

insight

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Welcome

The Governors and I are delighted that staff and students at Harris Academy South Norwood were recognised for all their hard work and commitment by an OFSTED judgement of "Outstanding".

The inspectors were really impressed with the student's confidence and at how proud they were of their Academy, as well as the outstanding progress being made by all students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for your support over the past three years. Without this we would not have achieved our aspirations to "achieve excellence through enterprise." We do however recognise that there is still a lot to do. Firstly, to continue to focus on improvements in literacy and oracy. These continue to be such important skills for life. Interestingly good GCSE grades do not always reflect good levels of literacy and students can find themselves rejected by employers and universities for poor skills in these areas even with good examination results.

The second focus is to improve even further the quality of learning in lessons. We already have a great many lessons judged outstanding and we would want to see more. Students are now very involved in helping us improve the "enjoyment factor" of lessons and they have some really good ideas. The parent council has also identified this as a focus and would like to be more involved. The third focus will be for us to work more closely with the community. Harris South Norwood is a community Academy and we would like to explore what more staff and students could offer to the local, national and international communities which we serve. We now look forward to our Year 11 and Year 13 final examinations, remind them all to work hard and wish them the best of luck in all their studies.

Carolyn English, Principal



Student of the Half Term

The Design and Technology department at Harris South Norwood has introduced the student of the half term. Each half term one student who has completed all Homework and completed a class project will be nominated. His or her photo will be displayed on the with the piece of work they have completed, they will be given 6 merits one for each week and 3 faculty points.

The first Student of the half term will be Freyer Parker. Freyer is an excellent DT student who is always keen to do well. She contributes positively to the class in every lesson. Freyer enjoys DT and completed her mechanical toy which is shown. Her theme was a ballerina in the theatre. When you turn the lever the ballerina spins. Freyer cannot wait to do Food Technology which she will be starting at the beginning of the next half term. Congratulations Freyer!

Pauline Downie

What is Innovation?

We're idiscovering

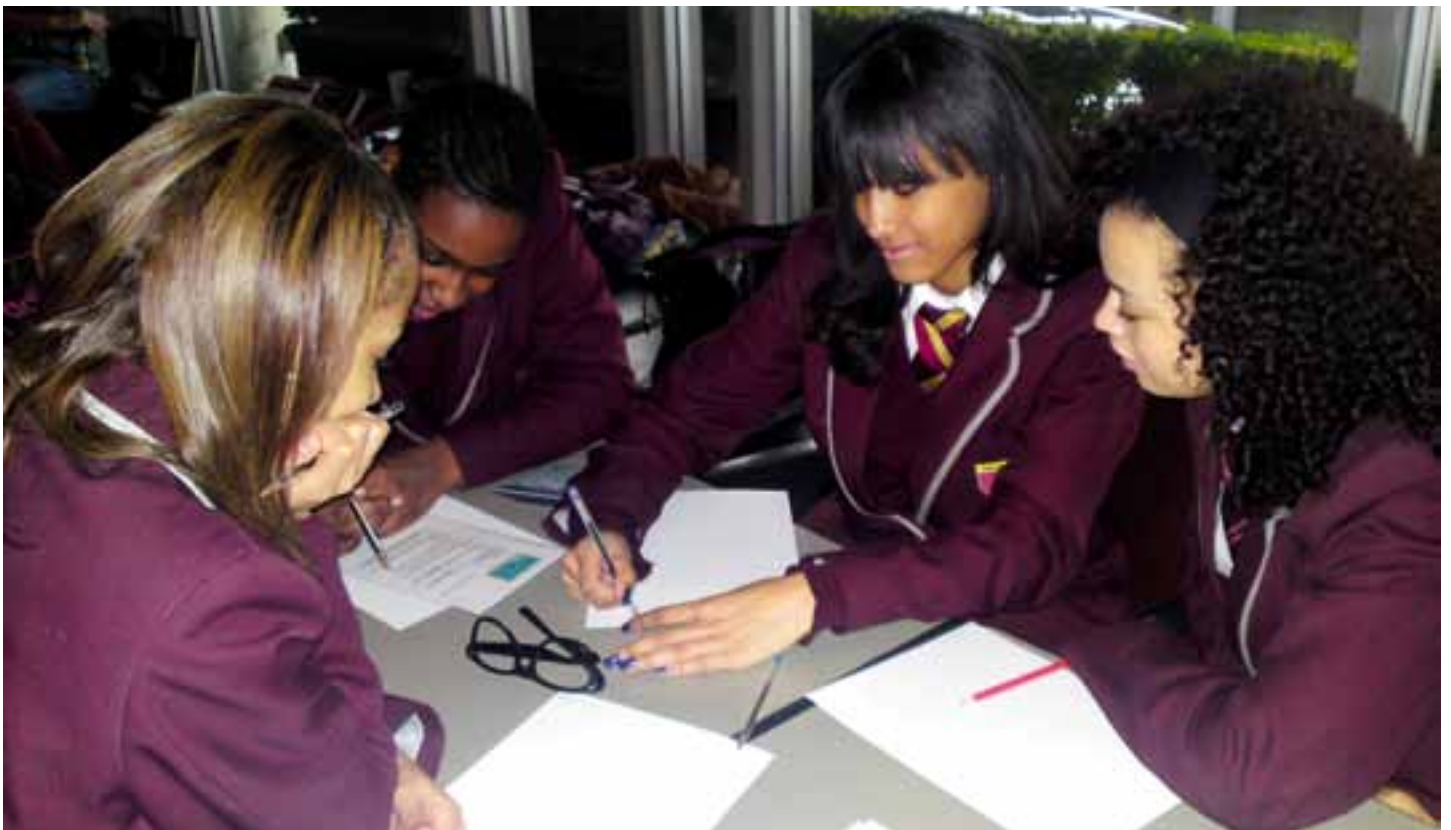
Hi! We're Stefanie, Charlotte, Enid and Lisa from Year 9 and we are here to give you a little 'insight' in to how idiscover is going for us so far.



The whole of Year 9 at Harris South Norwood were invited to take part in idiscover – which is a project to help students become more innovative and to learn things that are not normally taught in school. To be innovative means to look at things differently, to be a problem-solver or to come up with solutions and new ideas. We are learning that anyone can be innovative.

idiscover is very exclusive. We are given £200 per term to spend on new experiences which we can book online at: www.idiscover.org.uk. We have total choice of what we book, no-one tells us what to do.

It is good to have choices – but there are so many good options to choose from. At first we find it hard. We decided what experiences to pick by getting together with our friends to talk about what we all liked and we ended up choosing things that we could do together which sounded like fun but would also broaden our education. It's nice to get choice because you can do something that you actually want to do rather than being told and stuck in something you didn't want in the first place.



Putting the Business into Show Business!

One Faculty Friday during the month of January, fourteen Year 9 students were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit the Royal National Theatre in Central London for the day as part of the iDiscover Project.

When we arrived at the theatre we were directed to the executive room on the top floor which looked out over the River Thames: what a fantastic location for learning about the financial side of show business! We spent the morning exploring the benefits and risks associated with putting on a production as the students competed to stage a production which would make the most money.

The workshops were facilitated by the Theatre's Executive Director which gave the students an excellent opportunity to work with the best in the business. The day ended with an exciting and incredibly informative backstage tour of the theatre, including the chance to 'tread the boards' of the National Theatre stage.

This was definitely a highlight for the students, one of whom said *"This day was awesome: I never thought I'd get the chance to do something like this!"*

Ms Fennell



"In idiscover this week we did a Cloth of Gold Experience called T-shirt Printing. We were taught how to print and design our own T-Shirt. It was nice to work with Sarah and Dan who ran the experience because they are really professional, they knew what they were doing and they were really helpful."

Enid Akuffo

"I really enjoyed doing the T-Shirt experience because it's something I'd like to do when I'm older and it gave me a chance to experience it and see for myself how it works."

Lisa Dors

"Charlotte and I are doing the 'Amaze experience run' by Future Creative we think Amaze helps you to discover yourself and to chose the right path in life."

Stefanie Naraine

We interviewed some students who have signed up for other idiscover experiences, Robostuff and Gravity Racing – this is what they said:

"idiscover is about innovation and it helps you to be creative – and it's fun."

Aylana Brewster

"This project is giving me new experiences that I didn't have before – it's amazing making objects coming to life!"

Jack Jennings

"I think that idiscover is good and it helps you to choose what you want to do later in life."

Chevon Simpson

"Gravity Racing is a good experience because it's bringing being eco-friendly to a new level. It's not boring anymore!"

Tariq Sarhane

So far... idiscover is great. We are looking forward to even more fun experiences!

Stefanie Naraine, Charlotte Cariello, Enid Akuffo, Lisa Dors

History Day for Year 7

On 15 January 2010, Year 7 had the great privilege to be visited by Arriere-Ban, a history exploration group led by two experts through the day.



The fun-packed day was filled with educational yet interesting Medieval-based activities to help us with the history of life in medieval times revealing some shocking truths. We all participated in medieval games or other equally fun tasks.

These activities boosted our enterprising skills especially our communication as we got a chance to discuss as a group.

Furthermore, the company brought along a collection of valuable artifacts from medieval times to display to us.

We all gazed in awe at the treacherous and fragile objects such as swords.

Volunteers offered to demonstrate clothing such as armour by putting them on and they appeared very medieval indeed! Each object had a story behind it and we were captivated by the tales.

Overall, it was a thoroughly entertaining day and we experienced a lot of new things.

Bidhika Shrestha 7FJS

The School of Dreams Workshop

On Tuesday, myself and six Year 7 students were selected to participate in a programme called 'The School of Dreams'.

It is sponsored by Honda the motoring company, and aimed at helping students identify their personal strengths and using them to achieve their personal goals or 'dreams'.

The whole program took up 2 whole days, which consisted of interactive group tasks and video presentations. It taught the students, not only how to work with others, but how to work with others who are different from themselves, in regards to their skills and goals.

The workshop focused mostly on the achievements of the Honda company. Looking at the goals (or 'dreams') that they had and the process of their success. They used this model and taught the students how to apply it to their own lives, for their own goals.

Teachers were also required to participate in all the activities, to help them explore new ways of teaching and learning that can be applied to their own lessons, whatever the subject.

Resources were supplied for teachers as well, to help them identify how 'The School of Dreams' follows the standards of teaching and learning as a whole. So that they can share these resources with staff in their own schools.

Both students and teachers learnt a lot from the experience, and definitely agree that it is something that all students, especially Key stage 3 students can benefit from.

Mr Michelo

Review of School of Dreams

Topic: The School of Dreams

February 26th – 27th 2010

The School of Dreams was ok because it helped me get a grip on what my dreams were and I realised I can achieve everything I want to achieve just like Mr. Honda.

It was all about dreams and how dreams come true and are achieved just by believing in you. If I could describe it in one way I would say it was eye-opening.

If I got the chance to go to it again I would because I met new people and learned some valuable things that will come in useful in day-to-day life it was very fun to get to go and learn about how Mr. Honda achieved his dream and made the first car. I like learning about Asimo the robot. He was a cute robot Ha-ha.

Shannon Jackowski 7FJS

The School of Dreams was a fun experience.

Whilst we were there we learnt how to: Juggle and Fulfil our Dreams

I liked learning to juggle and doing the presentations that we had to do as groups.

It was a good experience because the teachers participated as well, and there was a range of different types of activities, which helped us get to know other children from other schools more.

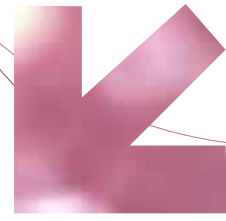
I learned so much

Thank you school of dreams!

McDevitt-Haynes, Mia-Laurelle 7FJS

Events Galore!

HASN's First Ever Musical!



The performing Arts department is about to embark on our first Academy musical.

80 students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 auditioned for parts in a tough and long audition process. They had to sing, dance and act for an hour and a half which takes a lot of stamina!

The musical we have chosen is 'Grease' which is popular with both adults and students!

It was a very enjoyable experience for all those involved and we definitely saw some

outstanding talent. We have just started our rehearsals and all plans are in place for the Summer term performances. Other federation Academies will come to our dress rehearsal and we are performing 2 public shows in July 2010. The students are very excited about this project and the cast are fired up and ready to entertain!

Tickets will go on sale in the Summer term!

Ms Heathcote

Tackling Extreme Poverty in Africa is **Too Difficult**

You may think this, but you would be wrong. Trustees from the Livingstone Tanzania Trust visited the Academy on the 20th November 2009 and explained how their holistic approach is working to help fight extreme poverty.



Deforestation is tackled by training groups to make fuel efficient stoves with back boilers which reduces firewood consumption by 80%, reduces a household expenditure, generates income and the back boiler heats water using no additional firewood and kills water borne diseases at the same time. Encouraging primary school students to plant trees provides them with a sustainable source of trees.

Rotting fruit and vegetables can last 2 – 3 weeks rather than 2 – 3 days in electricity free "fridges" which can also be made by the community using local materials. This is encouraging families to plant more vegetables which will improve the family's health and allow them to generate a better income from their surpluses.

Post 16 students are beginning to establish a link with Kwaraa School in Bubati, Tanzania and learning about the similarities and differences between the two schools. Students are selling Christmas Cards to raise money for a new classroom to be built for the school.

More information can be found at:

www.livingstonetanzaniatrust.com

Julian Page

Harris Academy Works With Tanzanian Schools

My name is Hayley and I am a travel and tourism student here at Harris Academy. In lessons we have been learning about the work of Livingstone Tanzania Trust. We have written reports about the work they do in Tanzania, and the services they offer to their customers as an organisation. After Julian from Livingstone Tanzania Trust came to talk about his organisation I felt that the possibility of link with a school in Tanzania was fantastic and I was interested to know more.

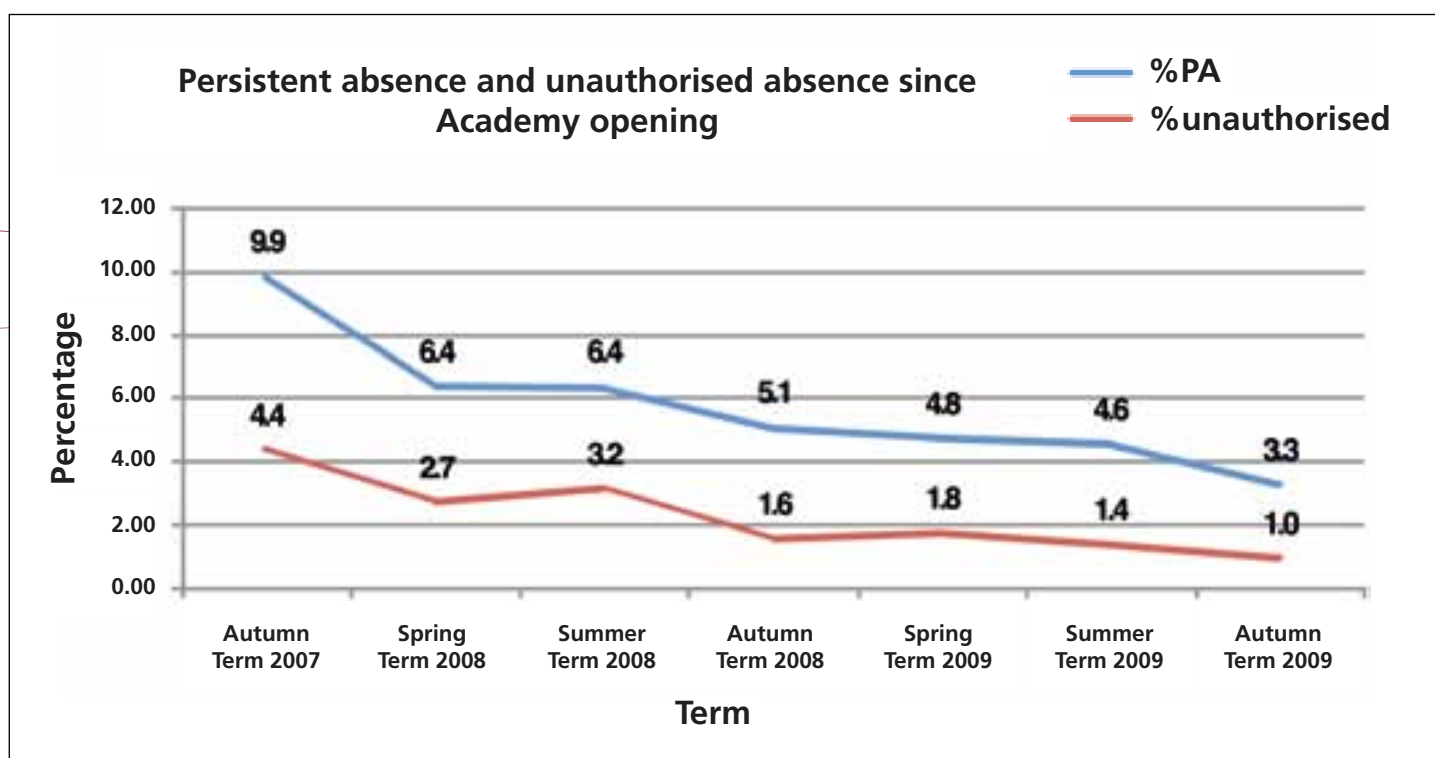
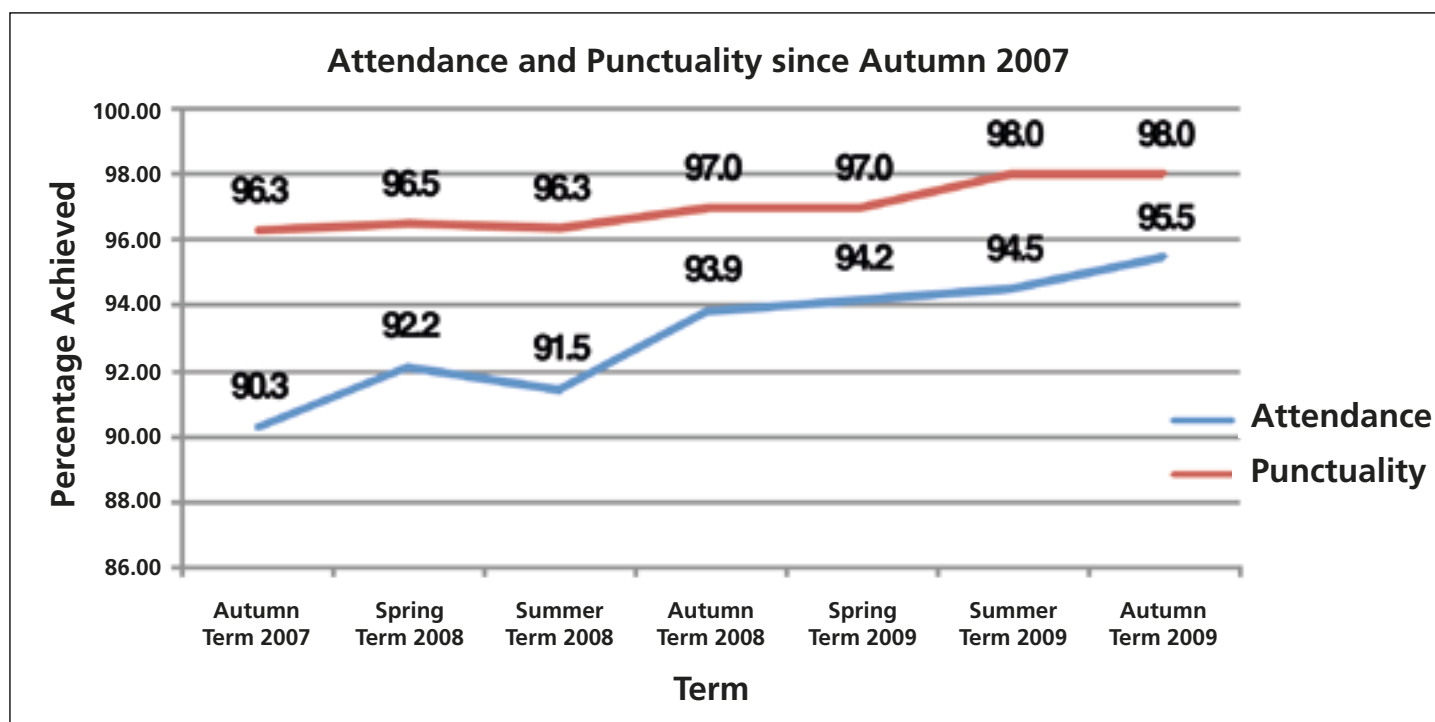
By having a direct link with Tanzania our Academy could give advice to Tanzanian schools about how they can improve, and in return they can help us to be aware of Tanzania as a tourist destination. Julian made us aware of how we can take education for granted and how those less fortunate are desperate to have it. I remember Julian explaining his mission statement 'linking tourism to development work'. This statement really stuck in my mind because if all organisations were like Livingstone then tourism would not only be about holidays but helping others in the process.

Hayley Merritt

Attendance and Punctuality

at Harris South Norwood

The last two years have seen significant and sustained progress in securing a culture of outstanding attendance and punctuality at the Academy.



HASN has Switched On to Switching Off

The Geoclub are very pleased to have achieved the bronze Eco School Award for the Academy. This is due to the success of the Switching on to Switching Off campaign.

The campaign started back in October 2009 when the Geoclub audited unused classrooms and found that a massive 57% had lights left on.

The Geoclub was shocked by this waste of energy. So students helped Miss Eason create an assembly about why and how staff and students should remember to save energy. Then a final audit of unused classrooms was carried out in January. The Geoclub found that the number with lights left on had reduced by 42% – only 4 classrooms had lights left on.

Thanks to the support of staff and students, the Academy has achieved the bronze Eco School Award. The next challenge for the Geoclub is to achieve the silver Eco School Award. If any students are interested in helping us then please speak to Miss Eason. The Geoclub is run on Monday after school in M203.

The Geoclub

One of the many key success factors has been the drive to ensure that attendance and punctuality is “everyone’s responsibility” and is given an extremely high profile throughout the Academy. Mrs Robinson and Mrs Slater in the Student Information Centre monitor attendance and punctuality very carefully – we are quick to intervene when we notice trends or patterns of absence or lateness!

Our attendance and punctuality since we opened is shown in the graph illustrated on the previous page.

We have met and exceeded our attendance targets for each year group with Year 7/8 leading the way last year with 96% attendance overall. All groups of students (ethnicity, gifted and talented, students on the SEN profile), also have excellent attendance. Our attendance targets for this year are even higher – 97% is our minimum expectation.

Another key measure of attendance is persistent absence – this is any students whose attendance is below 80%.

The graph (bottom left) shows our persistent absence has dramatically fallen as has our unauthorised absence.

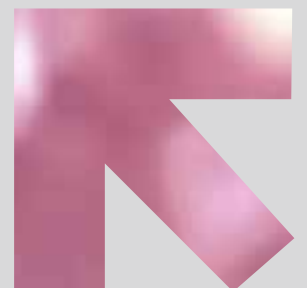
OFSTED graded our attendance as “outstanding” as part of their inspection process in January 2010. This is because our figures are substantially above the national average, for example:

- Unauthorised absence nationally was 1.37%, for the Academy this was 1.5% last year and 0.97% in the autumn term;
- Absence is 7.34% nationally, for the Academy the absence rate was 5%, significantly lower;
- 7.3% of secondary school students were persistent absentees nationally, for the Academy this is now 3.33%.

We need you to work with us to ensure that our attendance and punctuality continues to improve even further. Some golden rules:

- Please do not request or plan for holidays during term time;
- Encourage and do all you can to ensure your child is punctual for the start of the Academy day at 8.25 am and all lessons;
- Only allow your child time off when they are ill;
- Arrange (where possible) medical appointments outside of the Academy day;
- Send in a signed note after every absence;
- Call Mrs Slater or Mrs Robinson in the Student Information Centre when your child is ill and every day thereafter until their return (numbers are 02084055111 or 02084055138).

Mr Hainey



Year 9 Basketball Spectacular



The Year 9 girls finished their league season off with an amazing performance yesterday at home against St Mary's.

Watched by lots of Year 9's they beat them 39 – 19 and every single one of the 10 girls squad played a great match.

Please congratulate Ami, Charlotte, Stefanie, Laurianne, Reena, Tanisha, Ronelle, Latisha, Reanne and Robyn. We've got a great team!

Joanna Koffman

Who Will Win the Faculty Cup?!

It's that special time again! Who has won the Faculty Cup?

Who has gained the maximum amount of Faculty points? Has your faculty won this time round?

Celebrations assembly on Thursday 1 April 2010 will reveal the winning faculty.

Good luck everybody!



Basketball Scores

These are the result for the week commencing 1st March 2010:

League

CROYDON GIRLS YEAR 7 LEAGUE

Harris South Norwood: 19	Virgo: 6
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Harris South Norwood win the Croydon Girls Year 7 League.

CROYDON BOYS YEAR 8 LEAGUE

Harris South Norwood: 41	O.s. Park: 19
Harris South Norwood: 41	Shirley High: 10
Harris South Norwood: 49	Edenham: 14

Harris South Norwood win the Croydon Year 8 Boys League
Year 8 boys are also in the Croydon Cup Final

Cup

YEAR 10 BOYS

Harris South Norwood: 33	Edenham: 20
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*Hi my name is Michael Wright
I am the Academy's new
Greenhouse Basketball Coach.*

Greenhouse is a charity that works to help young people develop positive life skills through sport and performing arts in schools and community clubs.

I work with the P.E dept and help run school matches and also Breakfast, lunch, and after school clubs. Also during school holidays I run **Greenhouse Basketball Camps**.

I also run Croydon under 18 Boys and Girls teams, and the London Youth Games Under 18 Girls team.