

# Harris Primary Academies • Magazine

Issue 1 • Winter 2013



## Welcome

Welcome to the first ever edition of this magazine, which is for the pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends of the Harris Primary Academies.

There is a lot of news and information, so I will keep my message brief – but I would really like to thank the pupils and staff at our Academies for a fantastic Autumn Term.

There have been countless activities, trips and events and there has been a lot of fun and excitement inside the classroom too. I have spent time in at least one Harris Primary Academy, usually more, on each day of the Autumn Term and have been greatly pleased and impressed to see children so motivated by their learning.

We were delighted this term to hear that our Academies open last year received a truly outstanding set of results, with very solid progress made. Congratulations and well done to everybody involved.

I am looking forward to spending Christmas at home in Bromley with my family. After a very busy Autumn Term, I hope that you and your families have an enjoyable and restful break too.

With all my best wishes for a happy 2014.

**Sir Robin Boshier**  
Director of Primary Education at Harris

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# Welcoming six new Academies

With six new Harris Junior and Primary Academies opening in September 2013, we grew from five schools to eleven.

The new schools are:

- Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace and Harris Primary Academy Kent House – both in Bromley
- Harris Primary Academy Benson and Harris Primary Academy Kenley – both in Croydon
- Harris Junior Academy Carshalton in the London Borough of Sutton
- Chobham Academy in London's East Village, the area known as the Athletes' Village during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A warm welcome to the pupils, parents and staff from these schools. They join five other Harris Primary Academies:

- Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park and Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane. These two schools opened in Haringey in September 2012
- Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred, which opened in Thurrock in September 2012
- Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park, which opened in September 2011, and Harris Primary Free School Peckham which opened in September 2012. Both are in Southwark.

We have recruited eight senior and experienced advisory teachers to support our Primary Academies, led by Sir Robin Boshier. All of them have experience of working in or leading outstanding primary schools.

Their role is to support our Academies with the improvement taking place, for example by helping to give teachers the training they need. You can read more about two of our Primary team members on page nine.

## OPENED SEPTEMBER 2011



- 1 Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

## OPENED SEPTEMBER 2012



- 2 Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred
- 3 Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park
- 4 Harris Primary Free School Peckham
- 5 Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane

## OPENED SEPTEMBER 2013



- 6 Harris Primary Academy Benson
- 7 Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace
- 8 Harris Primary Academy Kent House
- 9 Harris Primary Academy Kenley
- 10 Harris Junior Academy Carshalton
- 11 Chobham Academy

# News from our Academies

As you would expect, it has been a busy term with lots of exciting activities for the pupils in every Harris Academy.

## Officially Open!



All of the new Harris Primary Academies will be holding special events to celebrate. First up was Harris Primary Academy Benson, which held its official opening ceremony on Friday 15th November 2013.

The event began in morning assembly with a performance of 'Power in Me' by pupils in the school. All the guests agreed that their singing was superb!

Remy and Reece from Year 6 unveiled a commemorative plaque and the assembly concluded with another of the Academy's favourite songs, 'Roar' by Katy Perry.

Guests including Lord Harris of Peckham were then taken on tours around the Academy.

Ms Becki Williams, Principal of the Academy, said:

**"I cannot put into words how proud I felt as the children confidently showed our guests around. Visitor after visitor paid numerous well-deserved compliments to the children and me about how well they thought they were doing. It was a wonderful end to another busy week!"**

Harris Primary Academy Kent House held its opening ceremony a week later. Harris Primary Academy Kenley, Crystal Palace and Carshalton have theirs to look forward to in January and February next year.

## West End Debut



Children at Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane took to the West End stage in November for a performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

The standard was fantastic. Our special thanks go to Ms Dunne, a Vice Principal at Philip Lane, and Michelle Butterfly, a visiting actress with the Royal Shakespeare Company, who prepared the children so well.

The performance was part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, a truly excellent initiative.

Turn to page ten to read their Trustee's fabulous comment about the performance.

## Junior Citizen Day



Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace hosted Junior Citizenship Week, which seven local Schools including Harris Primary Academy Kent House participated in.

The scheme is for Year 6 pupils, who took part in workshops including road and fire safety, learning CPR and being safe around train tracks. The workshops were hands on and incredibly beneficial.

# News from our Academies

## Brand New Academy in the Olympic Village



Monday 9th September 2013 was the opening day for Chobham Academy, a brand new all-through school for children aged 3–18.



Its buildings, in the area now known as East Village, were used as the centre of operations during the Olympics. Many world class athletes and coaches left good luck messages for the children in a Visitors' Book during summer 2012.

Chobham Primary, which currently has just 96 children, will fill to 360 by April as new families move into East Village. The children went out exploring the Olympic Village in their first week and are immensely proud of their new Academy.

Being part of an all-through Academy means pupils have access to wonderful facilities, such as tennis courts, food technology rooms and a theatre.

Charity, in Year 4 Thistle Class sums up what she likes about the school: "Chobham Academy is fantastic because we get to do lots of fun things in our learning, like drama, music and cooking. It is brilliant."

## House Teams



This picture shows pupils from Harris Junior Academy Carshalton's 'Purple House' enjoying a Treat Day to reward them for winning more points than any other House in the first half of Autumn Term.



They were treated to a bouncy castle outside followed by some fun cooking activities. We hope they enjoyed their day.

## Singing the Blues



Many of your children will have celebrated International Day on Friday 15th November.

Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace put on a spectacular International Food Tasting event to celebrate the day. Parents brought in food from over 26 countries. A new record! The food was delicious and lots of parents made the time to come.

Linking with Black History Month, their classes decided to learn about black history through music. From rhythm and blues to reggae, jazz and hip hop, each year group chose a different genre of music to study and put together a performance. There was also a brilliant performance by a parent of some jazz music. Thank you to everyone who got involved!

## Welcome to Paris: Bienvenue à Paris



On a November weekend, 42 happy and excited children from Harris Primary Academy Kenley were taken on an action-packed weekend to Paris.



On Saturday, as well as visiting the First World War memorial to the fallen soldiers at Vimy Ridge, they saw works of art by Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet and had lunch by the Eiffel Tower.

The next day they went to Disneyland Paris, meeting their favourite characters and braving rides such as Space Mountain, which propels riders through the universe at eye-watering speeds. In the evening, they learnt to make crêpes which they ate for supper with a variety of delicious fillings.

We look forward to many more trips at home and abroad for Harris Primary children in the future.

## 'Charlie and Lola' Author Visits Philip Lane



Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane were paid a visit by Lauren Child, the writer and illustrator of some of their favourite books including the *Charlie and Lola* series and *Clarice Bean*.

Here she is, pictured with pupils.



## Battle of the Brains

Congratulations to Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred, the winners of our first ever Battle of the Brains competition.



Shortly before the summer holidays, all our Primary Academies sent two teams of children to Peckham Park to take part in a jam-packed morning of quizzing.

The children were faced with 60 questions covering a huge range of topics, from the Lion King to the Brazilian riots and the molecular structure of water! Thank you to Peckham Park's brass band who gave a special performance for the other children while the final scores were being calculated.

Chafford Hundred were crowned the winners. They went home with their heads held high and a sparkling winners' trophy which they are now proudly displaying in their school... until next June of course when once again we will come together again to see who will be the winners!

Connor, Ambika and Jai, in Chafford Hundred's winning team, wrote a poem as a tribute to the day. It was so delightful that we have uploaded it to our website: go to [www.harrisfederation.org.uk](http://www.harrisfederation.org.uk) to read it.

# News from our Academies

## Peckham Park Chess



Year 5 at Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park have been learning to play chess through a programme called Chess in Schools and Communities, funded by the Education Endowment Foundation.



Children at the Academy have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play. "We get to learn all about the different pieces and moves that they can make. Queens can move eight squares; I looked that up online at home", says Brittany.

Earlier this term, the Academy was visited by Malcolm Pein, the international chess master who founded Chess in Schools and Communities. He was very impressed with what he saw: "I noted that many of the children had grasped many of the more difficult concepts with ease and the class were very advanced for only the third lesson."

## Sock Puppets



Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park are given a wide range of practical experiences to get the very best for their learning.



Here are pupils from Year 1 with their sock puppets, which they made in order to learn about writing good quality, effective instructions.

## Science at Imperial College



Year 6 pupils from Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace have been attending Science workshops at Imperial College.

They have done a number of fascinating experiments including extracting DNA from a strawberry!

## Star Performance



Harris Primary Free School Peckham opened in September 2012 as a brand new school.

It now has two year groups, a Reception and a Year 1. Their nativity production this year was called *A Star*. It was all hands on deck as children took a lead role in designing and preparing the set as well as thinking about the seating plan, ticket design and refreshments for the audience.

There were two wonderful performances with both year groups participating. What a great way to end the Autumn Term.



## Gold! ✨



Pupils at Harris Junior Academy Carshalton are shown in the picture trying on the Olympic Gold Medal won by Scott Brash for showjumping.

At the time, he was riding the horse Hello Sanctos, owned by Lord Harris of Peckham. Lord Harris visited the school in November and brought the medal with him for the children to see.

Lord Harris adds: "It was wonderful to meet so many children at Carshalton and to talk to parents after school. There was a lot of joy and enthusiasm within the school, which is always lovely to see."

## Design for Outstanding

As teachers, we believe children should be taught, treated and looked after in the right way for them.

In October, we used the INSET day to bring our staff together for a series of conferences where they received training on the issues important in their classrooms.

One of the conferences was about supporting children with Additional Educational Needs to thrive. We are grateful to Harris Primary Academy Benson for hosting it.

210 staff from all of the Harris Primary Academies came along, including Teaching Assistants, Inclusion Managers and the Midday Supervisors who look after the children at lunchtimes.

Staff chose two workshops to attend from a wide range on offer including Looked After Children, Gifted and Talented, Hearing Impairments, Visual Impairments, Speech Therapy, Play Therapy, English as an Additional Language and Paediatric First Aid.

The feedback from the day showed that all training was well received and will make a real difference to children back in the Academies.

## Press Pack



Budding young journalists at Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park have launched their own school newspaper: the Peckham Park Press.

The pupils pitch news and features about events from around the Academy, then arrange and conduct their own interviews before writing their articles. The first issue covered breaking news stories such as the casting announcements for Peckham Park's production of *Romeo and Juliet* which was performed at Greenwich Theatre, the new Nursery and Reception play area and the school's adopted guinea pigs, Bubble and Squeak.

The newspaper is published every half term and copies are sent home to every parent. A room is currently in the process of being converted into a press room for the journalists.

Noah from Year 4 was one of the newspaper's first recruits: "I like getting to represent big things about the school. It's about having fun, but it also helps me improve my literacy. You should be proud because it's something that you've done, and it's doing a job for the school."

# Key Stage 2 Results 2013

We are delighted with the Key Stage 2 results achieved by the four Harris Primary Academies which were open in the 2012 – 2013 academic year. A huge congratulations to all of the pupils, parents and staff involved!

Of the four Academies, one was in its second year and the others were in their first year. All of them replaced schools in challenging circumstances. The results show the significant improvements that were made to children's education.

Some of the highlights are:

- We improved performance between 2012 and 2013 for every measure that is assessed
- We are outperforming the average for other sponsored Academies on every measure
- Where we are not quite outperforming the national average, we are making good progress towards doing so.

One of the most important factors in a good school is the progress children are able to make through excellent teaching. The proportion of children making the expected progress at Harris Primary Academies is extremely high – 98% in writing, 89% in reading and 94% in maths.

Sir Robin Boshier, Director of Primary Education at the Harris Federation writes: "In my experience as a Headteacher,

children will only thrive at school if they feel consistently happy and safe.

"Especially at such a young age, they need to be treated in the right way for them as individuals and they need to feel motivated by every lesson. Our teachers, support staff and leaders work extremely hard to make this happen in our Academies and I am very proud of their achievements.

"The results are extremely pleasing and give us a great base to build on in the current academic year. Of course, there is more to a good education than just good results, but I am delighted that the improvements our Academies are making are showing through in our pupils' standards."

Sir Dan Moynihan, CEO of the Harris Federation adds: "These superb results reflect the hard work of staff and leaders in each Academy and the exceptional support provided by Sir Robin Boshier and his team of experts in Primary education. We have a vibrant community of pupils, parents and staff and we are extremely pleased with the progress being made."

## Key Stage 2 results: 2012 – 13 academic year

	Our results	Percentage point increase from 2012	National average (all schools)	Average (Sponsored Academies)
Reading, writing and maths: Level 4+ in all three	75%	New measure for 2013	76%	62%
Reading, writing and maths: Level 5+ in all three	23%		21%	10%
Reading	Level 4+	+8%	86%	75%
	Level 5+	+7%	45%	28%
	2 levels of progress	+8%	88%	83%
Writing	Level 4+	+6%	83%	74%
	Level 5+	+12%	30%	18%
	2 levels of progress	+6%	91%	88%
Maths	Level 4+	+14%	85%	76%
	Level 5+	+9%	41%	26%
	2 levels of progress	+13%	88%	84%
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	Level 4+	New measure for 2013	74%	59%
	Level 5+		48%	32%

# Meet The Team

We caught up with Sir Robin Boshier and Siobhan Adams, two faces that will be very familiar to many of your children, to ask them about themselves. We hope you enjoy reading their answers!



Sir Robin Boshier,  
Director of Primary Education

*Where did you grow up and what was your primary school like?* I grew up in North Oxford and went to a separate infant and junior school where all the local children went.

*What made you decide to become a teacher?* I did some work experience in a primary school when I was 16 and caught the bug.

*Describe a memorable moment in your career:* My first school journey as a teacher where I took children from very impoverished backgrounds to an outward bound centre for a week. None of them wanted to go back to the classroom...

*What are your favourite things about your job?* I love my job, working with a great team of adults and children who make me laugh every day.

*What are your aims for the Harris Primary Academies?* For them all to be outstanding and for London children to have the very best life chances.



Siobhan Adams,  
Primary Advisory Teacher

*Where did you grow up and what was your primary school like?* I grew up in South East London and went to a local primary school where eleven years later, I ended up getting my first teaching job.

*What made you decide to become a teacher?* My mother-in-law told me I would be a rubbish accountant and sent me to her school for a day, which I absolutely loved and so applied to do teacher training.

*What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?* I am a Primary Advisory Teacher which means I spend most of my time in class supporting teachers to be the best they can be and thus ensuring the children in their class make the best possible progress.

*What was the best moment for you of the Autumn Term?* Seeing the progress made by our children in just ten weeks due to the hard work and dedication of their teachers.

**Along with Mrs Adams, there are seven other Primary Advisory Teachers in the Harris Federation team.**

**We'll aim to introduce two more in the next edition!**

# The WOW Page

Here is a selection of the feedback you've given us over the Autumn Term – thank you for your kind comments.

*"I thought my first week at Chobham with my class and teachers was one of the best weeks in my entire life."*

Aaron, Year 5 Snapdragon Class, Chobham Academy

*"[X] is keen and enthusiastic to go to school each morning. I have asked her what she likes about her new school and she has told me the lessons are fun with lots of interesting topics. Being in Year 5, she enjoys having specialist teachers in subjects such as French and PE... she knows each day what she is going to be doing and looks forward to the day."*

Harris Primary Academy Kenley

*"This is the best parents' evening I have been to."*

Harris Primary Academy Benson

*"What a school and what amazing, committed teachers we have. I am so incredibly proud of the experiences my son has described."*

Harris Primary Academy Kenley – parent writing in to thank teachers for the trip to Paris

*"The love and the keen interest shown in the school helps (my daughter) progress the way she does. I hope wherever she goes she receives all that Harris has to offer her."*

Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane

*"Just to say again that I thought (the Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane) 'Twelfth Night' was fantastic. There were some great ham comic actors there, a rather charming chorus, and altogether a piece of great team work. Well done to all those involved. Thank you so much – you really made my evening... You get my real thumbs up!"*

Mr Andrew Jackson, Trustee of the Shakespeare Schools Festival

*"I am very pleased and reassured that (the Academy's) professional and determined attitude for improvement and stability, which will only enhance the children's learning ability and environment, will go from strength to strength as time progresses."*

Harris Primary Academy Kenley

# Christmas Competitions

We've got three great competitions for your children to complete during the Christmas holidays, with some excellent prizes on offer. We'll announce the winners during January and publish their names in the next edition of this newsletter.

## Word Search 1

D	A	S	H	E	R	A	N	D	O
F	C	D	O	N	N	E	R	O	U
A	R	C	O	M	E	T	E	V	R
V	U	O	L	P	D	H	B	I	D
Y	D	T	J	C	A	R	L	X	H
K	O	R	W	U	N	M	I	E	M
B	L	P	M	P	C	K	T	N	Q
R	P	Y	P	I	E	C	Z	N	R
C	H	N	T	D	R	Z	E	Z	M
P	R	A	N	C	E	R	N	D	V

This competition is for children in any year group up to and including Year 3.

Child's name .....

Academy .....

Class .....

The names of nine of Santa's reindeers are hidden inside this grid. The names can go horizontally and vertically.

You should ask your child to draw a circle around each name they find. If they find all nine names, they should bring their completed Word Search into their Academy by Wednesday 8th January 2014.

We will put all the names in a hat and the first five lucky winners drawn out will receive £10 in book tokens each.

The words are:

- Blitzen
- Cupid
- Dasher
- Prancer
- Rudolph
- Comet
- Dancer
- Donner
- Vixen

# Christmas Competitions



## Word Search 2

F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
G	E	H	O	H	T	K	O	W	F	O	J
B	I	Y	K	J	O	L	M	D	I	I	D
E	N	G	F	H	G	Z	L	Y	K	A	F
H	D	B	C	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G
M	E	W	X	A	D	R	J	R	O	G	H
L	E	F	T	B	Q	K	D	N	S	E	E
C	R	N	S	Q	E	T	B	X	N	L	C
I	M	N	K	T	F	Z	E	P	M	F	E
H	J	I	B	G	C	C	A	R	O	L	S

This competition is for children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Child's name.....

Academy .....

Class.....

There are five Christmas themed words hidden in this grid. The words can go horizontally and vertically. Can you find out what they are?

If your son or daughter manages to find all five words, they should bring them in for their Class Teacher by Wednesday 8th January 2014.

We will put all the names in a hat and the first five lucky winners drawn out will receive £10 in book tokens each.

## Drawings and Paintings

Ask your son or daughter to draw or paint a picture of something they did over the Christmas holidays. They should bring in their artwork by Wednesday 8th January 2014 and hand it to their Class Teacher.

We will publish a selection of the best on our website.

Our Judging Panel will also choose a winner in each of the following categories:

- Nursery and Reception
- Year 1 and Year 2
- Year 3 and Year 4
- Year 5 and Year 6

The winner in each group will receive an exciting, fun and high quality pack of children's arts and crafts materials to use at home.

Word 1 .....

Word 2 .....

Word 3 .....

Word 4 .....

Word 5 .....