



**Harris Academy
Merton**

Enterprise and Sport

PROSPECTUS



Achievement is Success



" I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students a happy and fulfilling time. Our aim is to give each student the best education possible."

LORD HARRIS OF PECKHAM

Welcome from the Sponsor:

As an employer and a father, I strongly believe that a good education is the best start that you can give a child. Harris Academy Merton promotes love of learning, willingness to work hard, curiosity, self confidence and a real desire to do well in life. In addition, as an 11–18 Academy, our Sixth Form offers an outstanding range of courses so your child will not have to move schools for Sixth Form. I look forward to welcoming you to Harris Academy Merton and to the Harris Federation of South London Schools.

Lord Harris of Peckham
Sponsor of the Harris Academy Merton

Welcome from the Chair of Governors:

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Harris Academy at Merton is an Academy of opportunity and ambition, and the Governors will work with the Principal, staff and the whole community to ensure that the first class facilities are used in the best way for everybody.

In particular the Governing Body is responsible, with the Principal and Senior Management Team, for setting and monitoring the educational direction for the Academy and the targets to be achieved over time.

In October 2008 OFSTED rated the overall effectiveness of the Academy as 'outstanding'.

We now also have a thriving Sixth Form, developed in conjunction with other Academies within the Harris Federation of schools.

The Academy has the highest expectations of its students and offers an education which is innovative, effective and enjoyable, built around a focus on Sport and Enterprise. Our aim is to prepare all of our students to succeed in their chosen careers, and as citizens of the society in which they will live and work.

As Governors we hope that the Academy is at the heart of the community in Merton, and that its resources and facilities are shared by as many people as possible.

We look forward with you to a bright future at Harris Academy Merton.

Tony Bayon
Chair of Governors

If you are interested in knowing more about the Harris Federation of South London Schools or would like to contact the sponsor direct, please send your correspondence to our head office: c/o Dr Daniel Moynihan, Chief Executive, Harris Federation of South London Schools, The William Stanley Building, 14 South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6AB or via email to: info@harrisfederation.org.uk or by telephone on: 020 8405 5200.

If you would like information on any of our policies please visit: www.harrismerton.org.uk

Welcome by the Principal



Harris Academy at Merton offers a rare educational opportunity for students and their parents. The children of local residents benefit from the backing of proven success that is the hallmark of our sponsor Lord Harris of Peckham. The support of the Harris Federation will guarantee a traditional ethos of order, discipline and respect alongside a commitment to excellence in the very best of contemporary practice. The curriculum is focused on developing individual potential and preparing students for attaining personal contentment and the capacity to build a sound and comfortable career and life. This will be achieved through a shared dedication to hard work and a belief that a specialised curriculum will deliver the best life-enhancing options for those prepared to embrace our vision. Our focus on Enterprise and Sport adds a vocational dimension across the curriculum and complement other subjects of the National Curriculum. Our students will develop a sense of achievement, well-being and self-confidence.

We will not flinch in our mission to achieve excellent standards and the fulfilment of high expectations. If you are like-minded enough to subscribe to this philosophy, please apply. All we ask is your pledge to improve the prospects of our students and your passionate support in making this Academy the pride of the local community. If you are willing to become an active partner then I look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Halpin'.

Mr A Halpin
Principal

What does the Academy offer?



The Academy offers an excellent education for your son/daughter. It is an exciting and inspiring place, an ideal learning environment in which to foster ambition. With its high quality teaching and outstanding facilities, it aims to enthuse and motivate students so that they will not simply achieve their potential, but exceed everybody's expectations.

The Academy boasts enviably modern and well-equipped buildings and facilities. The Academy offers a curriculum designed to fully meet the needs of the whole student community, in preparation for the challenges of the 21st Century world. The Academy benefits from Specialist School status in Enterprise and Sport, enhancing learning throughout all subject areas. A wide range of activities take place which maximise community participation.

Key features of the Academy include:

- An intake covering the age range 11–19
- 180 places for admission to Year 7 each year, with a Sixth Form growing to 300 offering a full range of academic and vocational subjects
- High quality buildings
- A new Sixth Form Centre
- Modern sports facilities including floodlit tennis courts
- An ICT rich environment with interactive whiteboard technology
- A motivating, modular curriculum with short term targets, feedback to students on how to improve their work, regular reporting to parents and strong links with educational and wider communities

Independent non-fee paying status

Independent status gives the Academy the freedom and flexibility to provide effective teaching and learning, organisation, staffing and governance. This, along with strong, confident, ambitious leadership, quality management, a clear vision, and knowing how to achieve that vision, are essential ingredients in our success.

What did Ofsted say?



Ofsted graded Harris Academy Merton as “outstanding”, the highest verdict possible, in their full inspection. Inspector Jacqueline White described the Academy as calm, caring and supportive and said it had come a long way in a short period of time. “Students enjoy Academy life with its many opportunities to learn and develop as young people”, Ms White said.

She added that students were polite and courteous, with behaviour being good in lessons and around the Academy. The inspectors’ report praised students for the “positive contribution” they make to the Merton community.

Paul Hann, Head of Academies Advisers at the DCSF, praised the Academy for the “veritable transformation” it has achieved, and confirmed that “this is the first Academy with a weak predecessor school which has received a judgement of ‘outstanding.’”

The Academy’s Sixth Form, run in partnership with two other south London Harris Academies, was also given a glowing review in the Ofsted report, which says, “Students speak with feeling about the significance of the positive relationships they have with staff. They greatly appreciate the time given to helping them resolve problems, improve their work and organise their studies”. One student movingly told inspectors, “We are building our futures here together.”

“Overall effectiveness is outstanding.”

“Leadership and management are outstanding.”

“Students enjoy Academy life with its many opportunities to learn and develop as young people.”

“Outstanding range of provision in the Sixth Form.”

“Behaviour is good in lessons and around the Academy. Students understand the clear code of conduct and are polite and courteous.”

“Students feel secure in their Academy because pastoral care is good and staff know them very well.”

“The Academy has gained the high regard of parents.”





“The lessons are imaginative, engaging and just generally brilliant. The teachers can make even the most boring subjects fun and they always push you to do better.”

“I like going to Harris Academy Merton because it is a disciplined school which takes my education very seriously.”

“The opportunities that I have been given here are amazing.”

“The school is making sure we have a brighter future.”

HARRIS ACADEMY MERTON STUDENTS

A Specialist Enterprise and Sport Academy



Our aim

As an Enterprise and Sport Academy, we provide an environment of high expectations, aspirations and self-belief for everybody. From age 11 through to 19, we aim to raise standards for all. We intend our young people to be the self confident citizens and entrepreneurs of the future.

The Academy specialisms of Enterprise and Sport

'Enterprise' will involve the Academy developing a culture of:

- Business knowledge and skills
- Decision making
- Team working
- Problem solving
- Presentation skills
- Risk analysis and taking calculated risks
- Self confidence
- Independence

'Sport':

- Is a compulsory element of the curriculum at all key stages
- Develops a culture where 'Every Child Matters' and stresses healthy, safe, enjoyable activities
- Provides specialist coaches and training projects/clinics
- Comprises a curriculum that has other subjects linked by content to an Enterprise and Sport theme
- Generates appropriate vocational courses including BTEC Sport
- Schedules frequent sporting events/demonstrations/competitions
- Is led by Faculty Directors who will promote the Academy ethos
- Encourages outreach programmes to use Academy facilities for events and activities. The Academy will be a 'Centre of Excellence' for the Harris Federation of South London Schools and host Sports Days



Learning at Harris Academy Merton



Our aim is to provide the highest quality teaching in a first-rate learning environment. Teachers are highly trained and use tried and tested techniques as well as more innovative methods to promote the most effective learning.

Learning in each subject is broken down into short modules lasting approximately six weeks each. Students and parents receive regular feedback on how well students are doing and what they need to do to improve their work further. The progress of each student is individually tracked and monitored. Sophisticated systems are in place to identify students who need additional support with parents involved appropriately.

The Academy is a specialist Enterprise and Sport Academy. This means that while offering a broad and balanced curriculum with a full range of subjects, there is a distinct emphasis on sport and enterprise across the curriculum. This involves actively developing the skills of self presentation, initiative-taking, creative problem-solving, decision-making, team-working and interpersonal skills in a variety of contexts, so building self-esteem and confidence.

The Academy enjoys state-of-the-art ICT facilities and the use of ICT in every aspect of learning, including learning off-site and outside the normal timetabled day, is a key feature of the curriculum.

Our Sixth Form

Students at Harris Academy Merton have access to the wide range of courses at the Merton site in addition to the full range of established Sixth Form courses at the nearby Harris City Academy Crystal Palace and Harris Academy South Norwood. This means that the range of subject choices for students is unrivalled. A wide range of extra curricular activities and imaginative enrichments develops other skills and interests.

Homework

Regular homework is vital in securing the very best results for our students. It consolidates work done in lessons, extends focused learning beyond timetabled hours and encourages self discipline and the skills of independent study. The amount of homework will increase as students progress through the Academy. Many homework tasks are set and submitted through the Academy's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) encourages students to have confidence in their own beliefs and culture, as well as respecting the values and beliefs of others. Through our RE programme students learn how to think through moral issues, how belief can affect actions and thus empathise with each other. Parents have the right to withdraw their son/daughter from RE lessons.

Sex Education

As required by educational law the Academy provides Sex Education for all students. Full details of our Sex Education Policy will be available at www.harrismerton.org.uk. Parents have the right to withdraw their son/daughter from Sex Education lessons.

Careers Education and Guidance

A full programme of careers education and guidance is provided for students. The aim is to raise students' aspirations and their awareness of future educational and careers pathways. As well as providing a full range of resources, including access to a specialist consultant, the Academy works with Connexions to ensure that students make the very best decisions about their future. Careers support is also provided through the PSHE programme. In addition, work placements across a wide variety of vocational and professional areas will be available to students in Year 10 and Sixth Form.



Attendance

All students are expected to be punctual and attend the Academy every day. If a student is absent their parent/carer must notify the Academy's Attendance Officer immediately and provide a valid reason for the absence, followed by written confirmation upon the student's return.

Requests for Leave of Absence will be considered on an individual basis but holidays taken during term time will not be authorised. Parent/carers should be aware that the Academy liaises with the London Borough of Merton in issuing Penalty Notices to parent/carers whose child has poor attendance, with fines of up to £100 or even court action taken in exceptional circumstances.

All students must arrive at the Academy by 8.20am for morning registration and be punctual to all lessons throughout the day. Sanctions will be imposed on students who arrive late to registration and/or lessons without a valid reason.

Behaviour and Discipline

The Academy places the greatest emphasis on maintaining a calm, orderly learning environment where students feel safe and are able to learn without distraction. We expect the highest standards from our students and encourage them to be self-disciplined at all times. Students respect other people, their property and the environment in which they work and learn.

Uniform

The uniform for the Academy includes a blazer, shirt and tie for all students. Girls may wear trousers or skirts. A detailed copy of the uniform policy is distributed to all students through their Planners and www.harrismerton.org.uk and is strictly enforced. Financial assistance with uniform purchase will be provided to those parents on income support. Further information will be made available to successful applicants.

Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities

The Academy welcomes applications from students with disabilities who will be subject only to the admissions criteria set out overleaf. Ramps and lifts in Academy buildings ensure that students with disabilities have access wherever possible to the wide range of educational opportunities offered by the Academy. The Academy's Accessibility Plan meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Governing Body's policy on Additional Educational Needs (AEN) ensures that all students are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with the admissions policy, except where admitting the student would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other children and where no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility. In deciding whether a student's inclusion would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, the Academy shall have regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State to maintained schools.

Admissions and Exceptional Students



Arrangements for admission

Admission to Year 7 will be determined according to the detailed criteria enclosed with this prospectus. 180 places are available each year and will be awarded to students across the full range of ability. The Academy expects that the great majority of its Post Sixteen students will comprise those transferring from Year 11 at the Academy.

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants. The deadline for the submission of Appeals will be published on our website at: www.harrismerton.org.uk

Exceptional students

Additional Educational Needs (AEN)

The Academy's Additional Educational Needs policy allows full access to the curriculum for all students so that they can fulfil their right to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. Additional support is offered for those with special educational needs or who are at an early stage of learning English. The curriculum is structured to boost core skills on entry with a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, ICT, Enterprise and Sport.

Gifted and Talented

We are committed to enabling all children to achieve their potential. The Gifted and Talented programme is aimed at promoting excellence in every area of the Academy. Gifted and Talented students are defined as those who have abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group in particular areas. 'Gifted' generally refers to the top 5% of the school population in academic subjects and 'talented' to the top 5% in other subjects.

Depending on the students' specific needs, Gifted and Talented provision will include:

- Entitlement to an education which offers stretch and challenge
- Bespoke enrichment opportunities
- Work at higher cognitive levels than that of their peers
- Opportunities to develop specific skills or talents





“The support of the Harris Federation guarantees a traditional ethos of order, discipline and respect alongside a commitment to excellence.”

MR A HALPIN, PRINCIPAL

Our Ethos and Life at the Academy



Life at the Academy: More than just lessons

In order to develop a close sense of belonging, students belong to one of four faculties. These faculties will provide a focus for rewards, competitions and celebrations and students will stay in their faculty from Year 7 to Year 11.

There are many opportunities for extra-curricular activities including a wide range of clubs and sporting events. These make use of the wide range of high quality Academy facilities, including sports facilities, computer & technology equipment and links with other Harris Academies.

An ethos of trust and care and a culture of achievement

Students who accept a place at the Academy will be making a commitment to work hard, to make the maximum use of our facilities and to become full participating members of the Academy community. Students are expected to abide by the Academy Code of Conduct in order to maintain a positive atmosphere at all times.

We provide an environment where bullying is seen by all to be unacceptable. Anti-bullying will be given a high profile in the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme, during tutor time and assemblies. There is a Student Council which is encouraged to discuss bullying and will be a forum for students to contribute to the running of the Academy. We are committed to student-centred learning which focuses on the needs of individuals, and we promote teaching and learning styles that encourage co-operative working.

We believe that all student achievement should be recognised. Great emphasis will be placed on celebrating achievement and promoting responsible behaviour whenever possible. Awards will recognise effort and achievement. Certificates and cash rewards will be given in recognition of consistent effort and participation in the Academy community.





Calculating the mean from the frequency table.

Class Size x	27	28	29	30	31	32
f	2	4	3	5	2	1
$f \cdot x$	54	112				

Original data in list form

27, 27, 28, 28, 28, 29, 29, 29, 30, 30, 30, 30, 31, 31, 32

A teacher in a dark suit and glasses is pointing at a whiteboard. The whiteboard displays a frequency table and original data. The table has columns for Class Size (x), frequency (f), and frequency multiplied by class size (f · x). The original data is listed as 27, 27, 28, 28, 28, 29, 29, 29, 30, 30, 30, 30, 31, 31, 32.

Equal Opportunities and Harris Federation



Everyone is treated equally in the Academy and encouraged to be positive in their attitude to everybody outside the Academy. We treat others in the way we would like to be treated ourselves and we take very seriously any incidents in which people have been treated unequally. We do not allow each other to be racist or sexist and we do not allow each other to use language, either spoken or on paper, which is racist or sexist, or in any way offensive.



The Harris Federation

Harris Federation of South London Schools is the leading group of Academies in England. Four of the six Harris Academies inspected so far have been judged to be Outstanding schools by Ofsted Inspectors, a remarkable record, and one which we are determined to further improve upon in the future.

Our young people deserve the very best education and working closely together, benefitting from sponsorship by Lord Harris of Peckham, the Harris Academies are able to offer a far broader and higher quality range of educational opportunities than could any single school working alone. In choosing a Harris Academy for your son or daughter you are gaining the expertise and commitment for your child, not just of that Academy but also of the whole Harris Federation.

Dr Daniel Moynihan Ed.D, MA, B.Sc (Econ).
Chief Executive of the
Harris Federation of South London Schools



ADMISSIONS INFORMATION FOR YEAR 7

All applicants who name Harris Academy Merton as a preference on the Common Application Form are invited to sit a non-verbal reasoning test. The test is administered independently and marked externally. It is important for applicants to be aware there is no pass or fail in this test.

The allocation of places takes place within a framework of Fair Banding. All applicants are placed in one of nine ability bands depending on their score in the non-verbal reasoning test. The number of places offered from each band is based on the Nationally Standardised Results suggested intake, provided by GL Assessment. This process is to ensure a comprehensive intake into the Academy.

The Academy ranks its applicants as follows:

- 1) Applicants with a statement of special educational needs.
- 2) Applicants in public care/Looked After Children.
- 3) Applicants for whom it is essential that they be admitted to the Academy because of significant medical needs evidenced by written medical evidence. The Academy will make a judgment based on the evidence provided as to whether it is the only school able to meet the child's needs.
- 4) The remaining places available to be offered in each band are allocated in sub-bands as follows:
 - a) 50% to applicants living within a two mile radial distance of the Academy on the basis of proximity.
 - b) 50% to applicants living between a two and four mile radial distance of the Academy on the basis of proximity.

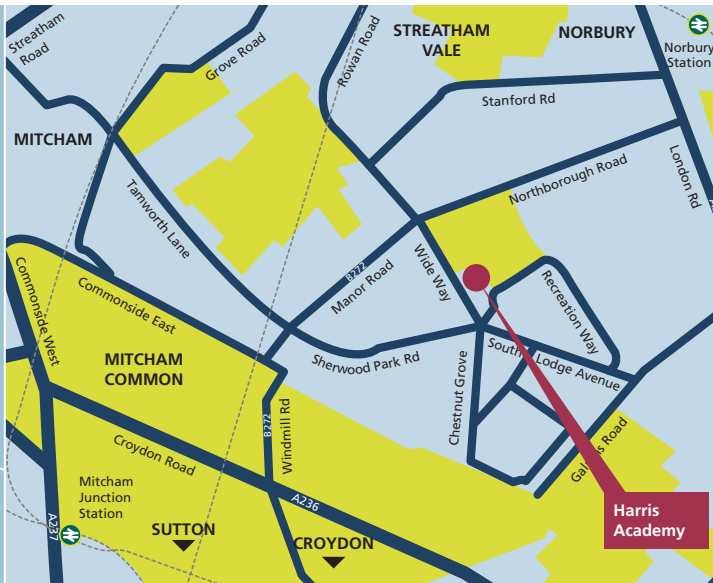
Distance is measured using the straight line distance (provided by the London Borough of Merton) between the main entrance to an applicant's home and the main entrance to the Academy site. Where an applicant lives for part of each week at different addresses, the home address is the address where the applicant spends the majority of the week.

If an applicant does not sit the test, they will be considered after those who have and will be considered on a straight line distance basis only. Given the level of oversubscription that the Academy has, it is most likely to not be in a position to offer places to children who do not sit the test.

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

The Academy will make no charge to parents or students for any activity, inside or outside the Academy, which is relevant to the education we provide. The limits of the Academy's budget, however, may oblige us to make charges for certain activities as prudent administration of our funds requires. It is our aim to ensure that our policy is fair to all and complies with the Academy's main aims and objectives.

No individual student will be prevented by financial hardship from participating in an event, which is considered to be essential to his/her programme of study. The Academy will consider remission of payment for all or part of the charges providing that the parents or guardians of the students have a DWP Grant as the only form of income. Individual applications must be made for each individual event for which remission of all or a part of the charges is required. When seeking voluntary contributions from parents or students for a particular activity, the Academy will always indicate whether the activity will be prevented from going ahead in the absence of sufficient funds.



Harris Academy Merton
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