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**Acting Head Teacher:**  
Douglas Morgan

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23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

### **Full return of pupils**

This week we were delighted to welcome back nearly all our young people into the building full time and I am very happy to report that they have returned with a really fantastic attitude towards both their class work and the current Covid mitigations we have in place to reduce risk.

Next week we will be up to full capacity as we welcome our young people who have been shielding recently. We are very much looking forward to having them back in the building with us.

It has been particularly great to have our S1-3 pupils back with us full time, having experienced one day a week in school before the holidays. In the coming weeks their class teachers have a clear focus of consolidating the learning that took place during remote learning whilst also ensuring we use the increased time that we have before the timetable change on 7<sup>th</sup> June to support recovery and ensure that our young people are well prepared for the move into a new year group.

Our S4-6 pupils started their first window of in class assessments yesterday and they have approached these with a really high level of focus and maturity. As outlined in the recent SQA updates this window operates until 3<sup>rd</sup> May. There will then be a period of further consolidation and preparation in class until 13<sup>th</sup> May. The second assessment window will run from 13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May.

I am extremely grateful to Subject Principal Teachers for organising the assessments and to Mrs Muir and Mrs Cowan for coordinating the arrangements including those for our young people who receive additional support.

### **HeadStrong - Hermitage Academy Mental Health Session for Families**

On Wednesday night, the Faculty of Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion led the delivery of the HeadStrong, Supporting Young People's Mental Health session. Brian Costello from HeadStrong talked to our families about how to support their young people's mental health positively and effectively. It was a very engaging, informative and thought provoking presentation. The session was recorded for those unable to attend at the time - please see the link below to view.

<https://youtu.be/OBeLwnjCBLs>

Thank you to Mrs Kennedy for organising the event and to our parents, carers and families who attended the live session, the feedback received so far has been very positive.

## **Earth Day – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**

Mrs Purves and Mrs McLeod have been organising a number of presentations and activities this week to raise awareness of and celebrate Earth Day. Many thanks to them and to our young people who work as part of our Rights Respecting Schools Group and Eco Committee.

At the end of the day yesterday a group of staff and pupils carried out a litter pick within the wooded area at the back the school. This was part of their Earth Day pledge and all young people can make their own pledge by joining our Eco-Schools google classroom through the following code: **23tnssk**.

### **Community contact**

I recently wrote to the residents in our local area as we know that it is not always easy to live next to a large secondary school and encouraged them to make contact with us if there was anything that they wished to bring to our attention.

We have had lots of lovely responses from our neighbours with the main concern raised being about the volume of litter in the surrounding areas.

We will be working with our pupils in the coming weeks to focus in on the importance of looking after both our community and environment and it would be a big support to us if you could encourage your young person to discard of their own rubbish responsibly.

### **Roadworks - Cardross Road**

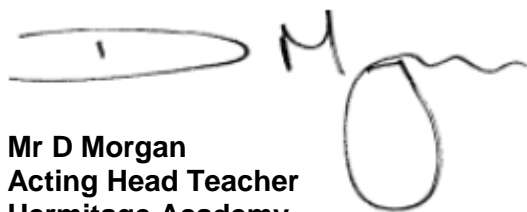
Entering and existing the school grounds in recent weeks has certainly taken longer than normal and I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for their patience during this period.

Can I remind those who drop their young people off in the morning that there are clearly marked areas for this and that the area to the left as you enter the school grounds is for buses only.

Your support with this is very much appreciated.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, queries or if you or your young person require any support or guidance.

Your 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**