

# insight

Newsletter • Issue 2 • December 2007

## Dear Parents

*Welcome to this edition of 'insight' and to our special focus on student voice.*

We have worked really hard to establish a student council which reflects all students at the Academy and I am glad to say that this has been successfully implemented. On our citizenship day on the 12th of October we looked at the election process in our tutor groups and learnt more about the importance of having a vote and using it properly.

The whole Academy watched a documentary on the election process in a Ugandan school and this acted as a discussion point and a catalyst for engaging students in their work on our own voting process. Students then had to write a letter about their own leadership qualities and their vision of office once elected. We have also launched our enrichment curriculum this term and there is now a rich programme of events before and after school which students can choose from including sporting, maths, language, homework club, art and music activities amongst others.

*Mr Mundy-Castle – Assistant Principal, Student Voice*

## Enrichment Programme Already a Success

This term we launched our enrichment programme and our students were invited to participate in a variety of enrichment activities, some starting as early as 7.45am and others running after school. The clubs are all being run by teaching staff who have volunteered to lead a specialist club in a subject or sport they are passionate about. By the end of the year we hope to add further events such as a school radio and film club to the programme, so look out for details. Students have enjoyed participating both in the morning and the after school activities in significant numbers and well done to all those who have already represented the school at outside events.

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## A Message From The New Chairperson of The Student Council

When I applied for a place on the student council I didn't think I would make it, so you can imagine how proud I am to be elected as the chairperson.

I will do my best to represent all of the students and hopefully I will get their views across in a positive manner. At the first council meeting we had our student council training. In the session we were told that our uniform should always be presentable and to always set a good example to other students. We were told what our various roles as council members would entail and also what rights and responsibilities we have. I look forward to my role as chairperson and will work hard for all the students at Harris South Norwood.

*Marlon Hibbert (year 11)*



## Harris Launches its First Careers Fair

On 14 November we hosted our first ever Careers Fair for students from Year 8 to 12. There were over 25 organisations represented, covering a wide range of industries and Higher Education possibilities, for example, British Telecom, the Army and Oxford University to name but a few. Each year group had one lesson where they were able to walk around each of the exhibits and talk to the people from each organisation. We also invited over 70 students from Harris Merton and Harris Crystal Palace. Feedback from the day was excellent, every organisation complemented us on how well behaved and focused our students were. Student feedback was also very good; students in Year 10 are now planning their work experience and it clearly helped them to think about their job prospects. Year 11 are now building on their input from the Careers Fair by using computer software to analyse their strengths and areas for development that will help them pinpoint more accurately what jobs/careers might be more suitable for them.

## Harris Nurtures Music Talent

On Sunday the 2nd of December HASN choir took part in their first ever performance outside the school in the Comets Winter Festival. This was an event that involved a local community project of steel pan players ranging from the junior steel band to the adult community steel band. The event presented three hours of fantastic music and dancing by young talent from the nearby areas. HASN choir sang two numbers 'Oh Happy Days' and 'Rockin around the Christmas Tree' with Tonya Virgo year 7 pupil singing a solo. Our Choir sang like true professionals, representing the music department very well. This is a big achievement for the choir and they should be very proud of themselves. Also during the festival Marlon Hibbet, our Chair of Student Council was awarded the Jack Petchy prize worth £600 for his commitment and enthusiasm for the Comets Community Project. This was very apparent on the evening as he took part in nearly every act in the festival, so a huge congratulations to him. The evening was enjoyable and full of life, creating a real feel of a close and supportive community.

Post 16 music enrichment is on a Wednesday afternoon, from 2pm until the end of the school day. It involves mixing vinyl on Numark battle decks, Music production, rapping, singing and band workshops. Mr. Amponsem and Mr. Little are encouraging, rehearsing and producing a rock band that are currently looking for outside gigs. Students get a chance to use cubase, a music production software package, which helps them create their own music and put down and realise their ideas. Pupils have the opportunity to deejay (dj), scratch and mix records, rapping over beats, writing songs and singing.

Once a week Mr Martin runs BUILT 2 LAST an innovative music learning programme which uses music to develop essential team building skills. The idea is to develop and nurture the knowledge required for success as well as understanding where many teams go wrong and how to review a team's effectiveness. "Music is a way of expressing yourself and crosses all genres, cultures, communication skills, abilities / disabilities. It provides a platform for each individual participant to express, create and produce a form of their own identity which gives others insight."

BUILT 2 LAST has a major impact on those who attend the course, mainly because participants are stimulated to bring their hidden talents to the forefront, encourage utilising it and engaging fully in the programme. The programme offers a practical and dynamic way of learning in a meaningful, creative and emotional format, which results in the product being a great learning experience that can be taken back and applied in their work, school or daily lives through Music.

## Black History Month Competition

In October we ran a black history month competition where students had to write about somebody who inspired them or create a poster about that inspiration. The competition was very well received by the students as the prizes included iPods and memory sticks. All students who entered the competition received a certificate. We had 76 entrants and all year groups actively participated in the competition. The decision was tough, but the champions were finally confirmed by our panellists. A huge congratulations to all our winners.

### Competition winners:

Lionel Gwasaze – 11SHO  
 Rhianne Kane – 7WLA  
 Sharmone Nelson – 7BAG  
 James Gearing – 11PLE

### Runners up:

Shantice Matthews – 7WLA  
 Latisha Powell – 7WLA  
 Rebecca Russell – 7THA  
 Sam Stott – 8KNI  
 Eleanor Tilleard – 7BAG  
 Charlotte Cariello – 7SBE

# Netball Gets Results



**Team: Year 7 Girls – 5th December 2007  
12–0 Harris vs Haling Manor (away)**

Harris Academy went to Haling Manor School to play a league netball match. It took a long time to get there but when we did we played two, 10 minute halves. The first half team formation was: Lavonica (GD), Jessica (C) Captain, Sam (GK), Stephanie (WD), Aylana (GA), Cuba (GS)

and Leah (WA). Luckily we managed to achieve 8–0 in the first half. Ayalana scored 6 and Cuba scored 2.

In half time we had a team chat and then we went back to playing. In the second half, the team formation was: Leah (GK), Ami (GS), Sharday (GA), Abigail (WA), Nikitta (WD), Rhianne (GD) and Sindorela (C). We played just as hard as we did in the first half, Sharday scored 3 and Ami 1 more goal which totalled 12–0. The Winners! At the end we gave our opposition 3 cheers and shook all of their hands. Then we all went home and rejoiced our victory.

Player/s of the match: Sindorela Toci (C) & Leah Henry (WA)

*Match report by Lavonica Steele*

## Year 7 Take the Rugby Title at Storm Park

Harris Academy South Norwood took the year 7 title after a rousing day of Rugby League at Storm Park. Along with St Josephs and Carshalton, Harris finished with 4 points from the round robin stage. St Josephs and Harris qualified for the final on tries scored with an unlucky Carshalton just missing out. Kamal Sharrif was superb all day for Harris and although he was edged out by Ed Mason of Carshalton for the player of the tournament, it was his performance in the final that helped them edge an 8–0 win. You can find full results at:

[http://www.stormrl.com/youth/schools\\_tournament.php](http://www.stormrl.com/youth/schools_tournament.php)

## Year 11 Basketball Team Gets Set to Bring Home a Trophy

The basketball season is in its early stages and Year 11 are excited about finally playing home matches in a quality sports hall. Although we have a talented team they have rarely had the opportunity to play home matches due to the poor facilities in previous years. We have consistently participated in the Croydon School's League and Cup and will again compete in both competitions. Our first match will have been on Thursday 6th December and we are looking forward to the start of another successful season. The team train every week in the sports hall on Tuesdays from 4.00pm until 5.30pm. It is always well attended and behaviour is, as expected, exemplary.



## Academy Student Council; A Force for Student Leadership

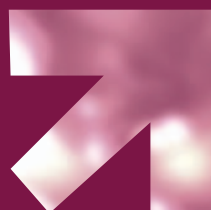
The Student Council is the highest office which students can use to have their views and voice heard. It has been democratically elected by secret ballot. Candidates for office were selected from tutor groups after personal statements for office had been read by tutors and their classes. The council comprises representatives from all tutor groups and all Faculties. It is the main forum for student voice on general issues relevant to students and meets on a regular basis as a full Academy council, a faculty council or a senate council with the support of an Assistant Principal. There will be an elected chair, vice chair and secretary. The council will have access to its own funds which it can use as it and the students today see fit for the benefits of all students at the Academy. During the Academy Council's first training day elections were held for the following posts of chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary. The students listed below were elected. Congratulations go to:

- **Marlon Hibbert of 11ACR was elected chairperson**
- **Joseph Purcell of 9ARY was elected Vice chairperson**
- **Michael Omari-Owuo of 10SMA was elected secretary**

# The Enrichment Programme



EVENT ORGANISER	CLUB	DAY / TIME	PLACE
Ms C. McKeown	Art Club	Monday 3.00–3.45pm	M043
Mr S. Box	Morning Basketball Club	Monday 7.45–8.15am	Gym
Ms E. Ola	CC4G Year 7 Girls Club	Monday 3.00–3.45pm	M204
Ms L. Knight	Junior ICT Club (Year 7 & 8 Boys Only)	Monday 3.00–4.00pm	Room 139
Ms J. Koffman	Year 7 Girls Netball	Monday 3.00–4.00pm	Upper Play Area
Mr T. Grant	Year 7 Boys Basketball	Monday 3.00–4.00pm	School Gym
Ms S. Thompson	Intermediate Maths Challenge	Monday 3.00–3.30pm	M238
Ms P. Lewinson	Year 7 And 8 Junior Maths Challenge	Monday 3.00–3.30pm	M242
Ms C. Brewin – Teaching assistants	General Homework Club	Monday 2.50–4.20pm	LRC
Ms C. Parvlyk / Mr Amponsem	School Choir	Monday 3.00–4.00pm	MRH
Mr S. Box	Morning Basketball Club	Tuesday 7.45–8.15am	Gym
Mr G. VanNierkirk	Year 10 Boys Basketball	Tuesday 4.00–5.00pm	School Gym
Mr R. Harding	Year 11 Boys Basketball	Tuesday 4.00–5.00pm	School Gym
Ms C. Brewin – Teaching assistants	General Homework Club	Tuesday 3.40–4.20pm	LRC
Mr S. Box	Morning Basketball Club	Wednesday 7.45–8.15am	Gym
Ms F. Pitan	BTEC-ICT Club	Wednesday 4.00–5.00pm	M244
Ms J. Koffman	Year 12/7 Girls Netball	Wednesday 4.00–5.00pm	Upper Play Area
Mr S. Box	Year 8 and 9 Basketball	Wednesday 4.00–5.00pm	School Gym
MFL Department	KS3 Language Club	Wednesday 3.50–4.40pm	MFL1
Ms C. Brewin – Teaching assistants	General Homework Club	Wednesday 3.40–4.20pm	LRC
Mr S. Box	Morning Basketball Club	Thursday 7.45–8.15am	Gym
Mr G. VanNierkirk	Year 7 Boys and Girls Rugby Club	Thursday 4.00–5.00pm	Tennison Park
Mr T. Grant	Year 7 Boys Football	Thursday 4.00–5.00pm	Tennison Park
Ms D. Taylor	Christian Club	Thursday 4.00–5.00pm	Room 107
Mr C. Healey	School Magazine	Thursday 4.00–5.00pm	TBC
Mr M. Martin	KS4 Music Workshop	Thursday 4.00–5.00pm	Studio
MFL Department	KS3 Language Club	Thursday 3.50–4.40pm	MFL1
Ms C. Brewin – Teaching assistants	General Homework Club	Thursday 3.40–4.20pm	LRC
Ms C. Brewin – Teaching assistants	General Homework Club	Friday 2.50–3.30pm	LRC



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