



Young scholars aim for top colleges

The Dean of Harris Manchester College recently invited 20 of our most able students to spend the day at an Oxford college to experience for themselves one of the world's top universities.

They met professors and students, toured the college, and were served lunch at the university. 'After the visit we really felt we could belong in a place like Oxford University,' said Dalena of Year 7.

'I gained so much knowledge.'

Chinaza, Year 10



Students enjoying lunch at Harris Manchester College, Oxford.



The trip was part of our new scholarship system to encourage the most able students to aim for places at Britain's leading universities. Aspirational students with academic ability will take part in a wide range of extra-curricular visits and events.

'We had a talk by Professor Matthews who is a world expert on diabetic medicine.' Amtul, Year 7

Teacher Lorraine Stolarczyk said: 'What the scholarship programme offers is a chance for students to experience a wide range of cultural events, meet different people and generally go outside of their comfort zones – to give them the all-round experience that top universities seek.'

'I learnt so much about the history of the university and how to behave at a formal dinner.'

Anisa, Year 10

ASPIRE, LEARN, SUCCEED





Best-selling author Karen McCombie meets Year 7 students during her recent visit.

Author Karen McCombie meets Year 7

Year 7 students Sandra and Dalena report on a recent visit to the school by author Karen McCombie.

Author of 66 books, Karen McCombie paid a visit to Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich to meet the year 7s. We were very lucky because the day that she visited was the publication date for her latest book, *Six Words and a Wish*.

Karen talked about her life and her inspiration to write. It seems she is crazy for coincidences, and most of her childhood and adulthood have been riddled with them. She worked at the same company as Cathy Cassidy and Jacqueline Wilson - all three went on to become successful published writers after they left. What a coincidence!

Karen convinced me to start writing up my own stories and keep news cuttings of unusual events. What she also advised us to do was to keep a little notebook and a pen to jot things down.

London Youth Games 2011



Six of our students will compete in the finals of the 2011 Balfour Beatty London Youth Games, Europe's largest annual youth sports event.

They play in the Southwark basketball team which got to the finals after beating teams from four other boroughs around the capital. Our students form the backbone of the Southwark team, coached by Sterling Muschett.

'This is what these girls are built for. They get up at six in the morning and they play basketball whilst people are sleeping,' said Coach Sterling. 'But if you put in the hard work, this is what you get out.'

How's school for you?

As we approach the end of term, we asked four of our younger students to give their verdict on this year at Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich.

What do they think of the teachers and buildings? What clubs have they joined? How did they settle in to the academy? And how come they got tickets for the Champion's League?

My name is Mair and I have been a student at Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich for a year. My time here has been amazing. I've had so many brilliant opportunities that I would never had experienced, such as going to the Emirates to see Arsenal in Champions League. I also went on the reward trip where we went bowling.



£3,000 for local charity



Students representing seven local charities competed in the final of the Young Philanthropists Initiative recently in a bid to win £3,000 for their chosen cause.

The seven charities were the Salmon Youth Centre, Damilola Taylor Trust, Evelina Children's Heart Organisation, Three Cs, Bermondsey Community Nursery, NACRO and Kids Company, with students making presentations about their work to a panel of judges.

Judges considered the group representing NACRO, the crime reduction charity, to have made the best case and awarded them the £3,000 prize (paid for by The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative) to give to their charity.

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is an international scheme to encourage students to look at social issues affecting their lives and how they can make a difference.



My name is Anna and I have been a student at HGAED for a year. I have really enjoyed my time here because I've gained many new experiences such as being a prefect and young researcher. I love the buildings and the up-to-date technology. The teachers are always pushing us to aim higher and I love the VIVO-miles rewards system.

My name is Lamy and I have been to this school for a year now. I was very worried about coming to secondary school as I am not good at adapting to new experiences but this school has been kind and has welcomed me with open arms. The teachers are nice. I also got a chance to show visitors around the school, which was fabulous as I was very shy.



My name is Cherrin and I have been here for almost two years. It has been a great time for me. I have been participating in research on how students and staff feel about the new rules/sanctions and if they need to be changed. I like the new buildings and the facilities.

Students dare to dance

Students learned street dance techniques and met professional dancers during a Dare 2 Dance Empowerment Day at Elephant and Castle recently. 'It was a good experience because we learned the history of dance, different dance styles and got to work in groups with people who came from different schools,' said Ruby, Year 10.



New approaches inspire student learning

Changes to the curriculum are encouraging students at Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich to become ever more effective learners.

A new curriculum in year 7, for example, introduces students to seven 'learning powers' they will need to become effective learners, including creativity and motivation.

In years 7 and 8, students choose a topic each term to investigate in their own time at home, to hone their research and investigation skills. At parents' evenings, students now take the lead in presenting their work and explaining what they have achieved.

'I now fundamentally expect students to be involved in every major project happening in the academy.' Jane Fletcher, Principal



New approaches to teaching have been inspired by the ground-breaking Harris Student Commission on Learning.

High quality products

Across the curriculum, the focus is on learning by creating high quality products. In music, for example, students create songs that they can rehearse, record and sell online at our social enterprise website (www.hope-harris.org) to raise money for local good causes.

In science, students devise experiments to test real world hypotheses and have them peer reviewed by fellow students. In history, it could involve working as a team to create a book about a historical topic.

Student commission

Our new approaches to learning have been inspired by a ground-breaking Student Commission, which brought together over 200 students from across the Harris Federation to research best practice across the UK and worldwide.



HOPE

Cupcakes selling online



Students have launched their own online cupcake making business and are also selling songs by our choir, to raise money for good causes.

'It took us a few weeks to develop our skills but now we know them well,' says Hang, one of a group of students who will give up time in breaks and after school to meet demand. 'Hopefully people will enjoy our cakes!'



Profits from the social enterprise company will be used to support local charities and good causes.

Visit www.hope-harris.org to see our rather fabulous cakes and place an order.

HELPING OTHERS PROMOTING ENTERPRISE

Live broadcasts on FM radio

Students from HGAED are broadcasting live weekly radio shows on London's newest FM radio station, Represent, 107.3FM.

Students have been honing their broadcasting talents for several months and will now be live on FM radio across the capital – offering a lively mix of music and chat.

Their programme, called Connect, features DJ Marz, Dizzy D, Super A Dot, Chinaza, GiGi, DJ Niva, Kezia and Saffia and promises 'banging new tunes and insightful chat.'

Tune in to Represent 107.3FM on Fridays, 4-5pm, or listen to their previous shows online at www.represent.org.uk.



Year 9 students meet Paralympian, Graham Edwards.



Students do a 'urine' test for performance-enhancing drugs.



Scientists in sport

Ten lucky Year 9 students were picked to travel to King's College London recently for a day devoted to the science of sport.

Students were introduced to 'behind the scenes anti-doping technology' and even got to test 'urine' samples for performance-enhancing drugs. Luckily for them, the urine was fake, but they spoke to scientists who do this for real.

The highlight of the day was an inspirational speech from Graham Edmunds, twice gold medallist in the Paralympic games of 2004 and 2008. Graham spoke of the injury that had led him to become a Paralympian, his perseverance and his determination to win his third gold in 2012.



Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich
Homestall Road
London SE22 0NR

Tel 020 7732 2276
info@harrisdulwichgirls.org.uk
www.hgaed.org.uk

SOUTH LONDON SCHOOLS
Harris federation



Find out more about how Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich has developed.

Visit www.hgaed.org.uk or call Principal Jane Fletcher on 020 7732 2276 to arrange a personal visit.

ASPIRE, LEARN, SUCCEED

