

## HSAEL Christmas Newsletter 2022

As our first term as Harris Science Academy comes to an end, I want to thank you all for your support and patience while we have implemented so many improvements to the school. There have been some bumps along the way and we know there will be more, but we are starting to get some consistency across the school now in terms of our communications with you and in aligning school routines with the Harris Federation model.

### Christmas Celebrations - Music Concert and Pantomime

It was wonderful to see the return of the end of term pantomime, Cinderella, which we ran for the first time since the pandemic. We were delighted with how well this went down with all pupils and staff, showing the tremendous spirit that runs through the school even in times of change. Big thanks to Miss Copestake for her part in making this event such a great success as the pictures below show.



We were also delighted with the annual Christmas Concert by the Music Department and hope you were lucky enough to see the 'Spacemen in Bow' experience! This unique event has become a regular fixture and it was wonderful to see so many of you there to support your children and celebrate with us. The pictures below show what you missed if you didn't attend and what you enjoyed if you did!



## **General communications**

We now have Bromcom set up as the central data communication tool and have also managed to set up a texting system for important and urgent messages. This has helped improve communications that were falling between the old ELSS email account and the new HSAEL accounts. Thanks for your patience while we sorted this out and we hope you are experiencing the improved communication.

## **Custom House and Clock Mill improvements**

For those of you with children in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, you will have heard that the new Custom House building is open now and our next steps will be to make sure it is set up for independent study to ensure your children can work around the clock at all times on their studies.

We were excited to welcome Lord Harris just before Christmas to the Custom House building. It was great for him to see some of the improvements in place since the Harris Federation transition began. We are also making some changes to the reception area at Clock Mill to improve security and there will be some other improvements to make the site safer.

## **Learning Spaces, Exams and Year 10 Parent Information Evening January 5<sup>th</sup> 5-6.30pm**

In terms of learning, we are also trying to quickly improve the books we offer to support our literacy programme and expect to have good news soon about a new and improved library space.

We have completed our first set of mock exams with Harris support in years 11 and 13 and these have gone well, and we hope to have results, feedback and progress reports ready very soon in January (and in most cases, before the Christmas break) to support your children in their next steps towards GCSE and A-levels.

The next focus point for us is Year 10, and we have had some teething problems with setting up their end of term exams as we tried to work with Harris and our own internal exam processes. This has led to delays in communication with you and your children about exam timetables and revision guides and has also meant we have not been able to use the hall as we wished to. As you know a big part of doing well at exams is clear modelling of actual processes, but lack of space meant we were not able to use the Hall for the Year 10 or Year 8 exams. However, as we recognise the vital importance of Year 10 at this stage of their studies, we are running a Year 10 parent Information Evening on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 between 5 and 6.30pm to keep you updated on the next steps for the year group. A letter has been sent out on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, the last day of term. Mr. Perkins will be in touch with more information about this evening shortly.

## **General queries**

A reminder to please email general queries about your child to your head of year in the first instance. A reminder of the heads of year's contact details:

Year 7 Miss Willer [A.Willer@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:A.Willer@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Year 8 Miss Mamona [V.Mamona@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:V.Mamona@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Year 9 Mr Kasisari [I.Kasisari@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:I.Kasisari@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Year 10 Mr Perkins [D.Perkins@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:D.Perkins@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Year 11 Mrs Newson [H.Newson@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:H.Newson@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Year 12/13 Mr Woolfenden [R.Woolfenden@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:R.Woolfenden@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

Please write general administrative queries to our info box at:

[info@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

## Teaching and Learning and Curriculum Review

Back in the classroom, we are reviewing our teaching and learning and monitoring the effectiveness of the new routines from the first term to support learning. Please do get in touch with Mr. Martin if you have any queries about this. We will shortly be assessing curriculum and timetable to support learning and if your child is in Year 11 you will already know about the day extensions to 4.20 to ensure full coverage in all option subjects as well as the Saturday revision classes we have been running this half-term. Thanks to Miss Newson for her work on Saturdays to get our Year 11s into school and doing the extra work to build their chances next summer.

We continue to have teaching support from colleagues from the Harris Federation to ensure your pupils have had a calm and focused first term and have new lead practitioners starting in January in Physics and Maths. As much as possible, we have tried to sustain the existing curriculum and we are also looking at how to meet national curriculum expectations across the board. We are working hard to keep the academic offer as high as it was before the summer but with a more targeted focus on ensuring every child makes the progress they are capable of, including those with special educational needs.

## Parent and pupil surveys

Thank you to those parents who took part in our Parent Survey in October. We have already responded to your positive feedback and any concerns and questions raised. We hope to publish the survey results in the New Year. In the meantime, we would also be delighted if you could let us know how we are doing as we continue to improve by completing the attached **Term 1 Parent Survey** - all feedback is welcome to help us continue to improve the school:

### Parent survey link:

**Parent survey:** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iSUTagbWmk-rU04hqmtEXhZrXKDsYzPlsm9sC2oRldBUQ1RJRTU0WVZJMUo4SUtBQzNJR1pES01BRy4u>

**Pupils have their own survey too.**

### Pupil survey link:

**Pupil survey:** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iSUTagbWmk-rU04hqmtEXhZrXKDsYzPlsm9sC2oRldBUMUVQTE5VV1ZVQVBBSkZHV1hOWkY4OTBNVS4u>

## Key events in January to February 2023

### Please see the key events below for Half-Term 3:

- Tuesday 3rd January: INSET Day. Pupils not in school
- Thursday 5th January: Year 10 Parent Information Evening, 5pm-6.30pm
- Fortnight commencing Monday 9th January: Year 7 and Year 9 assessments in class
- Monday 9th January: Launch of extra-curricular clubs for pupils
- Thursday 12th January: Parent Coffee Morning, 10am-11am
- Thursday 12th January: Year 11 Parents' Evening, 5pm-7pm
- Thursday 19th January: Sixth Form Open Evening, 5pm-7pm
- Thursday 19th January: Parent Forum and Custom House official launch, 5.30pm-7pm
- Thursday 26th January: SEND parent coffee morning, 10am-11am
- Thursday 26th January: GCSE Certificate Collection Evening at Clock Mill
- Thursday 26th January: Year 13 Parents' Evening
- Fortnight commencing Monday 30th January: Year 12 assessments in class
- Thursday 9th February: Year 10 Parents' Evening, 5pm-7pm
- Friday 10th February: Last day of Half Term 3

## Safeguarding

Please note the following important safeguarding messages over the break. We hope you and your families have a safe and joyful festive period however for some young people and families it can be a challenging time especially those who rely on the structure and stability provided by the school day. If you are concerned about any young person in respect of their emotional wellbeing or you feel that they are vulnerable to harm or abuse and you are uncertain whether they are receiving support, you should contact the local borough safeguarding teams for support or protection. If you believe a young person is in direct risk of harm you should contact the Police – 999 or 101 for non-emergency.

The HSAEL safeguarding area of the website is full of information for parents on local support available from Newham and the contact details of the local borough safeguarding information. Please find a link to explore all the resources we have share on this area -

<https://www.harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk/125/safeguarding/>

If you wish to inform the school of any safeguarding issues you have raised then please contact the academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead Jennifer Copestake on –

[J.Copestake@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:J.Copestake@harrisscienceeastlondon.org.uk)

## Sign up for hot meals

One of the highlights of the past term has been seeing our new catering service get up and running, with more than half of students already enjoying a tasty, high quality and nutritious hot lunch each day. We have appointed Thomas Franks, a family-run firm of caterers, to

provide the catering. The menu changes from week to week so as to provide variety for students, but typically they can choose from a jacket potato and pasta each day, or have the 'dish of the day', such as stew or stir-fried noodles. Puddings include treats such as flapjacks and a range of freshly made cakes.

The cost is £2.38 per day, but it is free for children who qualify for Free School Meals.

A hot and healthy meal at lunch time gives students a terrific boost before their afternoon studies. Please do give the meals a try – to sign up contact our info email box:

[info@harriscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@harriscienceeastlondon.org.uk). If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals and are unsure of the criteria please check the website here for details.

For those of you that have already heard from us but have not yet signed up we will be in touch over the break to advise you of the process to sign up for parent pay our cashless payment system and to get your biometric registration consent if you wish to go ahead with that so that your child can get hot food in the new year when we go live with cashless payments.

### **Parent Pay and cashless payments - new go live date - January 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Unfortunately, we did not manage to get cashless payments working this term for our new food service but at the time of writing this newsletter we have now had the final technological glitches fixed and so we are confirming that the new go live date for cashless payment is Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup>, the first day back in the new year for your children. By that time we hope to have biometric registration completed or PIN number equivalent for those of you who have not consented. So as long as you have completed Parent Pay registration by then, and uploaded money on to the system, your child should be able to get their food on site from the start of the new term. A reminder that to use the cashless system you need to register for Parent Pay and set up your Parent Pay account as well as return your biometric consent forms to reception. Please advise any queries on this to your Head of Year in the first instance.

### **Holiday Food vouchers and Holiday Activities Programme**

We are really pleased to confirm that Newham have agreed again to fund ten days of food vouchers over the break for pupils on Free School Meals: [Food Vouchers during the winter school holidays 2022-23 – Free school meals – Newham Council](#). Please advise us of any queries by emailing [H.Patel@harriscienceeastlondon.org.uk](mailto:H.Patel@harriscienceeastlondon.org.uk).

### **From Newham's Holiday Activities and Food programme**

Please direct your eligible children and young people to the Council's HAF webpage to find out more about Newham's winter programme and for details of how to book their place: Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) – Activities for young people in Newham – Newham Council: [Newham's Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Health and Wellbeing: In-Focus – Newham Council](#)



### **Final words - let's build mile long bridges!**

In the words of George Bailey in the great Christmas movie It's a Wonderful Life: "I know what I'm gonna do tomorrow, and the next day, and the next year, and the year after that. I'm shakin' the dust of this crummy little town off my feet and I'm gonna see the world. Italy, Greece, the Parthenon, the Colosseum. Then, I'm comin' back here to go to college and see what they know. And then I'm gonna build things. I'm gonna build airfields, I'm gonna build skyscrapers a hundred stories high, I'm gonna build bridges a mile long".

Personally, as we don't live in a crummy little town but a great city, I think we should just keep on building a great school right here. May I take the opportunity on behalf of all the staff to wish you all a great Christmas, new year and holiday season and we look forward to seeing your children in 2023. Thanks for all your support in 2022 and here's to a great 2023! Let's keep on building this great school!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr Taylor', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mr Taylor

Principal