

Harris Academy

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Dear friends,

It seems quite some time since I last able to share with you information related to our school. The optimism with which we started the new school session in August was well founded. We had been given a clean bill of health by Her Majesty's Inspectors at the start of the year, we are actively engaged in discussions over our new school building, the SQA examination results had improved across all of the measurable areas and significant work has been undertaken by the school staff in implementing the new approaches demanded by A Curriculum for Excellence.

We do, however, face significant challenges in maintaining these high standards and in providing support for our young people. The financial constraints under which local government is currently operating, means that our school like all other schools will have to do more with less. Departments will all have a reduction in monies allocated to them while the school will be managed by three depute head teachers and six principal teachers of guidance compared with five and nine as there were before the summer holiday.

Over the summer holidays a significant amount of survey and preparation work was completed within the school well in advance of the drawing up of plans for rebuilding at Perth Road. Drilling was done all over the school grounds to establish the position and depth of the underlying bedrock while the interior of the building was surveyed for potential locations of asbestos and roosting bats. The timescale for the move out of Perth Road to Rockwell – Summer 2013 – and the move back into a new school on Perth Road – Summer 2016 – remains unaltered. As always when I have more detailed information be assured that you will be informed immediately.

As a matter of more pressing information can I remind you that our annual Armistice Day ceremony will take place in school on Monday 14th November 2011. The reason why we are not marking remembrance day on Friday 11 is that being an in-service day there will be no pupils in the school and one of the main points of our service of remembrance is to bring to the attention to current pupils the sacrifices made on their behalf by pupils past. As always, I welcome all of you into the school on that morning.

Yours sincerely

J Thewliss
Head Teacher.

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