Achievement is success
“THE ACADEMY HAS BROUGHT OUT THE BEST IN MY CHILDREN, BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND SocialLY, AND PROVIDES A SAFE, RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENT.”

PARENT
At Harris Academy Merton we promote the ethos "Achievement is Success" and believe every student has the right to the highest standard of education so that they can accomplish their aspirations. Our aim is to give every student an educational experience that is enjoyable and holistic so that they develop into responsible, articulate and successful young people.

We combine the traditional values of strong discipline, good manners, respect and pride in appearance with contemporary best practice in teaching and technology. With these core values embedded, we develop our students into confident and capable individuals that have a desire to excel academically and personally now and in the future.

It is vital that whatever an individual students’ starting point is, they are given the opportunities and experiences necessary to achieve their personal best. At Harris Academy Merton we are very fortunate to have highly skilled and dedicated staff who are committed to this purpose.

Selecting the right secondary school for your child is an act of trust. I hope that, once you come to know us, you will find that Harris Academy Merton is a school you can choose with confidence. Please do come along and attend our Open Evening so that you can find out more. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Harris Academy Merton.

With best wishes

Ms A Samad
Principal
We embrace students of all abilities and from all backgrounds, and our teachers take the time to understand the needs of each student – whether they are already doing very well, needing support or somewhere in the middle.

As part of our enterprising culture, we ensure that each of our students achieves and succeeds.

This means:

• Offering an extensive and balanced curriculum which ensures students of all abilities enjoy learning and optimise their potential

• Giving each student the individual care and attention they need to thrive and achieve their personal best

• Treating each other with care and respect and maintaining a safe and purposeful environment

• Running an enjoyable and exciting range of enrichment opportunities

• Having high expectations and high-quality Sixth Form provision

Students are rewarded for developing the right behaviours and attitudes, for trying hard and being persistent, for a courteous and considerate manner, for attending regularly and for achieving their personal best. They are taught the value of hard work and determination.

We hope that each one of our students finds in our Academy a supportive and nurturing community.

“APPROACHES TO LEARNING ARE BASED ON STRATEGIES THAT REFLECT STUDENTS’ NEEDS AND PLAY TO THEIR STRENGTHS.”

OFSTED
“THESE SESSIONS HAVE BUILT MY CONFIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.”

STUDENT
Each of our students acquires a broad range of knowledge and skills that will equip them for the demands of the global digital age.

Students are grouped into ability sets in each subject, and they move between these sets depending on how much progress they are making. This enables us to personalise our teaching and to support each student closely with respect to their learning needs.

We teach the subjects that students need to bring lifelong success and that enable them to follow their passions. All students receive a well-rounded education, with a strong foundation in English and Maths. Across the curriculum, we encourage debate, participation and a spirit of enquiry.

For those who need it we offer catch-up classes and one-to-one support, and we ensure that our gifted and talented students enjoy being stretched and challenged in all their lessons.

During Year 9, we guide our students in selecting the subjects that will bring them success at GCSE, as well as allowing them to follow their passions into further education.

Our specialisms are in Sport and Enterprise, skilling students up in teamwork, confidence, resilience and creativity, to bring wider, lifelong success.
Students flourish both inside and outside the classroom, and both before and after the school day.

Our broad range of enrichment activities includes dancing, chess, the ukulele, origami, cheerleading, choir and a wide selection of sports, so there really is something for everybody. Students are also given the opportunity of participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

We want every student to be able to follow their passion or participate in an activity that adds something special to their lives.
“BEING A STUDENT AT HARRIS ACADEMY MERTON MEANS THAT WE ARE ALL CONNECTED BUT WE ARE ALSO INDIVIDUALS. STUDENTS HERE EXPERIENCE TEAMWORK AND IT HELPS US PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.”

YEAR 8 STUDENT
A SAFE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR OUR NEW YEAR 7S

Transition to Harris Academy Merton starts well before the summer, with staff visits to our feeder primary schools. Students also spend a day at the Academy in July and are invited to our summer school in August.

The first day in September is just for Year 7, so they feel confident before the rest of the school joins the following day.

It is important to us that your child feels safe and secure all day long, so our teachers are highly visible and proactive, resulting in consistently calm and positive behaviour for learning. Class sizes are kept as small as possible. We also have a culture of mutual respect for all – and zero tolerance of bullying in any form.
In order to develop a close sense of belonging, students are placed in one of four faculties. These faculties provide a focus for rewards, competitions, and celebrations. Students quickly come to feel proud of their faculty and they want to represent it in the most positive way. Faculty staff get to know each student personally, and ensure that pastoral care helps all students to thrive.

Students feel safe and cared for, with excellent support from their form tutor and Faculty Director. Students also develop strong bonds with the other students in their tutor groups, breaking down barriers and building a culture of mutual respect. In Year 7, as part of the transition process, students are placed in tutor groups with other students of the same age; once they move into Year 8, tutor groups comprise students from Years 8 to 11. This allows students to mentor each other and to develop a wider range of friendships.

Morning tutor group activities help to build students’ reading and discussion skills, and are filled with opportunities for students to take on leadership responsibilities.

We want parents to feel involved and informed about their child’s progress. This is why we send reports home regularly and welcome parents to come and meet their child’s teachers.

“THERE IS A TREMENDOUSLY POSITIVE CULTURE OF LEARNING AND A VERY STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY.”

OFSTED
LEADERSHIP

“MY ROLE AS A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE I BRING FORTH IDEAS TO HELP OTHERS.”

YEAR 10 STUDENT

Harris Academy Merton students are the leaders of today as well as tomorrow.

Through our Enterprise specialism, we exploit every opportunity to build students’ leadership skills. Students are taught to speak clearly and grammatically, and to present their ideas persuasively, whatever the audience.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, our prefects and our Student Council are role models of leadership and ambition, challenging themselves by taking on responsibilities and – along with our peer mentors – supporting other students when they need help to make the right choices or stretch themselves.
To help all our Sixth Form students to reach their full potential, we work with neighbouring Harris Academies as part of the Harris Federation Sixth Form to provide a very wide range of A level and BTEC Level 3 courses.

Class sizes are small, resources are excellent, pastoral support is exceptional and teaching is outstanding.

Our Sixth Formers are role models for our younger students, demonstrating the heights that can be reached through the outstanding education they have received at the Academy. The vast majority go on to university, with an increasing number being offered places at the most prestigious institutions. Our leavers have the best possible futures, whatever their next steps.

“I ENJOYED COMING HERE BECAUSE IT HELPED ME PREPARE FOR HIGHER LEVELS.”

STUDENT
Harris Academy Merton is part of the Harris Federation, a not-for-profit charity with almost 25 years of experience in running schools. The Federation runs a family of Primary and Secondary Academies in and around London.

The Harris Federation has an exceptional track record more widely, with academic progress outpacing the national average by 3 or 4 times each year and more than three quarters of its Secondary Academies so far judged as ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted – this is unmatched by any other education body.

The work of the Federation is made possible through the generous financial support of Lord Harris of Peckham and his family, and is brought to life by a team of excellent teachers and leaders.

You can follow the Harris Federation on Twitter: @HarrisFed.

Each summer for sports day, the Harris Federation hires out the Crystal Palace Sports Stadium. With well over 10,000 student and staff spectators in attendance, Academies compete in team and individual sports.
The Harris Federation is a London charity with more than twenty years of experience in education. Our Academies combine the traditional values of good manners, strong discipline and smart uniform with the best of modern teaching and technology.

Harris Academy Merton has established itself as a highly enterprising and very successful member of our group. Working closely together in and around London, our Academies are able to offer a far broader range of opportunities, far better training and professional development for staff and real success for our students.

What makes this Academy so successful? Students who enjoy learning and look forward to coming to school each day; teachers and support staff who are genuinely ambitious for every student; a senior leadership team that consistently sets standards of excellence.

If your son or daughter wants to come to an Academy with drive and ambition, then I hope you will attend one of its open events to find out more.

Sir Daniel Moynihan Ed.D, M.A., B.Sc. (Econ)
Chief Executive of the Harris Federation

As an employer and a father I strongly believe that a good education is the best start in life that you can give a child. Harris Academy Merton promotes hard work, curiosity of mind, integrity and ambition. It works tirelessly, in partnership with the other Harris Academies, to ensure the greatest success for every child, regardless of their ability or aptitude.

I hope you will come along to our various Open Day or Evening Events to see for yourself the difference the Academy is making.

Lord Harris of Peckham