



Harris Science Academy East London

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support over this last term, I do appreciate that we are undergoing change, but we are always working to ensure that we provide your children with the best possible education moving forward.

It is always nice at the end of term to reflect on what has happened and to think about next steps.

Starting with our Sixth form students. I know how hard Year 13 are working for their upcoming examinations. This is a particularly challenging time for them, and we know that the uncertainty around next steps is daunting. We aim to support them as much as we can, and the Beyond 18 programme which involved a range of speakers discussing university life and beyond really inspired them. I likewise know how impressed the speakers were with the questions our students asked and in hearing about their ambitions for the future.

We have also had a range of trips and careers programmes for Year 12, helping them to be informed about their choices in the next few years.

We continue to build on the teaching for Year 11. Their resilience and determination is to be admired and we are all doing everything we can to support them at this vital time of their education. The intervention programme has been well attended and I know they are committed to doing well. We are currently analysing the data from the last round of mock exams, and we are pleased with the progress made. However, there is still work to be done and it is important that students attend all sessions planned over the Easter Break. Parents and carers have an important role to play in their final preparation for their exams; so please keep encouraging, motivating and supporting them in their work and preparation.

We continue to build the careers programme and it was lovely to see the Year 9 girls have a great day out at London City airport; developing our young women to be the STEM leaders of the future.

We also had the pleasure of listening to two of our very talented students playing at the Official opening of Harris Science Academy East London. Lord Harris was very impressed.

There are lots of exciting updates on this and various other events on our Twitter feed. Please do follow.

Looking forward to next term, I would like to introduce our new colleagues and say a huge thank you to those leaving us.

Mr Daniel Macpherson, our new Principal is very much looking forward to being here full time after Easter. He is very keen to meet with you, please do look out for his letter. Thanks again to Mr Mark

Taylor, we appreciate what he has done for the Academy and wish him the best on the next stage of his career.

I am pleased to introduce Ms Malini Sarkar who is our new Assistant Principal overseeing Inclusion. Ms Sarkar is a fully trained SENCo and will be based full time on site. She has a wealth of experience and will build on the good work already in place. Unfortunately, we do have to say goodbye and thank you to Ms Catherine Beardsmore-Rust. I know that she is looking forward to working much closer to home, although she is very sad to be leaving.

We also have Mr Nathan Hall joining us as a full-time attendance officer. He will be working with our Educational Welfare Officer to support our families. As you know one of the most significant factors in raising achievement is attendance at school. In every single piece of data, the link is evident. We also have a new attendance policy in place which you can access on the website. If you have any further concerns around attendance, please do contact Mr Hall directly (extension – 9582 or email attendance@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk).

As we make positive steps forward in regard to punctuality, our expectation remains that all students should arrive at school by 8.30am. Any student arriving after this time will be considered late to the academy and will risk being sanctioned in line with our behaviour policy.

We continue with works to update the building and over Easter the Reception and Medical Room will be renovated to make sure we have a safe and secure site. We have also installed CCTV and a secure access system.

More exciting news is the revamp of our library space. We have been working with Tower Hamlets Library Service to review provision and we are in the process of ordering a significant number of new books. We are hoping to have a grand opening in April (once all the books are catalogued and shelved). We know how important reading is; not only do fluent readers make more progress but reading for pleasure is so vital for promoting positive mental health.

We will be planning library lessons for Year 7 and 8 and will be encouraging them to develop and explore different genres of books. This will be linked to the Bedrock programme (which all students should be accessing from home and completing as home learning) and will really encourage students to expand their vocabulary. As we begin the holidays, I would ask parents and carers to please encourage your child to read at least one book over the holidays and share with us when they return.

We hope all our pupils and their families have an enjoyable Easter break, but we are also aware that the two weeks can be challenging for families. We have a dedicated safeguarding area of our website full of information, I would like to draw your attention to the March edition of [Parents Connect](#), which provides useful information and support for families and also the [Newham Easter Activities](#) which contains an overview of events and activities for the two weeks.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's learning.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LKattenhorn', followed by a period.

Lisa Kattenhorn
Executive Principal