



Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

Business and Enterprise with Technology

PROSPECTUS



"An Outstanding School"
(OFSTED 2009)

WELCOME TO

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace was judged by school inspectors (Ofsted) in October 2009 to be an **Outstanding School in every one of the thirty measures**. The inspectors said that achievement and standards are outstanding, students feel safe, study hard, achieve extremely well and behave thoughtfully at all times. Most importantly of all, we were judged to be a school where students' personal development is outstanding. This outstanding report coupled with our excellent examination performance places the Academy amongst the very best schools in the country.

We aim to build on this success with the support and sponsorship of Lord Harris of Peckham. We are currently investing some £10million in new and better facilities, making our already highly successful school even better.



**LORD HARRIS
OF PECKHAM**



**MR KEITH MORLEY
CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS**

"As an employer and a father, I strongly believe that a good education is the best start that you can give a child. Harris City Academy Crystal Palace 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 City Academy Crystal Palace and to the Harris Federation of South London Schools."

"Our prime aim is to enable all students to achieve their maximum potential and assist them in becoming responsible adults able to make a positive contribution to the society in which they live and work. The Academy expects and achieves high standards of work and behaviour from its students. The ethos is one of firm but fair discipline. The Governors' primary role is to support the Principal and staff; to assist in ensuring they have the necessary resources and to review the progress of the Academy towards achieving its aim with an emphasis on Business and Enterprise with Technology."



Message from Steve Kenning, the Principal

I am delighted to welcome you to Harris City Academy Crystal Palace. We are an outstanding school, delivering a high quality education for each one of our students. At Harris City Academy Crystal Palace we aim to prepare young people for an ever-changing world that values self-confident, well educated and enterprising people. To achieve this aim we provide an education relevant to the 21st Century delivered in an educational environment that emphasises traditional standards of uniform, discipline and respect.

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace has been officially recognised by the government as a High Performing School and judged to be an outstanding school in the recent Ofsted inspection. Students of all abilities do exceptionally well here and we are very proud of their achievements. Our examination results make us one of the most successful schools in the country and we aim to improve further.

Everything we do at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace is centred on ensuring that each individual student is educated and supported to succeed in the world today – as an individual, as a partner, as a member of a team and as a citizen. The education we provide is rooted on high quality teaching with the added dimension that as a Business and Enterprise with Technology Academy we are also able to provide an enhanced range of experiences and opportunities designed to excite and engage.

The Academy offers a wide range of very high quality academic and vocational courses and all students have the opportunity to undertake realistic business and technological problem-solving projects. Full use is made of the very latest technology and state-of-the art computing facilities are a feature of teaching in all subjects. The recent multi-million pound investment in the Academy will further enhance our already very good facilities, bringing a new Post 16 centre and new facilities for ICT, Music and Drama.

With excellent facilities and high quality teaching, the students at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace are happy, challenged and motivated. The Academy is committed to the success of each of our students. We aim to deliver:

- Exam success – we want our students to get the best possible qualifications
- Challenge, relevance and engagement – we want all our students to be fully involved in their learning
- Appropriate skills for living, for work and for happiness
- Active citizens
- Self-identity and a feeling of self-worth
- Opportunities and experiences that ignite our students
- Healthy habits that are embedded for life

We are an outstanding school, but do not just take our word for it – come and visit us on our Open Evening where you will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and to see the wide range of opportunities and activities available at Harris.

Please take the opportunity to watch the short videos, included on the attached CD, which will give you an insight into the high quality education provided by the Academy.

If you would like a place at this Academy for your child, then please list 'Harris City Academy Crystal Palace' on your application form.

I look forward to meeting with you.



Steve Kenning
Principal



Ofsted Inspection October 2009

Grade 1 was awarded to the following measures:

- ✓ Overall effectiveness: how good is the school?
- ✓ The school's capacity for sustained improvement
- ✓ Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils
- ✓ Pupils' achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning
- ✓ The extent to which pupils feel safe
- ✓ Pupils' behaviour
- ✓ The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles
- ✓ The extent to which pupils contribute to the school and wider community
- ✓ The extent to which pupils develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being
- ✓ Pupils' attendance
- ✓ The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- ✓ The quality of teaching
- ✓ The use of assessment to support learning
- ✓ The extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs, including, where relevant, through partnerships
- ✓ The effectiveness of care, guidance and support
- ✓ The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement
- ✓ The leadership and management of teaching and learning
- ✓ The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met
- ✓ The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers
- ✓ The effectiveness with which the school promotes equality of opportunity and tackles discrimination
- ✓ The effectiveness of safeguarding procedures
- ✓ The effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion
- ✓ The effectiveness with which the school deploys resources to achieve value for money
- ✓ Overall effectiveness of the Sixth Form



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“Harris City Academy Crystal Palace is an outstanding school that not only helps its students to achieve exceptionally high standards but also to be well prepared for the next stage of their life.” Ofsted 2009

- ✓ Outcomes for students in the Sixth Form
- ✓ The quality of provision in the Sixth Form
- ✓ Leadership and management of the Sixth Form

What inspection judgement means

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	These features are highly effective. An outstanding school provides exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs.
Grade 2	Good	These are very positive features of a school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	These features are of reasonable quality. A satisfactory school is providing adequately for its pupils.
Grade 4	Inadequate	These features are not of an acceptable standard. An inadequate school needs to make significant improvement in order to meet the needs of its pupils. Ofsted inspectors will make further visits until it improves.





Learning at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

The Curriculum

Our students experience rich and varied lessons supported by the latest teaching techniques and equipment. Each subject has a highly qualified specialist team of teachers, teaching in rooms which have been equipped for their subject.

For students aged 11–13 the Academy offers the National Curriculum Including:

English
Mathematics
Science
History
Geography
Music
Drama
Citizenship
Physical Education
Art
Design Technology
Information and Communication Technology
Modern Foreign Languages
Religious Education

For students aged 13–16 the Academy offers a full range of GCSEs and applied GCSE courses, as well as BTEC courses to suit every taste and aptitude. Our students start all their GCSE course in Year 9, allowing for a more flexible approach to Key Stage 4 where students can take exams when they are considered to be ready and follow a wider range of courses. In Post 16 students can progress on to take a particularly wide range of 'A' Level and Vocational 'A' Level courses, or the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

“ Outstanding teaching overall and exemplary use of assessment data, when combined with the creative and exciting curriculum, ensures that all students make rapid progress.” Ofsted 2009

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Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The Academy is richly equipped with the latest ICT facilities, including over 770 high speed internet-linked computers (providing one computer for every 2 students), interactive whiteboards, a wireless network of laptop computers and many other facilities to support personalised learning. ICT is used in every subject and a variety of examination courses are available in IT. The Academy places the highest priority on using new technologies for learning and our Federation wide VLE enables home access to learning materials for students and parents.



Religious Education and Collective Worship

Students undertake a daily Act of Collective Worship of broadly Christian character, which includes values and beliefs from other faiths.

RE encourages students to have confidence in their own beliefs and culture, as well as respecting the values and beliefs of others. Through RE pupils learn how to think through moral issues and learn empathy for others. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Act of Collective Worship and 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 are available on request. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education lessons.



“Exemplary care, guidance and support pervade all aspects of the Academy’s provision.” Ofsted 2009



Careers Education and Guidance

A full programme of Careers Education and Guidance is provided for students from age 11 to age 18. The Academy employs its own dedicated Careers Consultant who is available for students throughout the week. In addition, work placements across a wide variety of career areas are available to students in Year 10 and Post 16 to help broaden their understanding of the opportunities available in the world of work.



Homework/Independent Learning

Regular homework is vital in securing the very best results for our students. It consolidates work done in lessons and encourages the development of self-discipline and independent study. The amount of homework given increases as students progress through the Academy. All students have a diary planner in which to record their homework. If there are any concerns about either the quality or quantity of homework set, parents are encouraged to contact the form tutor.

The nature of homework varies greatly and is dependent on the subject. To help develop independent learning skills for A Level and University study we have introduced a range of independent study assignments; such as the Personal Extended Study (PXS) and extended project.



Gifted and Talented

The Academy is committed to providing a high quality, challenging and relevant education for each one of our students. This extends to our most able and talented students who are stretched and developed as part of our extensive gifted and talented program. Students are not only accelerated in the curriculum but also are presented with a range of exciting opportunities ranging from Enterprise events with PricewaterhouseCoopers, debating competitions to the chance to visit the NASA astronaut training facility.



Enriching Learning

Lessons are crucial, but at Harris City Academy we believe that our students' experience should be more than just about lessons. The Academy runs an extensive sports programme throughout the year. Many students represent Croydon in various sporting events including football, netball, cross country running, basketball and many other sports. The quality of coaching at the Academy is high. There are also a variety of clubs and subject support programmes offered to students after lessons, during holidays and at weekends. As well as these activities, students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of trips and visits including the Duke of Edinburgh Award and residential outdoor events and foreign visits.

“One of the Academy’s outstanding strengths lies in the cohesive community which leads to all staff, students, parents and governors working together as a team.” Ofsted 2009

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Meeting Individual Needs: Personalised Learning

We recognise that everyone is an individual and we aim to match the teaching that we provide to the learning needs of each student. In this way we aim to provide personalised learning, assisted by the latest technology, for every pupil.



Post 16

Harris Academy offers a very popular and successful Post 16 experience. Subject choice is particularly wide because our offer is made jointly with our five sister schools, Harris South Norwood, Harris Merton, Harris Purley, Harris Girls East Dulwich, Harris Boys East Dulwich. In addition we have a brand new Post 16 centre. The Academy offers an extensive range of 'A' Level, Vocational 'A' Level, and BTEC courses as well as the International Baccalaureate.

Life as a student at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

In order for students to fulfil their potential at the Academy, they need to feel secure, safe, supported and well motivated. In order to achieve this, the Academy has a number of important expectations, rules and procedures as follows:



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"The quality of leadership and management is exemplary." Ofsted 2009



Mutual Respect

The Academy expects students to take responsibility for their behaviour at all times, both on and off the Academy site, and to treat each other with respect, tolerance and consideration. We foster a calm and disciplined learning ethos in which students work to the best of their ability.

Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated and will always be quickly and firmly dealt with.



Self-Discipline

The Academy expects students to have pride in themselves and in the Academy. High standards of behaviour are expected, a desire to learn is expected, and students are expected to wear the Academy uniform in line with our clear policy.



"The attitudes and behaviour of students are exemplary." Ofsted 2009





Belonging to a Faculty

Every student joins a faculty. Faculties provide a sense of belonging to a smaller unit which overcomes the concerns some students have when moving to a large secondary school. These are Arts, Communications, Science & Mathematics, Technology & Enterprise and Post 16. There is a healthy rivalry amongst the faculties which increases student motivation and encourages students to work together. Throughout Academy life, students represent their faculty in a wide variety of ways including in sporting and other activities.



Prefects

A large group of Post 16 students are nominated each year to undertake the challenging role of Prefects. They are ably supported by Faculty prefects in Year 11 who develop their own confidence and skills by undertaking wider Academy duties and responsibilities.

A Head Boy and Head Girl are elected from the Senior Prefects each year by other students to represent the Academy and lead the Senior Prefect team.



The Student Council

The student council is made up of representatives from each tutor group. The council meets monthly in order to discuss issues of interest and also to make suggestions for improvement to the Academy. Student Council elections are held annually September. These involve students in the full democratic process of canvassing, election hustings and voting.



The Student Commission

The student commission operates across the nine Harris Academies and provides an opportunity for students to work alongside teachers to develop new and evermore effective approaches to teaching and learning.

“The Academy’s outstanding provision and ethos are used very well to develop mature and articulate young people for the 21st Century.” Ofsted 2009



Healthy Eating at Harris

A range of healthy and nutritious meals is available daily from the Academy Cafeteria including a wide variety of ethnic and dietary foods. The cafeteria is open for breakfast, break and lunch.



Complaints Procedure

We pride ourselves on our high-quality customer care, but there may be occasions when parents are dissatisfied and wish to make a formal complaint. We respect your right to do so and ask that you follow the procedure available upon request. Informal concerns should be addressed to the relevant member of staff.



Recognising Achievement

"All can achieve" is our motto. We believe that all students' achievements should be recognised. Great emphasis is placed on celebrating achievement and promoting responsible behaviour whenever possible. Awards recognise effort and achievement. The Academy operates a VIVO points award system.

Certificates are given in recognition of consistent effort and participation in the Academy community. Certificates may be awarded for outstanding academic work, effort and commitment, excellent attendance and punctuality and community service etc.



Celebrating Success

Once a year there is a Celebration of Achievement Evening for each year group where students are awarded and presented with their individual Progress File. This file includes examples of their best work in all subjects over the preceding year, as well as any awards and certificates they may have received.



"Students impressive levels of self-confidence, personal development and exemplary behaviour coupled to the guidance they receive prepares them exceptionally well for future challenges." Ofsted 2009



A Partnership with Parents

Together we share a responsibility for your child's education. Harris City Academy works closely with parents to develop an effective partnership. We welcome any contribution parents wish to make to the life of the Academy, which could include: listening to students read, working with small groups in minority ethnic languages, accompanying visits or sports events, coaching in sports or other skills, participating in drama or music productions.

→ Facilities and Equipment

As a City Academy, backed with Government funding and the close interest of industrial sponsors, Harris offers students exceptionally good levels of equipment and facilities.

These include a large, state-of-the-art, industry standard computer network; a wireless mobile network; a suite of business rooms to simulate the world of work; an interactive language laboratory; a video digital editing suite; video conferencing facilities; well equipped science laboratories; a large open plan art and design studio; a learning resources centre and much more. In addition, a new Post 16 block and new facilities for Music and Drama have recently been constructed. We have a very strong commitment to continue to improve and develop our facilities in order to offer unrivalled opportunities to our young people.

→ Arrangements for Students with Disabilities and Special Needs

Harris is an inclusive school which admits students with disabilities and special needs on an equal basis with other students. The Academy has installed lifts, disabled access ramps and wheelchair facilities. As a result, disabled students, including those in wheelchairs, have full access to the curriculum.

We have a small successful special educational needs team and depending on need, students may receive additional support in the SEN base as well as in lessons. We work in partnership with parents and all parents are kept closely informed about progress.



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“All teachers are committed to their students, have high expectations and provide the support necessary to help them achieve their aspirational targets.” Ofsted 2009

→ Lewis Health & Leisure Centre

The Academy's modern Health and Fitness centre provides leisure and sports facilities for the school and for the local community. This suite contains the full range of equipment expected in a modern health centre. For further detail please call 020 8771 4508.

→ Friends of Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

As parents you will automatically become members of the Harris City Academy Parent Teachers and Friends Association (HCAPTFA) The HCAPTFA runs several meetings during the year to which all new parents are very welcome. The purpose is to work in partnership with the Academy for the benefit of students' education. We hope that you will feel able to play an active role in the HCAPTFA.





What to Do Next

→ Apply for a Place

You may apply for a place at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace by listing us on the Common Application Form (CAF). Additionally, a Harris supplementary form should only be completed by those needing a concession in the test (for example SEN needs or medical issues) and will only be used in deciding accessibility issues for the banding test and will not be considered for broader admission issues.

The supplementary form can be obtained on request (also on our website www.harriscrystalpalace.org.uk) and return it to the Academy along with proof of residence. NB completion of a supplementary form for Harris City Academy does not constitute an application to the Academy.

→ Visit the Academy

You may wish to visit us on our Open Evening and meet members of staff and students before making a decision on whether to apply.

→ Financial Assistance

Further information and application procedures in respect of free meals and other forms of financial assistance are available from the Finance Office. All enquiries will be dealt with in strict confidence. There will be a number of trips and visits as part of the curriculum each year. Parents will be invited to make voluntary contributions in order that such activities can be funded. Children from homes where financial difficulties exist will not be excluded in the event of financial hardship.

“Harris City Academy Crystal Palace is outstanding in all areas of provision.” Ofsted 2009

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→ 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.

Daniel Moynihan.

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





Inspection of Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

Dear Students

I am writing on behalf of the inspection team to thank you all very much for welcoming us to your Academy. We enjoyed the opportunities we had to meet some of you in lessons, small groups and around the building. The discussions and responses to the questionnaire helped the inspection team to come to some important judgments about the Academy's provision for your education.

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace, fondly referred to as HCACP, is outstanding in all areas of its provision. This is an amazingly good feat, achieved over two years as an Academy, building on the success of the Harris CTC. This achievement explains the passion in your comments about the Academy's work. It provides you with a first class education, and helps you to exceed all expectations. The quality of leadership and management is exemplary. The principal's dynamic and steely leadership resulted in the Academy achieving its best results in 2009.

These results were very high for a number of reasons. First, the teachers were determined that all students, regardless of ability, gender, or race would achieve much better grades than those predicted. And yes, students achieved what appeared to have been an impossible task. This was possible because, as you say, the teachers 'will always go the extra mile to give support'. Second, your teachers demonstrate mastery of their subject and use their expertise to plan and inspire you to learn well. At all times, expectations are high. Third, the curriculum is used very well to increase your thinking. In this, the Academy exploits your skills and talents. For example, it fast tracks you and provides personalised studies to enable you to take AS-levels in Year 10 and study additional subjects such as Latin and Chinese independently.

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"The increasing personalisation of the curriculum means that students have high quality and memorable learning which they enjoy." Ofsted 2009

Fourth, your outstanding personal development, the high quality support, recreational activities and opportunities for you to critique your teachers' work ensure that they know what helps you to learn well. This partnership work with staff is outstanding and the student commission is used very well across the Federation to air your views.

Does a grade one mean perfection? Although the Academy consistently achieves very high results, it is convinced that 99% is not good enough! We agree with the leaders, including the governors, that more of you could gain the top most grades. The Academy knows well its strengths and plans are already in place to increase the level of independent learning to provide you with even more challenging work to optimise your performance. We hope that you will work closely with the staff so that there will never be a glitch in the glorious history of your Academy.

Yours faithfully

Carmen Rodney
Her Majesty's Inspector



"The overall impression of Harris is one of a welcoming and inspiring institution, innovative in its approach to education and training, relaxed and yet well ordered. With a highly motivated staff who want to achieve and develop themselves, this seems to impact on the resultant confident, well behaved and achieving students."

Investors in People



Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

Business and Enterprise with Technology

PROSPECTUS

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

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Email: info@harriscrystalpalace.org.uk

www.harriscrystalpalace.org.uk



Where to find us

The Academy is well served by a number of bus routes. No's 157 and 358 stop on Anerley Hill. No's 468, X68, 196 and 249 stop on Church Road. No. 410 stops outside the Academy gates. There is a regular train service to Crystal Palace station, which is within easy reach of the Academy, either by a ten minute walk or by bus, no. 410.

Students who cycle to the Academy must possess a Cycling Proficiency Certificate.

SOUTH LONDON SCHOOLS

Harris Federation

