

insight

Newsletter • Issue 7 • Autumn 2010



Welcome

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to our first Harris Academy Falconwood Insight for the 2010 – 2011 academic year.

It is hard to believe that this is the last year that we will spend in our current buildings. We will be moving into our exciting new £25 million building next September. At

that point, our current buildings will be knocked down to allow the construction of our external sports facilities, car park and the new compound for our chickens! We now have a webcam on the building site, so feel free to access this on the Academy website. Just go to Information then click on The Building and then click on the live webcam link.

Hopefully you have all heard about the fantastic examination results achieved by our students in the summer. 100% of our students left with at least 5 or more A*– C GCSE grades. We are so pleased that this Academy has helped every single student in that year group to reach this standard. 60% of our students achieved 5 or more A*– C GCSE grades including English and maths. To have raised this figure from 17% to 60% in two years is an outstanding achievement and I am incredibly proud of the students and the staff at Harris Academy Falconwood.

On Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th September we held two Open Mornings and one Open Evening. This allowed Year 6 students and their parents/carers to visit the Academy in order to help them decide if our Academy would be the school of their choice. We welcomed 2,491 visitors at those events and we are therefore expecting to be inundated with applications for our 2011 intake into Year 7.

Whenever we have visitors to the Academy they always comment on the very positive atmosphere around the building and on the strong work ethic of the students and the staff. It is fantastic to get such positive feedback. However, the feedback we particularly value is from our parents/carers and students. Consequently, on our recent academic tutoring day in October, we asked all adults and students to complete a questionnaire. I would like to share the very positive feedback we have ascertained from analysing the results of the questionnaires:

99% of parents/carers said that their child enjoys being at the Academy

98% of parents/carers said that the teaching is good at the Academy

99% of parents/carers said that the Academy makes sure that their child is well prepared for the future

97% of parents/carers said that the Academy meets their child's particular needs

97% of parents/carers said that the Academy deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour

98% of parents/carers said that the Academy is led and managed effectively

98% of parents/carers said that they are happy with their child's experience at the Academy

Positive Feedback

(Continued from cover)

This is very supportive and certainly gives us a positive message that on the whole things are going very well at the Academy. However, I do feel that I need to mention that whilst the vast majority of parents/carers (93%) feel that the Academy takes account of their suggestions and concerns, it means that 7% of parents have had reason to believe that we could improve in this area. Should you have any reason to feel dissatisfied with any aspect of our provision, do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our utmost to resolve the situation.

Student attendance at the Academy is currently at an all time high of over 96%. Thank you very much for your continued support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends each day and for not booking holidays during term time. Please remember that your son's/daughter's progress is severely hampered by each absence from the Academy. I hope you are making use of the parental access to e-portal via our website, enabling you to monitor the attendance and academic progress of your son/daughter.

The standard of uniform at the Academy is very good and we were selected to appear on BBC television to show what a positive impact a good standard of uniform has on academic performance. Our students looked immaculate and sounded very articulate. The strap line for the reporter was that, "smart students make smarter students". It was a very proud moment to see our students on national television. Several of our Post 16 students also appeared in the filming as they look incredibly smart in their business wear. They act as very positive role models to our younger students. In fact I would like to take this opportunity to mention how much our Head Boy and Head Girl are fantastic ambassadors for our Academy. Gemma Donovan and Hayden Webb have to represent our student body at numerous events, often attended by very important VIPs. The most recent feedback I have received on them is "they spoke very eloquently and were a credit to the Academy". I am indebted to both of these students who give up a great deal of their time fulfilling this very demanding role.

We held our Post 16 Open Evening on 4th November and this was very well attended. We have a much broader offer of courses for

next September and many of our current Year 11 students have made the very wise decision to continue their education at the Academy. The event attracted a great deal of interest from students from many of the schools in the local area and therefore we are anticipating a cohort in our Post 16 next year that has a mixture of internal and external students.

On Friday 22nd October the Harris Federation held an amazing training event. All the teaching staff from across all nine Academies in the Federation attended a quality training provision on outstanding teaching. Many of the training sessions were actually run by talented staff from this Academy. The atmosphere was incredible with over 700 delegates exchanging ideas and sharing good practice.

There are a number of important dates I need to bring to your attention:

Monday 13th December 2010

Year 6 Test Day (no Harris Academy Falconwood students will be in the Academy on that day)

Friday 17th December 2010

End of Term (the Academy will close at 12:20pm)

Tuesday 4th January 2011

Start of the Spring Term (normal start time)

I hope you really enjoy this issue of the Harris Academy Falconwood Insight. We have tried to include articles and information that we feel will interest you. However, if you have suggestions for something that you would like to see included in any future editions of Insight, please feel free to contact Mr Evans, Vice Principal, at the Academy and he will endeavour to look into this for you.

I wish you and your family a very festive Christmas and, particularly in the current climate, a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Ms T Askew – Principal

European Day of Languages

On Monday 27th September we celebrated the European Day of Languages at Harris Academy Falconwood.

The aim of the day was to raise students' awareness of other languages and cultures. In the morning, students participated in a language quiz where they had to identify 22 different languages, which was a tricky task, but they worked together in tutor groups and came up with some impressive responses. All staff got involved with the day, and greeted students in other languages in their lessons. Students also enjoyed the international menu in the dining hall at

break and lunch, where free samples of international pastries were also provided. The stickers with greetings in a variety of languages were also extremely popular, and it was fantastic to see the students taking such an interest in other languages. Watch this space for next year's celebration, which will be even bigger and better!

Miss S Buchanan – Acting Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Key Stage 3 Science Enrichment

Remember, remember the Fifth of November, The Gunpowder Treason and Plot, I know of no reason why the Gunpowder Treason should ever be forgot.



On Thursday 4th November at our 'Bubbles, Bangs and Fizzes' Science enrichment we certainly didn't forget! The theme for the week's science enrichment was Fireworks and Guy Fawkes. In memory of bonfire night, Key Stage 3 students acted as forensic scientists by finding out what colour flames

different metals made, and worked out the identity of some unknown metal solutions. Students heated solutions of metals in bunsen burner flames to give off the bright characteristic colours which are often seen in firework displays. For example, sodium burns with a bright orange flame – this is the same orange colour made by sodium street lamps and many orange fireworks. These tests and results, if available in that time period, could have helped crack the plot early on.

Other very exciting science enrichments also started up this year are: 'Forensic Fridays' and 'To Infinity and Beyond' led by Mr Ryerson and Mr Lan respectively. These enrichment sessions are well attended because they are exciting and students experience the relevance of science in their

surroundings and everyday life. Students act as forensic scientists and learn how to check for finger prints at crime scenes, extract DNA, and cover various other aspects of crime investigation methods similar to "CSI" crime scene investigators. Students have also created vortex cans to look at space matter as NASA astronauts do.

The science enrichments continue to engage students in further developing an appreciation and interest in science learning outside of the typical classroom environment.

Mrs N Aderanti – Coordinator of Science

Results Day 2010

On August 24th 2010 the second year of results for Harris Academy Falconwood were released.

The previous year, in its first set of results, the Academy had achieved a 92% 5 GCSE A* to C pass rate (up from 47% at the predecessor school) and 42% for 5 GCSE A* to C including English and Maths (up from 17% at the predecessor school).

So with much anticipation these results were released to students and staff. Many of the students had been waiting for this day, so they would see if they could get onto their Post 16 course they had applied for. I am proud to say students and staff were not let down by their hard work and the results were 100% of students achieving 5 GCSE A* to C and 60% achieving 5 GCSE A* to C including English and Maths. These results were not only above the national average but also put the Academy in the top 5% of all schools and academies nationally for adding value to its students performance and achievement at this point in their education. As you can imagine, both students and staff were delighted with the results and that all their hard work over the previous two years had paid off so handsomely.

Mr S Jenner – Vice Principal



Academy Drama and Dance Production 2010

On June 29th and 30th 2010, Harris Academy Falconwood put on its first public production, entitled "Troika Cabaret".

The production was a combination of 3 performances, given over two consecutive evenings, which included a drama/dance combination called "Dances with Wolves, Pigs, Swans and Spies", a drama production called "Wolves in the Walls" and a dance production called "Fusion". The show was presented to three separate audiences, the last show taking the form of a cabaret with the audience seated at tables and served food and drinks prepared by students and staff in Food Technology and Catering and Hospitality.

"Dances with Wolves, Pigs, Swans and Spies" was a comedy, based on the idea of James Bond capturing and interrogating Goldfinger. The storyline throughout, reproduced in dialogue and dance form, was of Goldfinger recounting his life.

"Wolves in the Walls" was about a family whose children believed there were wolves living in the walls of their house and as the play continued, indeed the wolves were found to be living in the walls!

"Fusion" was a series of dances which ran seamlessly from one to the other, performed by the Year 10, now Year 11, BTEC Dance group. These were in a combination of styles including Contemporary, Ballet, Tap, Post Modern and Street.

The whole show was excellent and enjoyed by the actors, dancers and audience alike. Many thanks to all the students and staff involved in making the show such a wonderful success!

Mrs V Sutcliffe – Coordinator of PEA



Focus on... The Arts Faculty

The students in the Arts Faculty have made an excellent start to the Academic year. In the first celebrations assembly of the Autumn term there were a record number of certificates for Vivomiles, attendance and progress. It is fantastic to see students doing so well in so many different spheres of Academy life. Each and every individual member of the faculty has achieved something this half term, whether it be excellent attendance, academic achievement, making good progress in subjects, improved behaviour or taking part in extra curricular activities. Well done for what you have achieved – you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Our attendance is much improved compared to this time last year. By mid-November, we had 101 students in the faculty on 100% attendance which is tremendous – congratulations to everyone with very good or excellent attendance. Students can earn Vivomiles for 100% attendance each week as well as being entered into the 100 Club draw. Each half term every student on 100% attendance is placed in a draw and the lucky three numbers gain special prizes. The winners for the first half term were:

Stephen Bunn 8AS, Lauren Ross 10AA and Andrew Hale 9AS

Students in the Arts Faculty have received lots of Vivomiles this term. Every tutor updates the vivo league tables and the top three in each tutor group receive certificates. Well done to everyone and in particular those who are in the top ten of the Faculty.

In the celebration assembly each tutor nominates a tutee of the half term. This award is for someone who has been outstanding for a variety of reasons. They may have made excellent progress, worked enthusiastically in tutor time activities, been kind towards others and so forth. Well done to the following award winners.

Table for tutee of the half term (September – October 2010):

7AA	Courtney Skinner	7AS	Cameron Bosworth
8AA	Ashnika Ekayanake	8AS	George Kennor
10AA	Sam Brown	9AS	Aimee Nichol
11AA	Jay Neighbour	10AS	Luke Houghton

The Arts Faculty is comprised of the following subjects: Physical Education, Outdoor Education, Child Development, Art, Photography, Drama, Dance and Music. All of these subjects are practically based, allowing the students to be highly creative and experiential in their own learning. There are also many extended opportunities for students to enjoy and further develop their skills. Already this year, students across the Academy have taken part in Harris Federation dance workshops, sporting competitions, the Harris Federation choir as well as developing successful working relationships with local nurseries. Well done to all those involved, keep up the hard work and may the success continue!

Miss L Clifford – Head of Faculty

Federation Dance DVD

In October 2010, six students from Harris Academy Falconwood, accompanied by Mrs Healy, attended a dance workshop at Harris Academy South Norwood.

The purpose of this was to learn a series of dance phrases to Michael Jackson's iconic song, 'Thriller' which were then combined with footage of students from other Harris academies.

The final result was a DVD which contained a compilation of the same movements in one dance, performed by students from the different Harris academies. The DVD was shown to all the delegates

at the Harris Federation 'Outstanding Learning and Teaching' Conference at Harris Academy South Norwood on Friday October 22nd 2010. Our students, Kandiss Agar, Ellie Hards, Lauren-Raye Chisholm, Safa Sandu, Ellie Dobson and Ellie Router thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the end result was a very entertaining DVD, much appreciated by the delegates.

Mrs V Sutcliffe – Coordinator of PEA



UKSA Trip 2010

On 22nd September, three teachers, four Year 12 students and twenty-one students from Years 9, 10 and 11 embarked on a trip that will last long in their memories.

From the off-set, it was possible to tell by the buzz of excitement from the bus, while students waved goodbye to their parents, that the trip was going to be one of the best yet. From the pictures to the comments you can tell that everyone was having fun and all of this came before the main activities, including my personal favourites of surfing and kayaking!

On the night of 22nd September we were collected by speedboat from the ferry port which took us to our home for the next few days, UKSA (United Kingdom Sailing Academy). It was pitch black and for most of us a completely new experience – having a ride on speed boats in the dark. This meant we could not get our first impressions until the morning. After the first night's sleep and breakfast everyone was raring to go and excited about the forthcoming activities. Kayaking was first on the agenda for my group and this one activity set the



tone for the rest of the trip. It was funny, to say the least, with it being impossible for anyone who took part to stay dry. The activities which we took part in were: sailing, kayaking, surfing, raft building, keel boating, swimming/water polo, football and pier jumping. These activities seemed to fly by and the days faded into the nights; the last night was arguably one of the best as it included swimming and pizza provided by the teachers. The competition in the water polo was fierce yet created a great atmosphere with everyone involved. Before we knew it, it was the last day and time to pack our things and head for the ferry. From being fed like kings for our few days, to spending no more than two hours dry at a time, it was a fantastic trip and highly recommended for future years!

The highlights of the trip were surfing, with Mr O' Brien living up to his Australian heritage and showing some impressive skills, Mr O'Hara's hand-stand flip off the pier, Miss Clifford showing similar skills to Ellen McArthur in the sailing – but most importantly talking to people that you would not normally talk to and ultimately becoming friends with them. This was definitely one of the best trips I have been on during my time at school and won't be forgotten.

On behalf of all those on the trip, I would like to say a massive thank you to Lord Harris and Martin Harris for sponsoring the trip and also to all those involved in the organisation of a great few days!

Connor Dean – Year 12

Humanities Trips

This year the Humanities subject area is focusing on learning outside the classroom. We feel that with subjects like Citizenship, Geography, History and Religion and Philosophy, students can learn so much more by getting out into the real world and visiting key sites and areas to do with our subjects. We also know how much students enjoy the opportunity to learn in new and varied ways and want to ensure they have a passion for our subjects. We are already running several trips this year.



KS3 Humanities Trips:

Year 8 have all gone to Greenwich on a day trip to support their learning in Humanities subjects. They spent half a day completing workshops and activities in the National Maritime Museum all about the history of the Transatlantic Slave trade (History), the philosophical issues it created (R&P) and the impact of slavery today (Citizenship). The students then got a chance to explore Greenwich Park and carry out Geography fieldwork including work about the ecosystem of the park, and an enterprise themed Dragons' Den-style, sales pitch.

Year 9 will be visiting the Imperial War Museum in February 2011. One of London's historical treasures, the Imperial War Museum is set in the original Bethlem Hospital (where the word Bedlam originated from) and has a stunning range of exhibitions dealing with a range of global conflicts. Students will explore the geographical impact of these conflicts which links to their Year 9 Geography of Conflict work. They will then take part in a 3 hour Holocaust workshop, audio tour and seminar, which will link directly to the other three Humanities subjects in the Year 9 curriculum; History, R&P and Citizenship.



The Year 7 trip is being planned at present and will be a day trip to Rochester in the Summer term to explore local sites such as the Norman castle and cathedral, whilst students will also complete Geography field work in the area.

KS4 and Post 16 trips

The Year 10, 11 and 12 History groups have been given an opportunity to join a four day residential trip to Berlin. Students will take part in a range of activities including visiting remains of the Berlin Wall, the Olympic Stadium, the Brandenburg Gate and the newly rebuilt Reichstag.



Harris Federation Student Commission on Learning



Possibly the highlight of the trip will be a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, one of the Nazi regime's main camps for locking up, torturing and ultimately executing their enemies. This trip will build on students' understanding of key historical events, such as the outbreak of WW1 and the rise of Hitler. Students will also improve their understanding of the GCSE Religion and Philosophy course and develop a further passion for History.

In addition, students from different teaching groups have been invited to attend GCSE revision conferences in central London to improve their grades in History, Geography and French. These one-day conferences will bring them in to face-to-face contact with both academics and examiners in each field, greatly improving their chances of success in controlled assessments and examinations.

All in all we are hoping that these trips both raise attainment and engagement with the Humanities subjects and ensure the students get every opportunity to succeed.

Mr G German – Coordinator of Humanities

The student commission has had a busy term following the publishing of the second edition of the 'Learning about Learning' publication, focusing on the 12 ideas of learning. The first major event took place at the Harris Federation Newly Qualified Teachers' conference, with Paul Murphy (9BT) and Nick Martin (10CE) presenting to the NQTs on Harris Falconwood's enquiry project, 'Differentiation through enterprise and leadership'. Paul and Nick displayed outstanding presentation skills that most teachers would be proud of, in explaining the project and conducting an activity that allowed teachers first hand experience of an activity that focused on this approach to learning.

Following the NQT conference, the student commission was heavily involved in the Harris Federation "Outstanding Learning and Teaching" Conference held at Harris Academy South Norwood. Students interviewed teachers, took part in presentations relating to the project, 'differentiation through enterprise' as well as providing

the staff present at the conference (over 700) with information about the commission's plans for the future and how we hope to impact positively on learning within the Harris Federation.

Thank you to Nick Martin (10CE) and Gemma Donovan (13F), who represented the Academy fantastically, and assisted making the presentation related to the Commission at Harris Academy Falconwood and how we are creating a very beneficial experience for the teaching staff involved.

The next step for the Student Commission is 'scaling up' the research we have conducted so far, relating to how learning can be more effective when involving students in the planning and delivery of learning, allowing students to become 'leaders of learning'.

I look forward to updating you further on the progress of such an exciting and innovative project.

Mr K O'Brien – Teacher with Responsibility for Post 16

Outstanding Success for Year 11 Statisticians

The Mathematics subject area at Harris Academy Falconwood offered GCSE Statistics for the first time last academic year. GCSE Statistics was run for students who had already achieved a grade C or above in their early entry GCSE Mathematics in Year 10. This course emphasizes the practical applications of statistics and allows students to apply their mathematical skills to investigate real-life situations. Some students investigated the factors affecting the value of used cars whilst others investigated the number of goals scored in football matches, as well as the point during the match at which these goals were scored, and the effect of this on a team's league position.

Teachers expected these students to excel at GCSE Statistics following their success at GCSE Mathematics, but what we could not have anticipated was just how successful they would be. 98% of the 57 students entered achieved a grade C or above, the highest pass rate for any GCSE offered by the Academy. These students have set the bar very high for this year's Year 11 statisticians. Although they have a tough act to follow, we are sure they will be just as successful as their predecessors. Let's make it 100% this academic year!

Ms E Hobbs – Acting Coordinator of Mathematics





Post 16 Open Evening

The Post 16 has had a very busy start to the Academic year, with the new intake of Year 12 joining the current Year 13 as part of our new Post 16 Faculty. This has allowed students to take ownership of and feel an important part of the Academy community.

Students take part in Enrichment activities on Wednesday afternoons, which involve both Year 12 and 13 students, in order that they develop relationships across the two year groups in a relaxed setting.

Activities students take part in, on a carousel basis include; Art (Miss Hibbert), DIY (Mr Colley), Cooking/life skills (Miss Joubert) Sport (Mr Watson) and Healthy Lifestyles (Miss Clifford). Enrichment allows students to develop a range of skills, not necessarily related to their courses, providing prospective employers or universities with evidence of a 'well rounded' student with a range of positive attributes.

On 4th November, the Academy held the Post 16 Open evening from 6.00 – 8.00pm. The event was a huge success, with over 150 students from the current year 11 as well as other local schools and their parents in attendance. Current Post 16 students assisted in welcoming students and parents

as well as providing advice on their current experiences of Post 16 and the subjects being studied here at the Academy. The Head Boy, Hayden Webb and Head Girl, Gemma Donovan, made outstanding presentations to students and parents about their reasons for studying at the Academy and the benefits of the subjects they are currently studying to their future goals and aspirations. Thomas Emmans in year 12 also described his involvement in the Bexley Leadership scheme in a very confident and well spoken manner.

Overall, the evening has indicated how the profile of the Post 16 has risen within the Academy and the local area, which is very positive in light of our move to the new Academy building in September 2011.

I look forward to updating you further on the progress of the Post 16 within the Academy.

Mr K O'Brien – Teacher with Responsibility for Post 16



Attendance

I am pleased to inform you that attendance for the Academy for the last half term finished on an impressive 95.67%, which is slightly higher than the same period last year.

The competitiveness and dedication from many students, striving to reach 100% attendance each week, creates a great challenge between the four faculties. This drive from our students is really encouraging as our records also show that fewer students are arriving late to the Academy, so not missing out on valuable learning time. 100% attendance earns each student extra Vivos!

Regular attendance at Harris Academy Falconwood is not only an expectation, but also greatly improves the fantastic results already achieved by students and prepares them as they progress into adulthood – and make their choices about further education and employment.

Please be reminded that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised by the Academy.

Our new Education Welfare Officer, Gordana Tahirovic, is present in the Academy on Mondays and Thursdays to meet with parents and carers of students whose attendance is a concern. She can be contacted directly on 07952 305407, or alternatively, please telephone Mrs Stapley at the Student Information Centre (SIC) on extension 2715.

Now that the weather is becoming increasingly colder and colds, sore throats and flu-like symptoms once again present themselves, please send medication or paracetamol with students, if necessary. Students should come straight to SIC with all medicines, which should be clearly labelled with name and dosage.

If a student is unwell and is not fit to attend the Academy, please telephone SIC or leave a message on the 24 hour absence line on each day of absence.

In the event of severe weather conditions, please refer to Harris Academy Falconwood website, or alternatively, check "<http://map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck/default>". All closures will be posted on these sites. Harris Academy Falconwood will be open as usual for students unless the website states otherwise.

If you have any enquiries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Information Centre on the following extension numbers: 2708, 2743 or 2715 having rung the main Academy number: 0208 304 4916.

Mr S Jenner – Vice Principal



Enterprise Week

Enterprise week got off to a flying start with an assembly for each Faculty and every subject running an activity to highlight the importance of enterprising skills. Students are already benefiting from our Enterprise Specialism. Students will be put to the test in the following activities run by subject teachers. This year students will also benefit from learning about the ethics of business. Fair Trade is the theme for this year's enterprising activities. Prizes for most enterprising student will be awarded in Celebrations Assemblies at the end of the Autumn term. Activities during the week included:

- **Mathematics:** Smoothie challenge
- **English:** Fair Trade Debate
- **Science:** Soap-Making
- **ICT:** Creating a Fair Trade video
- **Sport:** Playing fair in sport
- **Music:** Creating a piece of music for Fair Trade
- **MFL:** Fair Trade Puppet show
- **Business Studies:** Becoming a Fair Trade Academy
- **Art and Design:** Creating a Fair Trade banner
- **DT:** Baking a Fair Trade cake, creating packaging, printing bags

Students will be running businesses. These include:

- Personalised hoodies for Year 11
- Personalised mugs
- Mouse-mats
- Teddy bears with t-shirts for staff, parents and students. Order forms can be picked up from main reception and are also available during Parents' Evenings this year.

In addition to this, Harris Academy Falconwood students will be competing with other Harris academies in the following events:

- Year 7 Maths challenge held at Harris Academy South Norwood
- Year 7 Soap and Perfume Making day at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace
- Year 8 Enterprise and Sports Factor at Harris Academy East Dulwich Boys
- Year 10 Yoga and Boxing challenge at Harris Academy East Dulwich Girls
- Year 9 Fair Trade challenge at Harris Academy Falconwood
- Year 9 Stock Market challenge at Harris Academy Merton
- Year 8 Media Production at Harris Academy Bermondsey

Mrs U Divakaran – Assistant Principal

Out and About

Harris Academy Falconwood Student Activities



Since the last edition of Insight, many of our students have taken part in sporting and cultural events. Here are some of the highlights:

21st June: Josh Catchpole, Dean Gould, George Maddocks and Bill Platt represented the Academy at the Bexley Secondary Schools Golf Day at Barnehurst Golf Club. All played well and enjoyed the event.

30th June: Twenty five Harris Academy Falconwood Sports Leaders ran a multi-skills event at the Partnership Day for local Primary Schools (over 400 pupils took part).

Our students were excellent and were complimented upon their behaviour and the way in which they worked with the young children.

15th July: All students involved with the Harris Academy Falconwood dance and drama production were taken to a performance of Billy Elliot at the OWG Theatre in Dartford. All students really

enjoyed the show and learned a lot about the technical aspects of staging a musical.

September: Nathan Wilson, Sashique Morgan, Jessica Landeryou, Ryan Thorne, Olatayo Komalafe and Chloe Watson have been appointed Harris Academy Falconwood Sports Ambassadors to represent us at Bexley events and planning meetings – the first of which took place on 19th October at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. The Sports Ambassadors will help plan and run events both here at the Academy and in local Primary Schools.

Chayne King and Teddy Scanlon from Year 7 have been selected to attend a 6 session “Stepping Up” programme for students who are Gifted and Talented in PE. The course is designed to maximise their potential in PE through a multi-ability approach and is being run by tutors from University College London. The first session took place on 20th October and the course will continue throughout the year.

5th October: TV presenter, writer and producer, Laura Hamilton came to give an extremely informative Careers talk to Year 10 and 11 students about jobs in the TV industry. She spoke to about 75 students and offered places on a workshop programme for students who want to develop their interest in TV careers. Laura has worked with “JLS” and is currently presenting and producing for the Nickelodeon Channel as well as organising these workshops.

Mr D Mills – School Sports Coordinator

The Harris Academy Falconwood Friends' Association (HAFFA)

The Harris Academy Falconwood Friends' Association (HAFFA) exists to strengthen the vital link between home and the Academy. The aim of the group is to create exciting fund raising activities, develop extra-curricular opportunities and encourage greater parental involvement, which will make significant contributions to the progress of students at the Academy. We need as many volunteers as possible,

so if you feel you are able to offer us some time and support, no matter how little or sporadic, please contact one of our joint chairpersons.

Contact Karen Edge:
(karen_edge77@yahoo.com) or **Jude Stapley in the Student Information Centre (SIC)**





My Adventure at Cheddar Gorge

I went to Cheddar Gorge because we were learning about it in Geography and I liked the sound of all the attractions and because my mum also liked the sound of it.

While I was at Cheddar Gorge I went to Gough's cave and there were loads of frozen waterfalls. Then I went to Cox's cave and there is a game inside called the quest for the crystal cave where you had to try to find a crystal in the middle of the cave. We went up Jacob's Ladder which has 274 steps and was really steep. At the top there was a watch tower where you look up and you can see a panoramic view of the gorge which was really pretty. After this we did the 3 mile cliff top walk. It was really great.

During the trip we went to see the Dragon Guardian of the Crystal where there is a bad devil man and an angel of good. The angel told us to touch the crystal and save the world. I was the first to touch it and when I did a light shone on it which I didn't really like. While we were there my mum got breathed on by the dragon and she smelt of smoke all day which was really funny.

Another cave we visited was Cat's Cave. This was inside Gough's Cave. When Gough was going through the caves he saw something he thought was a massive black cat but it turned out to be another cave. Here there was a column that was meant to be 1.5 million years old made out of frozen water.

My mum and I had a really good time at Cheddar Gorge. I would tell people to go there.

Sam Lillie – 7AS

Year 11 PGL Trip

For our Year 11 Geography trip, we went to a PGL centre in Osmington bay, Dorset, which specialises in group and school activities.

We went for a weekend, leaving Friday midday, and coming home late afternoon on the following Sunday. On the Saturday, we did our coursework on tourism. We went into Weymouth to study, and had qualified staff with us, to assist us and to help gain more information. This was the main reason for our trip, but we also did lots of fun activities during our visit.

On the Sunday we participated in quad biking, giant swing, zip wire, and Aeroball. We also did climbing and sensory tests (blind folded adventure trail) during the evenings. My favourite activity was the quad biking which I really enjoyed, but other favourites of mine were also the giant swing and the sensory test. The zip wire was the most challenging activity for me personally, as I had never done it before. Once I had done it I was glad because I did enjoy it. I would recommend all of the activities that our group did on the trip!

The food was very nice, and catered for everyone. A salad bar, fruit and bread/rolls were always available, and you could take as much as you wanted, including both hot and cold drinks. Main meals, lunches and breakfasts were all varied so you had more than one option of what to eat. We also had some free time, in which we were allowed to do as we pleased. There were facilities at the centre, so that we could play sports and shops to look around and buy things in.

Year 11 Geography Students

Accelerated Reader Introduced for Year 7

Accelerated Reader was launched at the Academy this September. This web-hosted literacy tool is used to motivate students into reading books for pleasure.

It is designed to give an accurate reflection of a student's reading ability. The information this provides will empower students, to move confidently to an area of the library where they will be able to access text comfortably but still push themselves enough in terms of improving comprehension.

Furthermore, the program improves the reading comprehension and vocabulary skills of students by encouraging students to take a book from the selection, read it, and then take a short comprehension quiz upon the text they have just read.

Students are given a reading level at which they should be reading to ensure equal chances of all students achieving their best. If they pass the quiz, points are rewarded, if they do not pass, intervention is given by teachers, meaning that teachers can successfully

monitor and track each student's reading growth. Targets can also be set by teachers. Students can monitor their own progress by logging onto the program at the Academy and then accessing their reports. Students can then see the amount of quizzes taken, points gained, scores for quizzes achieved and most of all see the amount of books or words they have read. Accelerated Reader encourages and maintains a positive reading culture. The books chosen are those most commonly found in school libraries and suggestions come from publishers, book sellers, schools and librarians alike. The range of books chosen is suitable for students of all abilities. The program also assists students in improving across the curriculum. Students are then duly rewarded based on their achievements and progress with rewards ranging from Vivo Miles to vouchers, book prizes and iPod shuffles for our word millionaires.

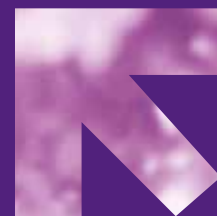
Many students have shown great enthusiasm and improvement in their reading abilities. Nosakhaire Okonedo (7AS) has read over 1,201,598 words and twenty nine books in just six weeks! He is the first student this year to be a word millionaire! Other students who have also been achieving exceptionally well so far include: Chayne King (7AS) with 522,617 words and eight books read;

Zarya Newman (7AS) who has read 471,102 words and fourteen books; Megan Gorman (7CE) who has read 439,731 words and fourteen books and Charlie James (7CE) with 350,827 words and nine books read. In total, Year 7 has successfully "quizzed" 521 books and 100% of all year 7 students have taken at least one quiz. Congratulations to all our year 7 students for this excellent performance thus far!

Shortly, we will be introducing Home Connect which will enable parents to keep track of their children's progress and achievements and set targets for the students too. Thank you to students, staff and parents for continuous support in motivating students to read and quench their thirst for knowledge.

This initiative is currently only running with the year 7 cohort of 2010–11 but we have plans to extend it to other year groups in the future.

Ms L Lotter – Literacy Coordinator



Science Outreach

As a science specialism academy, we are committed to educating and exciting students about the fun of science not only in our classrooms but in the classrooms of primary schools in the local area.

As part of this commitment, we run interactive Science Outreach workshops for primary school teachers on topics that can be taken back to inspire their students on this interesting and vast subject that we call science. These sessions are led by Ms Anderson, and on October 15th she ran a session with the Harris Federation Consultant Leader of Science, Ms Findlay on Light.

Some 15 or so primary school teachers from schools in the surrounding area joined us at Harris Academy Falconwood for a fun-packed afternoon of demonstrations and experiments. A circus of experiments was set up with the resources from our Science Primary Outreach to provide teachers with a number of attention-grabbing lesson ideas and engaging activities for students to participate in. A simple demonstration of how a dust cloud of talcum powder and a torch can illustrate that light travels in a straight line, and how re-using a shoebox, by making holes in it, can convert it to a fantastic example of how the eye inverts images on the retina were among a few of the demonstrations on display. Altogether, it was a successful afternoon of sharing Science with fellow educators to enable them to arouse the curiosity and motivate the next generation of budding scientists.

Miss A Ansah – Science Technician

The New Academy Building



Since the last edition of Insight, work on our new Academy building has progressed at a rapid pace.

What was a giant flat area of land in front of the current building has been transformed into a huge two-storey building before our very eyes. Students are able to use the vision panels and webcam to watch progress every day. The concrete and steel structure has taken shape at top speed and we can really see now how big and impressive the new building will be.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team had a guided tour around site this term – in boots, hard hats and high visibility vests. We also hope that some of our Year 11 students will be able to go on-site too and plans are afoot for Year 12 photography students to take a series of photographs around the site as it continues to change.

Mr E Evans – Vice Principal

Year 11 Trip to The Ritz Hospitality and Catering

***A name known the world over...
The Ritz Hotel, London. Few names
are quite as evocative.***

For over 100 years, The Ritz has been a byword for luxury, service and elegance and eight of the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students had the privilege to visit this iconic hotel.

Upon arrival the students got to relax in the luxurious sitting area next to the beautiful Palm Court. The students were then taken on a guided tour of the hotel's back-of-house areas. They had the opportunity to see areas of the hotel which are not seen by many people. The "sous-chef de cuisine" guided the students through the heart of the hotel, the kitchen. The students were amazed by

the scale of food production in this overwhelmingly large kitchen. Under the direction of the Executive Chef, we learned that cuisine in The Ritz reflects pride in British ingredients and cooking. The menu changes throughout the year and boasts a variety of seasonal specials and the finest, freshest food available.

We were then taken by a friendly staff member to experience the front-of-house areas of The Ritz. These areas included the spectacular Rivoli Bar, beautiful Louis XVI style bedrooms, the Palm Court, breathtaking banqueting rooms and the legendary Ritz restaurant.

The students enjoyed the experience of visiting The Ritz. They all responded intelligently and I was very proud of each and every one of them.

Ms S Lotz – Teacher of Hospitality and Catering

Year 11 Study Skills Evening

Year 11 students, parents and teachers came together on Thursday 14th October for a very successful Study Skills Evening.



In many ways, Year 11 is the most important of a young person's life, as many years of hard work culminate with the GCSE examinations at the end of the year.

The evening gave teachers the chance to set out everything that the Academy will be providing for Year 11 students during the coming year – from enrichment, intensive revision sessions, early examination entry for English and Mathematics examinations, and study skills trips. Students learnt how to best prepare themselves for the tough year ahead – from setting up a revision timetable, using revision websites, practising effective study skills strategies, and managing the pressure of examination stress. Finally, parents were given guidance on how best to support their son/daughter during the year – from understanding the courses being studied to how to be a revision buddy and how best to motivate students.

During the final part of the evening parents and students found out about the exciting range of opportunities for Post 16 study which will be offered by the Academy next year. Lots of Year 11 students showed a keen interest in staying on at Harris Academy Falconwood next year to continue studying the wide range of A Level and BTEC courses which will be on offer in our state-of-the-art building.

It was fantastic that so many students, parents and teachers came together with the common goal of ensuring that the 'Class of 2011' is our most successful yet.

Mr A Milford – Assistant Principal

Osmington Bay Report

We left the Academy on 1st of October at 1:00pm for Osmington Bay, Weymouth, Dorset. We arrived at 5:40pm due to traffic problems and we were met by Janine, our group leader. Janine then led us to the rooms we would be staying in for the weekend, which had enough room for 4 people. Due to the group consisting of 10 people, it was 2–3 people per room.

On Friday, after being shown our rooms, we went down to dinner, and were served chicken nuggets and potato wedges. The food was very nice and there were options for vegetarians and other dietary requirements. After dinner, we had some free time until 7:30pm, which is when we went to our evening activity, the climbing wall. This consisted of climbing an indoor rock wall while the rest of the group attempted to create some origami (with some entertaining results including a fat bird and an envelope).

Saturday was coursework day. After breakfast we got onto the minibus to travel to Weymouth, a 15 minute bus journey from the PGL centre where we were staying. We parked in the car park at the pavilion and proceeded down the coast line to King George III's statue. We then travelled to the town centre to complete our coursework "impacts

of tourism on a coastal resort", which consisted of an environmental survey, land use map and impact of tourism worksheet. We also had an additional piece of coursework of our choosing. After completing all the coursework, we had some free time to wander around the town and buy gifts, food or souvenirs. We then returned to the PGL centre with some free time before dinner.

Sunday was activities day. The activities we selected were Aeroball, similar to basketball on trampolines, Giant Swing, harnessed to a swing for two and dropped through the air from a height, Quad Biking, driving around a course made of tires, and Zip Wire, zooming along a rope at high speed from a high tower.

I would definitely recommend the PGL trips for future classes, the activities were brilliant, the food was nice and the accommodation was cosy. The staff were friendly and the safety standard is amazing.

It also meant that we could complete our Geography coursework and learn about a new place.

Year 11 GCSE Geography Students

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education BTEC was introduced last year and it has been a highly successful and popular option.

Students get the opportunity to do lots of new and exciting outdoor and adventurous activities as part of the curriculum. So far students have been sailing, kayaking, rock climbing as well as having the opportunity to go on fantastic trips such as to the UKSA in the Isle of White.

"I am currently in the second year of the BTEC Level 2 Outdoor Education course. Last year we spent much of our practical

time at Danson Park water sports centre, participating in activities such as kayaking and sailing. Students in our group were given the opportunity to demonstrate some of these skills during a residential trip to the UKSA (United Kingdom Sailing Association). This year we are currently visiting a local indoor climbing facility which we are all excited about as many of us have never had the opportunity to participate in rock climbing before." (Zach Bromfield, 11BT)

As part of the Outdoor Education course students are expected to participate in a range of outdoor adventure activities. During their first half term of their BTEC Outdoor Education course the students completed a unit on Parkour. Using the skills they had

learnt throughout the term the students went to the local playground and experimented on the equipment and apparatus there. They produced some fantastic Parkour displays, piecing together a range of movements, skills and techniques. Now into their second half term the students are completing a Rock Climbing Unit. The students are attending the Reach Rock Climbing Centre in Woolwich. Throughout the course students will develop knowledge on the health and safety aspects when rock climbing. They will also learn the skills and techniques associated with rock climbing which will allow them to lead sessions and take responsibility for the health and safety of others.

Miss J Rose – Teacher of PE

Operation Christmas Child

Year 10 Child Development students (Monday/Tuesday group), have all been involved in the 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal, better known as the Shoebox Appeal.



This charity project, which has been running since 1990, helps underprivileged children in parts of Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The idea behind it is to fill an empty shoebox with items that will be appreciated by a child living in poverty. Each shoebox was

wrapped in Christmas paper by the class, and a variety of items, donated by students in our Academy, were put into the box, such as; toys, educational supplies (pens, pencils, writing books), hygienic items (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, clips, soap), sweets,

gloves and scarves, sunglasses, jewellery etc. This operation has brought a smile to almost 1.2 million children's faces each year.

The Child Development class involved in the charity appeal were; Shannon Robinson, Kerry Conroy, Lauren Starbuck, Stacey Hook, Katie Trask, Zoe Spooner, Arianna Mitchell, Taryn Wells, Maneesha Pooni, Darcie Sergent, Charlotte Jones, Rebecca Rompski, Kye Reeve, Ellie Hards, Lauren Ross, Lauren-Raye Chisholm, Melissa Burnett and Maisie Antoniewicz. They have all worked extremely hard to make Operation Christmas Child a success and some of the class spent their own time and money buying items for the boxes. In total, Harris Academy Falconwood collected 42 boxes for the appeal which is excellent. These will be given to voluntary workers, and then transported to the children, in time for Christmas. Thank you so much for everyone who made an effort to contribute towards this appeal!

Mrs V Sutcliffe – Co-ordinator of PEA

Physical Education

Across the Academy

Team Building

The first term of this academic year has seen further development with regards to the curriculum and extra curricular provision for Physical Education. Through the Every Child Matters strand of tutor time activities, all Year 7 students were led through a series of team-building activities.

Students were required to work together to complete challenges in the quickest possible time. A combined total time for all the challenges was calculated and the results are as follows:

7CH 4.26 (min)	7AS 5.08 (min)
7BB 4.41 (min)	7SS 5.10 (min)
7AA 4.58 (min)	7BT 5.22 (min)
7CE 5.06 (min)	7SM 5.48 (min)

Bexley Table Tennis Competition

In Early October we entered a number of teams into the Bexley Table Tennis competition. In our Junior Team we had six boys; Alfie Bushaway, Alfie Page, Ben Tippett, Frankie Davis, Matthew Perrott, and Freddie Norbury and two girls; Annabelle Moulett and Millie Dainton. All played incredibly well against some very tough competition. Millie and Anabelle were the only girls in the competition. Harris Academy Falconwood were placed an amazing 7th overall. All players should be very proud of their achievements and for representing the Academy in such an impressive manner.

We also had a senior team entered in the Bexley Table Tennis competition. We had a total of four players; Connor Dymond, Billy Martins, Reece Jack, and Jack Bottomley who did themselves and the Academy very proud and were placed in a very respectable 4th position, in what was a very strong competition. Congratulations to both teams for their fantastic achievements.

Mr K Watson – Coordinator of PE

Football

Year 9 Match Report:

Harris Academy Falconwood V Darrick Wood (Kent Cup)

Darrick Wood 3

Harris Academy Falconwood 4

The match started at a frantic pace, with Darrick Wood scoring the opening goal within the first 5 minutes. The team rallied together to then mount a fantastic comeback with 4 goals in the first half. The first goal came from some great lead-up play by Luke Garnett, to be well finished by Joshua Armitage. The second goal came as a result of a corner with Trevor Hannant driving the ball past the goalkeeper from outside the 18 yard box. The third goal was another long range effort, this time Luke Garnett showing great technique to beat the keeper, slotting the ball into the bottom corner. To finish the half, Harry Colegate produced a goal of the highest quality with a long range volley that flew into the top corner!! The first half ended 1 – 4.

The second half was a battle, with Darrick Wood scoring two goals to bring it back to 3 – 4, however the Harris Academy Falconwood team showed fantastic commitment to hold on for a great win sending Harris Academy Falconwood into the third round of the Kent Cup.

Man of the Match: Sam Kane

Mr K O'Brien – Teacher of PE



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**Harris Academy
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