



Harris Girls' Academy

East Dulwich

Issue 17 December 2010



The new Harris wing nears completion.

Harris wing to open in January

The new Harris wing opens in January, with classrooms for English, Maths, Design and Technology, Business Studies and a new Study Centre.

The Harris wing will be officially opened at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 19 January 2011, attended by Lord Harris and Lord Adonis, director of the Institute for Government and a former minister for schools.

To mark the occasion, students are holding a fashion competition and catwalk show to inaugurate the new Design and Technology facilities. The show will feature clothes created by AS Product Design students, plus paper fashions by Key Stage 3.

'We're delighted with the new facility, which will help us raise academic standards even higher,' said Principal Jane Fletcher. 'It's a first-class learning environment which will benefit every student in the academy.'

In September the academy also opened its refurbished New House which includes a new media suite, radio studio, language rooms and a popular open-plan computer room (see picture on page 7).

Watch out for pictures of the new Harris wing in the next newsletter and at www.hgaed.org.uk.



Ramatu for England. Ramatu Jalloh, Year 11, trains with the Under 16 England basketball team. Full story page 4.



Tributes to Ibrahim Bash-Taqi – page 2



Aspire,
Learn,
Succeed

In memory of Ibrahim Bash-Taqi

Ibrahim Bash-Taqi, a sixth form student here since September, passed away in hospital on 24 November. Ibrahim was a bright, hard working and very popular member of the sixth form and everyone at the academy was saddened by this news. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Here is a short selection from the tributes to Ibrahim that appear on our website at www.hgaed.org.uk/4/news



'I have only known Ibrahim for a short period of time but he was one of the nicest, most aspirational and yet kind-hearted students that a Principal could hope to have in her academy.'

The younger students here all know him as the tall boy with the grey suit – through his professional appearance, his height and his manner, they were all aware of him on the campus, even if they did not know him.

Ibrahim was a delight to have in our community and was a true model of a Harris Academy student in every way.'

Jane Fletcher, Principal

'We will miss your support and company at our coaching group. You made a difference to us all, and your caring and positive attitude will never be forgotten. Thanks.'

Students of Manchester 2 coaching group

'Today double English wasn't the same and I don't think it ever will be. You will be truly never forgotten and will always be in our thoughts and hearts. R.I.P Ibrahim.'

Amina, student

'It's not very often you meet someone for such a short amount of time that makes such a massive impression. He was always willing to help others, enthusiastic, ambitious, clever, thoughtful and so very funny. It has been a true pleasure and honour to have known someone so incredibly wise for their years.'

Ms Nicholls, Head of RS and Sociology

'I will never forget the first day I met you, Dragons Den, people kept asking you to write their speech. The days where we laughed for no reason with all of us. You

were so bright and you shouldn't have gone, but you're probably in heaven mingling with everyone up there.'

Charlotte, student

'He was a natural leader within the Academy who led by example in everything he did, others looking to him for his calm assurance and incredible knowledge to guide them through their daily lives. He was a true inspiration to all that met him, whether walking around the Academy, working with friends or working with staff. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this very sad time.'

Mr Everitt, Vice Principal for Post 16

'Me and Ibbie were really close, he always said we were twins and came as a package! He was in all my lessons and I spent most of my free time cracking jokes with Ibbie. He would laugh even when my jokes were not funny to make me happy!! I'll always remember him as an amazing person and he'll be missed by everyone, I'll miss him so much.'

Denisa, student

'Ibrahim was an amazing human being. He seized every opportunity, lived every moment, and was open to everything life had to offer. He was thoughtful, intelligent, and kind. I was privileged to teach Ibrahim, glad to know him, and sad to lose him.'

Mr Harrold, Lead Teacher History

'It was an honour having such an inspirational and genuine friend. You always carried a smile on your face and would light up a room. Nobody has a bad word to say about you and we all miss you deeply. May your soul rest in perfect peace, you truly were a gentleman.'

Chloe, student

'Ibrahim was an amazing student – a true inspiration to myself and others. He was a kind and gentle man of whom we can be proud and he will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to Ibrahim's family and friends in this time of sorrow.'

Mr Hickman, 6th Form Tutor

'Ibrahim was a student that any teacher would love to have in a class. His views were always thoughtful, intelligent and perceptive, drawing on his love of reading. Ibrahim was an inspiration, a true gentleman, kind, sensitive and thoughtful who will be missed by his peers and staff alike. Our thoughts are with Ibrahim's family at this sad time.'

Miss Reynard, Miss Nash, Mr Brown,
Miss Marks and all staff in the
English Department

'There are times in your life when you meet someone and instantly like them. Ibrahim was one such person. When Ibrahim walked by, his gentle presence was palpable and comforting. With Ibrahim's passing, I am left with an acute sense of loss for his family and friends.'

Ms Denyer, Psychology and Health and
Social Care Teacher

Please read the many, many more tributes to Ibrahim at www.hgaed.org.uk/4/news

This issue of Harris News highlights the many ways students are having a real say in the running of the academy.

The food group featured on page 8, for example, is working with our caterers to improve food in the canteen.

Elsewhere you can read why students have appointed mystery scouts to go around the academy rewarding good behaviour (see below), and discover why the student focus group has decided to introduce a prefect system (see page 4).

Meaningful, long-term changes at any school need to involve students, and teachers need to be ready to learn from students too. That's what 'student voice' at HGAED is all about.

Jane Fletcher, Principal



You've been spotted...



... binning litter



... moving calmly



... showing courtesy to others

Mystery scouts are walking around the academy looking out for students who are contributing to the community, as part of a new campaign created by students themselves.

The scouts, who could be teachers or students, will be looking out for students who are contributing to the community by:

- putting litter in the bin
- greeting people politely
- saying please and thank you
- holding the door open for other people
- helping others around the academy
- moving calmly around the building.

Students spotted contributing to the community in one of these ways will be given a special jigsaw piece. Anyone who collects four jigsaw pieces wins an overnight camping trip, designed to build life skills and a team ethos.

Student focus group

The idea was devised by the new student focus group as part of its 'contribute to the community' campaign. Each half term students will choose a different focus for the campaign, with a prize for students who are contributing to the community.

The first expedition is to a beautiful countryside camping barn in Dorking, Surrey, in December, including horse riding, cooking marshmallows on a camp fire, and brain teaser trials in the forest. Around 14 students are expected to win the prize.



Ramatu trains with England

Ramatu Jalloh, Year 11, trained with the Under 16 England basketball team in Bristol last month, in preparation for the European basketball championships next year.

During the two day England camp, Ramatu was coached in ball handling, fitness testing, defence drills and shooting.

Although Ramatu was not selected for the final team, she remains positive. 'At first I was sad but now it's motivated me to try even harder,' she says. Ramatu would eventually like to win a basketball scholarship to an American university.

Ramatu is dedicated to basketball at the academy, often arriving at 6.30am for pre-school training. Coach Sterling says: 'Hard work has paid off for Ramatu and this invitation was a testament to her dedication. We are all very proud of her.'

'She deserves everyone's congratulations,' said Principal Jane Fletcher. 'She is such a positive ambassador for the academy in so many ways.'

21st century prefects



Prefects will be introduced to the academy following a decision taken by the student focus group earlier this term.

The focus group meets fortnightly with Principal Jane Fletcher to look at issues that matter to students. The group felt that prefects are valuable because they act as role models and mentors to other students.

The focus group is now investigating how prefects are used in other schools, working with researcher Polly Haste from Goldsmiths University. They will visit Alleyn's, for example, to see their prefect system in action and learn what works best.

They will then decide how many HGAED prefects should be chosen, the selection criteria and the responsibilities they should have.

'We've asked people to fill in an application form saying why they want to be a prefect,' says Nadia Osamanu, Year 11, from the student focus group. 'I've been reading the applications and assessing them.'

The HGAED prefects are expected to be appointed in time for the Spring term.

Dance students rehearse a routine for the Performing Arts Showcase on Thursday 9 December. As well as performing, the Year 10 BTEC dance group is organising and hosting the event, which will also include drama and singing.



'Planning is going really well,' says Megan Smith, who will be taking on the role of stage hand and photographer. 'We had to write CVs and a letter explaining how we wanted to get involved.' Watch out for pictures in the next newsletter or on the website.

Quiz team success

The HGAED gifted and talented quiz team came joint 3rd out of 14 schools at the Southwark gifted and talented quiz in November. 'The girls were amazing,' says teacher Lorraine Stolarczyk, 'especially considering they had a Year 8 instead of Year 9 student in the team.' The four team members were: Chelsea Peat, Fatmata Kamara, Vy Nuygen and Melaina Richards.

Student Voice



Putting the question. Student researchers conduct a break time survey as part of a project to find out what pupils think about the academy, and how it could be improved. The student research group meets weekly with a professional researcher from Goldsmiths University. Learning how to research and present findings is a vital part of making the student voice heard.

Keep in touch with ePortal

Parents can now access their daughter's school records online via a secure and confidential internet link called the HGAED ePortal, which can be accessed from www.hgaed.org.uk.

The ePortal gives you information about, for example:

- attendance
- timetable
- behaviour
- and academic progress.

Every parent has their own password so only they (and appropriate staff) can access the online records. You should already have received your password but if you have any queries contact parentalaccess@harrisdulwichgirls.org.uk

For more information visit www.hgaed.org.uk/53/eportal where you can also download a user guide for parents.

If you have any queries please email parentalaccess@harrisdulwichgirls.org.uk and we shall respond quickly.

New website launched

Our new website, complete with up-to-date news and calendar is now online at www.hgaed.org.uk. The site includes video, photo galleries and a parents' blog too. 'We aim to keep the site up-to-date with all the latest news and events from the academy,' says Principal Jane Fletcher.



Black history celebration

Students organised a special event for Black History Month in October featuring drama, dance, poetry and tasty food from around the world. The event was organised by the students of the Black history group, which meets weekly throughout the year.

'We want to make people aware of Black history,' says Tayo Mustapha, Year 10, one of the event organisers. 'We were pleased that around 100 people came to the event, which included canapés from different countries.'

Welcome new staff

We welcome the following new staff who joined our academy this term:

- Ms Deacon, Head of Design and Technology
- Mr Harrold, Head of History
- Ms Young, Head of Maths
- Mrs Coomber, Maths Teacher
- Ms Roach – Maths Advanced Skills Teacher
- Ms Johnson, English Teacher

We also wish good luck to three teachers leaving at the end of the Autumn term, and thank them for their service to the academy:

- Ms Newman, Assistant Principal
- Ms Aghahowa, Second in English
- Miss Gouveia

The following teachers will be joining us in January 2011:

- Miss Thompson, Second in Maths
- Miss Newman, Head of Health and Social Care

Student Voice



Polly Haste, left, from Goldsmiths University, spends two days a week at the academy helping students develop the skills they need to let their voices be heard. Research skills are vital if students' ideas are to be translated into actual long-term changes within the academy. Polly is pictured with Eyam Dogbatse, Year 11, looking through applications from potential prefects.

Three houses, three universities

The new house system, introduced in September, is now a familiar part of everyday life at the academy. Instead of houses named after colours, each student now belongs to one of three houses named after universities:

- Manchester
- Oriel
- King's

The three universities were chosen for their links with Lord Harris, and because the academy already has established links with King's and Oriel.

'Our students are now achieving the type of academic grades which means university is a serious option for most,' says Principal Jane Fletcher. 'Naming our houses after a university is just one of the small ways we can get students identifying with the idea of university from the moment they join the academy.'

Immigration – the monologues

Year 9 drama students are writing a play about immigration to be performed by professional actors later this month.

Each scene in the play is a monologue spoken by an immigrant to Britain, designed to illustrate the richness that immigration has brought to this country.

Students learned about immigrants including the Romans, Saxons, Celts, Normans, Huguenots, Jewish refugees and, more recently, immigrants from India, Africa and the Caribbean.

The scenes will be performed by professional actors at St Saviour's & St Olaves's School as part of a project with the Rewrite Theatre Company and Southwark Theatre and Education Partnership.

'Within the group we have students who are first and second generation immigrants (from Poland and Sierra Leone) and they have brought detail and texture to our understanding of the experiences of those communities,' says Head of Drama, Charlotte Tatam.



Saffia Kavaz and Daniella Barnett of Year 9 work on scenes from a new play about immigration.

On the same bill...



Tom Jones



Harris Choir

Our students have been invited by Lord Harris to sing at his golden wedding party at the Dorchester in January, at which Tom Jones will also perform.

This follows the choir's performance at a federation training day last month when they received an ovation lasting several minutes.

Students from HGAED make up the majority of the Harris Federation Choir. 'I believe that the choir has had such a positive effect on many different events both within the academy and community that their presence now lifts and permeates any environment they enter,' says choir leader Jenni Stewart.

'We will be singing new songs for Lord Harris' anniversary but we will leave the choice of song as a surprise for the happy couple.'

Netball high-fliers

Our netball teams for years 7 and 8 both came second in a Southwark netball tournament in November. 'They all played exceptionally well, showed great sportsmanship and determination to win,' says teacher Tammie Mullen. Players of the tournament were Elizabeth Soremi, Year 7, and Rubi-J Campbell, Year 8 – an excellent captain who kept her team motivated and focused on playing to the best of their abilities.



◀ Year 7 netball team



Year 8 netball team ▶



Toy Story for children with autism

The academy hosted a special autism-friendly film screening of Toy Story 3 for children with autism, their parents/carers and siblings last month.

'Many parents of children with autism are reluctant to take their children to the cinema in case they disrupt other cinema-goers, so these kind of relaxed, informal screenings are really popular,' says Neil Johns of Dulwich Paradiso Community Cinema, which organised the free event along with the Southwark branch of the National Autistic Society.

This is the fourth autism-friendly screening hosted by the academy.

Students broadcast to the world

Students are broadcasting radio shows live into homes across London (and the world), working with leading youth radio station, Repräsent.

Twelve students have been working with trainers from Repräsent to make, produce and broadcast their very own radio programmes.

Staff from Repräsent have been running a series of two hour training sessions at the academy in our very own new radio studio, covering the skills needed to plan, produce and present a radio programme.

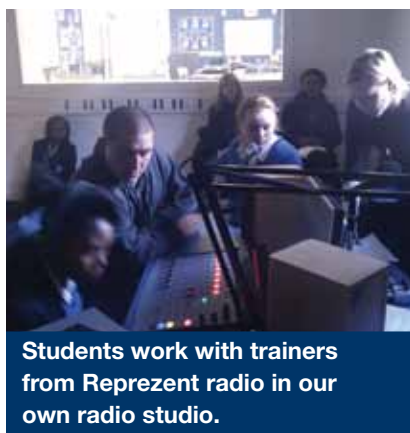
Live shows

As well as recording shows for broadcast around the academy, students have then been visiting Repräsent's own studio in Peckham to broadcast their own live shows on the internet.

Bola, the producer of the first live show, admitted that the experiencing of working live was nerve-wracking. 'It was brilliant and different from doing it at school because it felt so real,' she said.

Tom Bibby, radio trainer from Repräsent, said: 'The Harris group are some of the best young people we have worked with. We keep telling people how great they are!'

You can listen to a podcast of one of the shows at www.hgaed.org.uk/7/audio-gallery



Students work with trainers from Repräsent radio in our own radio studio.



This open plan computer area is a popular feature of the recently refurbished New House, which adjoins the new Harris wing (see front page). The area has 28 state-of-the-art computers and can be used by students at break times as well as for lessons.

400 students attend Health Fair

Over 400 students came to the academy's 2010 Health Fair last month, with stalls and advice on a range of topics including self-esteem, stress, cancer, STIs, healthy eating, smoking, drugs, bullying, teenage pregnancy, alcohol and HIV/AIDS.

All the stalls were designed by the Post-16 Health Ambassadors as part of their coursework, with students on hand throughout the day to answer questions and 'sell' their health messages.

Each stall had an activity to engage younger students including an alcohol-awareness assault course, self esteem lucky dip, pin the stressor on the student, the smoothie test, a graffiti wall and many more.

We were also lucky to have a stall run by the National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy who also attended the fair as well as running some epilepsy awareness sessions for Year 9 Health & Social Care students.

Visitors were asked to evaluate the event by choosing their favourite stalls.



Visiting the healthy drinks stall.



Discussing sexual health at the 2010 academy Health Fair.

What student visitors said about the Health Fair...

- 'It was a very interesting event and I would like it to happen again.'
- 'They made us want to go to their stalls. They made it appealing and interesting.'

Students seal meal deal

The student food group is working with the academy's caterers, Sodexo, to introduce a flexible 'meal deal' system to the canteen.

Rather than paying individually for each item, students can now choose a hot meal, sandwich, wrap or baguette, plus any dessert, fruit, yoghurt or biscuit all for £1.80. The meal deals were devised by students following complaints about the lack of flexibility in the canteen pricing structure.

The student food group meets monthly to review the food in the canteen and suggest improvements. They also taste new dishes prepared by the caterers before they are introduced to the canteen.





Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich
 Homestall Road
 London SE22 0NR
 Tel 020 7732 2276
 Email info@hgaed.org.uk
www.hgaed.org.uk

SOUTH LONDON SCHOOLS

Harris federation 

Any one of these...



Hot Main + 2 Sides



Baguette



Sandwich



Wrap



1x Pattie

PLUS ANY OF THESE...



Hot Dessert



Biscuit



Yogurt



Piece of Fruit



Grapes



Jelly Pot



Calypso Juice Shot

MEAL DEAL!

= £1.80 MEAL DEAL

Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich