



Harmonious

Aspirational

Responsible

Respectful

Inspirational

Sociable

Harris Church of England Academy

Spring Term 1, February 2024

www.harris.covmat.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of this busy half term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the achievements and events that have taken place at Harris Church of England Academy. It has been a term filled with growth, learning, and exciting opportunities for our students.

One highlight of this term was the Year 10 Art trip to Coventry Cathedral. Our budding artists had the chance to explore the stunning architecture and gain inspiration from the beautiful surroundings. We are truly proud of their creativity and dedication to their craft.

Another memorable event was the two-day workshop organized by the Anne Frank Trust for some of our Year 8 and 9 students. This workshop focused on voices for equality and provided our young learners with a deeper understanding of the importance of equality in our society. We are grateful to the Anne Frank Trust for their valuable contribution to our students' education.

Our Careers Fair was a resounding success, with a wide range of professionals from various industries sharing their experiences and expertise with our students. This event allowed our students to explore different career paths and gain valuable insights into the world of work. We are confident that this fair has inspired our students to set ambitious goals for their future.

In terms of sporting success, our students have excelled throughout the term. They have shown determination, skill, and teamwork in various sports competitions, bringing home numerous victories and making us immensely proud. We applaud their dedication and congratulate them on their achievements.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we were fortunate to have the RYFC resilience workshops, which aimed to promote emotional well-being and resilience among our students. These workshops provided our students with valuable tools to cope with challenges and develop a positive mindset. Additionally, the "My Voice Matters" starter activities throughout the week encouraged our students to express their thoughts and feelings, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

Lastly, I would like to highlight our PSHE focus on mental health. We believe that promoting mental well-being is crucial for our students' overall development. Through various activities and discussions, we have encouraged our students to prioritize their mental health and seek support when needed.

Please note that Monday 19th February is a Training Day, and students will not be required to attend school. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 20th February, refreshed and ready for another successful term.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a restful half term break.

Warm regards,

Take Care

God Bless

Mrs R Harrison



Term Dates 2023/2024

Spring Term 1	Tuesday 9th January 2024	to	Friday 9th February 2024
Half Term	Monday 12th February 2024	to	Friday 16th February 2024
Training Day	Monday 19th February 2024		
Spring Term 2	Tuesday 20th February 2024	to	Friday 22nd March 2024
Half Term	Monday 25th March 2024	to	Friday 5th April 2024
Summer Term 1	Monday 8th April 2024	to	Friday 24th May 2024
Half Term	Monday 27th May 2024	to	Friday 31st May 2024
Summer Term 2	Monday 3rd June 2024	to	Friday 19th July 2024

Additional days when school is closed:

Bank Holidays Monday 6th May.



Forthcoming Events

February

22nd	Y9 Options Deadline
29th	Y10 Parents Evening
31st	Y8 HPV Vaccinations

March

1st	Y10 Careers trip to NEC
4th	National Careers Week
8th	International Women's Day
19th	STEM EVENT LBEEP
21st	Y9,10,11 Kangaroo Maths Challenge
22nd	Y11 Photo



Year 10 Art Group Visit to Coventry Cathedral

On Monday the 5th of February the year 10 GCSE art students were invited to a drawing workshop at Coventry Cathedral, after winning a competition last year.

The students enjoyed visiting the new cathedral, taking photos and then sketching. They also visited the old Cathedral and did a 15 minute quick sketch exercise producing some fantastic pieces.

The students really enjoyed the day and took away much inspiration for their future art projects.



Students then walked to the Herbert Gallery where they were met by the newly installed Dippy the Diplodocus from the Natural History Museum. They then had time to walk around the various exhibitions which included Coventry Art Societies' 16th exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. This was a superb and varied exhibition of artwork by members of art societies and art groups in Coventry and Warwickshire, to include paintings, sculpture, ceramics and much more.



Anne Frank Visit

On Monday 22nd January we hosted Nicky Salt from the Anne Frank Trust who completed a two day workshop for year 8 and year 9 pupils on the theme of “Voices for Equality”.

Students spent the day learning about Anne Frank, the Holocaust and prejudice today. They had whole-class learning, small group discussions, movement and role play, plus worksheet activities such as quizzes, writing and drawing.

Nicky helped the students with skills-based training to develop their peer education projects.

Focusing on creativity, teamwork, presentation skills and public speaking, they created and practiced delivering their learning to peers. This was through a speech in assembly, artwork for a showcase, presentations, quizzes or other learning activities to run with groups of their peers.

The pupils enjoyed the two day workshops and this will now lead to the opportunity for pupils to become Anne Frank Ambassadors in the summer term.

Mr Collins,

Head of Humanities



The Anne Frank Trust UK

“

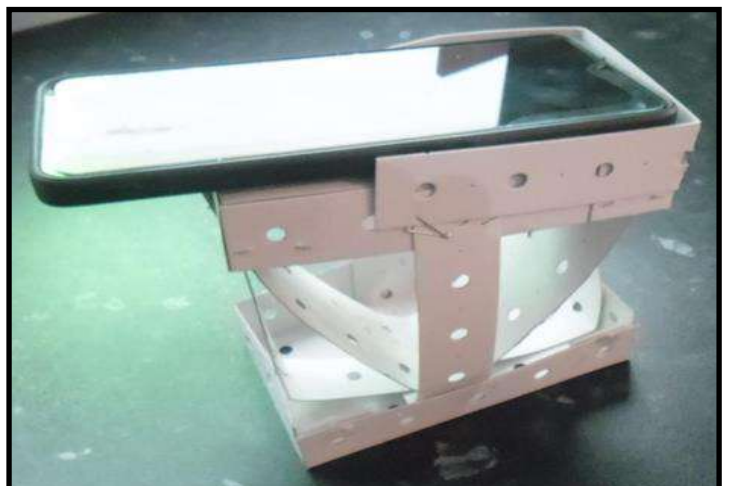
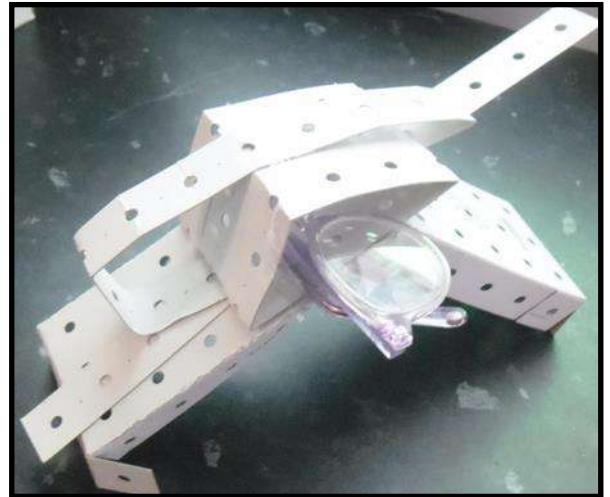
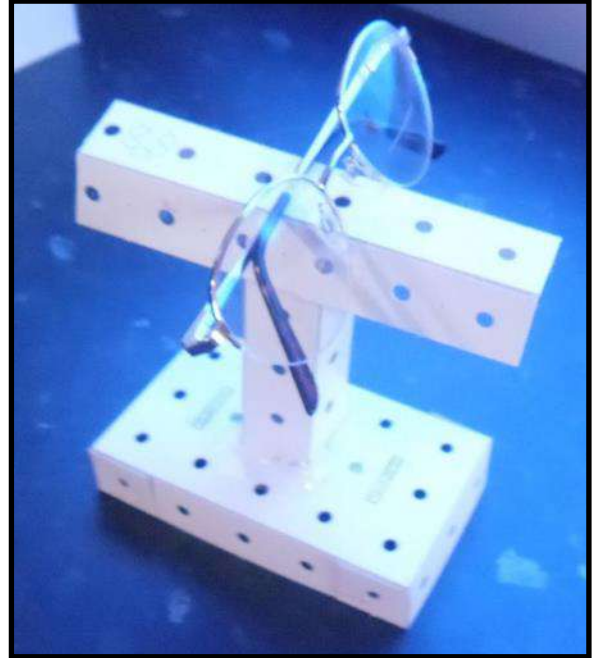
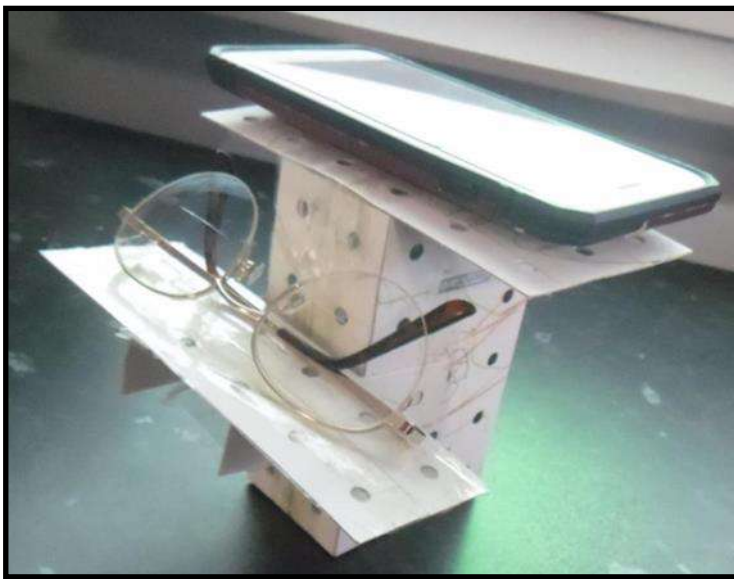
I'm now able to challenge prejudice and discrimination when I am confronted with it. I always try to help others who don't understand, and I challenge those who do not understand and still spread hatred.

”



Structures Challenge

As part of the Year 7 learning about forces and triangulation; they were given a challenge to design a glasses or phone holder that would support the product 10 cm above the table top.
Well done year 7!



**YOUR *FUTURE*
STARTS HERE.**

#NCW2024
4TH-9TH MARCH



Join us for Careers Q&A Breakfast and Lunches!



Harris CofE Academy
Monday 4 March - Friday 8 March

Breakfasts 8 - 8.30am
Lunches - 1.20 - 1.50pm



Could you provide a session for
our students to find out more
about your career story?

Chat about about your journey
and answer questions.

Find out more or register your interest -
careers@harris.covmat.org



A week-long celebration that brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy!

Find out more [National Apprenticeship Week](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

Events at Harris

The Grand Gazebo Tour - Tuesday 6 February

During National Apprenticeship Week WCG has visited Harris with its annual roadshow, showcasing T Levels as well as Apprenticeships. There will be a series of interactive activities plus an overview presentation about T levels and Apprenticeships. These will include a selection from Engineering, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Health, Land-Based Engineering, Catering and Animal Care.

Harris Careers and Progression Fair - Wednesday 7 February

Year 9 students had the chance to visit our Careers Fair which will included apprenticeship providers, further and higher education institutions.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 plus their parents/carers were invited to visit the Fair from 3.45 - 5.00pm.





Galliford Try - Women Mentoring Women

We are currently developing a partnership with Galliford Try to start a programme which aims to encourage females to explore a career in construction through face-to-face presentations, mentoring, careers awareness and skill-building over the course of three years. At the end of the programme, they will offer interviews for real roles at Galliford Try.

We are very excited about this opportunity for female students in Years 9 to find out more about careers in construction and to develop key employability skills.

We would like to find out which students in Year 9 would be interested in this programme.

Email careers@harriscofeacademy.co.uk for more information or to register interest.



YEAR 7 SPORTING SUCCESS!

The Y7 boys indoor athletics team won the Level 2 School Games, meaning they will go on to represent the county at the Level 3 Games later in the year. The boys were thrilled with the result! It was a great way to end our sporting calendar for this year!

What a great finish to our Level 2 [Your School Games](#) competitions for 2023 last night! Well done to all the teams - results are below!

Year 7 Boys Sportshall Athletics

1st Harris Academy 112 pts

2nd Avon Valley School & Performing Arts College 101 pts

3rd Rugby Free Secondary School 96 pts

4th Quest Academy 72 pts

Our winning Year 7 team have qualified to progress through to the Level 3 Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire School Games finals! Well done!

Team members:

Emmanuel Attakorah, Tyrone Beckford, Rhys Evans, Alan Bincyzk, James Shields, Alex Kaczmarek



Y7 Sporting Success

Huge thanks to our Harris Year 9 & 10 Sports Leaders who gave up their time to support the Level 2 School Games: Year 7&8 Boys Sports hall Athletics Competitions on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

*Tyler Rainbow
Oliver Pearce
Caleb Ngugi
Jacob Trevett
Noah Green
Callon Timothy
James Webb
Evie Smith
Jess Holdsworth*



Harris CofE Academy Sports Centre

Multi Sport Holiday Clubs for 5-12 year olds



Holiday Club 9am – 3.45pm
Early drop off from 8.15am
Late Pick up until 4.30pm

To book your place or for more information;
Email: pdm@harriscofeacademy.co.uk
Phone: 01788 818925
Or call in to Harris Sports Centre, Mellish Rd, Rugby, CV22 6BB

Please also ask about our Bikeability
courses that run during holidays.
Cycling Proficiency for the modern age!

SSP

All staff are fully qualified,
DBS checked and First Aid
trained

Holiday Club dates for 23/24



October Half Term

Monday 30th Oct to Thurs 2nd November 2023 (4 day camp)

May Half Term

Tuesday 28th May to Thursday 30th May 2024 (3 day camp)

Christmas 2023

Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th January 2024 (3 day camp)

Summer 2024

Week 1 – 29th July to 1st Aug (4 day camp)

Week 2 – 5th to 8th August (4 day camp)

Week 3 – 12th to 15th August (4 day camp)

Week 4 – 19th to 22nd August (4 day camp)

Week 5 – 27th to 29th August (3 day camp)

February Half Term

Monday 12th to Thursday 15th February 2024 (4 day camp)

Easter 2024

Week 1 – Mon 25th to Thurs 28th March 2024 (4 day camp)

Week 2 – Tue 2nd to Thurs 4th April 2024 (3 day camp)

Price per child

£15 per standard day (9am to 3.45pm)

£2.50 per wrap around session or £19 for complete day



Christmas Foodbank Donations

The Christmas Foodbank Donations were a huge success and Rugby Foodbank were kind enough to send a Thank you Certificate due to the fact we donated over 495KG of food!

Whilst we have time, let us do good to all.' - Galatians, 6:10.



A Big

THANK YOU



Your donations make a BIG difference to local people in crisis.

Rugby foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network.



Registered Charity Number: 1126487 Part of the work of Hope4





Children's Mental Health Week

As this year's Children's Mental Health week progresses, our students have been given the opportunity to engage in various discussions, activities and shows to raise the profile of mental health discussions. The excellent work of the Rugby Youth for Christ Group, and our Mental Health Lead, Mr. Unwin, have explored a lot of different options and ideas when it comes to our students looking after their mental health.

To further this, and to give dedicated more time to this year's topic of "My Voice Matters", this week's PSHEE lesson have been a time to explore the activities the charity have provided, and to provide a forum for the students to raise their voice and be heard on issues they hold dear. Research has shown that young people who feel like their voice has been heard, and the issues they raise acknowledged, have on average better mental health than they would otherwise have if they felt ignored or simply appeased. This week's PSHEE lesson has been both to give an opportunity for this to happen, but also to stress the importance of listening, and knowing where and when to raise their voices in a productive way.





The theme for this Year's Children's Mental Health Week is "My Voice Matters".

After consultation with Student Leaders and the Anti Bullying Ambassadors, it was decided that we would reinforce the messages surrounding reaching out for help and support, alongside making it clear where the sources of support were in school. With this in mind, we have the four senior student leaders leading assemblies to highlight the sources of support available in school.

In addition to the assemblies, the whole school have been engaging in activities at the beginning of period one and two every day, with the aim of encouraging discussions around how to start conversations about mental health, what to look for in friends who may be struggling and trying to reduce the stigma attached to speaking about mental health. As part of this, we will be using videos of athletes such as Owen Farrell and Rio Ferdinand, who have spoken publically about their own mental health.

Rugby Youth for Christ have also been in school during this week, delivering workshops on resilience to all of our students.



Rugby Youth for Christ—Children's Mental Health Week

Rugby Youth for Christ has been in Harris this week delivering sessions on Resilience for Children's Mental Health week. We brought the Christian artist, Jon Jackal in to help us deliver these workshops. Jon Jackal is not only a former student at Harris but a fun-loving singer and rapper based in Birmingham who is passionate about helping young people think about life and faith. His engaging presence and positive energy have seen him performing across Europe in front of thousands as well as having 3 of his first 6 singles shared by BBC Introducing.

Every pupil at Harris has had the opportunity to engage with our resilience workshops where we spent time looking at not only our response when things get difficult but also what do we have or can put in place to help us when things get tough. Jon Jackal performed a few of his tracks and shared his story, looking at how his Christian faith has helped turn his life around and build resilience.



We have had a great week in Harris, and there has been a real buzz around the school as the pupils have engaged with Jon Jackal and our workshops. As the conversation continues around taking care of our mental health, we hope that the students have taken steps in building resilience in their own lives and look forward to continuing to support the school in this.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award 2023/24 Cohort

By now all, participants should have got to the stage where their plans have been approved on edofe and they are collecting evidence for their sections ready to upload. Remember that the minimum evidence required is a participation log , which can be printed [here](#), containing a date, the activity undertaken, the duration (i.e. minimum 1 hour) and a signature or initial of an adult. At this stage the adult can be a member of the family.

Once the participant has completed the timescale required, they can ask an assessor to complete an assessors report via the online portal or via the paper copy provided in their joining pack. The most common error in completing assessor's reports is not having dates, and not being specific about the duration of each session.

Below you will find a tick list to help ensure that the assessor's reports are completed correctly.

All Assessor's Reports (tick if 'yes')

Does the report contain details of the participant e.g. name of the participant?	☐
Has the Assessor included their own name?	☐
Has the Assessor included their own contact details – email address and/or phone number?	☐
Has the Assessor confirmed the participant's activities?	☐
Has the Assessor confirmed the dates of the activity and do these match the dates in eDofE?	☐
Has the Assessor confirmed how frequently the young person is taking part in the activity?	☐



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Registered Charity No: 1072490, and in Scotland No: SC038254, and a Royal Charter Corporation No: RC000806. Registered Office: 9 Greyfriars Road, Reading, RG1 1NU. 08/2023



D of E Expedition Training

We have had our first expedition training meeting where we introduced the expedition requirements to the group and began learning about navigation. These sessions will be essential to ensure participants are safe on their expeditions so please ensure they are well attended. The session dates are as follows: 26th Feb, 4th March, 11th March, 18th March, and 8th April. All sessions are on Monday 3.30-4.30.

Supporting your child in completing their physical, volunteer, skills section activities.

Although the emphasis is always on the young person taking responsibility for their section activities, it is important that we, as parents and adults, continue to give support and encouragement to participants on the final leg before completing. If parents/guardians need any guidance in how they can best support their young person in completing their D of E then please contact Mr Unwin on david.unwin@harris.covmat.org.



Library

Blind Date with a Book

- Stop by the library in February.
- Pick a mystery book and check it out.
- Take it home see if there is a real connection!
- Review your book using the Rate your Date card inside and return it with your book.
- For each card returned the reader will be entered into a raffle with a sweet treat as a prize. The prize draw will be held in March.
- If you don't like the book, simply return it to the library. It's feelings won't be hurt.



**"THIS MORNING,
SHE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT LOOK AT HER
NOW!"**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search the Education Hub to find out more



**“THIS MORNING, HE
HAD A STOMACH
ACHE...BUT LOOK
AT HIM NOW!”**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search NHS school illness guidance to find out more.



Attendance @ Harris

At Harris C of E Academy, we will always encourage pupils to strive for 100% attendance; however, we do understand that this is not always possible and have therefore set a school attendance target of 96% (5 days missed) for the academic year 2023/24. The strong link between attendance and academic achievement is statistically proven, with pupils from last year's cohort reflecting the national pattern. It is very important for your child to attend school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Only with the full support of parents/carers and working collaboratively with school, can high attendance be achieved. Parents or carers are legally responsible for ensuring their children attend school regularly and to inform school of the reason for a child's absence on the first day of absence and to provide further information, as is required.

Illness and First Day Call - If your child is unable to attend school through illness or another reason, please inform us on the first day of absence before 9:00am, providing details of the reason for your child's absence and expected day of return to school. This can be done via Study Bugs app, email to attendance@harriscofeacademy.co.uk or a phone call to school on 01788 812549. If your child has further days of absence after the first day, parents/carers must continue to notify school on each day of absence.

Medical/Dental Appointments - It is generally better if these can be arranged outside school hours, but we know this is not always possible. Where children need to attend such appointments during the school day, it is important that parents/carers notify school in advance. Please collect your child from Reception and bring your child back to school, on returning from the appointment. Please ensure that if you are taking your child out during lunch time that your child is aware they need to sign out, as it can be hard to find students during social times.

Punctuality - Please ensure that your child arrives at school by 8:50am, ready for tutor time at 8:55am. Students who arrive after 8:55am will receive a detention unless the school is informed of a valid reason provided by the parent/carer. In the case of persistent lateness, parent/carers will be notified and student's punctuality will be monitored, if no improvement is made further, sanctions will be issued. Punctuality is an important employability and life skill that we are encouraging students to develop.



Attendance @ Harris

Types of Absence - Each absence is classed as authorised or unauthorised. Absences are coded as authorised where reasons are considered valid and unauthorised where no explanation or unacceptable reasons are given.

The following reasons are not acceptable:

- Shopping visits or days out to theme parks or to attend concerts/shows
- Care for family members
- Parents' work commitments or business trips
- Holidays taken in term time (including long weekends taken on Fridays and/or Mondays)

For guidance on whether or not to keep your child off school when they feel unwell, please check the NHS guidance provided on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Leave of Absence - The Head teacher shall not grant any leave of absence during term time unless: An application has been made in advance, by the parent with whom the child normally resides and they consider there to be exceptional circumstances relating to the application. Unauthorised Leave of Absences will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service and this could lead to a fixed penalty fine. Where parents wish to take their child(ren) out of school during term time for purposes other than holidays, they should complete the leave of absence form. This is available via the website at; <https://www.harris.covmat.org/attendance/>

Collecting students from school (students making contact home) - Can we please remind parents/carers to only collect pupils from school if prior contact has been made by school or it is prearranged. We have noticed an increase in pupils calling home to be collected without school knowing or being aware of issues. This in turn causes difficulties when parents arrive to collect students and can lead to potential safeguarding concerns.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and your ongoing support with setting the highest expectations for your children. If you have any queries please contact me on 01788 812549 or via email at attendance@harriscofeacademy.co.uk to discuss this matter further.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.



Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities:

IT Technician

Teaching Assistant L2 (fixed Term)

SSP Duty Manager

Cleaner (20hrs)

Teacher of Design and Technology with a Product Design Specialism

School Business Administrator

More details can be found on our website under NEWS / Vacancies

<https://www.harris.covmat.org/vacancies/>

Reminder

For safeguarding reasons, when dropping children off to school or picking them up please can you not drive onto site, and if you are parking in residential streets please be respectful to the neighbours when parking. Also, please avoid parking in the passing bays down Harris Drive.

If you are picking your child up from a detention or an extra-curricular activity after 4pm, please collect them from the front of the school as Mellish Drive gates will be closed at that time.

Please Note

Harris changed their email address format over the Christmas Break. Our new staff email addresses are in the format as follows:

name.surname@harris.covmat.org

For students their prefix from their old email has remained and only the end of their addresses have been changed to @harris.covmat.org

The website has been updated with contact emails. Emails forwarded to our old email addresses should automatically be forwarded but we are aware we have had some issues with that so apologies to anyone who was affected. Please do use new email addresses going forward. Thank you for your continued support

