Making a Splash at the Swimming Gala

Another highlight of our summer term was the eagerly anticipated Swimming Gala, expertly organised once again by Mr Herbert, Head of PE, and held at the fantastic facilities of Rugby School Sports Centre. The event brought together students from across all year groups for a competitive, energetic, and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of racing and house spirit.

Competition in the Pool

Students competed in a variety of races, including the 50m and 100m freestyle, and individual medley events that tested both speed and technique across all four strokes. The gala concluded in style with a fun relay, where teams went head-to-head in a fast-paced and light-hearted finale that had everyone on their feet cheering.

Celebrating All Talents

Events like the Swimming Gala are a vital part of our commitment to inclusive sport and student engagement. While many students shine on the athletics track or the football pitch, others thrive in different sporting environments — and the swimming gala is a perfect opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate students with a passion for aquatics.

By providing a broad range of sports throughout the year, we ensure that students with varied interests and talents have the opportunity to compete, represent their house, and experience the joy of sporting success in a context that suits them best.

House Pride and Personal Bests

As always, the event was not just about winning but about participation, personal achievement, and team spirit. There were some excellent performances in the pool with all swimmers demonstrating determination, focus, and a strong sense of fair play.

The atmosphere at the poolside was lively and supportive, with housemates cheering one another on and staff offering encouragement throughout.

Thank You

A huge thank you to Mr Herbert for organising another seamless and enjoyable event. The Swimming Gala continues to be an important event on our school calendar — not just for what happens in the pool, but for what it represents: inclusion, opportunity, and the celebration of student potential in all its forms.

We look forward to seeing even more students take the plunge next year!

Sports Day 2025 – House Spirit and Heatwave Heroics!

On yet another blisteringly hot day, the entire school community came together for one of the highlights of the school calendar — Sports Day 2025. True to tradition, students and staff decamped to the athletics track at the Diamond Jubilee Centre, ready for a full day of competition, teamwork, and celebration of house spirit.

An Early Start for Team PE

For the PE department, the day began bright and early at 7:45am, setting up PA systems, medical tents, and gazebos to ensure the track was ready and that there was enough shade for both students and staff under the sweltering sun. Their hard work paid off as the school arrived en masse, house banners waving and faces painted proudly in house colours — a wonderful sight that speaks volumes about our students' enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

A Day of Competition and Community

Events kicked off at 10am, with a full programme of track and field events running throughout the day. We were also thrilled to welcome back a number of our Year 11 leavers, who kindly returned to help marshal races, time sprints, and measure throws and jumps — their contribution added to the community feel of the day and was much appreciated by all.

As the day progressed, students competed with energy and pride, with house points awarded for every event. There were standout performances and records broken — all cheered on enthusiastically by their peers from the stands.

House Spirit Shines

It's always a joy to see students so fully embrace their house identity, and this year was no exception. With colourful face paint, homemade banners, and house chants echoing around the stadium, the atmosphere was electric.

The running totals were announced regularly, building excitement as houses jostled for the top spot. As has often been the case in past years, Durham House once again proved tough to beat. However, Canterbury mounted a serious challenge and were running them very close right up to the end of the day.

One Event Still to Go…

With the temperature continuing to climb, the decision was made to postpone the final event – the legendary Tug of War – until the last day of term. With points from this event still up for grabs, the final result hangs in the balance, and we'll all be watching closely to see whether it will prove decisive in breaking Durham's streak.

Thank You

A huge thank you goes to our incredible PE staff, who worked tirelessly before and throughout the day to make sure everything ran smoothly — enduring intense heat while keeping the events safe, fair, and enjoyable. A special thanks must go to Mr Herbert, Head of PE, for once again masterminding such a well-organised and memorable Sports Day.

We look forward to the conclusion of the competition and finding out which house will lift the trophy this year. Until then, thank you to everyone who made the day so special!

Enrichment















Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable

Harris Students Support Primary Pupils in SSP Cricket and Athletics Events

In one of the most rewarding and inspiring sporting moments of the year, nearly 100 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 stepped up to support the School Sports Partnership (SSP) Cricket and Athletics events, held across two action-packed days on the Harris School playing fields.
Our students played a key role in helping to deliver a brilliant programme of athletics activities and cricket games to over 1,400 primary school pupils from across the region.

A Celebration of Leadership and Sport
The events provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to develop their leadership, communication, and mentoring skills, as they guided younger pupils through a variety of track and field activities, cricket skills stations, and team games. From measuring long jumps and cheering on sprints to leading warm-ups and explaining rules, Harris students showed maturity, patience, and enthusiasm in abundance.

These events are not just about sport — they're about building confidence, encouraging teamwork, and helping young leaders understand the impact they can have on others. The feedback from visiting primary staff and pupils was overwhelmingly positive, and many younger children left the field buzzing with excitement after such a fun and active day.

Thank You to Our SSP
A huge thank you goes to Simon King, our Partnership Development Manager, and the entire SSP team for organising such enjoyable and successful events. Their continued efforts to bring together schools and promote physical activity in our wider community are deeply appreciated.

Looking Ahead
We are extremely proud of the way our students represented Harris and served as positive role models for the next generation of young athletes. Events like these not only enrich the experience of our own students but also help build a stronger, healthier and more connected school community across the local area. Well done to everyone involved

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Inspire Future Careers at Harris

We were delighted to welcome Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to Harris recently for an engaging and informative visit. The team delivered a Q&A session to a group of interested students, offering a behind-the-scenes look at careers within the fire and rescue service.

Students learned about both operational roles—such as firefighters and emergency responders—and non-operational careers, including roles in communications, logistics, and fire safety education. The team also shared valuable information about the different pathways into these careers, from apprenticeships to specialist training routes.

In addition to the Q&A, the team delivered an assembly to Year 8, introducing students to the wide range of opportunities available within the service and encouraging them to consider how their skills and interests could align with a future in public service.





The Power of Work Experience: A Glimpse into the Future

Work experience is more than just a week away from school—it's a chance to step into the real world, explore future careers, and discover new passions. For our current Year 10 students, their placements in May offered valuable insights and unforgettable memories.

From working with young children to fixing bikes, every student had a unique story to tell. Jack, who spent his week at Ricardo, said he enjoyed “learning and working out at the same time,” while Ella found joy in helping the “tiny tiger” groups aged 3–7 at Focus TKD. Scarlett and Emily both had rewarding experiences in local schools, with Emily sharing how she enjoyed “taking a responsible position in a work environment.”

Some students explored more technical or specialist roles. Shay, who worked at Paddox Cycles, loved “learning about bikes and replacing new parts,” and Kuba, who supported the IT Lead at Boughton Leigh Junior School, said the experience helped him understand “how to function in a workplace and what IT technicians do around the school.”

Others discovered a passion for animal care. Elsa’s time in veterinary clinics gave her “crucial insights into the realities of the profession,” while Katie, who worked at a dog day care, recommended it to anyone interested in working with animals.

Even the social side of work experience left a lasting impression. Alfie, who worked at Winner Recruitment, simply said, “I enjoyed being with co-workers”—a reminder that the people we work with can make all the difference.

Looking ahead, work experience for 2026 will take place during the week commencing 18 May. Current Year 9 students are encouraged to start thinking now about where they might like to go. Whether it’s a local business, a school, a veterinary clinic, or something completely different, it’s always best to start early—popular placements can fill up quickly!

Information packs will be sent out in the Autumn Term, so keep an eye out and start exploring your interests. Your future might just begin with one incredible week.

Work Experience Week: Learning Beyond the Classroom

While many of our Year 10 students ventured out into the world of work during Work Experience Week, others took part in a range of engaging and enriching activities right here in school. Although we aim to place every student with a company, it's not always possible—but we're committed to ensuring that all students gain valuable workplace insights and develop essential employability skills.

One of the highlights of the week was a fantastic session with the Army, where students explored a variety of career pathways and took part in hands-on activities designed to build teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills. A huge thank you to the Army team for delivering such an inspiring and energetic day!

Another standout experience was a fascinating visit to Jaguar Land Rover's Prototype Testing Facility. Unfortunately, we couldn't take photos as the designs are top secret. Students participated in a "Guess the Job" activity and discovered the wide range of roles available at JLR, from apprenticeships to graduate programs. It was an inspiring glimpse into the future of automotive innovation and a great opportunity to learn about cutting-edge technology in action.

Back at school, students also took part in the Disco Dilemma enterprise workshop, delivered by Proactive Young People. This fun and interactive session challenged students to solve a fictional business problem, developing key skills such as decision-making, budgeting, teamwork, and creativity.











2025 Carnegie Medal For Writing

The CILIP Carnegie Medal is awarded annually to the writer of an outstanding book. Every year a national panel of expert children's librarians and youth librarians, nominate some of the best children's books published in that year for the prestigious Carnegie Medal.

The shortlist explored marginalised male perspectives with empathy and hope in this year's Medal for Writing.



This year eight enthusiastic readers volunteered to shadow the national panel of judges. Shadowers shared their thoughts online and voted for their favourites in the Shadowers' Choice Awards. The winners of both the judges' and shadowers' medals were revealed in a livestreamed ceremony in mid-June.



Winners at the Carnegie Award 2025 at the Cambridge Theatre in london presented by Joseph Coelho. 19/6/25. Photo Tom Pilston

Margaret McDonald was announced as the Carnegie Medal for Writing winner, the youngest in its almost ninety-year history for her “life changing and emotional” novel **Glasgow Boys** (Faber). This “honest” and “hopeful” story explores mental health, trauma, inequality and identity through the friendship between two boys who have grown up in foster care. Suitable for 14+ readers

Voted by student judges across the country:
The winner of the **Carnegie Shadowers’ Choice Medal for Writing** is **King of Nothing** by **Nathanael Lessore**, a YA novel about a bully whose new friendship with an unpopular classmate proves a catalyst for change, exploring young masculinity with “warmth, humour and authenticity.” Suitable for 11+ readers

King of Nothing
‘It was a good portrayal of the expectations of muscularity, young men have, to live up to in today's society. I could relate to it and empathise with the characters.’Harris Judge

Our students also recommend these reads:
The Final Year
‘This book was fascinating, being easy to read, inspirational and a meaningful message hidden beneath the surface. The book teaches how tackling life problems gets better and how to deal with tricky situations. A very good book for all ages that can teach everyone a new lesson.’

Play
‘The book was a great depiction of the lives of boys trying to fit in, with an emotional ending and great, easy but still tough to read writing that made the book one of the best I've read.’

All eight shortlisted books will be available for loan from Harris Academy Library in September.
Well done to all our readers!

Mrs Parmar

Thank you on behalf of Zoe's Place Baby Hospice

On behalf of everyone at Zoe's Place Baby Hospice to say thank you for your kind donation of £734.07, raised by you all. We are so grateful for your support and please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved in this donation.

Your fundraising helps to provide respite, palliative and end-of-life care for babies and infants with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

Our nurse-led care focusses on helping babies and young children make the most of everyday moments and experiences, with further support available for the whole family.

As a registered charity, we are proud that all of our care is free of charge to our families. It is because of you, our community of supporters, that we are able to offer our services to all who need it.

Once again, thank you so very much for your very generous donation.

Thank you!!!

Information

Becoming a nut aware school

I am writing to inform you of an important safety measure that we will be implementing from September onwards.

As an Academy, we have a fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe, and this becomes particularly crucial when we have students with airborne nut allergies joining our school community. The statistics from FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) are quite sobering - they indicate that "one in 13 children, or roughly two in every classroom, has a food allergy."

What makes this matter especially serious is that the potential severity of food allergies can be somewhat unpredictable. Many food allergies that may initially appear mild can become life-threatening over time, and all children with food allergies are at risk of developing severe, life-threatening reactions to their allergens. When exposure to a food allergen triggers an anaphylactic attack, the child faces serious danger as their body enters a state of shock, requiring immediate medical intervention.

Since there is no cure available for food allergies, **prevention truly is the best medicine**. What's particularly concerning is that severe allergic reactions can occur from cross-contamination - this could happen when peanut or tree nut particles are transferred from the hands of someone who has recently eaten nuts to a child with a severe nut allergy.

Therefore, we are asking all parents, students, and staff not to bring nuts or nut products into our school.

As a school, we are committed to being nut aware and will be providing comprehensive training to all staff on:

- Recognising anaphylactic shock
- Proper use of EpiPens
- Emergency response procedures
-

I want to be transparent with you all - whilst we cannot claim to be a completely nut-free school, as we cannot police everything that people bring onto the site, I know that you will support us in this vital safety initiative by not bringing nuts into school.

This policy is not just about following guidelines; it's about creating a safe environment where all our students can learn and thrive without fear. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter will make a genuine difference to the wellbeing of our most vulnerable students.

Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities:

- Data Manager
- Receptionist
- Site Services Officer
- Sports Centre Duty Manager

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

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

Car Parking / Safety

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, please do not park in the drive ways and keep a look out for any areas stating 'private no 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.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME
UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- · 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 – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
  - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
  - Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
  - Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

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

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

5

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents = £1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000











Harris Church of England Academy Presents

The Art of Our Schools: Rugby 2025

MONDAY 8TH TO SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER



The Art department at Harris has worked in collaboration with Rugby Art Gallery and the secondary schools of Rugby to host an exhibition showcasing the artists of Rugby's future.

LOCATION

in Gallery One Rugby Art Gallery Little Elborow St, Rugby CV21 3BZ

RUGBY
Art Gallery & Museum

SHOWCASING ART BY STUDENTS FROM

- HARRIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY
- BILTON SCHOOL
- RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL
- RUGBY SCHOOL
- ASHLAWN SCHOOL
- RUGBY FREE SECONDARY SCHOOL
- AVON VALLEY SCHOOL
- HOULTON SCHOOL
- LAWRENCE SHERRIF SCHOOL

Harris CofE Academy Sports Centre

Multi Sport Holiday Clubs for 5-12 year olds



Holiday Club 9am – 3.30pm
Early drop off from 8.15am
Late Pick up until 4.15pm

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

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

SSP

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

Holiday Club dates for 24/25

October Half Term 2024
Monday 28th Oct to Thurs 31st October 2024 (4 day camp)

Christmas 2024
Thursday 2nd January 2025 and Friday 3rd January 2025 (2 separate day camps)

February Half Term 2025
Monday 17th to Thursday 20th February 2025 (4 day camp)

Easter 2025
Week 1 – Mon 14th to Thurs 17th April 2025 (4 day camp)
Week 2 – Tue 22nd to Thurs 24th April 2025 (3 day camp)

May Half Term 2025
Tuesday 27th May to Thursday 29th May 2025 (3 day camp)

Summer 2025
Week 1 – 28th to 31st July (4 day camp)
Week 2 – 4th to 7th August (4 day camp)
Week 3 – 11th to 14th August (4 day camp)
Week 4 – 18th to 21st August (4 day camp)
Week 5 – 26th to 28th August (3 day camp)

Price per child
£16 per standard day (9am to 3.30pm)
£2.50 per wrap around session or £20 for complete day

HAF

Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable