



Hermitage Academy Parent Council

30th March 2026

5.30pm (time adjusted due to school event)

Attendance

Name	Role	Apologies
Douglas Morgan	Head Teacher	
Mr Munro	Head of Cumbrae House	
Mrs Muir	Head of Davaar House	
PC Kirsty Lyle	New Police Liaison Officer	
Laura Watt	Chair	Apologies
Kirsty Sweeney	Secretary	
Donna Gairns	ASN Rep / Vice Chair	
Stella Kinloch	Treasurer	Online
Claire Walker		Apologies
Andrew Tennant		Apologies
Kathleen Daly		Apologies
Anna Tkachenko		Apologies
David Smith		Apologies
Andrew Brown		Apologies
Marie Smith		
Dawn MacFadyen		
Tyler Whatmore		
Louise Grafton		Apologies
Lisa		Apologies

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome from LW

Due to change in time at the last minute due to a school even then there are a number of apologies from PC Members. See above list.

2. Treasurer's Report

SK presented the treasurer's report.

Account balance is at £8,681

Survey has been issued via Eduspot to all parents to get views on how to spend the funds.

Comment – some parent's can't open so Mr Munro will address this.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Key points, since last meeting on 10th Nov.

Staffing Update –

- Miss Mullhern – back in science/welfare

Next term updates:

- Spring study - Tues 7th to 10th April – lots of students signed up following sharing on Eduspot
- S4/S5 – Summer form/Spring fling – Wednesday night – brought it forward. Leavers as many leave 2 months earlier in end Jan.
- Tues after Easter – 21st April – S6 last day. Traditional leaves breakfast, brought it forward. Final picture and pipers out the school. Share with parents so they can attend.
- Yearbook – signed and out at publisher
- 11th June – Prom – Coats in Paisley for S6.
- Lots of joint teacher/S6 fundraising events. Biggest amount raised on record for a single year group. And Kilt walk at end of April. S6 seeing as legacy.

4. Qualifications Scotland Exams update – Mrs Muir

Slide presentation.

Assembly Fri 20th March

Invigilator team – growing team as we have a growing team. Around 20. Feeling confident at these team.

Individual timetables have been given out to ASN pupils

Exams run through Wed 22nd April – 29th May 2026.

Main timetable available in google classroom – subject, level, date, time, location. Have adjusted times – can be half an hour later than main times on Qualification Scotland Website.

Check morning of exam – can change – usually only location and will be on Noticeboard on day of exam!

Children told how Invigilators operate, any questions put up their hand and that they don't work for the school but for the examination board. Invigilators know about those that need mobile phones to monitor health and they are put on floor beside the pupil.

Pupils told about exam procedures – arriving on time – 15 mins early, phones switched off and in bags, writing in blue/black ink, reading exam questions, ending of exam – keep following instructions. Must be in school uniforms for exams and also if coming into study.

My qualifications Scotland – sign up to receive exam results and checking your details/name/address etc – Tues 4th Aug.

Appeal information process is released in June.

1st June 2026 - new timetable begins after exam leave.

5. Welcome to Police liaison officer

PC Kirsty Lyle – new liaison officer – has been come to events/becoming part of the community.

Next police event at the school will be on vaping and drugs and also going to Primary 7. Also alcohol covered. PC welcome given request for actions relating to staying safe and substance use raised at the last meeting in January. – see further discussion at AOB on this matter.

6. Pedestrian Crossing

School became aware only when works started.

School wrote to Council Roads and response was not good enough and did not reassure school that all matters had been considered. Roads told school was not required to be consulted.

2021 – person knocked down at roundabout – a bump and people jumping the barrier. Remove metal fencing was proposed, take island in middle, no traffic lights/zebra crossing.

Stationary traffic feeding into school in morning then cross faster flowing

Island possibly not big enough to hold all pupils who are crossing.

Most children cross at the crossing – current lights – and this crossing is closer.

No controlled measured – sheep mentality and would change dynamic of the roundabout.

H&S, Donna from PC, PTA, Police Scotland, 2 senior pupils – site visit undertaken.

Police Scotland wrote a report for the school to the Roads department. Traffic Management – from Govan St, Police Scotland – they agree it is not a safe proposal.

Wednesday – police, school, council – visit to monitor.

School acknowledge they are not experts on traffic management but have knowledge of the traffic movements around the school.

Also acknowledge that young people jump the barrier. Current start of works is encouraging more to jump the barrier and using constructed island.

Proposal however is likely to mean new crossing used and not the existing lights crossing.

Pleased to report that roads are meeting with school. Action – will return to next meeting with update. Will also go to Community Council after the meeting with Roads. PC will support the meeting either Vice Chair and Chair.

Facebook post will go out to get any additional comments. School appreciates support.

7. New Parent Portal – Scottish Government tool

Mr Munro provided an update.

General comments. Why do we need another communication channel? Paperless backward/forward to school.

Pilot school for Argyll and Bute Council – everyone across authority will be asked to sign up for it. Will save printing on Tracking Reports and also means direct messaging to the parent rather than relying than pupil providing.

As Head Teacher – keen for everyone to sign up as it will make it easier for the school and save paper/time/money on printing. More will be added to the portal – i.e. course choices in the future. Data checks – admin time – chasing returns. Will release time to do other jobs.

Not consulted as it has been coming down the line for a long time.

School should be contacted if there is an issue with the system, not Scottish Government.

Work needed in terms of making it more usable on mobile phones i.e. the longer reports.

Helps put resources back into other areas of the school.

8. AOB's

Information on the website

Parent requesting policies on ASN on the website. School will look into this.

Tied into local authority policies so possibly a source/links to external pages where policies. Mr Munro is reviewing user friendly websites. Links issued to parents who are requesting this.

Community lets/events – Question raised about cancelling of regular bookings and then other occasions not being cancelled. Live Argyll decisions. Repeat cancellations.

Action - School will look into why that is happening.

Hair/beauty

Raised at last meeting. Request for a further update. As stated at last meeting the Nat 4/ S4 and beauty level 5 in S4. Changes to the course – tinting/dyes – so need to do Level 5 you need to be 16. Pathway cuts off to them at S4.

College setting this requirement but it not a European. Could leave certain part of the course left to the end of the year.

School contacted college – they suggested different timing but college told them it was when they were registered. School checked with other schools and all being told same thing.

Parents Council don't want to see pathways closing off so needs to be looked at further.

Stay safe/substances

Could there be an information evening for parents?

Idea of Police coming to Parent Council meeting on substance use – is ideal approach. June may be a really good time to do it.

Topics – Health and wellbeing – giving parents all topics that are being taught.

Date of next meeting: 8th June 2026

Next steps/key actions:

- Police arranged to attend next meeting – raise awareness of this to parents to increase attendance.
- School to gain further update on Hair and Beauty
- School to improve website and links to ASN policies
- School and PC continue to work together on addressing issues with Pedestrian Crossing – attendance at meeting with the Council required by PC representatives.
- Survey results to be collated and summarised at the next meeting