



Hermitage Academy Parent Council

8th June 2026

6.30pm (time adjusted)

Attendance

Name	Role	Apologies
Douglas Morgan	Head Teacher	
Mr Munro	Head of Cumbrae House	
Mrs Kennedy	Deputy Head of Davarr House	
Laura Watt	Chair	Apologies
Kirsty Sweeney	Secretary	Online
Donna Gairns	ASN Rep / Vice Chair	
Stella Kinloch	Treasurer	Apologies
Claire Walker		Apologies
Andrew Tennant		
Kathleen Daly		Apologies
Anna Tkachenko		Apologies
David Smith		Apologies
Andrew Brown		Apologies
Marie Smith		
Dawn MacFadyen		
Tyler Whatmore		
Louise Grafton		Apologies

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome from DC

There are a number of apologies from PC Members. See above list.

2. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing update – retirement of Mrs McGinley and Mrs Campbell after 36 and 37 years service and adverts and interviews are going to happen in June before the break. 6 permanent posts being advertised and one is a temporary as Miss Harrison is taking a career break in Social Subjects.

Successful exam diet. Mrs Munro, Mrs Telford – big thank you to all them for allowing it to run smoothly.

Celebrations – 4th and 5th Years – Spring Formal

Year 6 had a Pipers send off after their leaver's breakfast.

June trips coming up for the rest of the school- flip out, bowling etc. Nice end of term celebrations.

S6 charity committee – press release – previous raised £10,000 but this year raised £30,000. A lot was due to doing events in memory of Ms Dunn. Exceptional, lots of money raised through coffee mornings, kilt walk.

STEM/P7 sports day – really good vibe from the new pupils

Fantastic turn out on the parent information evening and a great 2 transition days and they made a good impression. They are a big year group and they brought a good reputation from their primary schools

16th/17th Junior School Matilda show.

American partners here for next 2 weeks. Our pupils go there in October.

Last day is 1st July and school closes early at **1pm**.

Only Hermitage and Cardross primary are the schools that are growing in Argyll and Bute area so we are getting staffing allocation to keep pace with this.

3. Communications group update

Only one meeting this school year with Mr Munro and it focused on the school improvement survey.

Do we know how the survey has went?

We know we had issues of people not being able to fill it in because you needed a google account.

School said parents shouldn't need an account but will look into it.

Action – next meeting results of school improvement survey to be shared.

4. Learning Centre update

There is an increasing role in the learning centre – new teacher being interviewed. Two new young people joining the centre next term. 1 staff to 10 pupils and increasing to 12 pupils. 2 members of staff will allow cover.

A year has past already and it has gone so fast but the centre has been a great addition to the Academy.

Secured funding from the local authority to spend on the outdoor space. Senior classes will be working on design and manufacturing elements of the new equipment

and an award winning garden designer is going to support the process. A preferred company has been identified through procurement.

5. ASN group update

Meet next Wednesday and dates will be set in the diary for next session.

6. Air Conditioning

Air con facility has brought in because of windows that are broken to be kept shut until fixed. Unfortunately the units ordered don't fit so new ones are being ordered.

Different parts of the school get too hot at different times of the day.

Refreshed the home economics department on top floor.

Haven't replaced the ones in IT but they have been serviced.

There are more windows shut than there normally would. But it is just the lower windows rather than the top windows so there is still air circulation/ventilation.

Heating is off in the summer but the school can get very hot.

7. Treasurer's report

£8676 in account – A survey was issued asking parents about what the funds should be spent on and the results need analysed and a decision will need to be made. School happy to facilitate and meeting to review the findings and reach a decision on the final expenditure. PC received £1400 at start of the financial year.

8. AOB's

Agenda item – raised previously under AOB – bus issue

It is not a rolling issue/item on the agenda. Always having to chase this issue. If before Sept – get clarification on what the PC can do to ensure Parents feel listened to.

PC understand this is frustrating but there was a separate meeting, a lot of discussion and a decision was made. The next forum the decision was shared.

PC sent a letter to the bus company.

PC want to listen and respond to issues raised.

Qualifications exam board - proposed changes

PC re-posted a message from Qualifications Scotland, could/should the School be sending the consultation out?

There is a window of opportunity as lots of changes coming out from qualifications Scotland so School could add to the newsletter.

Sometimes there are small changes that QS make and therefore we might not want to share things to parents that are more relevant to teaching staff rather than parents. So we want to be careful about what we share and we don't want to create more confusion with parents.

S6 Wider Achievement

Wider achievement – young people in sixth year looking to do 4 or 5 subjects

Wanting to see that individual studying is used productively.

To have access to staff – leadership, enterprising employability

Majority do 4 courses, normally would have 6 periods free – two of those 6 are used to meet up with a senior member of staff to talk about qualification.

Prom committee, parent/pupil support etc.

S6 have been really positive and accepted the challenges. Some have signed up to do all the qualifications.

Well prepared for life beyond the school so they are ready to apply for jobs/apprenticeships

School is trying to think smarter about the individual time productively so that is why we have introduced time tabled slots.

That is good but it came as a surprise. School apologise that the pace of change has come about so quickly. We are doing work with Moray, Angus, East Lothian and one part of this partnership process, they had similar issued of S6 not using time productively. We wondered if we could have done it this year but we decided to go for it but S6 have jumped on board with it and we got resources we needed to. School think they will get a good experience out of it and get qualifications. It was not intentional to ‘spring’ it on to S6.

A lot of pupils in S6 are not realising how good this will be in previous years so hoping this year will realise that it is important. School definitely seen enthusiasm from S6. Pupils are now seeing the value.

P7 Parent Information evening

Got some S1 parents signing up.

School happy to help raise profile of PC and help with giving PC a whole page of the newsletter. Some parents wait for parents night but you can speak to the school at any time.

Date of next meeting: TBC – September 2026

Next steps/key actions:

- Police arranged to attend next meeting – raise awareness of this to parents to increase attendance. – CARRIED OVER FROM MARCH
- School to gain further update on Hair and Beauty – CARRIED OVER FROM MARCH
- School to improve website and links to ASN policies – CARRIED OVER FROM MARCH

- School and PC continue to work together on addressing issues with Pedestrian Crossing – attendance at meeting with the Council required by PC representatives. - CLOSED
- Survey results to be collated and summarised at the next meeting - CARRIED OVER FROM MARCH
- Article in Newsletter to be prepared to raise profile of PC and gain new members. - **New**