

Harris Church of England Academy

Autumn Term 1, October 2025

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As we approach the end of a busy half term, I'm delighted to share some highlights and important updates from across our school.

We've had an incredibly exciting start to the term, beginning with welcoming our new Year 7 students and experiencing some remarkable moments. The Outdoor Education Company returned, delivering an exceptional day of climbing wall sessions that challenged and inspired our students.

Our PE department has been particularly dynamic, with many fixtures and achievements across all year groups, including Y11 winning the netball league. The energy and commitment of our students continue to impress me.

I'm especially proud to celebrate two recent outstanding events. The Rugby Interschool Art Exhibition's opening night on 9th September was a tremendous success, drawing over 300 visitors to Rugby Art Gallery and Museum. It was a wonderful celebration of young people's creativity across our town.

On Friday 10th October, our school field became a beacon of community spirit during the Race for the Kids event. Students from Years 7, 8, and 9 enthusiastically participated, running or walking 2km or 5km to support Great Ormond Street Hospital. With beautiful sunshine and incredible enthusiasm, our students demonstrated their compassion and commitment to making a difference.

Looking ahead, we have several important dates and initiatives to highlight. We're excited to be enrolling a record number of students for Duke of Edinburgh's Award at both Bronze and Silver levels this year.

We're also preparing for Anti-Bullying Week from 10th–14th November, which promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking period for our school community. Additionally, we'll be holding our Remembrance Day service on 11th November, a poignant moment of reflection and respect.

These experiences and opportunities continue to define the rich, supportive learning environment we strive to create at Harris Church of England Academy.

God Bless

Mrs R Harrison



Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable

Term Dates 2025/2026

Training Day	24 th October 2025		
Autumn Term 2	3 rd November 2025	To	19 th December 2025
Training Day	5 th January 2026		
Spring Term 1	6 th January 2026	To	13 th February 2026
Training Day	23 rd 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	4 th May 2026		

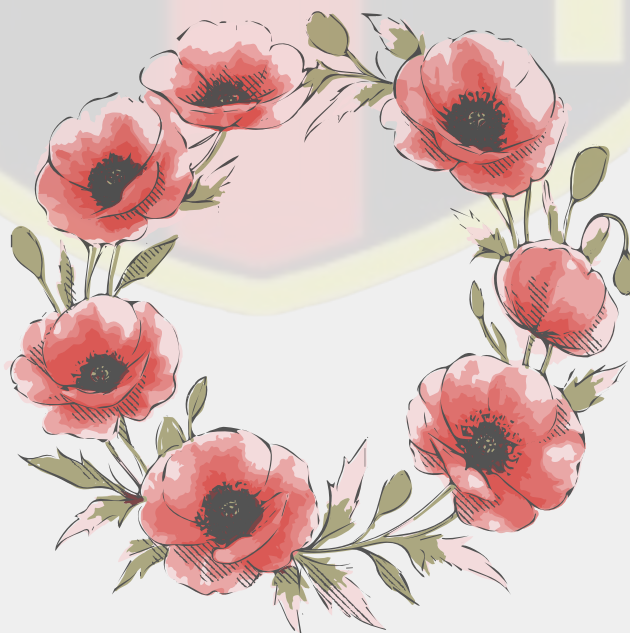


Forthcoming Events

	November		December
3-28	Y11 Assessments	1/12	Y9 Assessments
3 -14	Y7 Assessments	4/5	Y11 Mock Interviews
3	Chromebook Handover Evening	4	Y11 SPRs
4	Gailford Try Mentoring - Selected Y10 Girls	4	Y11 Parents Evening
10	Anti-Bullying Week	8	Y11 Macbeth Workshop Trip
10	Interfaith Week	9	Harris Helps Event
11	Remembrance Day Service	9	Y7 Space Centre Trip
11	National School & College Leavers Festival Y10	9	SEND Coffee Afternoon 4pm-5pm
13	Y8 Capital One Employability Skills Workshop (Selected students)	11	Christmas Showcase
13	Y8 SPRs	15	Christmas Service
14	Y9 Loudmouth Safe & Sound	16	Y7 Celebration Assembly
17	English National Opera Visit	16	Y8 Celebration Assembly
20	Colas Rail Apprenticeship Assembly Y11	17	Y9 Celebration Assembly
20	Prize Giving	17	EKFB Workshop Y8 Girls
24	Y11 Art Trip (Selected students)	18	Y10 Celebration Assembly
27	Warwickshire College Assembly Y11	18	Y11 Celebration Assembly
27	Y7 SPRs	19	Reward Trip
27	Y7 Parents Evening		

Hope Hall Poppy Display 2025

This year's poppy display for Hope Hall was made by all the KS3 students at Harris. Poppies were individually cut out and decorated by students, making them as colourful or as traditional as they wanted. The display features over 1000 poppies which were then arranged to make the famous phrase 'Lest We Forget.' The display takes a prominent place in Hope Hall, so students can remember and reflect on the sacrifices made in both world wars.



Rugby Interschool Art Exhibition Opening Night Success

The opening night of the Rugby Interschool Art Exhibition on the 9th of September was a fantastic success, with over 300 visitors coming through the doors of Rugby Art Gallery and Museum to celebrate the creativity of young people across the town.

Hosted by Harris Church of England Academy the exhibition brings together work from students at all nine of Rugby's secondary schools: Lawrence Sheriff, Bilton, Houlton, Rugby Free, Rugby School, Rugby High, Avon Valley, Harris Church of England Academy, and Ashlawn. The displays feature a wide range of artwork from KS3, GCSE, and A Level students, from expressive paintings and observational drawings to experimental mixed media and design.

Kirsten Finnemore The Head of art at Harris said:

"I'm incredibly proud to have brought this exhibition together, and I'm so grateful to all the teachers and students who contributed. It's vital that we continue to celebrate and champion the arts in education, and I hope this exhibition shines a light on just how much creativity is thriving in our classrooms."



Students Step Up for Great Ormond Street Hospital in Race for the Kids

On Friday 10th October, the school field came alive with energy and enthusiasm as students from Years 7, 8, and 9 took part in the Race for the Kids event, proudly supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital. With the sun shining and spirits high, students were released from their period 5 lessons to run or walk either 2km or 5km — all in the name of charity.

The event saw an incredible turnout, with many students going above and beyond the 5km goal, completing more than 10 laps of the school field within the time. It was a joyful sight: smiling faces, supportive cheers, and a shared sense of purpose filled the air as students moved together for a cause that touches many lives.

Great Ormond Street Hospital is currently raising funds to build a dedicated children's cancer unit, and our school community was proud to contribute. With entry fees and sponsorships still being collected, we hope our efforts will make a meaningful difference in helping the hospital reach its goal.

A huge thank you to all the students and staff who took part and supported the event. Your energy, compassion, and commitment truly made this a day to remember.

We're also incredibly grateful by the generosity of our community — parents have already raised over £1000 through the [fundraising page](#) alone, and that's not including the £1 entry donations from our amazing runners! Once all donations have been added together we expect to have raised well over £1400 to support the building of the Children's Cancer Unit. Your support is making a real difference, and we couldn't be more thankful. You can see more of what your donations are working to build [here](#).

The screenshot shows the fundraising page for Harris CofE Academy's participation in the RBC Race for the Kids at School 2025. The page features the RBC logo, the Race for the Kids logo, and the Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity logo. A navigation bar includes links for 'Join us', 'Leaderboards', 'FAQs', 'Contact us', 'Register', and 'Donate'. The main content area displays the Harris CofE Academy logo, which is a shield with a cross and the letters 'H' and 'C'. Below the logo are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. A large blue box on the right side of the page shows the fundraising progress: 'Please help me reach my goal', 'Raised £1,087', 'My Goal £500', and a progress bar. The text 'Goal! You're amazing!' is visible at the bottom of the progress bar.



Climbing Confidence: A Day of Challenge and Growth

This term, we were thrilled to welcome back The Outdoor Education Company for a special day of climbing wall sessions that left a lasting impact on our students. Building on the success of their involvement in our previous enrichment days, the company generously offered to return in September—completely free of charge—after being so impressed by the enthusiasm and progress of our students last time.

Across five hour-long sessions, 36 students from Years 7 to 10 took part in an unforgettable experience that was about much more than just climbing. The day was designed to help students build confidence, face and overcome anxiety, and develop resilience through an activity that naturally brings a sense of fear—but also the incredible reward of overcoming it.

Whether it was a student reaching the top for the first time or simply stepping onto the wall despite nerves, every participant showed courage and determination. The supportive environment created by The Outdoor Education Company, combined with the encouragement from peers and staff, made it a truly empowering day for all involved.

We're incredibly proud of the students who took part and grateful to The Outdoor Education Company for their continued partnership. We look forward to welcoming them back again soon for more opportunities to challenge and inspire our young people.





PE Department Update – A Fantastic Half Term of Sport!

It has been a busy and exciting half term for the PE department, with an impressive number of fixtures and achievements across all year groups.

Over the past few weeks, our students have represented the school in 50 fixtures – a remarkable effort! The girls' teams have played in 20 football and netball fixtures, showing great determination and teamwork throughout. The boys' football teams have been equally active, taking part in 30 fixtures across the half term.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 girls' netball team, who finished their season in style with an incredible 20–0 victory over Ashlawn, securing the league title. Their commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship have been outstanding – a huge congratulations to all involved!

In other exciting news, the PE department has welcomed the arrival of Pickleball equipment – a brand-new sport for Harris. Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, and we can't wait to introduce this fun and fast-paced game into the curriculum next half term.

Basketball continues to be a lunchtime favourite, with the sports hall filled daily by 30–40 students from all year groups enjoying friendly but competitive games. The enthusiasm and energy on display have been fantastic to see.

Looking ahead, next half term marks the start of the boys' basketball season, and we're looking forward to another set of exciting fixtures and great performances from our teams.

A huge thank you to all students for their effort and enthusiasm, and to parents for your continued support of school sport. It's been a brilliant half term – here's to even more success in the next one!



Year 7 Students Shine at Leicester Touch Rugby Festival

On the 3rd October, 11 of our Year 7 students travelled to **Leicester Forest RFC** to take part in an exciting **Touch Rugby Festival**. The event was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to develop their rugby skills, learn new rules, and experience competitive play in a fun and supportive environment.

The day began with a series of skill and drill sessions, where students practised passing, movement, and teamwork to get used to the rules of touch rugby. Despite the wet and rainy weather, spirits were high, and enthusiasm never wavered.

After the warm-up activities, our team played matches against two other schools, demonstrating great determination, sportsmanship, and teamwork throughout. Every player gave their best effort, showing improvement and confidence as the games progressed.

Overall, it was a fantastic day of sport and learning. The students represented the school brilliantly and returned home tired, muddy, but full of smiles.

Well done to all our Year 7 players for their effort and positivity – we're proud of you!



Harris Sports Leaders Support Local Primary Rugby Festivals

This term, Harris sports leaders proudly supported two local primary school tag rugby festivals, making a positive impact on hundreds of young players.

At the first festival, 140 year 3 pupils joined in the fun, while 186 Year 6 pupils took part in their own festival. On the second day, 497 year 3 pupils joined in the fun, while 503 Year 6 pupils took part. Our leaders played a key role in coaching, supporting, and encouraging the younger players, and also helped officiate matches for the older group.

The feedback from attending primary school staff was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the Harris students for their professionalism, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire confidence in the young athletes. Our leaders have once again proven themselves to be excellent ambassadors for Harris.

We are incredibly proud of the way our sports leaders have represented the school, demonstrating leadership, teamwork, and a genuine commitment to community engagement.



DofE Enrolment Update – Record Numbers for Bronze and Silver!

We're almost ready to enrol our new cohort of Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants, and it looks like we're on track for record numbers in both Bronze and Silver levels at Harris this year!

To make sure that every student has the chance to take part, we've decided to delay enrolment until immediately after half term. Some parents experienced issues paying the deposit via Wisepay, and we didn't want anyone to miss out on this fantastic opportunity.

The extra time gives all participants a great opportunity over the half term to finalise their programme ideas and secure an assessor. Students should aim to have a clear plan for each of the three DofE sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills

Students have already attended an initial meeting to understand what activities can count for each section, but further inspiration and guidance can be found at the following link: [Programme Ideas](#)

Half term is also a good time for participants to download the DofE app from the app store at home so that they're ready to get started when we return to school.

Finally, a reminder to those Bronze participants continuing to Silver – please try to complete your remaining Bronze sections. Doing so will reduce the timescale for your Silver volunteering section and make your transition much smoother.

We're really looking forward to another exciting and successful year of DofE at Harris – and to seeing our students develop their skills, resilience, and confidence through the programme!



**HARRIS CHURCH OF
ENGLAND ACADEMY**