



Acting Head Teacher:
Douglas Morgan

Hermitage Academy
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26th 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.

Return to school

It has been another busy and productive week of both face to face and online learning and our young people should be really proud of the efforts that they have put in.

As we move towards the holiday period can I remind you of the days young people should attend next week (see below) and also highlight that the school closes for the Spring break at 3.30pm on Thursday 1st April and reopens on Monday 19th April at 8.55am.

Day	Year Groups
Monday	S5, S6
Tuesday	S5, S6
Wednesday	S3, S4
Thursday	S1, S2, S4
Friday	Holiday

As highlighted in the letter from the Local Authority earlier today, the Scottish Government has announced that the full reopening of secondary schools will take place following the Spring break on Monday 19th April, unless new scientific evidence requires reconsideration.

I will contact parents/carers again on Thursday 1st April with further details of the arrangements for a full return. This will include that face coverings will be required to be worn at all times by all pupils and staff in school, unless exempt.

Education Recovery – Headstrong Sessions

As we mentioned last week our virtual sessions with Headstrong (specialists in dealing with the emotional upheaval that comes with being a teenager and calming the teenage mind) start on Wednesday 31st March with S5/6 during their Health and Well-being period.

The Headstrong session for Hermitage Academy Parents & Carers has now been confirmed for Wednesday 21st April, 6-7pm. The session will be recorded with the links shared following the event for anyone who would like to view the presentations at a more convenient time. Further details will follow after the holidays about how to log into the event.

“The most powerless you will ever feel is when you can’t help your own child. We don’t just help the teenager, we help the whole family” Brian Costello, Company Director, Headstrong

Lateral Flow Testing Programme

S4-6 pupils who wish to take part in the Asymptomatic Testing Programme and are not yet signed up to do so are asked to complete the consent form that can be found in the following link:

<https://forms.gle/kLRJVaGfDVaSvNFG7>

S1-3 pupils have the opportunity to be part of the testing programme after the Spring break. If your young person would like to take part in the testing programme and you are happy for them to do so, please complete the consent form in the link above.

Spring Study School

During the week beginning the 12th April 2021 (2nd week of the Easter Holidays) we will be offering Senior pupils the opportunity to attend Spring Study School.

Information was shared with pupils and parents/carers earlier this week about which subjects and levels are on offer and this can be found, along with the online sign-up form, in the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/springstudy21>

As you will see from the link, it is currently anticipated that the majority of the sessions for Spring Study School will take place in the building. However, this is dependent on future Scottish Government guidance.

Additional In-service Days

To support schools with the alternative certification model, the Scottish Government has allocated secondary schools an additional two in-service days. In Argyll and Bute it has been agreed that one of these dates will be 27 May, with an existing planned in-service day on 28 May. We have the discretion to allocate the second in-service day on a date that best suits our needs and we will communicate the date of this additional in-service day to parents and carers next week.

Parent Council Meeting

The next Hermitage Academy Parent Council Meeting will take place on Monday 29th March 7-8pm via Zoom. All Parents and Carers welcome. To access the meeting please email haparentcouncil@gmail.com or comment on the event on the Hermitage Academy Parent Council Facebook page. Any questions should be submitted in advance via the email address.

Lisa Johnstone (Chair - Hermitage Academy Parent Council)

Thank you

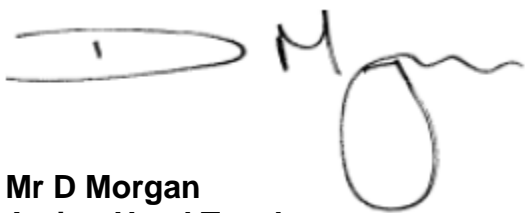
Many thanks for continuing to remind your young person about the importance of following all the safety procedures that we currently have in place. They have, once again, been great this week at ensuring they sanitise their hands, maintain 2m distancing and also keep their face coverings on when they are in the building.

We are excited about the prospect of having all our young people back for a full return after the Spring break and really do hope that future updates from the Scottish Government allow for this to take place.

Please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything at all that we can do for you that would further support your young person to prepare as effectively as possible for their full return to school.

I hope you and your family have a lovely weekend when it comes.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Morgan', with a large, stylized 'O' at the end.

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