



Harris Girls' Academy
East Dulwich

Aspire
Learn
Succeed



2010–11
Proud of success



Welcome to our academy

Welcome to this brief record of another highly successful year for Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich. It aims to capture not only the academic achievement and excellent new facilities at our academy but also the rich diversity of opportunity for every student that comes here. We're immensely proud of the effectiveness of our academy for students at all ability levels. This short booklet offers you a brief glimpse of life at our academy and I hope to have the chance to welcome you personally in future.

Jane Fletcher, Principal



'Your academy continues to make excellent progress and everyone at the Harris Federation is hugely proud of what students and teachers are achieving together.'

Lord Harris



'The new buildings at this academy are inspirational. But the buildings themselves don't provide a good quality education – it's the teachers – and you've got fantastic teachers here at the academy, and really motivated students.'

Lord Adonis, former Minister for Schools, interviewed by students for the academy's radio station during his visit in January to open our new Harris Wing.

Achieving success

Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich is in the top 2% of schools nationally for student progress (2010), according to figures released by the Department for Education in February.

► 66 per cent of Year 11 students achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths – well above the national average (54%).



◀▶ Delighted students compare their exam results on GCSE results day in August. The results were our best ever.



Our 2011 A level results were also impressive. The average grade was between A and B with nearly 62% of passes being at A.

► Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich came top in a league table of 15 Southwark secondary schools for 'value added'.



A strong student voice

We now expect students to be involved in every major project happening in the academy.



◀ Students worked with Polly Haste from Goldsmiths University throughout the year to develop their research skills – including planning questions, carrying out research and reporting on their findings.



▲ The student food group worked with the academy's caterers to introduce a flexible 'meal deal' system to the canteen.



▲ A prefect system was introduced to the academy following a decision made by our student focus group. They researched how the system works in other schools and shortlisted candidates for interview.



▲ Ten students from years 7 and 8 have been looking at whether teachers and pupils can work together to plan and deliver lessons.

Innovative curriculum

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



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



◀ Each term, students in years 7 and 8 choose a topic to investigate in their own time at home, to hone their research and investigation skills.



'I've gained many new experiences such as being a prefect and young researcher.'

Anna, Year 7



▲ 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 in learning across the UK and worldwide.

21st century environment

Major improvements to the learning environment this year include a new Post 16 study centre with outstanding teaching areas and sixth form common room.

► Our new Harris Wing opened in January, with state-of-the-art classrooms for English, Maths, ICT, Business Studies, Design and Technology, plus a large study centre.



▼ An 'elder care room' helps students understand the experience of being an older person and look at how environments can be adapted.



▲ Our health science suite, including this replica ambulance, is supporting teaching at both GCSE and A Level (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).



◀ Our Design and Technology suite, which opened in January.

▼ Our new study centre, which opened in January.



◀ Students can now access digital books anywhere in the school or at home, using our eLibrary.



Our personal best

Over 570 students from nine different academies took part in the Harris Federation Sports Day at the National Sports Centre in Crystal Palace in July, organised by Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich. This was the largest event of its kind ever held by the federation.



▲ Our team finished second overall in the Federation sports day with 236 points, just four points behind Harris City Academy Crystal Palace.

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



◀ Our netball teams for years 7 and 8 both came second in a Southwark netball tournament in November.



Showcasing talent

► Students now have a weekly music and chat show on London's newest FM youth radio station. Tune in every Friday, 4-5pm, on Re-present radio 107.3FM or online at www.represent.org.uk.



◀ Year 9 drama students rehearse scenes from a new play they created on the theme of immigration. The play was performed by professional actors as part of a project with Southwark Theatre and Education partnership.

'I was very worried about coming to secondary school but this school has been kind and has welcomed me with open arms.'
Lamy, Year 7



◀▶ Students from the Harris Federation Choir performed on the same bill as Tom Jones at Lord Harris' golden wedding party in January.



Aspire to success

A new scholarship scheme is encouraging our 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 – to give them the all-round experience top universities seek.

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



▲ Three of the students on the new Harris scholarship programme.

► Our houses are named after three colleges with which we have close ties: Manchester, Oriel and King's.



'Our daughter started at Harris in September and we've not looked back. We wanted her to go to a local school as otherwise she'd waste so much time travelling. It's less pressure and leaves more time for homework.'
Alison, parent, Nunhead

Enterprise and innovation

Students launched their own online cupcake business in June and are also selling songs by our choir, to raise money for good causes. HOPE (which stands for Helping Others, Promoting Enterprise) is online at www.hope-harris.org.



▲ Textiles student, Lauren Hobby (right) with clothes she designed and made for London Fashion Week.

▲ Visit www.hope-harris.org to see our rather fabulous cakes and place an order. Profits from the social enterprise will be used to support local charities and good causes.

► Year 9 students raised £3,000 for the crime reduction charity NACRO (www.nacro.org.uk) by taking part in the national Youth Philanthropy Initiative.



◀ A new branch of NatWest is now open at the school, run entirely by students, to support the teaching of enterprise. Account-holders can make deposits and withdraw cash at ATM machines, just like any other bank.

“Aspire, Learn, Succeed”



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