



Harris Academy Newsletter



Respect

Equality

Enjoyment

December 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Harris Academy's winter newsletter which offers just a small insight in to some of the opportunities and successes our young people have been involved in since August. To keep up to date with all of our news and successes, please follow us on Twitter (@harrisacadundee) or check out the front page of our School website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the session so far.

House Head structure

As of June, we moved to a House Team Structure. The House Heads and Guidance Teachers for each House are:

Birnam

Mr Laidlaw, DHT

**Mrs Taylor (Mon – Wed)
Ms Walker (Th – Fri)
Mr Milne**

Cawdor

Miss Chacko, DHT

**Mrs Cuthbertson
Miss Stahlberg**

Forres

Mr Perry, DHT

**Mrs Nicholson
Mr Clements**

Kinloch

Mr Stewart, DHT

**Mrs Gow
Mr Walker**

Please note that your child's Guidance teacher remains your key contact in the school.

School's Aims and Values

At the start of the session, the school launched our updated Aims and Values. These were generated through consultation with young people and staff. They are:

Our Aim

At Harris Academy we strive to build a learning community where staff and pupils work together to successfully nurture and develop the potential of all.

Our Values

RESPECT

We work hard to respect everyone by recognising the value each individual brings to our community.

We do this by being **kind, polite** and **considerate**.

EQUALITY

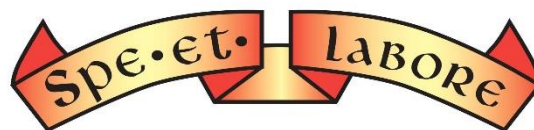
We work hard to treat everyone fairly regardless of their differences.

We do this by ensuring everyone has the **opportunity to achieve** their full potential.

ENJOYMENT

We work hard to create a positive and happy learning community.

We do this by nurturing the **wellbeing** of all.



*With **Hope** and **Hard Work***

Through hope and hard work, the Harris Academy community aims to develop the skills and qualities needed to make a positive impact on the world

And finally from me...

I would like to thank you for your continuing support of the school and wish each and every one of you and your family an enjoyable and restful winter holiday

With best wishes for the holidays,

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

Barry Millar
Head Teacher

House Championship

The House Championship has been fantastic this year so far with pupils from all Houses engaging with the competitions and tasks.

House Officials

Each House has a team of House Officials who are in charge of leading and organising the activities. In addition there are members of staff who mentor each team and help them with all the championship tasks. This year all of the pupils have been so committed and made each task a huge success.

Achievement Forms

Every pupil can contribute to their house total at any time throughout the year as championship points are given for submitting achievement forms. These can range from personal achievements to international achievements depending on what pupils have been involved with in and out of schools. Birnam have been particularly good at this and have managed to raise a huge number of points for their House.

Assemblies and Noticeboards

The House teams can raise points through assemblies and noticeboards. The assemblies so far have been to introduce the team, for the poppy appeal and to show how they raised money for their respective charities at Christmas. Particular mention should go to the teams for the fantastic work that was carried out to raise money for charities. These included:

Kinloch - £1683 Roxburgh House

Cawdor - £388 Tay FM Mission Christmas

Forres - £403 Children's Ward Ninewells

Birnam - £910 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

House Championship – December 2018 Standings	
1 st - Kinloch	3156
2 nd - Birnam	3124
3 rd - Forres	3111
4 th - Cawdor	2812

Mr Walker, PT Guidance

Music & Drama Department

Rotary Young Musician

In November Arran Laing, Ciar Milne and Grace Dobson performed in the Dundee Rotary Club's Young Musician of the Year competition. Grace Dobson was crowned the Regional winner and will go through to the Final in March along with Ciar Milne who was runner up.



Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday was busy for our Harris Musicians. Rael Watt had the honor of playing the last post on the Cornet owned by Harris FP Victor Ferrar who died in the trenches in WW1 for the very last time before it is placed in the museum at the City Churches and Frigate Unicorns Remembrance services celebrating 100 years of the end of WW1.



Frankie Duncan Morris & Arran Laing supported Logie & St John's (Cross) Service.



Sunflower Concert

A memorial Concert for FP Zoe Matheson took place on in November. This concert is organised by S6 pupils and friends of FP Zoe Matheson, who sadly passed away earlier this year and included a great number of our Harris Musicians as well as pupils from schools around Dundee. This was a huge success and raised a great deal of money.



West end Christmas Light Concert

Our Brass group joined forces with musicians from our partner school, St Johns High school to play at the Dundee West End Christmas lights concert in late November.



Our Christmas Carol concert took part in Logie & St John's Cross Church featuring a wonderful mix of Christmas carols and music old and new, reading, and Drama excerpts.



Christmas Community Events

In the last week of term our amazing Harris musicians performed Christmas Carol round the wards at Ninewells hospital, entertained patients at Roxburghe Day care and wards in Victoria hospital, performed a varied programme of folk, Scottish & Christmas music at Oaklands Day care centre and provided entertainment at the Dundee Rotary's Christmas lunch at the Invercarse.



Peter Pan

In the last week of term our S3 Drama classes put on an extremely successful production of "Peter Pan" on two night as well as a performance from our feeder primary schools.



Primary 7 Maths Challenge Transition Event

Around 260 Primary 7 pupils from our 6 cluster primary schools, attended the P7 Maths Challenge over Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th November. Pupils from Ancrum Road, Blackness, Camperdown, Invergowrie, Tayview and Victoria Park primary schools took part in a number of team building and problem solving activities. This was the first opportunity the future Harris Academy pupils had to meet their future peers. Some of our S2 pupils mentored the P7s during the event and led their teams to victory. This was a thoroughly enjoyable couple of days to start the transition process. All young people were a credit to themselves and their primary schools. We thank Victoria Park/St. Joseph's for the use of their dinner hall for both days.

The Harris Academy Maths Department ☺



Duke of Edinburgh

Harris Academy's proud Duke of Edinburgh tradition continued in 2018 with two strong S3 and senior groups successfully completing their Bronze awards. On Tuesday 18th December (after going to press!) twenty pupils were presented with their certificates and badges. The uptake for 2018 – 2019 is very positive with ten pupils having started their Bronze award and twenty-one onto Silver – many of whom successfully completed Bronze this year.



25th April, S3 Practice Expedition, nr. Purgavie Farm.

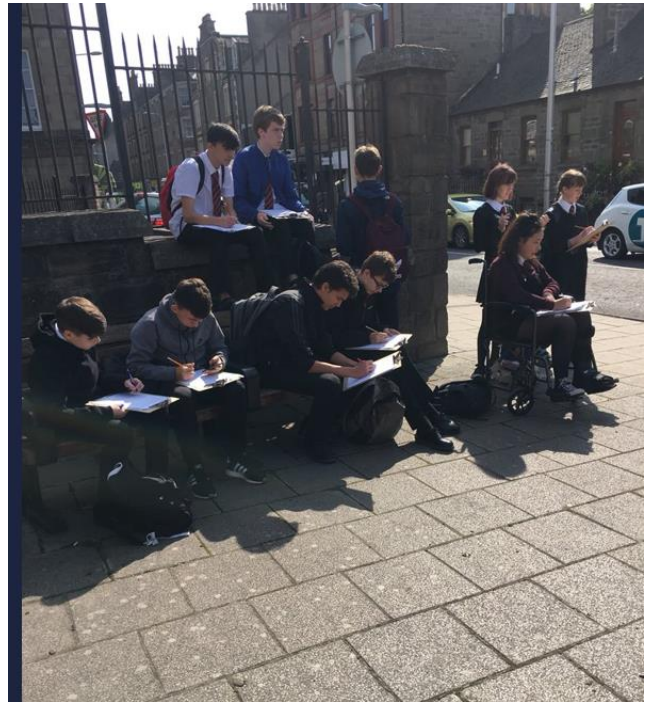
The practice expeditions took place in late Spring / early Summer and involved a glorious two day, one night expedition in the woods and hills around the Backwater Reservoir area north of Alyth. The S3 qualification expedition took place, again over two days and one night, under a hot June sun around Loch Ordie, Dunkeld. The Senior group qualified in the same area but had to endure slightly colder conditions in September – great resilience was shown by all.



24th September, Senior Qualification Expedition, Loch Ordie, Dunkeld.

N4/5 Geography fieldwork

Earlier this year, the N4 and N5 pupils went out in to our local area, armed with clipboards, to carry out field work for their N4 Added Value Units and their N5 assignments. This was split over two days and we visited two locations to study the urban environment. The pupils carried out traffic surveys, Environmental Quality surveys and did land use mapping on the Perth Road and Newhall Gardens. Both classes did well collecting their data and produced some excellent N4 AVU's. Once back in the classroom, they processed their data in to graphs and maps and used these to prepare for the N5 assignments.



S2 Citizenship YPI Initiative

November saw the launch of the S2 Citizenship Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) at Harris academy. Dundee's YPI Regional Facilitator, Susan Beattie visited the school and presented an assembly to all S2 pupils.

YPI is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about how they can help people in their local community through local charities. Pupils are required to choose a local charity which they believe addresses a social need in their local community, work with them and then create a presentation about this charity to a whole year group and panel of judges. Not only does this raise awareness of social service issues and the work of local charities, it also helps to develop our pupils into the next generation of effective contributors and responsible citizens. The pupils will compete against each other to win their charity a £3000 prize!

On Friday 7th December Harris hosted their first YPI Charities Fayre to allow S2 Citizenship pupils to make direct contact with local charities that have a local impact. This event was held to help pupils to decide which charity they would like to actively engage with next term and was met with positive feedback from both S2 pupils and the representatives from the 12 charities in attendance.

The next stage of this initiative will see pupils develop their skills for learning, life and work as they work in groups to actively engage with their chosen charity and compete for the chance to win the charity £3000! We wish all our S2's the best of luck!

S2 trip to Dynamic Earth.

On Wednesday 21st November, a group of budding Geographers set off on a trip to Dynamic Earth, along with Miss Quirk, Mrs Leppard, Ms Stahlberg and Paul. S2 classes had been studying Earth Forces and a trip to Dynamic Earth was the perfect opportunity to allow pupils to gain a hands on experience in to the formation of our planet. As soon as we arrived we entered the "Showdome" - a fantastic 360° experience. We watched a program called "Supervolcanoes" complete with surround sound and comfy chairs!

We then became time travellers for the day and went back in time to the beginning of earth. We witnessed how our planet changed into what we know today – we even had to hold on tight as the ground shook beneath our feet in our very own earthquake experience!! As we continued our journey, we came up close and personal with an iceberg- one of the highlights of the day .We were able to touch the ice and learn how glaciers have helped shape our planet. Next, we boarded a 3D flight simulator which took us to several biomes, we were even "snowed" on as we flew over the Arctic Tundra. The end of our journey brought us to the tropical rainforest, where we witnessed a thunder and lightning storm and learned all about the many different animals that make the rainforest their home.

After all that time travelling, we enjoyed a look around the gift shop and then boarded the bus to head home to Dundee. It was a great experience, the pupils were very well behaved and a credit to the school. A fantastic day!



History Department, Trip to the Battlefields of WW1 in France and Belgium. 29th October – 3rd November 2018.

On 29th October the 1st Harris Pals Battalion comprising of forty pupils and five staff officers departed Harris Academy, Perth Road, Dundee to follow in the footsteps of Scotland's Great War soldiers and pay respects to the fallen.



1st November 2018, before Menin Gate Ceremony

The Battalion were on duty for four days in Belgium and France, exploring the Western Front and paying their respects to British and Commonwealth cemeteries. Members of 1st Harris Pals experienced a glimpse of what life was like in the trenches of WW1 at Sanctuary Wood and witnessed first-hand the brutality of subterranean mine warfare through visits to the Pool of Peace, Lochnagar mine crater, and Hill 60. Emotional visits to Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial, Thiepval Memorial, 51st Highland Division Memorial on the Somme, Black Watch Corner, Dartmoor Cemetery, and Essex Farm Cemetery (where John McCrae wrote 'In Flanders Fields') highlighted the magnitude of the slaughter and allowed all an invaluable insight into Scotland's sacrifice and why we should remember the fallen of the Great War.

Two Harris Academy pupils, Madeline Hayman and Brogan Connelly, and member of staff Leona Chacko, paid respects to fallen relatives, laying Seaforth Highlander and Black Watch tartan heathers at the gravesides. This was the first visit that had been paid to the fallen soldiers for 100 years and was a particularly touching moment on the trip.

A visit to Poelcappelle British Cemetery opened our eyes to the vast number of unknown soldiers who were killed during WW1. From the 7,479 Commonwealth soldiers laid to rest here there are 6,230 who are unidentified.

Pupils took a grave each, placed a poppy, and gave a name to their unknown soldier.

1st Harris Pals Battalion were particularly honoured to be allowed to lay a wreath at the wall of remembrance at the Menin Gate during the Last Post ceremony on Thursday 1st November. Rose Porteous, Beth Brown, and Eoin Smith did Dundee proud in the manner they carried themselves during an extremely emotional ceremony. Attached to the wreath was the Harris Academy crest and message of remembrance from all pupils, staff, and our Head Teacher. Following the Last Post ceremony the 1st Harris Pals paid a last farewell in a ceremony of their own at Artillery Wood Cemetery where pupils laid a wreath, made a reading, and lit candles of remembrance.

More photos and posts from the trip can be seen on the Harris Academy Trips Twitter page - @harrisactrips



2nd November 2018. The Pals Battalion, WW1 Pillbox, Hill 60.



L-R, Rose Porteous, Eoin Smith, Beth Brown, 1st November 2018, Menin Gate Wall of Remembrance

Dark Dundee

Our S3 pupils had the wonderful experience of a visit from Louise and Stuart of Dark Dundee Waking Tours, who shared a mixture of local history, and explained how they themselves, embarked upon their own research of local Dundee. Pupils were then given a project of their own to research and present, from Grisell, to Cholera, and Jessie Jordan, to name a few. Louise and Stuart (DD Tours) visited during the research period to further inspire and motivate pupils, while also sharing their own experience of presenting to the public. Pupils were also introduced to representatives from DYW, and the benefits of research and hard work was impressed upon them, not to mention the links into future employment opportunities being explained. Final presentations took all forms, from straightforward talks, to puppet presentations. Certainly not an easy challenge, but one which many pupils embraced and found a very rewarding experience, upon the completion of research, which was presented responsibly and confidently.

Great War Dundee

Great War Dundee have recently visited the school and have recruited a number of seniors to be Young Ambassadors, to assist in further research, of Dundee and the Great War. This magnificent project will allow pupils to have access to three, two hour sessions at the Collections Unit, Barrack Street, Dundee, to examine materials from World War One, and, with guidance, to write up their research conclusions on this. This will later be shared, be it in publication form or entered into a website. Senior pupils are looking forward to both the opportunity and challenge of this which is set to begin this January.

Great War Dundee Lecture.

National 4/5 and Higher pupils were very fortunate to have two great authorities on Dundee's experience of the Great War, presenting a fantastic lecture in school. Dr Billy Kenefick and Dr Derek Patrick, shared their own research with pupils, offering deep insight into many aspects of this war, from enthusiastic recruitment, to conscientious objectors, and not to forget, the strength and determination of the Dundee women. Many images of war were shared and explained, some of which were rarely seen, which made it all the more a special lecture. The presenting style of both Lecturers, was also quite unique, as they chatted and shared their own understanding of aspects of war, as if oblivious to the many pupils watching them. Pupils were clearly captured and engaged in this lecture from the opening first words, and their behaviour was a credit to the school. Well done.

Higher Geography & Environmental Science Fieldtrips

On the 11th and 18th of September, pupils from the Higher Geography class and the Higher Environmental Science class, along with Mrs Leppard, Miss Quirk, and Miss Menzies, 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 assignment for both courses. 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. We did at least get some dry weather on both days and glimpses of sunshine, even if it was a bit blustery down on the beach! Spirits remained high and Stephen even braved the elements in his shorts! 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 while we took a break before completing the fieldwork and heading back over the Tay Bridge to Dundee. The pupils have now taken their data back to the classroom, processed and analysed it and have completed their assignments ready to be sent off to the SQA. 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.



City of Dundee Burgess Charity Dundee Schools Short Story Competition 2018

S3 pupils created short stories in which a character had the opportunity to explore old Dundee through Virtual Reality.

The range of ideas made very interesting reading; deciding which stories to submit was very difficult. Well done to Bryce Affleck, Abbie Cocker, Jamie Docherty, Abigail Lindsay, Eddie McPhail, Hannah Muir and Aiden Williams.

I quickly jumped up on to my feet and looked at the elderly man, he gave me a strange look, tipped his hat and wished me a "good morning". I asked him where I was, he confirmed I was still in Dundee. I asked him the year and he said "1901". So the VR chamber must have worked!

E McPhail

I explored the city of Dundee in the year 1822 using my own legs. Not with a controller or a keyboard, or even many sensors on my body. Just the headset, and some sensors around my fingers. Despite my captivity, I seemed to be enjoying myself.

J Docherty

Royal Literary Fund 'The Bridge Writing' Workshops

Senior pupils from Harris Academy have again participated in writing workshops with Geoff Barker from the Royal Literacy Fund. The workshops are designed to challenge perceptions about writing and to prepare pupils for tertiary study at college and university.

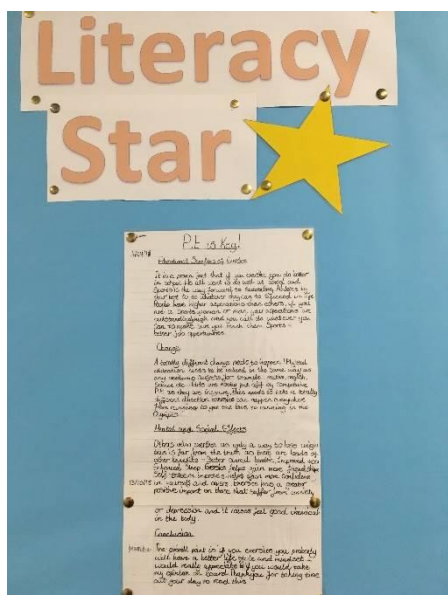
"The standard of academic writing doesn't seem as scary."

"I understand how to write short but useful sentences."

"I know how to structure sentences better"

It is hoped that Harris Academy will continue to offer senior pupils the opportunity to work with the Royal Literary Fund in order to further prepare them for the demands of study beyond high school.

S1 Literacy Classes



S1 Literacy classes linked with the PE department in term 1. All S1 pupils produced a report on 'The Importance of Physical Exercise'. Pupils learnt to locate information, use their own words and organise information. All reports evidenced knowledge and understanding of the topic. Scarlett Brady produced the winning report – well done Scarlett! Scarlett's winning report can be viewed in the English department corridor.

This term Literacy classes have linked with the History department. Pupils are using their reading skills to research the Highland Clearances. All pupils will produce an informative poster. The winner is yet to be revealed...

Media



Harris Academy Media students attended the Dundee Film Festival Media Studies Day in November. During the event pupils viewed two different films, participated in a Q&A with John McPhail (director of *Anna and the Apocalypse*) and learned about the role of the Head of Cinema at the DCA.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt privileged to have the opportunity to interact with two members of the industry they are currently studying.

In Harris Academy a newspaper club has been started up for keen journalists, young authors or anyone interested in writing. At the moment four writers and two photographers are working together to find stories to write and interviews to conduct.

They recently interviewed Scots author Matthew Fitt about his work and an exclusive interview with some fascinating insights will appear in the first edition of the school newspaper. The pupils have already seen their work published and earned their first bylines in The Evening Telegraph's Chalk Talk section. English teachers John Price and Sue Reid have been working with the pupils. They hope to publish the first edition of the new Harris school newspaper in the New Year. Look out for a "belter" of an interview with Matthew Fitt and much, much more.

Captions:

PIC 1: Newspaper club. The club's first meeting: Back row: from left: Rebecca Moore, Maisie Urch, Keira Hogg, Caitlyn Wright, Oskar Rybialek. Front: Harry Abersuriya.

PIC 2: Matthew Fitt at Harris Academy.



Library Activities



S1 pupils participated in the Royal Society Young Persons Book Award during their Science classes. They experienced activities related to the six shortlisted books and submitted their votes to the Royal Society. The winning book was Optical Illusions by Gianni A Sarcone.



S1 and S2 pupils have engaged in literacy and book related activities throughout the year during their English reading periods. This has involved writing short stories, poetry, book buffets, and quiet reading.



1,500 books have been taken out this year since August.



During Book Week Scotland, classes took part in several activities involving book characters, different genres and book quizzes. They enthusiastically completed a book title Emoji and book cover puzzle.



A team of four S2 pupils, Joshua Fardon, Scarlet, Morrison, Nathan Dolan and Romilly Beveridge, won 2nd place in the Dundee Schools Literature Quiz, held this year at St John's High.



I would like to thank my Library Pupil Assistants who work in the Library during our lunchtime openings; Andrew Friedman, Hannah Peacham, Anvitta Srivastava and Usman Hussain.

A Merry Xmas to all pupils and staff.

Christmas Charity Projects

Traditionally December has been a time for giving for our Harris Academy pupils and staff with this year being no exception. Each House group were assigned to a charity, all of which we have worked with for a number of years. Pupils and staff as well as our wider school community pulled together during the month of December to raise funds for each of the chosen charities, The Children's Ward Ninewells, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Ninewells, Roxburgh House and TFM Mission Christmas. Many fun activities were undertaken in and around the school the House Officials led the fundraising campaigns, with support from the schools Charities Committee. The totals raised this year are phenomenal and all of our pupils and staff should be very proud of the achievements. Each of the charities are very grateful for our donations and kindness and they truly make a difference too many families in our local community.

KINLOCH	£1700
BIRNAM	£910
FORRES	£403
CAWDOR	£388



**** Dates for your Diary ****

**** School closes for Winter Term 2018 ****
Friday 21st December 2018 (noon)

**** School opens for Spring Term 2019 ****
Monday 7th January 2019

**** In-Service Days ****
Thursday 15th February 2019
Friday 16th February 2019
Monday 19th February 2019

A full list of key dates can be found in our school calendar on the school website.



Follow us on Twitter
@harrisacdundee



Respect

Equality

Enjoyment