

September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to write to you at the beginning of this new academic year. Both Years 7 and 8 have settled well into their new timetables. I must say how well behaved Year 7 and 8 are. Year 7 students have been able to find their way around the building and I have spoken to lots of our new students who all report they are happy and thoroughly enjoying their time at the Academy. We had an amazing Open Evening on Wednesday 21 September with over 2400 parents visiting. Our Year 7 and 8 students were confident and articulate tour guides and subject helpers.

This letter contains some important information about upcoming events and keeps you in the loop with information that is on the Academy website.

### **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.

### **KS3 ENRICHMENT**

I am delighted to announce that our extensive list of enrichment activities can be accessed via the Academy website through the Parents Zone which is a new section of the website. This outlines the day that activities take place, the rooming alongside the start and end times.

### **LOCKERS**

We only have a limited number of lockers at the Academy and as such we have some lockers that can be rented at a cost of £5 deposit for the year. Cash is acceptable and cheques should be made payable to "Harris Academy South Norwood". If any parent/carers is interested then please download a locker application form that can be accessed from the document zone (information tab) from the Academy website. This will be processed on a first come first served basis for Year 7 students who are being offered lockers for the first time. Students should take the application form and £5 deposit to Reception

at break each day next week where Mr O'Connell will be on hand to process the application form and issue the student with their locker key.

### **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 particularly for Year 7 and 8 students. 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 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. 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 Tension 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.

**INDEPENDENT LEARNING PROJECTS (ILPS)**

I have been contacted by many parents who are excited by our independent learning projects that we are trialling with Year 7 and 8 students. You can access these projects via the website (information tab, homework). These are 4, 5 or 6 week projects that aim to stimulate students in becoming more independent learners. Our teachers will be integrating these into class work so technically it is a

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 .....

summation of a series of homework pieces that build up to a completed project. Teachers will be marking and giving feedback during the cycle.

Teachers will guide students through the ILPS – we have had many positive comments from parents more notably as they now know and can support the homework that has been set for students. The only other homework the students will have is some mathematics, English, science and MFL as they need

extra to reinforce the concepts on a week by week basis. We will evaluate the ILPS and the impact they are having on learning and in the long term we will be looking to move to true cross curricular projects once staff and students are more familiar with them.

**YEAR 7 MEET THE TUTOR EVENING, 5 OCTOBER 2011, 5.00 -6.00 pm**

You will know that our vertical tutor groups are a mixture of some Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students. We have our meet the tutor evening for Year 7 students on the above date. A separate invitation will be winging its way to parents/carers next week giving more information.

**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 student 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

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](mailto: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