

September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to write to you at the beginning of this new academic year. Year 11 has settled in well to the demands of their very last KS4 academic year. I must say how well behaved and focused the majority of Year 11 are generally. Year 11 are working well in the vertical tutor groups with Year 9/10. We had an amazing Open Evening on Wednesday 21 September with over 2400 parents visiting. All of our students were confident and articulate tour guides and subject helpers. We were proud of every single one of them.

This letter contains some important information about upcoming events and keeps you in the loop with information that is on the Academy website. The last few pages outline some key examination dates and controlled assessment date for GCSE examinations which I know will be of particular interest.

OUR EXCELLENT SUMMER RESULTS

Our results have continued the surge upwards for all groups of students. Our KS4 students gained an amazing 75% 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics which not only is well above the national average but is 14% up on last year. We once again had 100% 5 A*-C and students made excellent progress in English, Maths and Science between KS2 and KS4. Our Triple Science students did superbly well with 69% A*/A in Physics. Our vocational results are similarly outstanding, for example, nearly 50% Distinction/Distinction* in ICT and Business and 60% in Drama.

Our KS3 results were 90% L5+ in English, 87% in Maths and 84% in Science. These are well above the national average. Our Year 13 A-level results are also excellent with a rise in the number of A*/A grades. Our points per entry were the highest in the Harris Federation at 220.87.

This is an excellent all round achievement and is a result of the hard work and commitment of our teachers and students. We are lucky to have such dedicated teachers at the Academy.

CLASSROOM AND UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS – WE NEED YOUR FULL SUPPORT

I launched our new classroom expectations to students in assemblies in the first week back. A copy of the expectations is included in the student planner and I would ask that you have a read of them with your son/daughter. The standard of uniform has been very good overall. What we have noticed is that some students have tried to wear “Kicker” shoes with coloured lacing or laces and these are not permissible. Also, just to clarify some other issues in relation to uniform:

- One small stud earring only in each ear lobe (not the top or side of the ear);
- No make-up or nail varnish is allowed;
- Any hair bands/baubles must be white or black;
- 5 stripes on the tie and blazers must be worn;

- Please ensure your son/daughter is equipped for learning – a pencil case with a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and a calculator are all important. We need our students to be responsible learners and to be ready to learn!
- Chewing gum is COMPLETELY BANNED from the Academy including break and lunchtimes.

Below is a copy of the uniform card that we issue to students. This will record any infringements of the

| Harris Academy South Norwood | | Learning First | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--|
| Date | Uniform Infringement | Staff | |
| | Tutor Detention | | |
| | SAD | | |
| | Coordinator | | |
| | Principalship | | |
| | Internal Exclusion | | |
| | External Exclusion | | |

Name Tutor Group

| Harris Academy South Norwood | | Learning First | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| Date | Caught you looking good! | Staff | |
| | 1 Faculty Point | | |
| | 5 Faculty Points | | |
| | 10 Faculty Points | | |
| | 15 Faculty Points | | |
| | 20 Faculty Points | | |
| | 25 Faculty Points | | |

Name Tutor Group

uniform code and you will be able to see very easily how close your son/daughter is to the series of sanctions that will be applied. The reverse of the card is “Caught You Looking Good” where we will reward students who have consistently high standards of uniform.

Any student who does not have their card on their possession will receive a Coordinator detention of 60 minutes. It is important that we work together to encourage students to become responsible for their learning. If all our students look outstanding, they will all feel outstanding. As you know, having high standards is part of what makes Harris Academy South Norwood special.

PE INFORMATION

Most of the PE activities take place on site, but some take place at Tennison Park or South Norwood Leisure Centre. When **PE is not on site** students will still meet their teacher at **Harris Academy South Norwood**, unless told otherwise. When walking to any offsite activity all students are expected to wear their full **Academy uniform or Harris PE kit** (as instructed by their teacher). Students are expected to walk in an orderly fashion to offsite facilities, following all teacher instructions and ensuring their behaviour reflects the high standards expected at the Academy.

HOMEWORK TIMETABLES

Homework timetables have been published and you can access them via the website (information tab, homework). Please check that your son/daughter is completing their homework and that you sign their planner on a weekly basis. It is very important now that Year 11 students take their homework seriously. It does serve a purpose and our teachers set homework in accordance with:

- A minimum of one hour per subject per week
- Two hours of Maths, English and Science per week.

Some useful contact numbers:

Student Information Centre 0208 405 5111/5138 (Attendance, Medical, Uniform, Welfare)

To speak to an Assistant Principal or to pass on a message for a form tutor then you can contact the learning hub administrator that your son/daughter is a member of—this will be linked to the colour of their tie, therefore:

- Creative Voice (blue tie) & Logical Arts (purple tie) Miss Gibbs 0208 405 5144
- World /Citizenship (yellow tie) & Business/Enterprise (red tie) Ms Edwards 0208 405 5214
- Active Science (green tie) Ms M Bates 0208 405 5142

GCSE EXAMINATIONS AND BTEC PORTFOLIOS

Gone are the days of GCSE examinations in June of Year 11. Year 11 have their ACTUAL GCSE examinations:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|--------------------|------|
| • | Mathematics on Wednesday 9 th November and Monday 14 th November 2011 | | | |
| • | English Unit 1 exam (40% of the course) on Tuesday 10 January 2012 | | | |
| | Science unit exams: | | | |
| • | Tuesday 24 January 2012 | 9.00am | Biology (Triple) | B631 |
| | | | Science (Single) | B621 |
| • | Thursday 26 January 2012 | 9.00am | Chemistry (Triple) | B641 |
| | | | Add. Science | B623 |
| • | Monday 30 January 2012 | 1.00pm | Physics (Triple) | B651 |
| | | | Science | B624 |
| • | Tuesday 31 January 2012 | 9.00am | Biology (Triple) | B632 |
| | | | Add. Science | B624 |
| • | Wednesday 1 February 2012 | 9.00am | Chemistry (Triple) | B642 |
| • | Thursday 2 February 2012 | 9.00am | Physics (Triple) | B652 |

You will know the importance of gaining a good GCSE pass in the above subjects. It is therefore vital that your son/daughter attends every lesson every day so they can be guided by their teachers in

preparation for the exams. We will obviously be hosting revision sessions in the build up (we will put revision timetables on the website) so please encourage your son/daughter to attend.

You will also know that coursework at GCSE has been replaced by “controlled assessments”. These are supervised by teachers under strict conditions. We will send you a separate table of this is an easy to read guide in the coming weeks.

BTEC portfolios are organised by teachers on an on-going basis and so it important that students meet their portfolio deadlines so they do not become swamped. Teachers organise study support sessions so you can always check with the enrichment tab on the website (choose KS4) and you will see when study support is on offer.

INNOVATION WEEK 31 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER 2011

Building on the success of our “Flexible Fridays” we have replaced these with a new innovation week approach which for Year 11 will include some intensive study support days for mathematics, English and science, controlled assessment delivery, study skills delivery, master classes and learning residential.

Year 11 will have their own dedicated programme for that week and our teachers are busily preparing the delivery materials for these and we will be writing to you directly with more information on these in the coming weeks. This will give students the confidence, deep learning and support they need to be fully prepared for their examinations that are in November and January.

I am sure that you will agree we will be able to count on your full support in relation to uniform expectations and our new classroom expectations. We are also developing the website to include a “Parent Zone” so that you can access letters, documents and important details through one part of the site. Any feedback from you on ideas, requests please email to info@harrissouthnorwood.org.uk where we will pass these to our web developer to make sure we have a parent/carer friendly website. A copy of this letter will be posted on the website in the document zone (information tab) whilst the website is developed.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Hainey
Principal