

Harmonious

Aspirational

Responsible

Respectful

Inspirational

Sociable

Harris Church of England Academy

Autumn Term 2, December 2025

www.harris.covmat.org

As we approach the festive season, I'm delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our school community over the last term.

On December 11th, we held our annual Christmas Showcase, which brought together friends, family, and staff to celebrate our students' talents. Our students have been incredibly active and engaged in various enriching experiences. On November 25th, 35 of our GCSE art students embarked on an inspiring trip to Birmingham, where they viewed artwork, captured photographs, and gathered creative inspiration. Additionally, a group of Year 11 students participated in a 'Macbeth' workshop at the renowned Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon on December 8th.

We were thrilled to welcome back our Class of 2025 on November 20th, celebrating their remarkable achievements during their time at Harris. It was a heartwarming opportunity to reconnect and hear about their journeys in post-16 settings.

A special congratulations to Olivia W, who won our 2025 Christmas card competition. The contest saw numerous entries from across all year groups, showcasing diverse art mediums and techniques.

I'm particularly proud of our Year 9 student leaders who supported the Year 7 and Year 8 athletics teams at the start of December. Their organisation, enthusiasm, and encouragement created a positive atmosphere for all students, including those from visiting schools.

We've also continued our tradition of community support. We've once again collaborated with Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child, with form tutors and pupils enthusiastically collecting and packing a wonderful variety of gifts. Furthermore, our recent Harris Helps initiative aimed to support community members during the festive season was a wonderful success.

These moments exemplify the spirit of compassion, creativity, and community that defines Harris Church of England Academy.

God Bless,

R Harrison



Term Dates 2024/2025

Training Day	5th January 2026		
Spring Term 1	6 th January 2026	To	13 th February 2026
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

January

7	Y11 Sports Studies Exam
8	Y11 P6 Ashlawn Post 16 Assembly
9	Y9 Kantar Assembly
12	Y10 GCSE Trip to Rugby School
12-23	Y10 Assessments
13	Y8 HPV Vaccines
15	Y8 CBS Assembly
15	Y9 Option Evening
19	Y8 HPV Vaccines
19	Y10 RAF Assembly
20	Y7 Kantar Assembly
21	Y9 JLR Workshop
21	Y9 SPRs
22	EKFB workshops Y8 Girls
26	Y11 Mocks Begin
29	Y9 Parents Evening

February

2-13	Y11 Mocks Continued
3	Y9 Health Needs Assessment
4	Y10 SPRs
5	Y10 Parents Evening
9-13	National Apprenticeships Week
9	Y10 JLR Workshop
24	GCSE PE Internal Moderation
25	1:1 Nurse Sessions Start
26	Y9 Colar Rail Workshop
26	EBACC Evening
27	Y9 Colar Rail Workshop



Christmas music and drama Showcase

On December the 11th friends, family and staff gathered to watch the students at Harris Academy take part in our annual Christmas Showcase.

We then had a mixture of Harris talent, including our Harris band, dance group, solo and group performances, and instrumentals. The pantomime piece of the Beauty and the Beast was a great success. Thank you to all those who came to support the students, and the staff who volunteered to help.



Harris C of E Academy whole school summer production 2026 is...



Audition dates

Lead characters, support characters, school children and ensemble – Tuesday January 6th – DS1 3.30pm-5PM

Dancers – Wednesday January 7th – DS1 1.20PM

Call backs – Thursday January 8th – DS1 1.20PM

Cast announcement (list on door of DS1) – Friday January 9th - DS1 3.30PM

Rehearsals for the show will be **EVERY** Tuesday 3.30-5pm from Tuesday 13th of January

Performance days are Tuesday July 14th and Thursday July 16th – after school

The Art Department's Christmas Hope Hall Display 2025

This year we mixed traditional with contemporary, having bold and colourful presents to brighten up Hope Hall all labelled with traditional Christian quotes, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

The students brought in empty plastic bottles which we then spray-painted sparkly silver and cut into spirals, giving them a new life as shimmering icicles hanging down from the presents.

For artistic fun we added a chimney each side, showing Santa and his elves haphazardly delivering their gifts.

As a department we had a lot of fun creating this, thank you to all the students who brought in supplies and helped. We wish a very 'Merry Christmas' to Harris students and parents from all of us in the Harris Academy art department!



GCSE Students' Trip to Birmingham Art Galleries

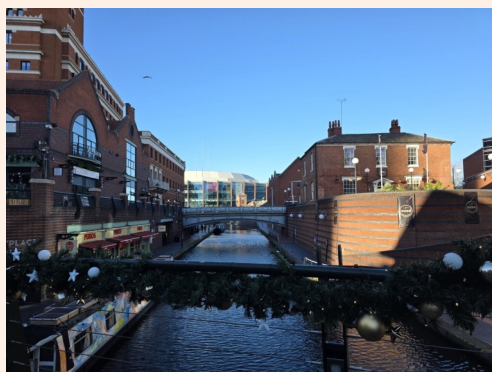
On 25th of November 35 GCSE Art students took a trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, taking in the artwork.

We then took a photo walking tour, taking in sites such as Birmingham Rep, Centenary Square, Birmingham library and Broad Street. In each site we asked the students to take photographs observing textures, reflection, light and symmetry, these will form part of their GCSE portfolios and can be used as stimuli for future works.

We then visited the Ikon gallery in Brindley Place. Ikon was set up to encourage the public to engage in contemporary art. Here we viewed the work of Donald Locke and his exhibition Resistant Forms. The exhibition explores the development of his work across Guyana, the UK and the United States over five decades, from the late 1960s to the early 2000s. It featured over eighty works, from early ceramics that evoke human and natural forms to mixed-media sculptures and monochromatic black paintings from the 1970s.

The students enjoyed the day and brought back fresh ideas and inspirations from the trip for their own work.

Art



Sports Success

At the start of December, eleven of our dedicated Year 9 leaders stepped up to support the Year 7 and Year 8 athletics teams and they were fantastic. Their organisation, enthusiasm, and encouragement helped create a positive atmosphere for all students involved, including those visiting from other schools. Their maturity and teamwork were evident throughout the day, and they played a key role in ensuring events ran smoothly.

Our Year 7 team, made up of eight keen and determined girls, gave their absolute best in every event. Their hard work and commitment paid off as they finished an impressive 2nd overall.

The Year 8 team also demonstrated outstanding effort, showing 100% dedication in each event they competed in. Their persistence and teamwork led them to a well-deserved 1st place finish.

Well done to all students involved, the athletes for their brilliant performances and the Year 9 leaders for representing the school with pride.



English Trip to Macbeth

A group of our year 11 students participated in a 'Macbeth' workshop at the RSC in Stratford-Upon-Avon on the 8th December. They worked directly with a professional RSC actor on a variety of scenes from the play and engaged in discussions around key themes and ideas in Shakespeare's tragedy. The students did a fantastic job and engaged fully in the activities, helping them to revise for their exams and have fun at the same time!



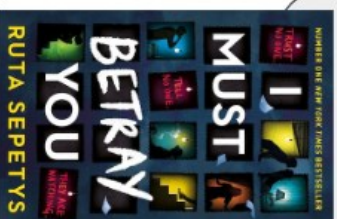
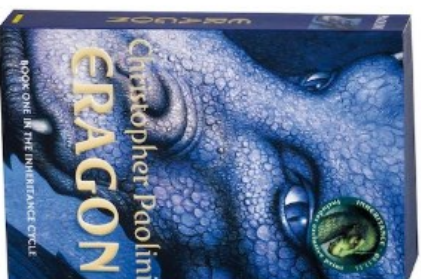
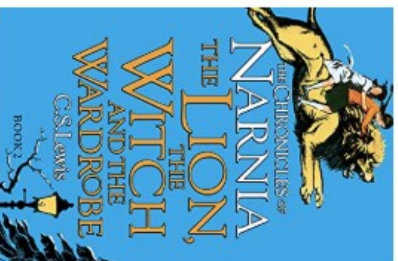
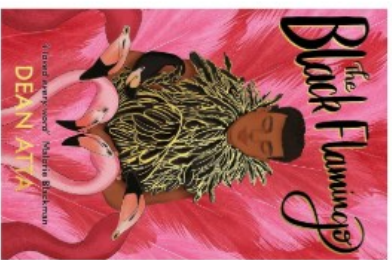
Harris 50 Reading Challenge



Congratulations to all the students who have all completed the first 10 reads of the Harris 50 reading challenge. All have earned their Bronze award certificate and a pin badge to wear with pride for their reading achievements.

Anyone interested in taking part, see Mrs Parmar in the library!

We are updating our reading lists each year to encourage as many students as possible to take part and now have separate Key Stage 3 and 4 lists. We would love as many students as possible to engage in this reading challenge and earn their certificates and badges.



Interfaith Week 2026

We were delighted to welcome two academics from the prestigious Woolf Institute, Cambridge, to support our pupils during Interfaith Week. They led fascinating sessions exploring The Role of Marriage in Faith Communities and Different Perceptions of Head Coverings for Women, encouraging pupils to think deeply about how faith and culture shape personal and collective identity.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the lively discussions, interactive group work, and bespoke video resources that enriched their understanding of these thought provoking topics. We are proud to see our partnership with the Woolf Institute continue to grow, and we look forward to hosting their upcoming workshops in the summer term.



Harris Academy were very pleased to be able to secure an exhibition of Jewish Artefacts and banners produced by the Board of Jewish Deputies called the "Jewish Living Experience Exhibition".

Through the JLEE, pupils and teachers learnt about Judaism through 15 beautifully illustrated display panels, authentic artefacts and educational activities which promote experiential learning.

Class teachers took their pupils during lesson times to complete quizzes on the artefacts and banners, with the lunchtime club holding a Bingo competition every day. It helped boost our knowledge of Judaism, especially the GCSE classes.

Thank you to Ms Parmer, the librarian for her support.



Successes—Christmas Appeal—Samaritan's Purse

We are delighted to have supported Samaritan's Purse once again with their Operation Christmas Child initiative this year. This charitable project provides an opportunity for our school community to extend kindness beyond our local area and share the joy of Christmas with children across the world.

With great enthusiasm, form tutors and pupils came together to collect and pack a wonderful variety of gifts — from mini rugby balls and cuddly toys to school stationery, hygiene items, and small games — all carefully chosen to bring a smile to a child's face. It was heartwarming to see pupils taking such care in selecting their items and writing thoughtful Christmas messages to include in the boxes.

In total, over 65 boxes were created for boys and girls of varying ages. Each one represents the generosity and compassion that lies at the heart of our school's Christian ethos, reminding us all of the importance of giving and global unity at Christmastime.

A huge thank you to all members of staff who helped promote and support this initiative, and a special mention to Mrs Bostock for her wonderful coordination and encouragement throughout the project. Together, we have helped spread the joy and spirit of Christmas far beyond our own community.



Successes—Harris Helps

At the beginning of December we held another version of Harris Helps, this was aimed at supporting members of our community during the festive season.

At Harris, our motto is “whilst we have time let us do good to all,” and living by this value is extremely important to us. In keeping with this spirit, we are proud to announce the Harris Helps programme was another success. It was designed to assist those families who may be facing financial difficulties this Christmas, or be deserving of an additional gift.

We are very proud of our school community and your generosity in previous years with this programme, and to see the same again this year was wonderful.

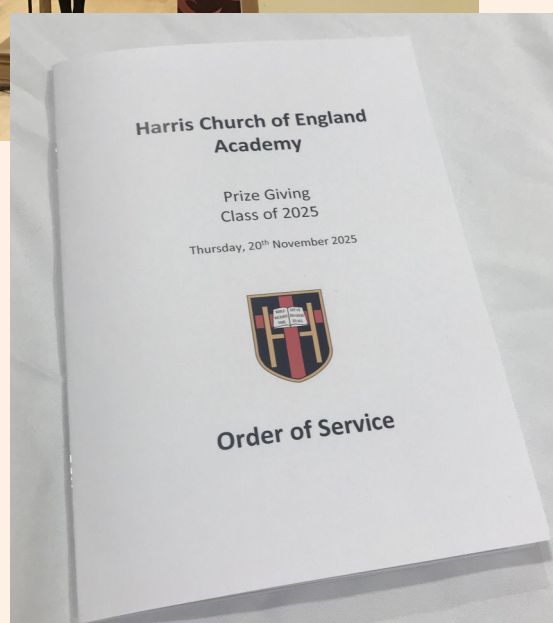
Thank you.



Prize Giving

On Thursday 20th November, we welcomed back our class of 2025 to celebrate their fantastic achievements over their time at Harris. It was wonderful to see the students and catch up on how they are doing in their post-16 settings.

As well as receiving awards, prizes and their GCSE certificates the students listened to a talk from ex-Ashlawn student Lucy Day. Lucy is currently juggling her A-level studies with a blossoming football career. She recounted her journey to represent England at youth level and her recent debut for both West Brom and Birmingham City ladies team. We look forward to hearing more great things about Lucy and other members of our Harris Family.



Harris Christmas Card Competition 2025

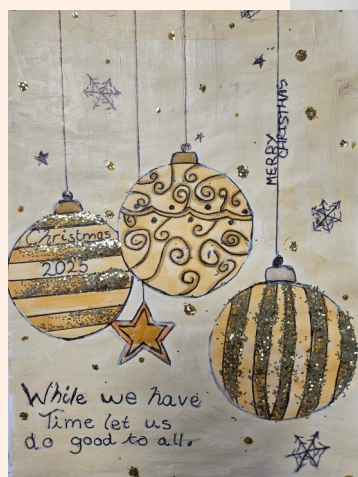
Congratulations to Olivia W, who won the 2025 Christmas card competition.

Her beautiful water colour painting of a festive bunny with the Harris Academy motto 'whilst we have time let us do good to all' was chosen as it incorporated traditional Christmas art with our Christian message.

We had so many entries from all year groups, using several art mediums and techniques.

Well done to everyone who entered.

Successes



Successes

“Your school is such a joy and your staff and students are wonderful. You and the team have built a Harris community where students feel known and that they belong. The students were really enthusiastic about that. Every Year 11 lesson that I visited was calm and purposeful with skilled staff supporting dedicated students. That is not easy to do, and you have together created a real family where children can grow and be nurtured and become who they were made to be.”

Rev'd April Gold - Diocesan Director of Education



HARRIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



NEXT STEPS

Career guidance sessions are taking place for all Y10 students. Support for application to sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships are available for Y11 students in the Library – drop-in sessions every Monday lunchtime.

Work experience has been launched with parents and Y10 students receiving their information packs. Students are to secure their placement as soon as possible. Placements are to be added on to UNIFROG in the placement tool where all the necessary forms to the employer and school will be generated.



WORK EXPERIENCE 18th MAY – 22ND
MAY
SUPPORT –
Careers@harris.covmat.org
Mrs Ellwood



Engaging parents and careers with new parent accounts.

See their child's tasks and upcoming events, and try student tools for themselves

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



HARRIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



NEXT STEPS

Events
2026

EMPLOYER ASSEMBLIES TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

CAREER DETECTIVES Y7

POST 16 PATHWAYS ASSEMBLIES

WARWICKSHIRE SKILLS SHOW Y9





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.



Why is school attendance so important?

Attending school **regularly** helps to build **confidence** and develop vital **life skills**



School is the **key** to **future success!**



Missing **2 days** of school each month = Missing **3 weeks** nearly during a school year



15 minutes late every day = **two weeks** of learning lost each school year



Data shows pupils with more than **95% attendance** Achieve better GCSE results! **at least one grade higher!**



Even **90% attendance** is still 19 days of education lost in a school year



ATTEND! AIM HIGH! ACHIEVE!

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



Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100% 99%	190 188 Days	0 2	0 10
Good	98% 97% 96%	186 Days 184 Days 182.5 Days	4 6 7.5	20 30 37.5
Cause for concern	95% 94% 93% 92% 91%	180.5 Days 179 Days 177 Days 175 Days 173 Days	9.5 11 13 15 17	47.5 55 65 75 85
Unsatisfactory	90% 89% 88% 87%	171 Days 169 Days 167 Days 165 Days	19 21 23 25	95 105 115 125
Serious cause For concern	86%	163 Days	27	135
Critical	85% 84% 83% 82% 81% 80%	161.5 Days 159.5 Days 158 Days 156 Days 154 Days 152 Days	28.5 30.5 32 34 36 38	142.5 152.5 160 170 180 190



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Good attendance means being in school at least **94% of the time or 180-190 days.**
Did you know? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.5%.



Regular attendance is vital for success both at school and in the workplace. Good attendance constitutes above 95%.



EQUATES TO:



ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES

90% in a test is a good score; 90% attendance *isn't* – it's the same as having nearly 4 weeks off school in a year! The impact of attendance on GCSE grades is stark.



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

Premises & Operations 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 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.

Staffing

A big farewell to Mrs Hummel and Mrs Gare , whom after over 10 years here at Harris, they are off onto new ventures. We wish them the best of luck.

