



Harmonious

Aspirational

Responsible

Respectful

Inspirational

Sociable

Harris Church of England Academy

Spring Term 1, February 2026

www.harris.covmat.org

As we continue to embrace creativity, learning, and personal growth at Harris Church of England Academy, I'm delighted to share some of the exciting developments and achievements from across our school community.

Our art department has been particularly vibrant recently. Year 9 students are collaboratively working on a Frank Stella-inspired art piece. Meanwhile, our Year 10 GCSE art students recently expanded their artistic horizons with a visit to Rugby gallery and museum, exploring the Rugby Open 2025 exhibition.

We've also been engaging with important historical commemorations. Three of our Year 9 English classes participated in an online Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 event, listening to the powerful testimony of survivor Max Snijders. These experiences are crucial in helping our students understand historical context and develop empathy.

I'm particularly proud to share that we recently hosted ITV News Political Correspondent Romilly Weeks and Senior Politics Producer Maya Bowles. They spent two days at Harris Academy, exploring how our phone ban has transformed school life - a testament to our commitment to creating the best possible learning environment.

We've also partnered with Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team to provide free bicycle lights to students, promoting safety and community engagement.

Our achievement point scheme continues to motivate students, with many already exchanging their HAPS points for exciting rewards. We're always looking for ways to recognise and celebrate student effort and success. Our HAPs store is now open for pupils to spend their HAPs on rewards.

For those interested in upcoming trips and experiences, we have a Y8 trip to see 'Percy Jackson' in the theatre, our Berlin trip from 28-30 March, and work experience week for Year 10 scheduled from 18-22 May. These opportunities provide invaluable real-world learning experiences for our students. Looking ahead, I also want to highlight our students will be performing *Matilda* on 14th and 16th July - a production not to be missed.

God Bless,

R Harrison



Term Dates 2024/2025

Training Day	23rd February 2026		
Spring Term 2	24 February 2026	To	27 th March 2026
Summer Term 1	13 th April 2026	To	22 nd May 2026
Summer Term 2	1 st June 2026	To	17 th July 2026
Additional Days when school is closed:			
Bank Holiday	4th May 2026		



Forthcoming Events

February

- 24-27 GCSE PE Internal Moderation
- 25 Berlin Parents Evening 5:30pm
- 26 Aspiration Evening
- 26 Colas Rail Workshop Y9
- 27 Colas Rail Workshop Y9

March

- 2-6 National Careers Week
- 2-13 Y8 Assessments
- 2 General Health Workshop (Selected Y9 students)
- 2 Worthless Worries Workshop (Selected Y9 students)
- 3 Warwickshire Skills Show and Future careers FairY9
- 4 Careers Detectives Y7
- 6 Options Deadline
- 6-8 Oakes Trip
- 9 Worthless Worries Workshop (Selected Y9 Students)
- 10 Y9 Kantar Assembly
- 13 Gailford Try Mentoring (Selected Y10 Students)
- 16 Worthless Worries Workshop (Selected Y9 Students)
- 16 Y11 SPRs
- 17 Y10 GCSE Component 1 Internal Performed exam
- 19 Y8 Percy Jackson Theatre Trip
- 19 Y11 Parents Evening
- 19-20 Bronze DofE Training
- 24 Project Prevent at Harris
- 25 Y11 Reward Trip
- 25 Project Prevent at Harris
- 26 National Book Award Trip (Selected Y7 Students)
- 26 SEND Coffee Afternoon
- 26 Music GCSE Composition Day 1—Y11
- 26 GCSE Drama Theatre Trip (Selected Y10/Y11 Students)
- 28-30 Berlin Trip



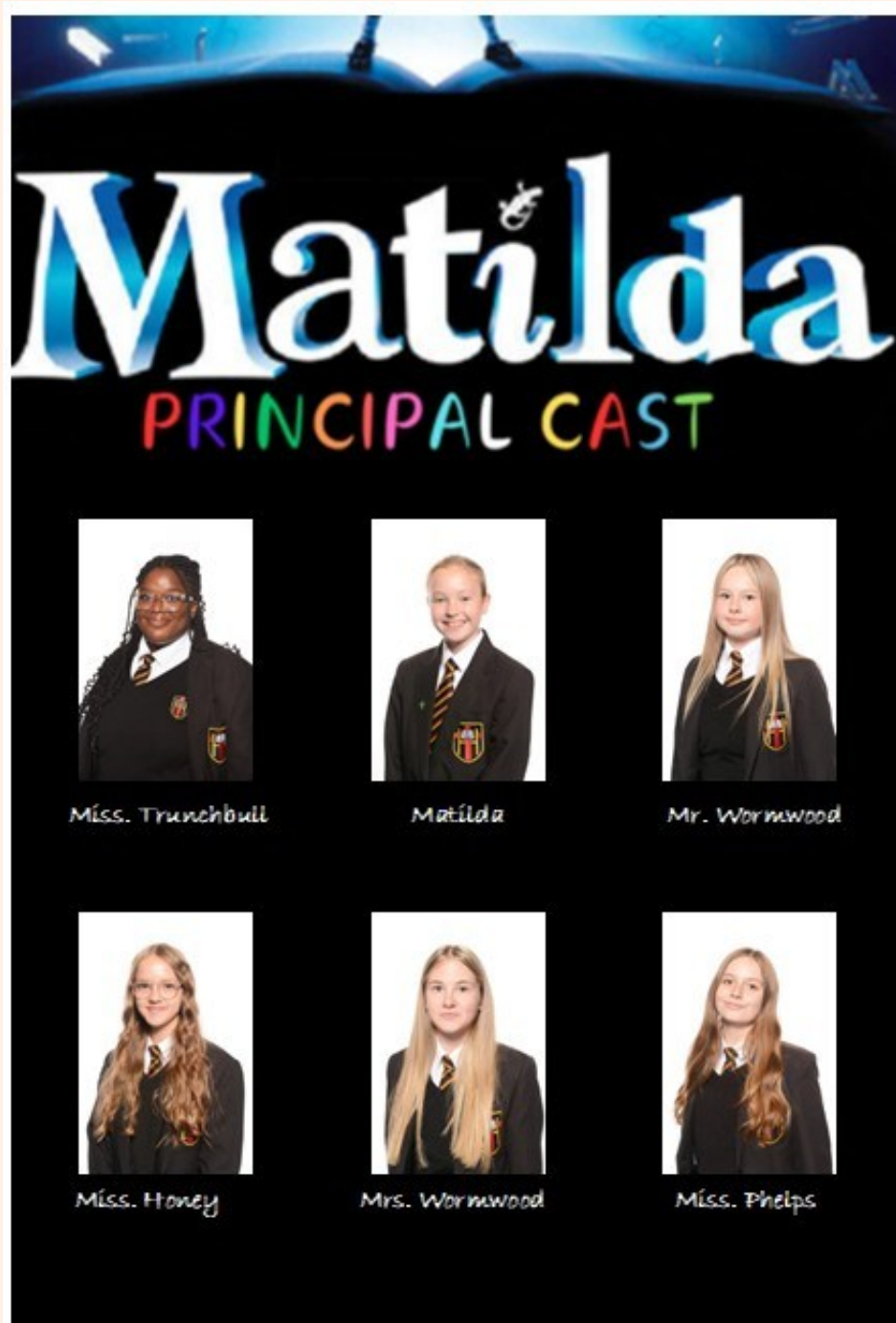
Harris whole school production 2026

Thank you to those who auditioned and congratulations to all the students who were cast in our 2026 whole school production of Matilda the Musical.

Rehearsals are underway and the students are working hard on remembering their dialog and choreography.

A huge well done to the students cast in lead roles, competition was fierce and the quality of talent was high.

Performance dates are the 14th and 16th of July. More information will be released for ticket sales.



Year 9 Frank Stella inspired art

Students in year 9 are working together to build a Frank Stella inspired collaborative art installation that will be presented to the school.

Frank Stella is an American artist best known for his use of geometric patterns and shapes in creating both paintings and sculptures. Taking inspiration from his work the students designed and the created small boards adding shapes and patterns to create a 3D effect.



Year 10 art students visit Rugby Gallery

At the end of January, the year 10 art GCSE students visited Rugby gallery and museum to view the Rugby Open 2025 exhibition.

The Rugby Open art exhibition brings together a diverse range of high-quality contemporary art from emerging and established artists from the local area and includes dozens of pieces from across the arts, from paintings and prints to textiles and ceramics. Seeing such an extensive range of art in a relatively small space gives the students scope to compare work and figure out what styles interest them the most. They can also hopefully havest ideas and take inspiration for their own GCSE coursework back in school.



Character Curriculum Update – Building Resilience, Autonomy and

Motivation

This term in Character Curriculum, students across all year groups have been developing essential life skills that support both academic achievement and personal growth.

Year 7 and **Year 10** have been focusing on **resilience**, exploring what it means to persevere when faced with difficulty. Students put this into practice through the “Impossible Tower Challenge” a hands-on task designed to test teamwork, problem-solving and determination. The challenge encouraged students to reflect on how they respond to setbacks, how they adapt their strategies, and how collaboration strengthens resilience. It was fantastic to see students refusing to give up, learning from failed attempts, and celebrating progress rather than perfection.

Year 8 students have been examining **autonomy**, understanding the importance of making informed, responsible choices. Through discussion and scenario-based activities, they explored how having control over decisions impacts confidence, accountability and emotional wellbeing. Students considered the balance between independence and responsibility, recognising that true autonomy involves thoughtful decision-making rather than impulsive action.

Meanwhile, **Year 9** have been focusing on **motivation**, looking at what drives behaviour and achievement. Students explored intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, goal-setting strategies, and how mindset influences effort. Through reflection activities, they identified personal motivators and barriers, developing practical strategies to sustain focus and commitment over time.

Across all year groups, students have shown maturity in discussion and enthusiasm in practical activities. The Character Curriculum continues to provide valuable opportunities for students to develop the habits, attitudes and skills that will support them well beyond the classroom.

We look forward to building on this strong foundation next term.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

Three of our Year 9 English classes took part in an online Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 event, hearing from survivor Max Snijders about his experiences during the Second World War.

Students were deeply moved by Max's personal testimony of hiding in multiple locations to escape Nazi persecution.

The session helped them reflect on the importance of tolerance, human rights and standing up against prejudice today.

We are grateful to the Anne Frank Trust UK for enabling our students to engage with such a powerful and meaningful learning experience.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

Secondary School Online Learning Event
With special guest Holocaust Survivor
MAX SNIJDERS

For secondary aged students 11+

We are honoured to be joined by Max Snijders, a Holocaust survivor. Until the end of the Second World War, Max hid in several locations to escape Nazi persecution. Max joins us to share his powerful story.

 **Tuesday 27th January 2026**
 **10-11am**

Register for the event **here:**
<https://forms.office.com/e/yz0qrPG014>




The Anne Frank Trust UK


We're marking Holocaust Memorial Day
We Must Remember the Past to Build a Safer Future



ITV News Political Correspondent Romilly Weeks and Senior Politics Producer Maya Bowles spent two days at Harris Academy in Rugby, hearing from students and staff about how the phone ban has changed school life.

See the link below for the schools feature on ITV News discussing the school's phone ban.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2026-01-28/they-get-their-childhood-back-inside-a-school-where-phones-are-banned>

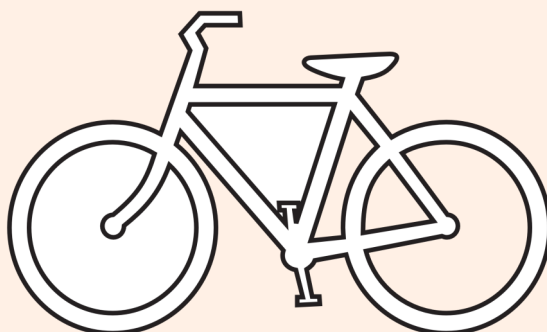


Free Bike Lights to Support Safer Cycling

In collaboration with Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team we have been able to offer a number of our students a free set of bicycle lights.

Improving visibility is a key road safety priority. Using front and rear lights helps drivers and other road users see cyclists earlier and judge their position more accurately, reducing the risk of collisions. The Highway Code states the, at night, cycles must have a white front light and a red rear light lit.

We are pleased to see so many students cycling to school and would like to encourage this whilst also ensuring their safety throughout the darker months. We still have a small number of lights left so, if you would like a free set for your child, please email the school and we will distribute them on a first-come first-served basis.

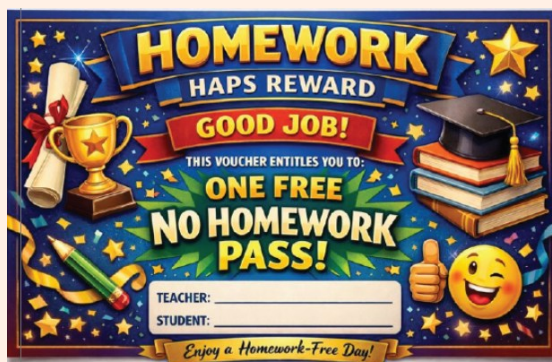


HAPS Rewards Now Available

Students have recently been given the opportunity to exchange their HAPS achievement points for a range of rewards — and the scheme has already proved popular.

The initiative was in response to student voice and allows students to trade their HAPS points for items from the rewards shop by completing a Microsoft Form to select their chosen reward.

The rewards form has been open since the start of the Spring Term, and we look forward to seeing even more students making the most of their achievements.



Year 10 Work Experience: Application deadline 20th February

The Year 10 Work Experience programme is a collaboration between the Widening Participation and Social Mobility team, and departments at the University of Warwick. We are delighted that we will again be welcoming Year 10 students to the University, and are offering a choice of two streams: Engineering or Creative Arts.

This is a unique opportunity, allowing students to benefit from hands-on experience of working directly on a variety of projects; learning from the expertise of academics and specialists, while gaining an insight into studying at a top university

It runs from **Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July** on campus at the **University of Warwick**.

Individuals that meet the Widening Participation eligibility criteria can apply online by following the link to the [student application form](#).

Applications must be supported by the school and the student's parent/carer will be contacted with further instructions once the student's completed form has been submitted.

Limited places are available and students will need to complete a short personal statement included in the form to support their application.

Student applications close on 20 February 2026.



NEXT STEPS

Work Experience
Year 10 Work Experience Week
18-22 May 2026



HARRIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



NEXT STEPS

Work Experience Year 10 Work Experience Week 18-22 May 2026

Well done to students who have secured their placements. Year 10 students are required to take part in work experience at a workplace or online. To represent the Academy in a working environment is a privilege and one that our students are always proud of and enjoy tremendously. Students are encouraged to find their own placements by thinking about occupations and areas of industry that they are interested in and by contacting relevant companies. Students need to do this as soon as possible to secure their place.

Please contact careers@harris.covmat.org if you have any questions.

OUR WEBSITE HAS LINKS TO

Work Experience 2026 Letter.pdf

Work Experience Guidance.pdf

Preparing for Work Experience.pdf

Covering letter template to send to companies.pdf

Virtual work experience links



WORK EXPERIENCE 18th MAY -22ND

MAY

SUPPORT-

Careers@harris.covmat.org

Mrs Ellwood



UNIFROG PARENTS ACCOUNTS

See their child's tasks and upcoming events, and try student tools for themselves. POST 16 pathways. Online events.

Find guides and events specifically for parents and careers, like **'HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH WORK EXPERIENCE'**

All students have access to UNIFROG and parents can copy the link below into their browser to set up their own dedicated account

Link - unifrog.org/parent



Support at
careers@harris.covmat.org





JOIN HARRIS ALUMNI



Are you an ex-Harris student?

We would like you to join our alumni network. As a Harris student you will always be a special part of our history. By keeping in touch as part of our alumni network you could be an important part of our future too.



WHY STAY CONNECTED?

- Inspire current students - share knowledge and experience to help others.
 - Boost your CV - volunteer and gain experience and references.
- Stay connected - stay up to date with latest news and
- stay in touch with your peers.



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 Wight 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.



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@harris.covmat.org
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 25/26



October Half Term

Monday 27th Oct to Thurs 30th October 2025 (4 day camp)

Christmas 2025/26

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th Dec 2025 (2 day camp)



February Half Term

Monday 16th to Thursday 19th February 2026 (4 day camp)

Easter 2026

Wk 1 – Mon 30th March to Thurs 2nd April 2026 (4 day camp)

Wk 2 – Tue 7th to Thurs 9th April 2026 (3 day camp)



May Half Term

Tuesday 26th May to Thursday 28th May 2026 (3 day camp)

Summer 2025

Week 1 – 27th to 30th July (4 day camp)

Week 2 – 3rd to 6th August (4 day camp)

Week 3 – 10th to 13th August (4 day camp)

Week 4 – 17th to 20th August (4 day camp)

Week 5 – 24th to 27th August (4 day camp)



Price per child

£17.50 per standard day (9am to 3.45pm)

£2.50 per wrap around session or £21 for complete day



Vacancies

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 way. 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.

