



HERMITAGE ACADEMY

Parental Newsletter

What's new in this issue:

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A special thank you
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WEI update
P7: Stem Hi5 Awards
Eco Update



Headteacher's Message

By Mr Morgan

Over the past few weeks we have been engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to survey their thoughts and opinions about our school vision, values and priorities for the future. My personal thanks to our young people, parents, staff and partners who have contributed as your feedback will help to support a collegiate approach to school improvement planning for the coming year.

A collaborative group of representatives from the Pupil Council, Parent Council and Staff Improvement Group will be working over the coming weeks to bring together a school improvement plan that represents our collective school community and we look forward to sharing our progress in upcoming newsletters.

As we come to the end of the second assessment window for senior pupils, I would like to commend them on how well they have conducted themselves throughout what we know has been an anxious time for our young people.

Subject staff have been working hard to moderate assessments both in school and with colleagues from across the local authority. Extra in-service days on 10th and 27th May have helped to support staff with the added workload that the alternative certification model has brought this year but I would also like to thank our teachers for their commitment, diligence and passion to gain the best possible outcomes for our young people.

The highlight of the past week for me was watching our S6 get their hands on their new leavers hoodies. Many thanks to Mrs MacKay and the S6 pupils who worked to arrange this for their peers. The past year hasn't been overly kind to all young people but I always feel especially disappointed for our S6 pupils who miss out on events such as the traditional prom. We will do our very best to mark this important stage in their school career and look forward to welcoming them into school on 4th June for their morning of celebration.



Your Feedback

Following the launch of the New look newsletter we are keen to get your feedback on what you find useful from the last release and give you an opportunity to say what you think is missing from this publication. As restrictions begin to ease we will be looking to detail the clubs & activities that will be on offer for our young people but would welcome any external clubs to let us know what they have on offer for the young people in our community.

To share your views please visit the link below, thank you!

<http://tiny.cc/ha-newsletter-feedback>

MAY/JUNE

Key Dates

23/05/21 - 24/05/21 S4-6 In-class Assessment Window 2

27/05/21 - In-Service Day

28/05/21 - In-Service Day

31/05/21 - School Holiday

Week beginning 31/05/21 - S3 Reports Issued

07/06/21 - Change of Timetable

09/06/21 - P7 Transition Parental Information Evening 2

10/06/21 + 11/06/21 - Hooked on Hermitage P7 Induction Days

30/06/21 - School Closes for the Summer Break

House Badges

Earlier this year we set our young people the challenge of designing a new badge for their house in the Hermitage Academy house system. The house teams selected their favourite entries and the pupils' work has been sent to artist - former pupil Fraser Downs (Purely Phrazer) - who has brought them to life in a digital format.

PURELY



PHRAZER

Phrazer worked alongside our young people to create a single badge that brings the four houses together alongside the School Badge.

Fraser was also able to share his experiences of studying <course> at the Glasgow School of Art with our aspiring artists and we look forward to welcoming him back to share this with other aspiring artists.

Members of Bute House will recognise their emblem from their congratulatory message from Mrs MacKay and the house team as they won the inaugural house competition. Which of the emblems below will adorn the winning house athletics letter?

@purely_phrazer

by Cara Robertson, S6



DEPUTE HEADTEACHER

MISS STEWART

PT GUIDANCE

A1: MRS FRASER

A2: MRS BIENNIER

LEAD PUPIL

SUPPORT TEACHER

MR BERRALL



DEPUTE HEADTEACHER

MR MUNRO

PT GUIDANCE

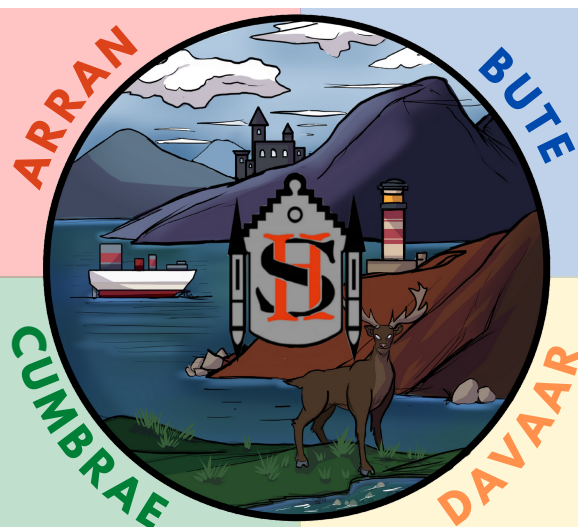
C1: MR TURNBULL

C2: MRS MCGINLAY

LEAD PUPIL

SUPPORT TEACHER

MR MCKENZIE



by Christina Taylor, S5

DEPUTE HEADTEACHER

MRS MACKAY

PT GUIDANCE

B1: MISS BRADY

B2: MR MCARTHUR

LEAD PUPIL

SUPPORT TEACHER

MRS MCAULEY



DEPUTE HEADTEACHER

MRS MUIR

PT GUIDANCE

D1: MR ARBUCKLE

D2: MRS HENDERSON

LEAD PUPIL

SUPPORT TEACHER

MRS BREWER



by Natasha Lewis, S2

by Rowan McKay-Hubbard, S6





Leaving Arrangements

By Mrs MacKay

At the end of last week I wrote to the parents/carers of our S4-6 pupils to outline the arrangements for the end of their time in their current year group. Below is a summary of the key dates from those letters for reference.

We look forward to celebrating the wonderful times we have shared with all of our young people but in particular the outgoing senior pupils who leave us to pursue their chosen pathway.

Our door is always open to support you in the next step you are about to take and we wish you every success!



Key Dates for Leavers

ALL S5/6 PUPILS SHOULD ATTEND UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY ON THE 20TH MAY.

FROM 21ST MAY S5/6 PUPILS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ALL THEIR ASSESSMENTS AND RELEVANT COURSEWORK ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

ALL S4 PUPILS SHOULD ATTEND UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY ON THE 24TH MAY.

FROM 25TH MAY S4 PUPILS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ALL THEIR ASSESSMENTS AND RELEVANT COURSEWORK ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

MAY 20

Last day of scheduled assessments for S5/6 pupils.

MAY 24

Last day of scheduled assessments for S4 pupils.

MAY 21- 26

Period for S5/6 pupils to carry out missed assessments, complete college course assessments and Advanced Higher dissertations. Parents/Carers will be contacted direct if this applies.

MAY 25- 26

Period for S4 pupils to carry out missed assessments and complete college course assessments. Parents/Carers will be contacted direct if this applies.

MAY 27

In-service Day

MAY 28

In-service Day

MAY 31

Holiday

JUNE 1- 2

Period for pupils to carry out missed assessments and complete college course assessments. Parents/Carers will be contacted direct if this applies.

JUNE 3

S4, S5 and S6 Formal Leavers Day : Lower Hall

JUNE 4

S6 Celebration Morning: Upper Assembly Hall

JUNE 7

Return to school for the start of a new timetable. New timetables will be issued at registration. S4 will become S5, S5 will become S6.





Thank You Mr MacAulay

By Hermitage Football

On Friday, Mr MacAulay received a gift from the PE Department in recognition of his time spent as the Hermitage Academy Schools Football Representative, and his contribution to a range of school sports over the years.

Thank-you for everything you have done for Hermitage PE Mr MacAulay and we hope you liked the small token of our appreciation! Going forward we would also like to say good luck to Mr Christie who takes over the role.



WEIR WISE

By Miss Marshall

Congratulations to **Lily Dennet** and **Leila Chee Yan Yuen** from S2 that were selected to participate in Strathclyde University's Young WEIR-WISE Programme.

The virtual programme aim to inspire and encourage female students to discover the excitement behind a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) through participation and hands-on challenges. Thank you to all applicants who applied and well done again to the girls for their participation!



Argyll College: Study With Us

By Mrs MacKay

Argyll College have created a "Study with Us" page on their college website. This is populated with information that prospective students may be thinking about. This information can be found using the following link:

<https://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/study-with-us/>



Sage

By Ms Maguire

Hermitage Academy's LGBTQ+ and allies group called SAGE will be starting meetings again every Monday lunch time in C220. All pupils are welcome, even if you don't identify as being part of the LGBTQ+ community, you can attend as an ally. If you have any questions or would like more information see Ms Maguire in C220 (social Subjects & RMPS)





Beauty @ Hermitage

By Ms Devlin

We are coming to the end of what has been a challenging year for all pupils not least the beauty pupils who have had to make adaptations to their working in practical classes. Assessments are well underway with extra mitigations in place to ensure everyone is kept safe together with adjustments to the treatments in line with government guidelines.

The learners have coped admirably with these changes and I would like to congratulate them on their resilience and compliance.



Numeracy Hub

By the Numeracy team

The Numeracy Team at Hermitage Academy have over the last couple of school sessions created an online hub to support young people with their learning in numeracy across the curriculum. We would like to thank our partner primary schools for supporting this work as well as the number of young people that were involved in creating content for the online hub. In the future, we hope to hold numeracy events in school. The numeracy hub can be accessed via the school website and at the following link:

<http://tiny.cc/ha-numeracy-hub>



Cycle and Walking Network - Update

By Mr Munro & Mrs McLeod

Ice Cream Architecture is currently working on a project to identify a preferred route for a high-quality, segregated walking and cycling route linking the centre of Helensburgh, HMNB Clyde and Garelochhead. They will look at a range of route options before designing a preferred route up to 'concept design', with local community engagement at each stage. At this stage there are 3 separate surveys for pupils, parents and staff to complete:

- Pupils – <https://forms.gle/iRyteZHijirJ4pAG6>
- Parents & Carers – <https://forms.gle/vxtEEdnK3jyTvzw27>
- Staff – <https://forms.gle/pJznDiZpvMjyGADa8>

This is your chance to have your say: what hinders you from walking, cycling scootering etc along the route and what would help you use it more easily. Please do get involved. Thanks!





S4 Trench Life

By Dr Mbuyi



S4 History students have been experiencing some aspects of WWI trench life! Students have been biting down on homemade Hardtack biscuits (made with flour, salt and water) to gain some understanding of what food was like in the trenches. They made sure to soak it first in a hot drink so that they could bite through it.

They were rewarded with an ANZAC biscuit afterwards, which was a biscuit that Australian and New Zealand wives and mothers made and sent their men who were fighting at the front.

These had a bit more taste to them (oats, flour, coconut and golden syrup)! Students completed the lesson by playing the German game of "Mensch Aergere Dich Nicht," (the British version is LUDO) which was a popular game that soldiers played in the trenches to overcome their boredom.



It was an enjoyable end to S4 History. Well done to all S4 History students who have worked really hard through this challenging year!



Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion Update

By Mrs MacKay

We were delighted to invite Mrs Sage into the school to share our development plans for the Faculty of Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion. Mrs Sage is a member of the Parent Council and was meeting with us in her role as Parent Representative for Pupil Support and Development.

We were excited to share with Mrs Sage our plans for the implementation of our Nurture approach, the development of a sensory room and our ambitions for developing our outdoor space. We also discussed the programme of continued professional learning for staff that is being planned for next session.

Mrs Sage was able to provide a parental perspective on all these plans and discuss ways in which parents and the school can work together to deliver these improvement priorities. We look forward to sharing more detail on these plans with the wider parent forum as they evolve.



P7 Transition: Hi5 Award STEM Challenge

By Miss Nairn

GOOGLE MEETS ON MONDAY 24TH - WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY, 1.50 - 2.45PM

Miss Nairn is looking forward to presenting to all P7 Transition pupils on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons next week, via Google Meet, for their upcoming Hi5 Award STEM Challenge ☑





Eco Update

By Mrs McLeod

Eco Opportunity

The University of York is looking to create A Manifesto for Education for Environmental Sustainability with input from pupils and teachers across the UK. They are holding virtual workshops on **Saturday 19 June (2-4pm)** and **Tuesday 22 June (4-6pm)** (you choose which one to attend) where young people and teachers will co-create a manifesto for education for environmental education in the UK.

In the workshops you will join with other young people and/or teachers to examine the current context for education for environmental sustainability, learn about alternative approaches, and develop a shared vision for the future. The manifesto will be produced in comic, video and report format. If you are interested, please see or email Mrs McLeod for further information.



Young Climate Warriors

This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge is Single-Use Plastics. Can you reduce your use of single-use plastics? Remember, the challenge is added to the Eco-Schools 2020-21 Google Classroom (ask your registration teacher for the class code). It's completely voluntary but you can earn house points and help the environment by submitting evidence of having completed them.

Local Litter Picks

There will be another after school litter pick (details to be confirmed) on Thursday 3rd June. Further details will be issued in due course. Pupils are invited to register their interest by speaking to or emailing Mrs McLeod.



Plastic Free Helensburgh are hosting a litter pick on Sunday 23rd May from 14:00 to 16:00 at Ardencape beach. Please wear sensible clothing for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, cover up any cuts and bring litter picking equipment (strong gloves, bin bags, a litter picker if you have one and hand sanitiser). If you have any symptoms of Coronavirus or are living with anyone who has it, please stay at home and do not attend. If you are interested in attending, please see or email Mrs McLeod. Please note: this is NOT a school trip, so parental supervision is required.

Helensburgh Community Council are hosting a litter pick on Saturday 29th May from 10:00 to 12:00, meeting at Helensburgh pier. Please wear sensible clothing for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, cover up any cuts and bring litter picking equipment (strong gloves, bin bags, a litter picker if you have one and hand sanitiser). If you have any symptoms of Coronavirus or are living with anyone who has it, please stay at home and do not attend.

If you are interested in attending, please see or email Mrs McLeod. Please note: this is NOT a school trip, so parental supervision is required.

