Harris Church of England Academy

Autumn Term 1, October 2026 **www.harris.covmat.org**

Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable

If you haven't had a chance to see our recent Ofsted results, you can find it here: https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/140371

As we move through the autumn term, I am always struck by the range of experiences our students enjoy beyond the classroom. Recently, there has been a great deal to celebrate, and I am pleased to share some highlights with you.
Students and staff took part in Restart a Heart CPR training, learning life-saving skills that could make a real difference in an emergency. It is a valuable reminder of how much we can do to look after one another.
Our young artists also shared their work with the wider community. Rugby schools came together for an art exhibition at Rugby Art Gallery, and it was wonderful to see our students represented alongside their peers. Some of our Year 11 students travelled to Rugby School to see a performance of *Animal Farm*.
Congratulations to everyone who has been cast in *The Wizard of Oz*. We look forward to seeing the production come to life.
Our curiosity for the wider world has continued to grow. We marked A Day of German-British Cultural Exchange, thank you Mrs Anstruther for facilitating this. Our Year 8 students visited Capital HQ, and Year 10 students attended a National Manufacturing Day visit to Lisi Aerospace, giving them an insight into the industries that may shape their future.
In Food Technology, our Year 7 students created Apple Swans, combining creativity with practical skill. Our Harris SSP Annual Tag Rugby Festival also brought teams together for a day of competitive and enjoyable sport.
I would also like to celebrate two notable successes. Our MacMillan Coffee Morning raised an excellent £240 in support of people affected by cancer. Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed.
Our Open Evening for the Year 7 intake of 2027 was also a great success, and we were delighted to welcome so many prospective families to see what makes Harris Church of England Academy special.
Thank you to everyone who continues to support our students in these ways. Their achievements are a credit to them and to our whole school community.

R Harrison
Head Teacher



Information

Term Dates 2026 / 2027

Autumn Term 2	2nd November 2026	To	18th December 2026
Training Day	4th January 2027		
Spring Term 1	5th January 2027	To	12th February 2027
Training Day	22nd February 2027		
Spring Term 2	23rd February 2027	To	25th March 2027
Summer Term 1	12th April 2027	To	28th May 2027
Summer Term 2	7th June 2027	To	16th July 2027
Additional Days When School is Closed:			
Bank Holiday	3rd May 2027		



Forthcoming Events

	November		December
2-13	Y7 Assessments	1-11	Y9 Assessments
9-27	Y11 Assessments	3	Christmas Showcase
30	Y9 Assessments	8	SEND Coffee Afternoon 4-5pm
6	Y7 Loudmouth A Step Too Far	8	Harris Helps Event
9-13	Interfaith Week	9	Y11 Mock Interviews
11	Remembrance Day Service	9	Y11 SPRs
12	Y8 SPRs	10	Y11 Parents Evening
12	Y8 Capital One Trip	14	Christmas Carrol Service
12	Wago Assembly – Mock Interview Prep Y11	15	Y7 Celebration Assembly
17	Kantar Assembly Y9	15	Y9 Celebration Assembly
19	Prize Giving	16	Y10 Celebration Assembly
19	Moulton College Assembly Y11	16	Moulton College Trip Y10/11
24	National School & College Leavers Fair Y11	17	Y8 Celebration Assembly
26	Warwickshire College Assembly Y11	17	Y11 Celebration Assembly
26	Y7 SPRs	18	Whole School Trip
26	Y7 Parents Evening		



Restart a Heart CPR training

This week, all students and staff across the school participated in **Restart a Heart CPR training**, a national initiative in collaboration with the Ambulance Service, British Heart Foundation and Resuscitation Council designed to equip young people with the knowledge and skills required to respond effectively in a life-threatening emergency.

During the session, pupils and staff learned how to recognise the signs of cardiac arrest, call for emergency assistance, and administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). They also gained an understanding of the role of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and how these devices can significantly improve survival outcomes when used promptly and appropriately.

The importance of CPR training cannot be overstated. In cases of sudden cardiac arrest, immediate intervention by a bystander can greatly increase a person's chances of survival before emergency services arrive. By developing these practical skills, our students are better prepared to respond confidently and responsibly should they ever encounter such a situation.

As a school, we are committed to providing opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. Restart a Heart Day not only provided valuable life-saving skills but also encouraged students to appreciate the positive impact they can have within their communities.

We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm, maturity and engagement demonstrated by all those who took part. Through this training, our school community has taken an important step towards ensuring that more people are equipped with the confidence and capability to act when every second matters.

Thankyou to all staff and students who took part in making this important event such a success.



Rugby Schools Come Together for Art Exhibition at Rugby Art Gallery

Young artists from across Rugby and Harris Academy have been given the chance to see their work displayed in a professional gallery as part of a special exhibition celebrating creativity in the town's schools.

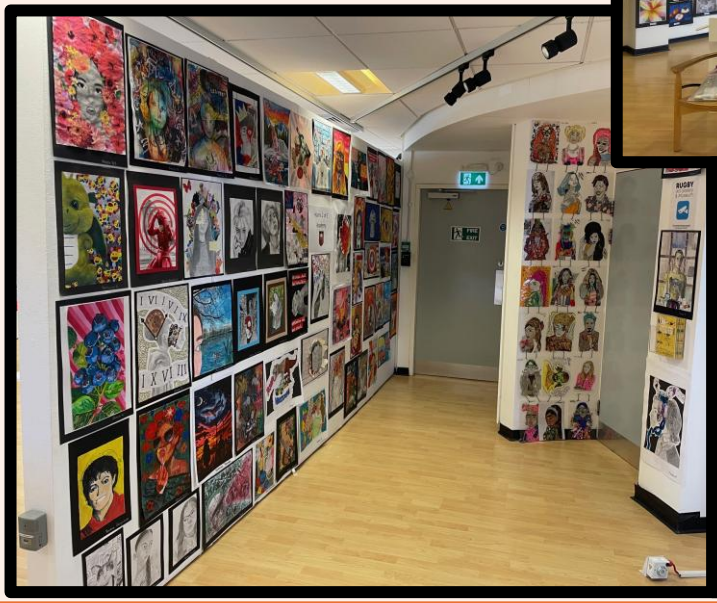
Organised by Head of Art Kirsten Finnemore and hosted at Rugby Art Gallery, the exhibition has been created to showcase the huge variety of artwork being produced by young people locally and gave students the opportunity to have their work seen and celebrated outside of the classroom.

The exhibition was open to the public at Rugby Art Gallery from Tuesday 22 September until Thursday 1 October.

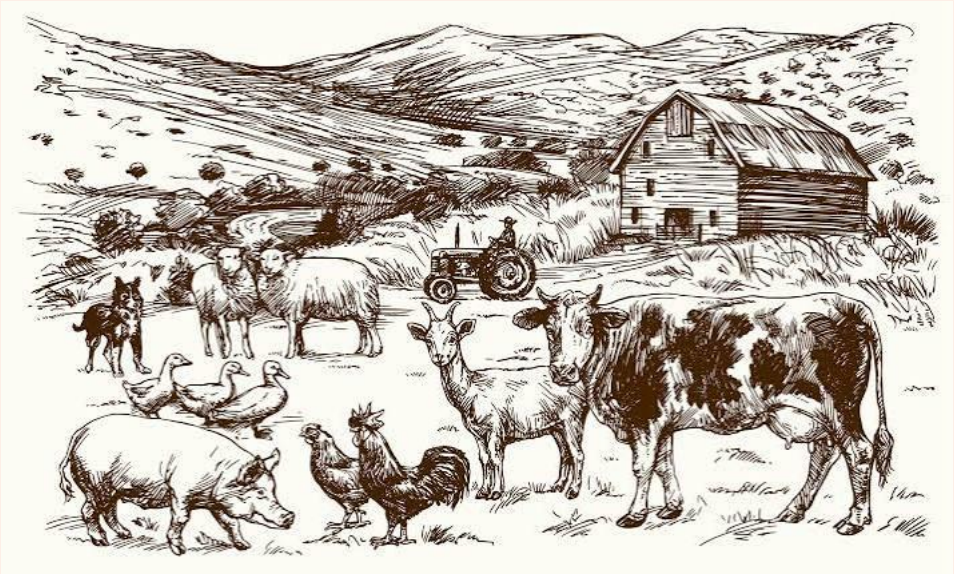




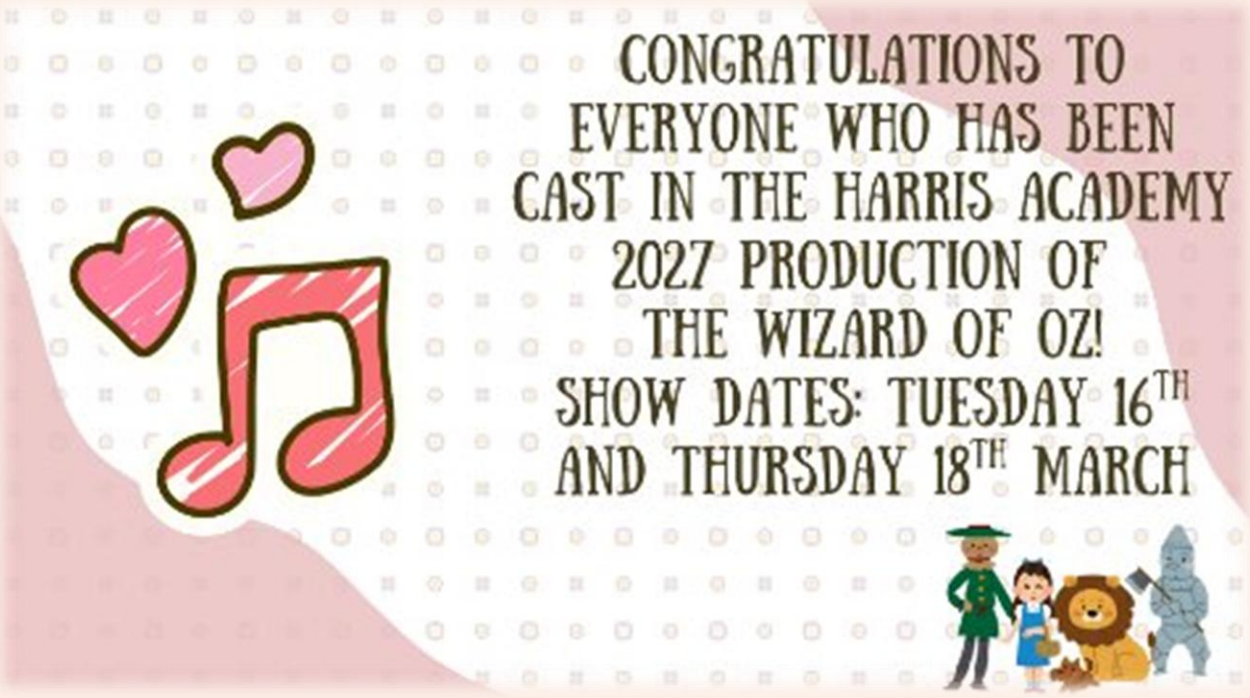








A small group of Y11s went to see a production of 'Animal Farm' at Rugby school which was a one-man physical theatre adaptation of the novel and was an impressive display of characterisation and physicality.



A Day of German-British Cultural Exchange

On Wednesday 7 October the MFL department was delighted to welcome a group of students and teachers from our partner school Gymnasium Carolinum in Osnabrück, Germany, for a special day of cultural exchange.

Our visitors were given the chance to experience a typical day at Harris, meeting students and staff and getting involved in a range of activities, lessons and sporting events.

The day began with a warm welcome from members of the Senior Leadership Team, followed by a Q&A session with some of our Year 9 German students. They then enjoyed a tour of the school before meeting their Harris student partners.

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity for the German students to join lessons alongside our pupils. They experienced a Year 10 Science lesson and a Year 11 Religious Studies lesson, giving them a fascinating insight into what school life is like in the UK.

During lunchtime, the visiting students spent time with their Harris partners, giving everyone the chance to chat, share experiences and practise their language skills. The afternoon continued with a lively netball session alongside Year 10 students, where the two groups worked together and enjoyed some friendly competition.

Visits such as this are a fantastic way for our students to develop their confidence in using languages in a real-life setting, while learning about another culture and making new international connections and friendships.

It was wonderful to see our students welcoming their German visitors so enthusiastically and sharing their school and British culture with them.

We hope this partnership with Gymnasium Carolinum in Osnabrück will continue for many more years, creating further opportunities for students to learn from one another and experience life in each other's schools.







Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to all the staff, pupils, and parents who donated delicious cakes for our annual Macmillan Cake Sale.
It was a bustling, lively break time filled with incredible Harris community spirit and plenty of sweet treats. Thanks to the overwhelming volume of wonderful donations, we had more than enough goodies to keep the stall running right through break and lunchtime!



A special shout-out goes to our fantastic pupil helpers, whose efficient teamwork, energy, and enthusiasm kept the queues moving quickly and the cakes flowing.
We are delighted to announce that through everyone's support and generosity, we raised a fantastic total of £240 for Macmillan Cancer Support, helping to fund vital care for those who need it most.
Thank you once again to everyone!

Capital HQ Visit

Y8 students visited the Capital headquarters, where they gained an insight into how the credit card industry operates. During the visit, they took part in a competition to design and present ideas for future payment systems. The winning team received Amazon vouchers for their innovative presentation. Students also learned about the wide range of career opportunities available within a credit card company and gained valuable knowledge about the skills and roles required in the industry.





National Manufacturing day.

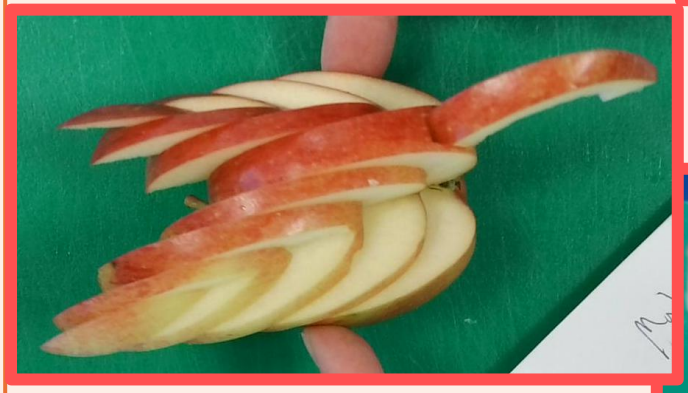
Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit **LISI Aerospace**, where they learned about the world of manufacturing and the diverse career opportunities available within the company, including apprenticeships and engineering roles. The visit included a tour of the facility, giving students a firsthand look at cutting-edge robotics and manufacturing processes in action.







Knife skills lesson with year 7 Food Tech who made Apple Swans







46 sports leaders supported the **Harris SSP Annual Tag Rugby Festivals** on Friday 9th October. The event was held at St Andrews RFC and our leaders delivered skills activity sessions to 385 year 3 pupils in the morning, and refereed touch rugby games for 401 year 6 pupils in the afternoon. The weather was autumnal and rather soggy in the afternoon - well done to our students for their resilience and hard work!



Information

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 <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
    - <u>First Leave of Absence offence:</u> The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
    - <u>Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> 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 <u>(from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> 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.

Information

We kindly ask drivers not to use Harris Drive for drop-offs or pick-ups. This road is strictly for property access and coming onto the site — thank you for respecting our neighbours

