

Prospectus 2011 – 2012



Harris Federation 

A family of Academies with drive and ambition



Commitment & financial support from Lord Harris of Peckham



As our Sponsor and Chairman, Lord Harris takes a personal role and interest in every Harris Academy generously supporting them financially and with his time. He and his family are regular visitors to our Academies and know many of our students personally.

Lord Harris' self-made success as a businessman is an inspiration to our students and his entrepreneurialism is thoroughly reflected in the can-do culture of our Academies.

Educated at Streatham Grammar School, he had to cut short his education at 15 after the death of his father in order to take over the running of the family business of three carpet shops. He went on to set up Carpetright, now a public company with over 600 branches across the UK and the rest of Europe.

As well as serving Carpetright as its Chief Executive and Chairman, Lord Harris is a major British philanthropist. Other good causes supported by the Harris family include the NSPCC and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Lord Harris writes: "I created the Harris Federation because I know the value of a good education. It is the best start in life that you can give to a child. With Dan Moynihan and his exceptional team of Principals in charge, our Academies have shown that there is no reason why inner-city schools cannot be outstanding and that there are no children in London who cannot achieve when given the right education. London's parents, citizens, entrepreneurs and professionals of tomorrow are being educated at Harris Academies and we are nurturing them so that their adult lives are happy, fulfilling and successful."



Welcome message from Dr Dan Moynihan, Chief Executive of the Harris Federation

The Harris Federation is a charity with more than twenty years' experience of education in London. We have built our reputation on a family of Academies that, across the board, are setting standards of excellence and fulfilling high expectations.

In describing the Harris culture and ethos, we need to go back to the beginning of our story when, in 1990, we opened our first school – Harris CTC, in Croydon. The school it replaced had, throughout the 1980s, been one of the worst in London: 90% of its pupils left without having achieved five good GCSE qualifications, 60 were expelled every year and, on a typical day, almost half the pupils would be absent.

Now called Harris City Academy Crystal Palace, it has been transformed into one of the highest achieving state schools in Britain. It recently became the first school in the country to be rated 'Outstanding' in every category inspected by Ofsted and it forms the model upon which we are developing each of our other Academies.

There are currently 13 Harris Academies, including our first Primary Academy which opened in September 2011. They combine the traditional values of good manners, strong discipline and smart uniform with the best of modern teaching and technology. All of our Academies are in London and they work highly collaboratively together.

In September 2012 we will open the first Harris Free School which will be a primary in Peckham. The year after, in Newham, Chobham Academy will open. This is the only new school being built as the legacy for the London Olympics and we have been asked by its sponsor, Lend Lease, to run it.

Each year we grow, the expectations we set ourselves increase. Across the Harris Federation, there is an average of five applications for every place available. Improvement in our GCSE results is consistently three or four times higher than what is achieved nationally. And, of the 11 Harris Academies so far to have been inspected by Ofsted, eight have been rated as 'Outstanding' – a record that is unmatched.

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. Any parents with further questions, or who would like to visit one of our Academies, are warmly encouraged to contact us.



Dr Daniel Moynihan Ed.D, M.A. ,B.Sc.

Chief Executive


Your nearest Harris

 **Harris Academy**
Peckham
"Good". Ofsted

 **Harris Boys' Academy**
East Dulwich
"Outstanding". Ofsted

 **Harris Primary Academy**
Peckham Park
Opened in September 2011


 **Harris Academy**
Merton
"Outstanding". Ofsted

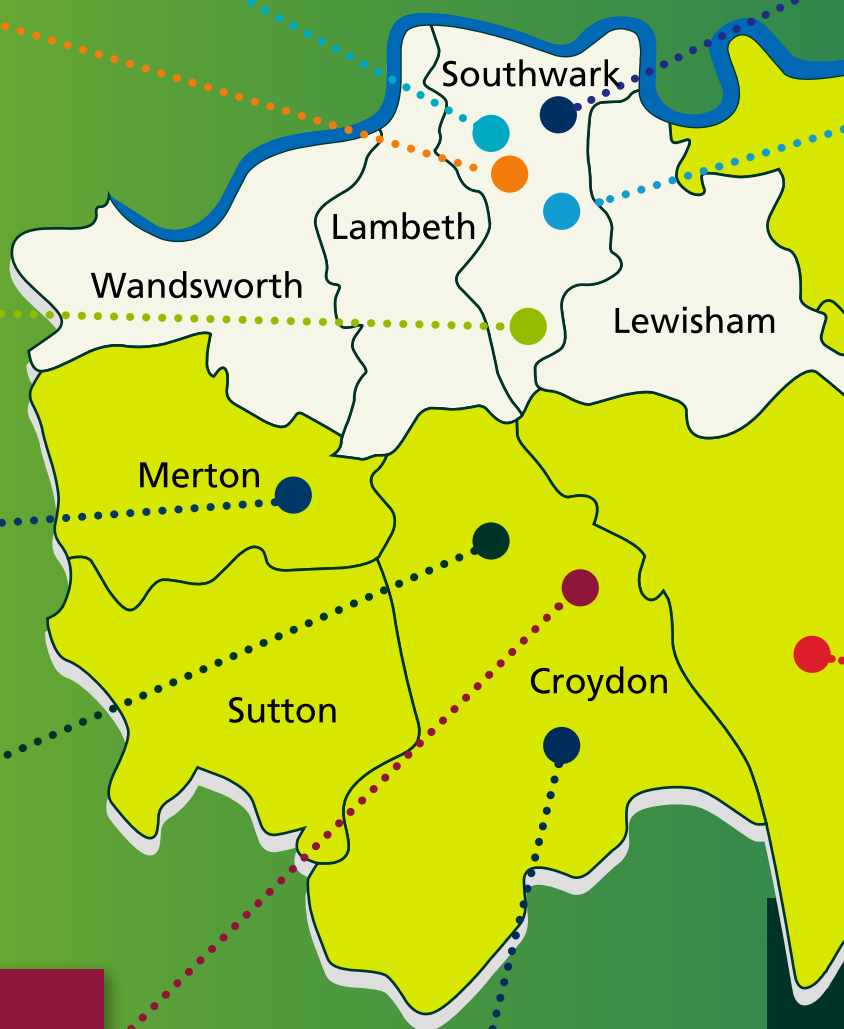
 **Harris City Academy**
Crystal Palace
"Outstanding in every category". Ofsted

 **Harris Academy**
South Norwood
"Outstanding". Ofsted

Opening September 2012:
Harris Primary Free School Peckham

Opening September 2013:
Chobham Academy – a partnership between
Lend Lease and the Harris Federation

 **Harris Academy**
Purley
"Outstanding". Ofsted



Academy

 **Harris Academy**
Bermondsey

"Outstanding". Ofsted

 **Harris Girls' Academy**
East Dulwich

Summer 2011: a 17 percentage
point rise in GCSE results

 **Harris Academy**
Chafford Hundred

"Outstanding". Ofsted

 **Harris Academy**
Falconwood

"Outstanding". Ofsted

 **Harris Academy**
Bromley

Opened in September 2011

 **Harris Academy**
Beckenham

Opened in September 2011



Admissions

We welcome students of all abilities regardless of their faith or background. All of our Academies give priority to local children and every place is free of charge. To find out more about our Open Days and how to apply for a place at a particular Harris Academy, please contact them directly and they will be happy to help.





What can you expect from a Harris education?

Each of our Academies has its own personality and way of doing things. What they share, however, is the drive and ambition to give students an excellent education within a happy, caring and supportive environment.

Across the Harris Federation, there is an average of five applications for every place available. Improvement in our GCSE results is consistently three or four times higher than the national average. And, of the 11 Harris Academies so far to have been inspected by Ofsted, eight have been rated as 'Outstanding' – a record that is unmatched.

If you visit a Harris Academy, you will find:

- Students who enjoy learning and look forward to coming to school each day
- Well trained, highly resourced teachers who are ambitious for every student
- Parents who are fully involved with their children's education and school life in general, with reports home every six weeks
- Emphasis on traditional values: good manners, hard work, smart uniform and excellent behaviour
- Modern teaching practices and technology
- A calm, orderly atmosphere and class sizes that are kept as small as possible
- Extra tuition, either in small groups or on a one-to-one basis, for students who need it
- Master classes in subjects such as Latin, Mandarin, Russian, advanced science and maths to ensure every student feels stretched to their full potential



- University coaching, including Oxbridge mentoring, from age 14 so that students make good decisions early on about their education
- An emphasis on all-through education, with our primary students taught by specialist secondary subject teachers
- Exemplary provision for the basic skills of literacy and numeracy, with reading taught to our primary students through traditional phonics
- A fun and vibrant range of extracurricular activities with a host of fully-funded trips and events
- Pastoral care of the highest order by the same staff who monitor their academic progress so the two are closely linked
- Students and staff that become established as trusted and reliable faces in the local community
- A governing body that takes a close and active interest in the education on offer and makes a meaningful contribution to progress and development.



Preparing our students for successful futures

Our Academies work with a host of prestigious universities and businesses to give our students as rounded an education as possible. In science, for example, some of our Academies have teamed up with King's College London and Imperial College who are working with them on curriculum development as well as opening up their laboratories for Harris students to use.

Through a partnership with the British Medical Association, our students who are interested in medical careers receive one-to-one mentoring from junior doctors. We also have links with two Oxbridge colleges who help us run a mentoring scheme for students looking to go to Oxford and Cambridge.

In helping our students develop the soft skills they need now and in the future, we deliberately and very regularly expose them to a wide variety of people and experiences:

- The mentors who come into our Academies to coach our students on a one-to-one basis include captains of industry as well as national newspaper editors and they represent companies and organisations such as *The Times* and *Financial Times* newspapers, PwC, Ernst & Young and Barclays Bank
- There are regular, fully-funded, trips to the theatre, opera and ballet
- Our students have travelled to New York and California to interview top US school leaders about the best of the American education system, before going to 10 Downing Street to launch the report that they subsequently wrote.







Harris teachers

Harris teachers are trained and resourced to inspire the best in every student – whether they need to be stretched, are struggling or are somewhere in the middle.

Our approach to developing outstanding teachers is frequently praised by Ofsted and the government. In addition to formal training programmes, the teachers from each Harris Academy get together regularly to develop excellent lesson plans and to make sure the best ideas from each Academy are shared across the Federation.

Our new Teaching School will train new and existing teachers for Harris Academies and other local schools. It will also coach and develop a new generation of school and Academy leaders.

We have high expectations of our teachers and we are increasingly finding that our approach to training and development is attracting the most ambitious to apply for jobs at our Academies.



GCSE Results 2011

An outstanding year for the Harris Federation

	Deprivation decile	5 A*– C		5 A*– C’s inc. English & Maths	
		Final year as LA school	2011	Final year as LA school	2011
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace (first opened Sept’ 1990 CTC)	4th	9%	100%	n/a	96%
Harris Academy Peckham (opened Sept’ 2003)	2nd	15%	81%	11%	50%
Harris Academy Bermondsey (opened Sept’ 2006)	2nd	47%	90%	26%	64%
Harris Girls’ Academy East Dulwich (opened Sept’ 2006)	2nd	33%	95%	31%	67%
Harris Academy Merton (opened Sept’ 2006)	4th	29%	100%	23%	75%
Harris Academy South Norwood (opened Sept’ 2007)	5th	29%	100%	20%	75%
Harris Academy Falconwood (opened Sept’ 2008)	9th	47%	100%	17%	57%
Harris Academy Purley (opened Sept’ 2009)	4th	80%	92%	33%	61%

Setting standards of excellence and fulfilling high expectations

In summer 2011, the Harris Federation recorded an average improvement of 13 percentage points across our family of Academies in the proportion of students achieving five good GCSE passes including English and maths.

Significantly, and for the first year ever, all Harris Academies have scored 50% or higher for the proportion of students gaining five good passes including English and maths. This means that they have all achieved the national floor target for 2015 four years early.

The largest single improvement in the group was at **Harris Academy Merton**, where there was a **26 percentage point increase** in the proportion of students gaining 5 good passes including English and maths. The score was 75% this year, up from 49% in 2010 and 23% at the school the Academy replaced in 2006.

Other highlights are:

- **An improvement of 17 percentage points at Harris Academy Peckham**, where the proportion of students gaining five good passes including English and maths has risen from 33% in 2010 to 50% this year.
- With 61% of students gaining 5 good passes including English and maths, **Harris Academy Purley has almost doubled its results within two years of opening.**
- With 75% of students gaining 5 good passes including English and maths, **Harris Academy South Norwood has almost quadrupled its results within four years of opening.**



What our students say

“I like coming to school. It feels very safe being here and the lessons are interesting.”

Year Seven student at Harris Academy Bermondsey

“My teachers have given me the confidence to aim high and I am now applying to top universities.”

Year Twelve student at Harris Academy Peckham

“The Academy is a place where it is easy to learn. I really enjoy the range of after-school clubs too.”

Year Ten student at Harris Academy South Norwood

“Physically we changed when we became an Academy. We went from quite a casual jumper to a smart blazer. Now we all look very professional and it gets you in the mindset of work.”

Year Twelve student at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

“I never thought I would get such good grades. The teachers really helped me on Saturdays and at 1:2:1s after school.”

Year Twelve student at Harris Academy Purley





“My favourite subjects are science and maths but I also enjoy the enrichment lessons, especially drama and Latin. I am a Learning Commissioner at the school; this involves discovering how to make learning better for other students.”

Year Seven student at Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich

“Harris Academy Chafford Hundred puts you in the right frame of mind for the future.”

Year Ten student at Harris Academy Chafford Hundred

“It is an honour being in Harris Academy Falconwood where so many people applied.”

Year Eight student at Harris Academy Falconwood

“Being a student here is a great opportunity for me to achieve something in life. Since we became a Harris Academy there have been a lot of changes such as extra lessons and good, no actually great, behaviour and the uniform which I love.”

Year Eleven student at Harris Academy Beckenham, writing six weeks after it opened





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