



Harris Girls' Academy
East Dulwich

PROSPECTUS



Sport, Health Sciences and Enterprise



WELCOME BY THE SPONSOR

As an employer and a father, I strongly believe that a good education is the best start that you can give a child. Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich 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 Girls' Academy East Dulwich and to the Harris Federation of South London Schools.

LORD HARRIS OF PECKHAM

Sponsor of the Harris Academy East Dulwich



WELCOME BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Harris Girls' Academy is an Academy of opportunity and the Governors work with the Principal, staff and the community to ensure that the first class facilities it offers are used in the best way for everybody as we strive to make our Academy a centre of excellence.

In particular the Governing Body is responsible, with the Principal, for setting and monitoring the educational direction for the Academy and the targets to be achieved over time. Our aim is to provide for our students, a challenging, yet safe environment, in which they can learn and develop into enterprising young women ready to meet the challenges of today's society.

As governors, we hope that our Academy will be at the heart of our community and that its resources and sporting facilities will be shared by as many people as possible.

In our history as an Academy we have seen the introduction of many dynamic initiatives and we look forward with excitement to a bright future at Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich.

MARY ATKINSON

The Chair of Governors

THE HARRIS FEDERATION



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

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich where our motto is "Aspire, Learn, Succeed". This means that we look for every member of our community to be keen to learn, to be willing to engage and to be successful in their time with us.

When we talk about our community, we mean our students, our staff, our students' families, our governors, those who work with us and those who live in our surrounding area. We believe that our responsibility is to offer excellent provision that meets the needs of all those with whom we work and we are proud to be an inclusive, multi-cultural Academy providing inspiration and vibrancy, safety and support.

As part of the Harris Federation, our commitment to academic excellence, our determination to maintain strong values and to uphold the highest standards of behaviour and our care and support of our students are all clearly embedded. Our curriculum continues to develop in breadth and innovation alongside a strong commitment to an accelerated and broad academic provision for our most academically able students. We strongly believe that the curriculum of the 21st century allows every single student to achieve at a high level and our expectation is that the courses we offer will challenge and inspire our students, whatever their plans for further education and vocational development.

In addition, our specialisms are a vibrant and fundamental part of our Academy life and we participate regularly in Federation activities, our students working in collaboration with other high attaining academies and enjoying a close relationship with our partner boys' school. Our buildings

are undergoing vast investment and our joint Post 16 centre is now joined with the Federation Sixth Form as an outstanding Post 16 provider. We are working towards nothing less than being an outstanding provision and our strong staff team is committed to providing our students with excellence in all areas.

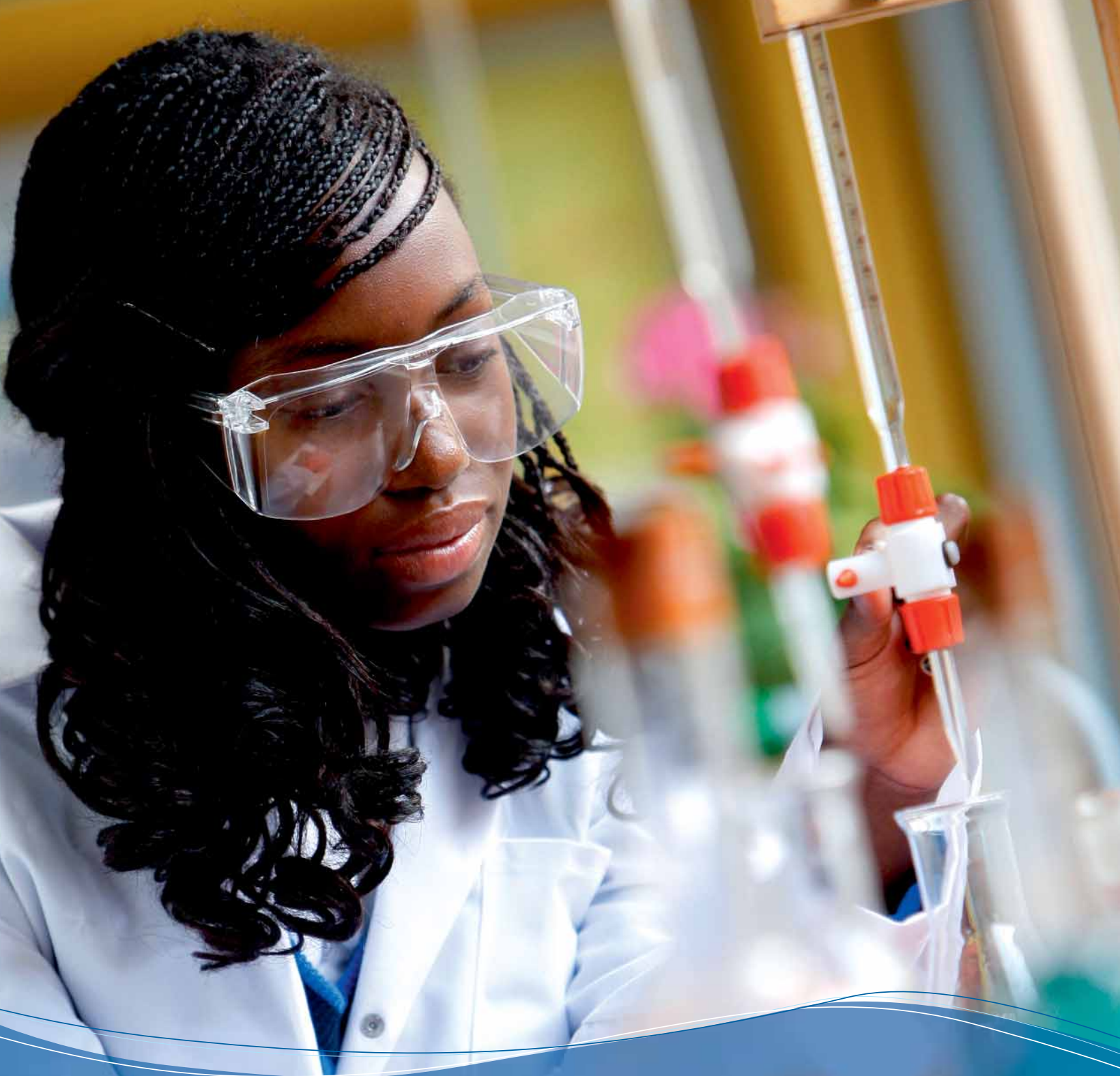
We want our students to become thoughtful, caring, confident young women whose aims are high, who believe in the importance of being life-long learners, who are equipped to lead their generation, who recognise that anything is possible and always strive to achieve their personal best. We encourage them to be ambitious, creative and innovative team players who can adapt effectively to the many roles life will demand of them both now and in the future.

Our aim is to achieve excellent standards and to fulfil high expectations. If you share our vision, please apply.

We ask for your pledge to improve the life chances of our students, your daughters, and your support in making this Academy the pride of the local community. If you are willing to join with us in active partnership then I look forward to working with you at the Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich.

JANE FLETCHER – PRINCIPAL





“ ‘Aspire, Learn, Succeed’ are the key words that underpin our work at the Academy. ”

WHAT THE ACADEMY OFFERS?

The Academy is currently undergoing major capital investment which will provide high quality facilities in all areas. We offer both an academic and a vocational curriculum and benefit from Specialist School status in Sport, Health Sciences and Enterprise. A wide range of activities are delivered, planned to maximise community participation.

Key features of the Academy are:

- An intake covering the age range 11–19
- 150 places for girls' admission to Year 7
- A co-educational Sixth Form growing to 400 places offering a full range of academic and vocational subjects in partnership with Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich and part of the Harris Federation Sixth Form

A high quality provision with:

- An ICT rich environment with a commitment to the innovative use of technologies to enhance learning
- A motivating, modular curriculum offering opportunities to accelerate learning and to develop strong independence in learning which will ready students for their exam years and beyond
- Strong specialisms which offer our students the opportunity to become leaders and entrepreneurs, fully equipped for adult life
- A pursuit of excellence which allows our highest achievers to accelerate their learning and broaden their studies

ACADEMY PRINCIPLES

The Academy will provide an educational community that is calm, welcoming and inclusive, and in which diversity is celebrated.

Academy students and staff together strive for excellence by continuously improving on their personal best.

Everyone at the Academy will be an effective and self-motivated learner responsible for their own development and learning and for the development and learning of others.

Team leadership and membership, and opportunities to be coaches and be coached, will secure continuous improvement throughout the Academy.

Creativity, innovation, problem-solving and risk-taking will be features in all aspects of Academy life.

Academy students will develop financial awareness, economic independence and the skills to be leaders, employees, employers and entrepreneurs in the workplace of the 21st century.

The health and well-being of students' own lives and that of their community will be promoted at the Academy.

The Academy will promote access to a wide network of health communities who can support pathways to careers in this field and our curriculum will support these career choices.

Active citizenship will be encouraged amongst all students and will develop in our community a strong understanding of, and striving for, social justice locally, nationally and internationally.



LEARNING THROUGH THE SPECIALISMS

The **Sport and Fitness** programme engages students by providing a relevant and innovative curriculum, which encourages participation and supports elite athletes.

Students learn to appreciate all the different aspects of P.E; the value of being a spectator, the role of leadership, the role of team membership, coaching and mentoring, and the value of being able to problem solve. All students are encouraged to implement the maxim of plan, implement and evaluate.

Through a kinaesthetic approach to learning, students develop a range of planning, reasoning and observational skills. It is envisaged that students will be able to transfer these skills to other areas of the curriculum and thus increase motivation and thence attainment across all subjects.

Through an extensive enrichment and Out of School Hours programme we encourage students in the desire to participate in physical activities and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

All students are given access to accredited leadership, vocational and academic qualifications. They are encouraged to seek enterprising ways of putting their leadership skills into practice both within the Academy, in conjunction with partner primary schools and other organisations.

Our unique **Health Sciences** specialism has a wide impact on our students, giving them access to all of the following:

- Work placements and visits to medical institutions
- Career advice directly from health practitioners
- Accreditation
- Health fairs
- Link work with St Christopher's Hospice
- External speakers from medical institutions such as King's College Hospital

In addition, students' wellbeing is carefully supported and we have a comprehensive programme of sex and relationship education which includes 1-1 support, virtual babies and medical information, advice and guidance.

Our 3D Health Sciences room uses leading edge technology to introduce students to the world of health and the human body.

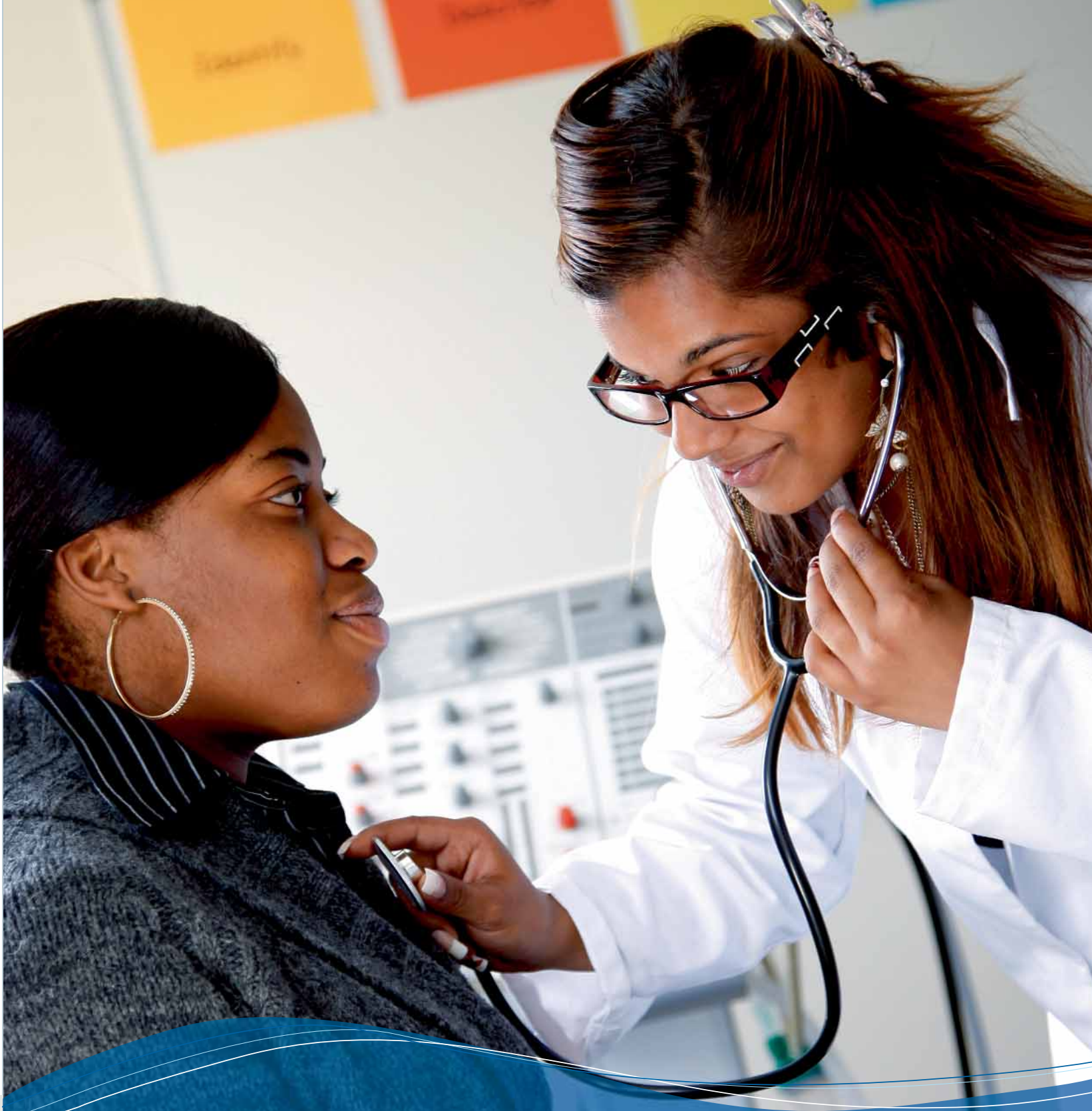
Enterprise pervades all areas of the curriculum and links with the teaching of Sport and Health Sciences.

We explicitly promote personal, employment and self-employment skills including self-confidence, initiative taking, workplace awareness, personal presentation, team working and co-operation skills, personal durability and self-discipline.

Through an exciting programme of outside presenters, Academy competitions, Federation projects and working with established companies such as PricewaterhouseCooper, our students are encouraged to develop a culture of decision making, problem solving, risk analysis and independence. Whatever a student wishes to do in life, these skills are critical to their success.

Our Enterprise Specialism offers our students opportunities for increased accreditation and has already supported a number of students in gaining excellent examination results.





“ We encourage all our students to become power learners – responsible for all aspects of their own development and success. ”



“ Our curriculum is innovative and our dynamic learning approaches will challenge and encourage all students. ”

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Breakfast is available from 7.30 am with the library and ICT facilities open from 8 o'clock. There is a full programme of enrichment activities available all year round and catering for all interests. Some are purely recreational, others provide additional study support. Dancers, artists and musicians can take part in a range of productions and performances. Our sports clubs run every day and include individual activities and competitive teams. Many other activities are offered to students of all ages including our holiday programmes.

Students can take part in a wide range of day and residential trips throughout the year. Harris Fitness has a full timetable of activity for all the family during the evenings, weekends and holidays.

EXTENDED YEAR

We expect Years 9, 10 and 11 to take part in a number of additional days every year to support examination commitments.

SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVEMENT

All students are placed in coaching groups with a Learning Coach. This adult coach will be responsible for a small number of students who they will meet daily to jointly review their progress, plan their learning and undertake a full programme of wider learning opportunities. As a member of a small learning group every student will benefit from being known and supported as an individual. Parents and carers will be fully involved in this process and can expect to receive reports on their daughters' progress on a termly basis.

Our Academic Mentoring Days, held twice a year, give parents the chance to hear their daughter's reporting on their progress and learning and to see a sample of work done throughout the year.

Our curriculum is innovative and our dynamic learning approaches will challenge and encourage all students.



AN INNOVATIVE & CREATIVE CURRICULUM

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the Academy, offering students a wide range of subjects in several strands, personalised to their individual needs. We believe that all students can achieve academic excellence through a varied curriculum offer and we are committed to the development of a highly innovative and high level curriculum for our accelerated learners.

At Key Stage 3, all students follow a two year abridged curriculum in the foundation subjects. My World is a Year 7 course which is central to our intention to equip our students with key 'learning powers', preparing them for independence in learning and the key skills to be effective learners. Humanities subjects are taught through My World in Year 7.

Core subjects set regular homework at Key Stage 3 and in addition students undertake termly Independent Learning Challenges which expect them to do project-based learning independently of the teacher and to present their work upon completion.

At Key Stage 4, we offer a broad menu of academic and vocational courses across all subject areas. We run particular curriculum strands for our Flexible Learners and our Accelerated Learners. Our timetable from Years 9–11 is staggered to allow students to focus on fewer subjects at a time and build their portfolio of accreditation throughout the three years of study.

This has several benefits including:

- Students can gain higher grades and are less stressed by focusing on fewer subjects at any one time
- They gain greater flexibility to redirect their study choices over the three years
- They have the option to gain maximum accreditation across a wide menu of subjects or to focus on less subjects to a higher level
- Students build their own, personalised learning plans based upon their own successes and interests
- This menu gives accelerated learners the scope to pursue level 3 accreditation during Key Stage 4 if they prefer to do this rather than continue pursuing level 2 accreditation

At Key Stage 5 we have a successful joint Post 16 provision with our partner boys' school as part of the Harris Federation joint Sixth Form. Courses are offered at levels two and three in our separate prospectus.

“ Always improving on our personal best. ”





“ Creativity, risk taking, solution seeking, problem solving – the skills for the future will be developed throughout the Academy. ”



“ To be ‘learners and leaders’ – now and in the future – is at the heart of our learning programmes. ”

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We have a deep commitment to the role that young people need to be enabled to play in determining the ongoing developments of the Academy and the responsibility that they need to have for their own learning. In addition, students are encouraged to use their voice in the Academy by taking part in a range of projects which fall under three headings:

- Making Changes
- Leading the Way
- Enriching Experiences

They are encouraged to develop leadership skills in a range of ways including becoming Student Ambassadors, Sports Leaders, Health Ambassadors, Enterprise Leaders, Peer Educators, running their own businesses through our Dragons' Den project, sitting on the Black History Month group and so on. We hope that every student will assume a leadership role in some way during their time at the Academy.

Each of the three Houses elects a House Council and the Principal runs a Student Consultative Group which meets on a monthly basis.

STUDENT COMMISSION ON LEARNING

Our students and staff play a key role in this Federation commission which is supported by NESTA, the British Council and a range of the leading educational thinkers and experts of our day. Together we are investigating the key principles that ensure high quality learning and teaching and, therefore, excellent standards for all.

Students work as researchers and as teachers and leaders of learning in their classrooms, they meet with educational experts, visit other institutions and share their thinking with policy makers in the government. Our aim is to empower all students to lead their own learning and to motivate them to want to do so – independence in learning leads to the greatest educational success for individual students.

POST 16

With our partner Boys' Academy, our joint provision, Harris East Dulwich Post Sixteen, provides an outstanding level of education, care and guidance for our students as part of the Harris Federation Sixth Form.

Key features of this provision include:

- Rigorous target-setting and tracking of individual students
- High quality teaching
- New Post 16 facilities being developed in 2010–2011
- Strong tutorial programme with comprehensive support for Careers, UCAS applications and personal support
- Strong student leadership
- Business dress and ethos

Our Post 16 prospectus and details of our open evenings and recruitment process are available from Chris Everitt, Vice Principal, c.everitt@harrisdulwichgirls.org.uk



INDEPENDENT NON-FEE PAYING STATUS

The Academy is an independent state school. Independent status gives this Academy the freedom and flexibility to provide effective teaching and learning, organisation, staffing and governance.

This, along with strong, confident, ambitious leadership, effective management, a clear vision, and knowing how to achieve that vision, are essential ingredients in our success.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The Academy has no religious affiliation, and will admit students of any or no faith.



“ Team leadership and membership are available to everyone in the Academy. ”





Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich

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