

insight

Newsletter • Issue 9 • December 2009

Results Keep Going Up and Up



95% A*– C is one of our many achievements in this year's examination results. This is a huge rise on the 57% from last year and is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our staff and Year 11 students.

Our 5+ A*– C including English and Mathematics has increased by an amazing 13% and is now 43%. These results, remember we have only been open for two years, which means that when we include value added, we are not only one of the top performing Harris Academies but we are also in the Top 5% of all schools

nationally. The number of students who gained 3+ A / A* grades was 28%! We are delighted with the numbers of students that have moved into our Post-16 and we now have 250 students in the Sixth Form.

Our intervention programmes on Fridays, residential revision weekends, after school and holiday revision sessions coupled with the detailed tracking of progress for every single one of our Year 11 students has enabled us to achieve these results. We have so many students who gained exceptional results it is hard to highlight specific successes but six students gained more than 6 A*/A grades including Richmond Dido and Ashar Malik who gained 9.5 A*/A grades each! Our AS, A2 results were also very good and our first ever Year 13 BTEC National Results were outstanding, our performance was well above the national averages and our value added was exceptional. We are delighted 43 of our 47 students in Year 13 have secured places at university.

We are confident that our results in 2010 will be even better!

Ms English, Principal



Sponsorship

I have been lucky to meet two very generous men over the last 6 months from our local community who even during the credit crunch wanted to sponsor our school teams.

I would like to thank Mr Anthony Niranjana from Morleys South Norwood who has sponsored a football team and a cricket team.

He has also been very kind by offering all staff and students a 10% discount on all sales during 12:00pm and 4:00pm weekdays.

Mr Desmond Cooper from PHD was also kind enough to sponsor a football team.

Both individuals see schools links as very important to strengthen community links and have made it clear that they will love to sponsor us in the future.

They have also been displaying art work from our students in their businesses.

Mr Van Niekerk

Year 12 are Cultured at the Theatre

The Year 12 theatre trip this term was to see Brecht's remarkable anti-war and anti-capitalism play 'Mother Courage' at the National Theatre. This production involved some remarkable 'modern' Brechtian techniques which included the involvement of the musicians in the action, and the production of sound-effects on stage (bullets, bombs and explosions) made by the announcer of each scene using a microphone. Brecht always seeks to foreground the fact that what we are seeing is theatre and not real – however the effect of this is in a way to make it more real. Fiona Shaw's Mother Courage was entertaining, perhaps too much so, and she added to her role with many examples of amusing habits and mannerisms. Mother Courage was the creator of an ideology, a way of seeing the world, which she passed on to the other characters; she bore down upon them with her selfish philosophy when they tried to rebel against the idea of the war. Despite the deaths of her children, she continued pulling her cart throughout the war and learned nothing.

With the recent deaths of yet more British soldiers in Afghanistan and the complete lack of any weapons of mass destruction found in the Iraq War, it seems an interesting time to put on a play like this. The overriding message that 'war is business and business is.... War' seemed to strike at our hearts perhaps more as a result. This is hardly a play you can understand simply by reading it; to see it produced in such an entertaining way had the strange effect of making it more poignant. Having said this, the scene where Katrin gives her life to save the unsuspecting city could have been presented more explicitly (she bangs her drum until killed by a machine gun – the only 'modern' prop in the entire play) because it seemed to us that this is the key moment: the only innocent character perishes in an act of selflessness. We won't forget the thunder of bullets that cut her down in a hurry, just as it is hard not to think about the fallen soldiers and their families this Armistice Day.

Year 12 students



Who Says HARRIS Can't Dance?



immediately caught the attention of our students from the minute they arrived and they managed to work together with the students to produce a stunning performance. Ms Cater said "All students were extremely enthused and motivated all day. The student's worked solid for 4 hours on their performance piece and made all the PE teachers very proud. What A day!"

Ms Cater

Year 8 were given the most incredible opportunity during a Faculty Friday last term to have a one on one workshop delivered by a professional London Break dance company.

Boy Blue Entertainment Company are the most successful and accomplished Hip Hop Dance Company currently performing in the UK and have performed alongside the likes of Diversity and Flawless in the UK Break Dance Championships. The company's dancers came to our school as part of the "into schools program" to promote and spot talent for their London youth group "The Bratz".

The day began with an astonishing performance by the company, adding style from the street, body popping and locking and back flips! The dancers





Harris South Norwood Visit Ten Downing Street

On Wednesday 21 October 2009, three Student Commissioners – Chelsea Chapman, Daniel Yip and Robert Primus and 15 other Commissioners within the Harris Federation were invited to 10 Downing Street to present their views on how education should be delivered.

Upon arrival at Downing Street, the students had a special guided tour around the very impressive State Rooms including the Cabinet Room where key meetings amongst the governments' top politicians take place as well as the State Dining Room. The Commissioners then met Sarah Brown and explained the purpose of the Student Commission and how it has influenced learning in the Federation over the past year. The Commissioners told of their ideas for the future and what they plan to build on over the next 12 months.

Later on during the day, the Commissioners were taken to NESTA where they took part in an introductory conference with the Chief Executive of the Nesta (National Endowment for Science, Technology and

the Arts) organization. The Commissioners were introduced to professors who were interested in the changes made in Harris Academies' so far.

The CEO of NESTA Jonathan Kestenbaum produced a speech commending Lord Harris for all his hard work and support that he has put in place within the schools in South London.

It was such a brilliant day out and an experience we shall never forget. We felt honoured and proud to be Student Commissioners and to be doing something positive for our fellow students and the education system within the Harris Federation. It was such an important day, it even made the news in one local newspaper.

Here's how the Croydon Advertiser reported the event:

The Student Commissioners recommendations included more student involvement in teaching, planning and evaluation of lessons and more podcasting to help teach key subjects.

Dr. Dan Moynihan, chief executive of the Harris Federation, has promised that the students' recommendations will be acted on.

He said: "The students, together with their teachers and leading education experts from all over the country, have developed some excellent ideas, which we are putting into practice."

"Our students have shown themselves to be intelligent, imaginative and engaged."



Our VLE is Launched!

The launch of the Harris South Norwood VLE is now well underway. The VLE is a secured online learning environment where students can access their work from a PC outside of the Academy and can collaborate with other students within the Academy and across other Harris Academies.

Both students and teachers were able to go live using this VLE at the beginning of this academic year and in the last half term all Year 7 – 11 students were asked to complete a piece of homework via the VLE. Although it is in its infancy, most students were able to log on and complete their homework. Some of the comments from students included:

"I like the fact that the VLE has online homework and online revision lessons as well. This I think it is a great idea; the reason being I can revise at home. It also has all the information is needed and all the news that is wanted."

(Govind Suresh, Year 10 ATI)

"I like the VLE because it allows me to access important home work and revision section easily, it also allows me to upload my work so my teacher can see my work even if I'm am not at school."

(Bharwick Jain, Year 10 JMA)

"We can have discussions. If we have to download something for homework and we forget to access Student Common area, we can access it on the VLE."

(Heather Clarke, Year 9 DAR)

"The VLE is a very secure system which protects students online where we can save and back up our work. It also gives us great support for revising. It is also beneficial considering today's modern society."

(Adil Khan, Year 11EOW)

"It keeps you connected with home and school."

(Ronelle Bloomfield Year 9 CMO)

All students have been issued with a password and log on for the VLE. If they have lost this or need it reset they should inform their tutor who will be able to reissue it. For more information or enquiries about the VLE in HASN, please contact Miss Olayiwola, E-learning Manager. The VLE can be accessed by going on to: www.harrisvle.org.uk

Miss Olayiwola

AS Geography Trip to Flatford Mill



After a long minibus journey from South Norwood to Flatford Mill in Suffolk, the Year 12 Geographers were initially stunned by the peace and tranquillity of the beautiful landscape that provided the

inspiration for many of John Constable's paintings. However they quickly settled in and in a matter of minutes were busy preparing for their first day of fieldwork.

The group practised using fieldwork techniques to investigate coastal erosion along two stretches of coastline at Walton on the Naze. On the second day the group went to Harwich to investigate the impact of building a new container port. The fieldtrip was a huge success, 'I have gained a more detailed understanding of coastal issues and I feel better prepared for the exam in the summer.' – George Afari 12SPA

Ms Eason

The Great Debate

Post 16 History students took part in the regional heats of the Great Debate. This competition is run every year by the Historical Association. This year's question to be debated was "Why does your local hero matter?" Each competitor had five minutes to present their case, explaining why their figure is of significance and then field questions from the judges.

Qasim Khan, Year 12 HASN, spoke first about Derek Bentley and the abolition of the death penalty. Qasim was able to answer the questions put by the judges and wasn't fazed at all. Qasim was the youngest to compete by a whole year!

Nicholas Aldridge, Year 13 HACP, spoke about William Stanley. He read faultlessly, just managing to finish within the 5 mins set. Nicholas came second overall and was praised by the judge – a Professor of History. She said he showed Medieval rhetoric and humour in his delivery.

It was really encouraging that I had so many of the History classes come along to cheer; this shows real dedication to the subject and served as excellent moral support to the competitors.

Ms Buxton

Chinese Artists

Come to Harris South Norwood

The MFL department invited a group of Chinese artists to the Academy to provide a work shop about The Mid – Autumn Festival on 12th October. The Chinese Artists demonstrated Lion Dancing, martial arts, drumming, ribbon dancing and some Chinese games. Our Year 9 students were really enjoying the event.

Students Had this to say about the day:

"Last week Thursday our Mandarin class had a chance to experience Lion Dancing. A group of professional dancers came in to give us some lessons on the topic. We watched some of the people perform the Lion Dance gracefully with delicacy. My favourite one was the Chinese dances with the handkerchiefs. I deeply enjoyed the day."

(Indya Phillips)

"I like the last Mandarin lesson because we were able to have the pleasure of being shown the things that Chinese people do. We learnt the way of the Chinese and how to do their dance. It was also a practical lesson we could show off our talent to the talented performers. We soon learnt some new playground games and learnt some martial arts."

(Terrence Dufeal)

Ms Shen



National Conference on Enterprise



Today Four students from Harris Academy South Norwood embarked on a trip to Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwickshire, for the National conference on Enterprise organised by the Centre for Education and Industry (CEI). We went with Ms Kattenhorn and Miss Bagley.

We prepared a presentation showing how enterprising we are, what we do in lessons and on Faculty Fridays. The teachers spoke about how this is assessed & monitored in the Academy. We had to lead the delegates in a task and had to assess their communication skills using our enterprise wheels.

Nathan moderated the assessment of one group and made them realise that their communication skills weren't as good as they thought they were! It turns out that this was the Director of Work Related Learning for the whole of Hertfordshire. The CEI Enterprising assessor for Warwickshire University and Simon Kibble the regional enterprise co-ordinator of the West Midlands Specialist Schools and Academies Trust came to talk to us; they were really impressed with our presentation and offered us a job!

The presentation focused on the assessment of enterprise across the curriculum, how it is monitored and how we use it to improve the progress of students. The students were excellent – demonstrating real enterprise skills. We were invited to lead the workshop representing the Harris Federation as an outcome of our application for the Enterprise Kitemark (which we were awarded this year) and which demonstrated that we are outstanding practitioners in the field.



Year 7 Football Team News

HARRIS ACADEMY SOUTH NORWOOD

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ST. ANDREWS

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We had an upcoming game against St. Andrews. The match was at our school. The football teams had to practise (warm up) before the game. After 15 minutes they started the match. The two strikers Lewis Powell and Kieren were up front. They started the match and passed to Frederick who passed to Joel. Then they ran as fast as they could to goal and had a shot but the keeper saved it. Then about 24 minutes later Elan Assiana booted the ball all the way through their defence and Lewis took a touch then kicked the ball onto the post and in. Mr Ares, the coach, was very happy and had this to say – ‘Get in!’

Samuel Owusu Boateng

The game was very high quality given it was the team’s first game together. The support from year 8 and 9 was really good and some parents came too. Both teams had some shots but overall Harris was doing better. In goal we had Rui Weller, pictured below. Along with the defence Rui kept out all attempts, was very brave and even claimed some crosses.

Lewis Powell

After a close start to the second half the second and third goals were scored by Elan Assiana and Rio Burke with two finely taken penalties to seal a much deserved victory. Rio celebrated with a back flip like Nani and Elan’s boots were too hot to handle following his goal.

Rui Weller

It was a wonderful performance from the boys in their first match together. All the boys (16) played their part but the man of the match was awarded to Rui Weller with a brave and solid performance in the goal.

Rio Burke

Democracy in Action

On the 9th October years 7 – 10 took part in Democracy Day. This is an annual event and is used as an opportunity to allow students to campaign to be part of the student council. Throughout the day, students took part in various activities including designing their own form of government which involved Mrs Heathcote acting as a ‘mad scientist’ who had marooned all Harris students on to a deserted island for her own social experiment. They then went on to discussing the issues that they would like their potential reps to deal with. Popular suggestions included ‘reducing the lunch queues’ and ‘introducing mufti days’. Students then went on to set up their own publicity campaign to gain votes within their tutor groups and they developed manifestos. This was concluded with speeches from prospective reps and finally voting. Students and staff seemed to enjoy the day and all tutees fought passionately for their places as student representative.

Mr Singh



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