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**Acting Head Teacher:**  
Douglas Morgan

**Hermitage Academy**  
[enquirieshermitageacademy@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:enquirieshermitageacademy@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils (please share this information with your young people)

I hope this letter continues to find you and your loved ones safe and well.

### **Scottish Government Announcement on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

As announced by the Scottish Government earlier this week, secondary pupils across the country will receive a mix of remote learning and in-school teaching from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Senior phase students (S4-S6) who are taking national qualifications will have priority for face-to-face lessons in school but we are also working hard to establish a provision that will allow an opportunity of both remote and in-school learning for all pupils. As always, we will ensure that the safety of our staff and pupils remains at the very top of our priority list.

The current hub provision for vulnerable young people and the children of key workers will continue for the period from 15<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The Scottish Government has indicated that their current expectation is that all secondary school pupils will be back in school on a full time basis after the Spring break. The school will close for the Spring break on Thursday 1st April and reopen on Monday 19th April.

I will write to parents/carers again on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March with further details of when individual pupils should attend school the following week. On return to school our young people and staff will be asked to wear face coverings at all times (unless exempt) and within the school building, a strict 2m distancing policy will apply to all.

Due to the increased number of pupils who will be returning to school on 15<sup>th</sup> March the current arrangements for temperature checking on entry will no longer operate from this date.

We appreciate your continued vigilance in monitoring the health of your young person and appreciate your support in not sending them to school if they display any symptoms.

## Lateral Flow Testing Programme

Following the Scottish Government announcement, we are now inviting all of our remaining S4-6 pupils who wish to take part in the Asymptomatic Testing Programme to complete the consent form that can be found in the following link: <https://forms.gle/kLRJVAGfDVaSvNFG7>

Over 200 of our senior pupils who have been in school recently for essential practical work have already signed up for the programme and have been carrying out testing twice weekly.

## Tracking and Monitoring Dates

Please find below details of when parental reports will be issued over the coming months:

<b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	S3 Reports issued by post
<b>w/b 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	S4 Reports issued
<b>w/b 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	S5/6 Reports issued
<b>w/b 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	S2 Reports issued
<b>w/b 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	S1 Report issued
<b>w/b 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	S3 Reports issued

Please note there will be a further S4/5/6 tracking report which will inform you of the provisional grades being submitted to the Local Authority. The date for this will be confirmed in due course.

## Support for our young people and their families

Instead of a House assembly this week, I shared a recording with our young people via their House Google Classrooms this morning. The message focuses on the ongoing support available for our young people following the sudden passing of one of our S6 students and we wanted to remind you of what was on offer. I would stress that this support is also available to parents and carers if you need it.

Should you, or your young person, require any support, please contact a member of their House Team as detailed below, or, if you feel that specialist support may be required at this time, advice and guidance is available from the Local Authority Psychological Service Team. You can request this by contacting our Principal Educational Psychologist, Roslyn Redpath, at the following email address: [Roslyn.Redpath@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roslyn.Redpath@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

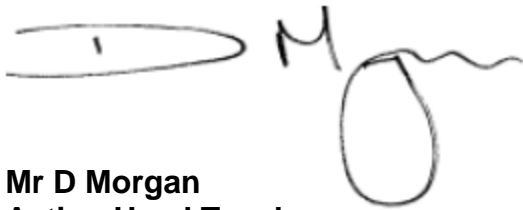
	ARRAN	BUTE	CUMBRAE	DAVAAR
<b>Lead Pupil Support Teacher</b>	Mr Berrall	Mrs McAuley	Mr McKenzie	Mrs Brewer
<b>PT Guidance &amp; Raising Attainment</b>	A1: Mrs Fraser A2: Mrs Biennier	B1: Miss Brady B2: Mr McArthur	C1: Mr Turnbull C2: Mrs McGinlay	D1: Mr Arbuckle D2: Mrs Henderson
<b>Depute Head Teacher</b>	Miss Stewart	Mrs MacKay	Mr Munro	Mrs Muir

## Thank you

It has been a very difficult week for our school community and I would like to highlight the pride I have in seeing our staff, pupils and families pull together so well. Many of you have been in touch to express that you have been thinking about everyone at Hermitage Academy and to offer kind words of support. This is very much appreciated.

Please remember if there is anything at all that we can do for you, do not hesitate to ask by contacting us at the enquiries email address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Morgan'. The signature is stylized, with a large, looped 'D' and a wavy line for the 'Morgan' part.

**Mr D Morgan**  
**Acting Head Teacher**  
**Hermitage Academy**