



# Harris Academy Bermondsey

Enterprise and Media



' An outstanding place  
to be educated ' OFSTED



## Welcome

from the Chief Executive

Harris Federation of South London Schools is the leading group of Academies in England. Four of the six Harris Academies inspected so far have been judged to be Outstanding schools by Ofsted Inspectors, a

remarkable record, and one which we are determined to further improve upon in the future.

Our young people deserve the very best education and working closely together, benefitting from sponsorship by Lord Harris of Peckham, the Harris Academies are able to offer a far broader and higher quality range of educational opportunities than could any single school working alone. In choosing a Harris Academy for your son or daughter you are gaining the expertise and commitment for your child, not just of that Academy but also of the whole Harris Federation.

**Dr Daniel Moynihan Ed.D, MA, B.Sc (Econ).**

**Chief Executive of the Harris Federation  
of South London Schools**



“As an employer and a father, I strongly believe that a good education is the best start that you can give a child.

The Harris Academy Bermondsey promotes love of learning, willingness to work hard, curiosity, self confidence and a real desire to do well in life. In addition, as an 11–18 Academy our Sixth Form offers an outstanding range of courses so your child will not have to move schools for Sixth Form. I look forward to welcoming you to Harris Academy Bermondsey and to the Harris Federation of South London Schools.”

**Lord Harris of Peckham**

## From the Principal



A warm welcome to Harris Academy Bermondsey, one of the first Academies for girls in the UK and judged by Ofsted to be outstanding.

At this Academy, we are passionate about making a difference to the lives of our young women, ensuring that they have every opportunity to succeed by identifying and nurturing each one's individual talents.

Our well-qualified teachers and highly effective associate staff are committed to providing an education that engages and motivates students, within a safe and happy learning environment.

The Academy's two specialisms, Media and Enterprise, are exploited fully in both curricular and extra-curricular activities to inspire ambition, enable achievement and make learning fun.

I hope this prospectus will give you a taste of life at Harris Academy Bermondsey, but you are warmly invited to see the Academy in action by arranging a visit and I look forward to welcoming you.

**Dawn Rumley, Principal**

"Students say they love their Academy and are justifiably proud of its achievements."

OFSTED





**Harris Academy**  
Bermondsey

## Sparking Ambition

At Harris Academy Bermondsey, we are focused on ensuring that every student acquires a broad range of knowledge and skills that will equip her for the demands of the digital age.

Our Academy is a diverse yet cohesive learning community. We provide a highly effective academic and vocational education that is designed to enable each student to achieve her full potential.

Central to our success are the care and support provided by staff and students alike. Girls are actively encouraged to participate in the shaping of their learning, with over 100 students of all ages involved in Student Services.

The exciting learning and invaluable mentoring resulting from our Enterprise and Media specialisms inspire students to be ambitious. Many of them want to continue their education in our Sixth Form – which offers a range of A Level and vocational courses – and progress to university.



## Our Ethos

The Academy's ethos is summed up in its motto: **I CARE**

Our positive approach and supportive environment promotes learning with

**INTEGRITY, GIVING THE  
CONFIDENCE TO  
ACHIEVE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF  
RESPECT AND  
ENJOYMENT**





“At the heart of the Academy’s work is a strong desire to improve the life chances of its students and to raise their aspirations.” OFSTED



## Providing Tailored Learning

The Academy benefits from a dedicated team of exceptionally well-qualified teachers and highly effective support staff. They are keen to engage in opportunities for continuing professional development and we are proud to have achieved Investors in People status.

We offer a transformational curriculum, providing the flexibility required to personalise the learning programme of each student. Every girl has an individual timetable, which is carefully constructed in consultation with parents or carers, subject teachers and external mentors. The progress of each student is then rigorously tracked by staff through regular academic reviews.

We have a Gifted and Talented programme for more able students, while the Apple Centre provides supportive, bespoke learning for girls with special educational needs.

The two-year Key Stage 3 course for Years 7 and 8 forms a firm foundation of knowledge, developing an extensive range of learning skills through experiences across a diverse range of subjects.

Our three-year Key Stage 4 programme in Years 9, 10 and 11 is designed to allow each girl to progress at her own pace. For example, a student might complete a GCSE course in two years and then take an AS Level, or she might take three years for the GCSE in order to ensure the best possible grade.

Core academic subjects are combined with courses in the performing arts, ICT and physical education to form a well-rounded curriculum. Students have the opportunity to learn outside the classroom through educational outings – including visits to universities – and residential trips.

School-based activities are augmented by the Virtual Learning Environment, an Internet-based community where students can access subject information and homework assignments posted by their teachers.





“Because of the outstanding individual guidance and support students receive, they make excellent progress.” OFSTED



## Creating an Enterprising Culture

Our Enterprise specialism is the platform on which we develop the skills that will enable our students to succeed in higher education and in the workplace.

The Academy creates opportunities to develop the qualities required of an enterprising person – such as problem-solving skills, the ability to take initiative and calculated risks, perseverance, teamwork and self-confidence.

Links with the business community are exceptionally well developed. We have won national acclaim for our Mentors from Business scheme, under which executives from top companies in the City are paired with students in their final years. Over 200 executives from leading banks, accountancy firms and other organisations are committed to working one-to-one with our students on a weekly basis, some as mentors and others as maths tutors.

This individual mentoring support is invaluable. It plays a significant role in enabling students to attain the highest standards in examinations, provides guidance on progression to university and inspires them to be ambitious in their career choices.





“Mentoring is...highly effective in raising students’ aspirations and broadening their horizons.” OFSTED



“Close links with business partner mentors and local universities ensure that students are well prepared for the world of work.” OFSTED

## Preparing for Work

In the digital world, it is crucial that young people are media literate. The Academy's Media specialism is a valuable extension to the Enterprise status and allows students to showcase the transferable skills they have acquired.

Our students use media technology every day in their learning to research, process and present information – from desktop publishing and website design to video conferencing.

Girls gain practical experience in our professional TV and sound recording studios, which feature high-definition, broadcast-quality equipment. Used both for lessons and for the extended curriculum, the studios include a mixing desk, professional lighting, video cameras and a large plasma screen. Students enjoy all kinds of hands-on activities – including creating pop videos, stop-motion animations and TV commercials – and also benefit from visits from media industry specialists, such as screenwriters.

The Academy has its own radio station, HAB Radio, for which students produce programmes that are available on the academy web site via the internet or as a podcast. The HAB Radio team also communicates with its audience by posting blogs and using Twitter.





## Enriching Lives

The Academy offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities including trampolining, Tae Kwon Do, football, tennis, rock climbing, cheerleading, dance, orchestra, choir, creative writing, songwriting, textiles, art and engineering. In addition, learning is supported through subject-specific clubs, while a breakfast club is held every morning and a homework club each evening.

Extra classes for dance, drama and music are held on Saturdays – with the ability to gain awards through tests and examinations – and there are vocational opportunities with both the Harris Dance Touring Company and the Young Vic theatre. All students who show an aptitude for music and wish to learn an instrument receive free tuition in a personalised programme of music lessons.

Our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyle and diet choices is demonstrated in our catering and in Saturday Morning Kitchen, a club that allows students and their families to get together at the Academy to prepare and savour different dishes from around the world.

Refurbished throughout, the Academy boasts modern facilities including laboratories, sports areas and the very latest ICT equipment. Plans to build a 240-seat theatre – for the benefit of the local community, as well as students – are in progress.





“...all staff,  
teaching and  
non-teaching...  
are prepared to  
go the extra mile.”

OFSTED



## Caring for One Another

Key to the success of the Academy is its ethos of creating a happy and safe learning environment, with firm but fair discipline. This philosophy is underpinned by our mentoring system, under which all girls belong to a group of 15 students of mixed ages, led by a member of staff as mentor.

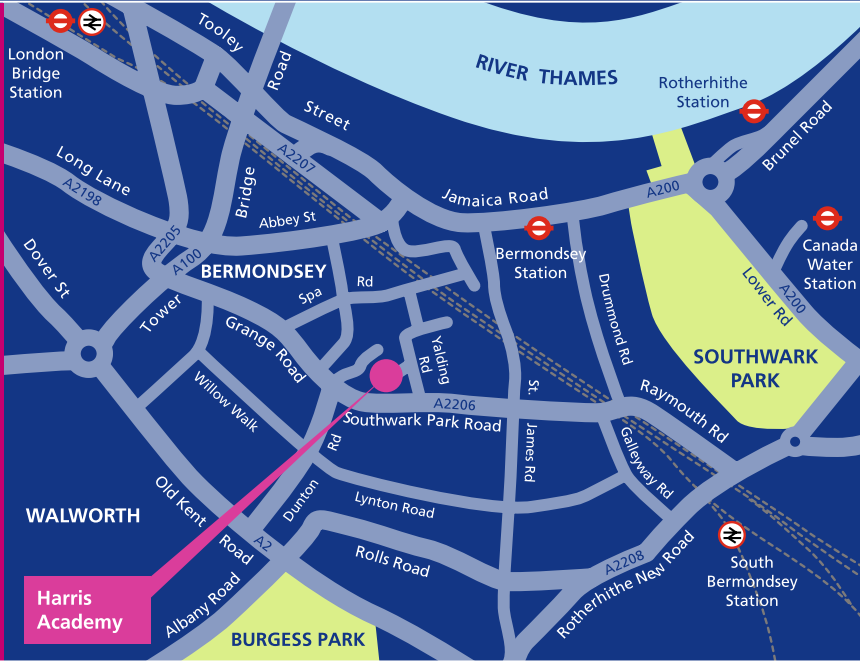
There are twelve vertical mentoring groups in each of the five Academy Families. They meet on a daily basis for 40 minutes and undertake a wide range of activities to have fun learning new skills together – from knitting to share trading – with students also encouraged to design and lead sessions.

The mentoring system allows students to develop strong relationships within their family groups. Year Sevens settle quickly into their new learning environment and all girls receive individual care and support, with achievements celebrated and concerns shared.

The Academy fosters links with the local community and works in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve her full potential.

“I love it here at HAB because people really care about you.”

STUDENT



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