event.

West End Lights

The West End Christmas fortnight began with the annual concert in Dundee West Church. The Ceilidh Group led by Mrs Green played a Christmas Medley and were joined by some groups from our associated primary schools. As always, the concert displayed the excellent music talent from pupils in Harris and in the associated primary schools.

Christmas at the Music Centre

All pupils involved in the bands and orchestras in the Music Centre, took part in the annual Christmas at the Music Centre concerts. The programme of festive music displayed the excellent work of our pupils and instrumental teachers over the session. We can't wait to see you perform again at the annual spring concerts in March!

Community events

As usual, December is an extremely busy month for both pupils and staff involved in the Music Department. Pupils took part in a number of community events including Carol singing at Tesco Riverside, Ninewells, Victoria and Roxburgh Hospitals and Oaklands Day Centre.

ABRSM

A number of pupils sat and passed Associated Board performing and theory exams this term. Well done to all who took part in these exams and thank you to your teachers for preparing you so well!

NYCoS

A number of pupils from Harris Academy and our associated primary schools took part in the annual National Youth Choir of Scotland Christmas concert in the Caird Hall.

Congratulations to Corben Bruce who was successful in gaining a place at the National Youth Choir Training Choir.

Christmas Concert

Over 130 musicians and dancers took part in the first concert in our new building. The evening featured a wide variety of music including, a string quartet, pipe band, jazz band, brass band, wind band, string ensembles, choirs, rock bands, dancers. Thank you to all pupils who took part in this concert as a musician, dancer or behind the scenes.

SQA

Next term, S4-6 pupils studying Music will be working towards Prelim Exams and the final SQA Performing Exams. These important final SQA Performing Exams take place in February for all National 5 and Higher pupils and we would encourage you to support your child in their preparation for this exam.

Pupils following a National or Higher Music Technology course will be submitting their course assignment to SQA. This assignment is sent off early March. Again, we would encourage you to support your child in their preparation for this course assessment.

Music Department Dates for your Diary

13 th February – 24 th March	National 5 & Higher SQA Performing exams
16 th March 2017	Harris Academy Spring Concert Rehearsals all day, concert at 7pm
w/b 20 th March 2017	Dundee Arts Festival
21 st and 22 nd March 2017	Annual Orchestras and Bands Concerts in the Caird Hall
29 th March 2017	Dundee School's Instrumentalist of the Year Competition – Music Centre
30 th March 2017	Dundee School's Vocalist of the Year Competition – Music Centre

Music Department Extra-Curricular Activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time	Jazz Band <i>Mrs Hamilton</i>	Choir <i>Miss Findlater</i>	Guitar Ensemble <i>Mr Cannon</i>	Senior String Group <i>Mrs. Green</i>	Junior String Group <i>Mrs Green and 6th years</i>
	Leng Medal <i>Mrs Mackenzie</i>	Study Support	Ceilidh Group <i>Mrs Green</i>	Study Support	Percussion Ensemble <i>Mr Robertson</i>
	Study Support		Piano Duet <i>Miss Robertson</i>		Ukulele Group
					Study Support
After school	Wind Band <i>Miss Bird/ Mrs. Hamilton</i>	Brass Group <i>Miss Bird</i>			

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Swimming Achievements

Congratulations to Iona Macleod, Natalie Curran and Beth Stevenson who have made the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships in January. All 3 girls competed at the Tayside schools swimming gala and went on to get new Personal Bests. Iona Macleod came 1st in the 100m and 200m freestyle. Innes Croll was came 3rd in the 100m breaststroke, Beth Stevenson came 3rd in the 200 IM and Natalie Curran came 1st in the 200m IM. Also a big congratulation to Drew Croll who got a new Personal Best in his 100m breaststroke. Finally, the girls relay team made up of Beth Stevenson, Iona Macleod, Emma Smith, and Abbie Taylor who went on to win 3rd.

Harris Academy were also successful at the Nancy Riach Swimming Gala with many medals, personal bests and personal successes. Swimmers competed in their own individual events as well as having 3 relay teams. Harris Academy entered 2 girls relay teams made up of Beth Stevenson, Iona Macleod, Alex McNally, Abbie Taylor, Molly Scott, Emma Smith, Maria Hapca, and Natalie Curran. There was also one boys relay team made up of Jack Milne, Innes Croll, Drew Croll and Jake Muir.

Jack Milne

Jack Milne competed at the Scottish Disability Sport National Junior Swimming Gala for pupils with a learning disability.

He was presented with the 2016 Best Male Swimmer of the Year Award - he broke the Scottish Championship record for 50m Butterfly. He also competed in 100m Freestyle, 100m Individual Medley, 50 Backstroke and 50 Breaststroke.

He is now a member of the Scottish Disability Swimming Squad and will be representing Scotland at a number of British level competitions over the next year. His plans are to compete for a place in the Great Britain team for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics or wherever the Paralympic Games will be in 2024. He will also be setting his sights on possible Commonwealth Games selection in 2018.

Callum Langdale

Callum applied for a scholarship for football goal keeping in the USA with Route2ProSoccer, he found out this month that he has been successful and will take up a place in August 2017. Well done Callum.

Netball

Harris Academy hosted its first Netball competition city in the new school, there were several schools from across the area who participated the competition, our senior girls won 2 out of 3 games.

Hockey

During September to November the hockey club trained at Riverside using the Dundee University all weather pitch. The club is open to boys and girls from S1 to S6 and also pupils from our associated primary schools. During December coaching has moved indoors to the Harris Games Hall. Anyone interested attending hockey coaching sessions should see Mr Martin, Maths Department.

In May the U15 team won the Tayside and Fife Cup competition at DISC beating local rivals Grove in the final. This was the first time that a Dundee school had won the competition. The good form continued into the U15 league games this season and with half of the fixtures completed, Harris are currently top of the league.

In November the players moved to training for indoor hockey in the Harris Games Hall. In the indoor hockey qualifying tournament at St Paul's, the U15 team qualified for the finals which will take place at DISC in February.

INTERACT

The Harris Interact charities committee has been working in conjunction with Dundee Rotary Club to raise money for various charities. We assisted the Home Economics Department in the week-long fundraiser for Macmillan, baking goodies to sell and serving the staff coffees and teas at the Coffee Morning. We also organised the Shoebox appeal, alerting the school and going round registration classes to collect the shoeboxes. Interact members gave up their free time to come into school and wrap up the shoeboxes, before sending them off. We hope to continue raising money to benefit our chosen local charity – The Memory Box.



LIBRARY

Book Week Scotland

We celebrated Book Week Scotland in Harris this year by involving all S1 pupils in a Book Trail activity taking them round many of the departments in the school. S1 pupils also took part in various book related activities in the Library, matching book characters to books and genre decision making activities.

We were fortunate in having two author visits, Michelle Sloan and Matt Dickinson, these were kindly funded by Dundee and Area Children's Book Group.

We also hosted the Dundee Schools Literature Quiz, this is an annual event with all Dundee Secondary Schools entering a team of four S2 pupils. This year it was won by Grove Academy, with Harris Academy coming a creditable third.

HARRIS ACADEMY P7 OPEN EVENING A MAJOR SUCCESS!

Harris Academy hosted our first P7 Open Evening in our fantastic new building on Wednesday 16th November 2016. Approximately 340 parents, carers and young people attended and were welcomed to the school by our School Captains Sam Pirrie and Kirsten Ferrier.

Following presentations by Mr Millar and Mr Stewart those in attendance were provided with active learning experiences by staff in departments around the school. The groups were ably led by our Senior Prefect team. The evening concluded with discussions over tea/coffee provided by our World Challenge Senior pupils.

The feedback from parents on the evening and via a subsequent Parent Council meeting was extremely positive. Thanks go to the staff and young people of Harris Academy who volunteered their time to provide such a worthwhile experience for our prospective S1 students and their parents/carers.



Dates for your Diary

*** School closes for Winter Term 2016 ***
Friday 23rd December 2016 (noon)

*** School opens for Spring Term 2017 ***
Monday 9th January 2017

*** Prelims ***
26th January – 8th February 2017

*** In-Service Days ***
Thursday 9th February 2017

*** Mid-Term ***
Friday 10th February 2017
Monday 13th February 2017

*** School closes for Spring Term 2017 ***
Friday, 31st March 2017