



## **Attainment and Achievement Report**

**For Area Committee**

**April 2012**

This report is divided into three parts

- SQA Results analysis (2011 diet of exams)
- Wider Achievement
- Curriculum for Excellence Update

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## Section 1

### SQA Analysis



Hermitage Academy

### SQA Results Summary Table

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Standard Grade</b>					
5+ Credit Grades %	38	36	35	43	43
5+ @ 1-2	40	37	35	43	43
5+ @ 1-4	86	86	80	85	76
5+ @ 1-6	96	96	90	94	92
Grade 7		0.6	2	2	0.3
Males with 5+ Credit passes	31	28	32	30	41
Females with 5+ Credit passes	48	45	38	57	45
<b>National Qualifications</b>					
Intermediate 1 A to C				84	92
Intermediate 2 A to C				77	78
<b>S5 Highers</b>					
5+ @ A to C	14	9	11	9	16
3+ @ A to C	26	28	26	26	32
1+ @ A to C	46	55	48	53	57
Males with 5+ @ A to C	9	5	7	9	12
Females with 5+ @ A to C	20	14	16	10	20
<b>Advanced Highers</b>					
1+ Pass A to C	22	18	25	25	29

## **SQA Results Analysis 2011**

As can be seen in the Results Summary Table, at **Standard Grade** the number of pupils gaining 5 or more Credit Levels ( a national benchmark) has remained high at 43%. It is the boys who have made a massive improvement rising from 30% last year to 41% this year.

The number of pupils gaining 5 or more Standard Grades at General Level has dropped from 85% last year to 76% this year. There has been a change in the certification of English, Mathematics and Modern Languages, where the pupils now sit NQ exams (Intermediate 1 and 2) instead of Standard Grades. The number of pupils failing to complete courses or getting the lowest award (a grade 7) have both dropped.

At National Qualifications, **Intermediate 1 and 2** the school has also recorded significant increases. At Intermediate 1 the Pass rate has gone up from 84% to 92% and at Intermediate 2 it has gone up by 1% to 78%.

The most significant result was in **the S5 Higher** results, where the number of pupils gaining 5+ Highers at A to C rose from 9% last year to a very impressive 16% this year. These results are above the national average and are the highest for the school since 2001.

For those gaining 3+ Highers at A to C there was an increase from 26% to 32%.

A finally those gaining at least 1+ Higher at A to C there was an increase from 53% to 57%.

At **Advanced Higher** the school has recorded its highest total for many years in the number of pupils gaining at least one Advanced Higher at A to C where there was an increase from 25% to 29%.

### **Individuals**

Within these statistics there are many examples of some individuals who have done exceptionally well, including

17 pupils who achieved straight A's at Standard Grade / Intermediate 2.

Six pupils achieved the prestigious 5 A's at Higher and of this group, two pupils got the highest possible grades at Higher by getting five A band 1s and therefore shared the Cramb Medal as School Dux.

Fraser Baird of S6 became the first pupil in the school to achieve the Science Baccalaureate, for which he received a Distinction. The baccalaureate is a qualification which allows students to apply and combine the skills and knowledge in their Sixth Year subjects. This programme has been extended this year to include Modern Languages.

Chris Blackwell of S6 sat four Advanced Higher subjects and attained two As and two Bs, a tremendous achievement.

Perhaps the most outstanding performance was that of Stephanie Barrie of S6. Stephanie sat three Advanced Higher and got three As, however what made it even more remarkable was her performance in Mathematics. Last year in Higher Maths Stephanie got a special award for getting 100% in the exam – a rare achievement. This year the school was delighted to learn that she has done it again but this time at the much harder Advanced Higher level.

One new subject in the curriculum was Higher Digital Photography and the results were outstanding. The course was taught by the Art and Design Department and all 19 pupils passed, with a superb total of 13 getting a Grade A.

The courses on offer at Hermitage Academy have changed considerably. At a time when many schools are cutting back on levels, especially Advanced Highers, we increased our provision to 22 subjects this year. Advanced Highers are very important for our young people as they are valuable points for entry into University and in addition the skills of independent working and research, which are integral to these courses are inherently valuable in themselves.

29% of last year's S6 which had 190 pupils, gained at least one Advanced Higher – the highest for many years.

The school has diversified into other curricular areas and now offers Skills for Work courses in Hairdressing, Early Education and Childcare, Car Mechanics, Rural Land Skills and Uniformed and Emergency Services.

These first class results have meant that the pupils of Hermitage Academy have many opportunities to have positive destinations when they leave school.

- 43% of the school leavers went on to Higher Education (University)
  - 22% of the school leavers went on to Further Education (College)
- These figures are well above the Argyll and Bute Average (HE 33.5% and FE 20.6%)

Other school leavers enter straight into employment, apprenticeships or the Armed Forces. Hermitage Academy is the top officer-producing State School in Scotland, six officers have passed through Sandhurst in the last few years.



## Hermitage Academy in numbers

- Hermitage Academy school roll 1401 (August 2011)
- Hermitage Academy was the 18<sup>th</sup> largest school in Scotland
- Hermitage Academy was the largest school in Argyll and Bute
- Last year 25.6% of the Secondary age pupils of Argyll and Bute attended Hermitage Academy.
- The Free School Meal entitlement at Hermitage Academy is 10.6% (in 2006 it was 6.1%)
- Attendance at HA was 92% ( remaining steady)
- Exclusion from school has dropped to 0.1% (0.3% in 2008)
- The staying on rate for S4 pupils is 98%
- The staying on rate for S5 pupils is 93%
- The staying on rate for S6 pupils is 81%



## Section 2

### Wider Achievements

The school is very keen to promote both academic attainment and wider achievements.

The school has the byeline - Hermitage Academy- "*School of Champions*" - on the school website it states

*"A champion is a person, a team, or an organisation that succeeds in gaining or achieving a difficult goal and is proud of that achievement."*

Some of the current achievements of the school are

- Scottish Champions at Sailing.
- British Junior Sailing Champion in the 420 class.
- Scottish Champion at 200m Butterfly in Swimming .
- Scottish Champion at table tennis aged 13, she holds the National Titles at Under 15 and Under 18 levels.
- Scottish Fencing Champion (Under 18)
- Two pupils represented Scotland in the UK Games in Sheffield.
- Four pupils represented Scotland in the World Schools Ski Championships ( more than any other Scottish School)
- Argyll and Bute Schools Golf Championship.
- Argyll and Bute Dance Champions
- Runners-up in the Glasgow Music festival Swing Band competition.
- World Pipe Majoring Champion
- Pupil have been very successful in local and national Art and Design Competitions.
- Architecture Competition Winners
- In Music many pupils have been selected to play in Argyll and Bute Music groups
- Two pupils have been selected for the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland.
- The school successfully competes in a variety of sports including football, netball, basketball, rugby, athletics and have more recently started hockey for boys and girls.



A major strength of the school is the ethos. Hermitage Academy promotes an ethos of mutual respect and there is very strong evidence to show that there are excellent relationships between staff and pupils in the school. Although this is a school of almost 1400 pupils, it is a very orderly school and there are very few raised voices. At the start of every year the Headteacher sets out the expectations and the pupils have responded to this very positively, resulting in far fewer incidents and exclusions from school.

The pupils are a real strength of the school and visitors are always very impressed by their high standards. Prefects were reintroduced to the school this year and over 100 of the S6 have volunteered to take up the duties and responsibilities of being a Prefect.

The reputation of the school both locally and nationally has improved and Hermitage Academy is now seen as a large and successful school, and one that is at the forefront of many educational initiatives and developments. There have been articles published in the TES, HMIe Documents and staff have delivered presentations at the Scottish Learning Festival and this year “Hooked on Hermitage” Primary Secondary Transition programme was showcased at the Secondary Head Teachers conference in November.

We have established very close links with the community of the Helensburgh and Lomond area and we look forward to continue to work with business partners and other agencies. One such initiative was the S3 Study Skills programme which was devised by Miss Cullen. Pupils were given study folders and were awarded points for attendance at study clubs and classes. This initiative was supported by Babcock and all pupils who took part were awarded certificates and the top 80 were taken on a Secret Trip to Alton Towers.

### **Section 3**

#### **Curriculum for Excellence**

The school is making very good progress with their implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence and have produced an Information Newsletter for Parents and the Public, which explains the new curriculum structures.

This available to download on the school website [www.hermitageacademy.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.hermitageacademy.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

The pupils will follow a broad, general education in S1 to S3(Junior School) and then they will transfer to Senior School. In senior school they will be able to study up to six Highers, starting in S4 and sitting the exams in S5. There will also be courses available at National 4 and National 5. In S6 pupils will be able to choose a variety of courses including Highers and Advanced Highers.