



Education

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Please ask for: Ann Marie Knowles
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 10 May 2016

Dear Parent or Carer

HERMITAGE ACADEMY ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL SENIOR PHASE CURRICULUM REVIEW PROGRESS UPDATE

We wrote to you in December 2015 to advise you of the outcome of the Senior Phase Curriculum Review within Hermitage Academy. At this stage we highlighted a number of areas for development within the curriculum and the preparation of a comprehensive Action Plan to support and monitor the progress of the school in delivering the agreed priorities.

As you may know, colleagues from Education Scotland participated in the Senior Phase Review and issued a letter confirming the outcome. On the 17th/18th March 2016 colleagues from Education Scotland revisited the school to work with us to evaluate progress and the changes that have been made in the school since the initial Local Authority Review.

At the conclusion of this visit we jointly agreed that a number of positive changes have been made across the Senior Phase Curriculum to further support young people. For example,

- The tracking and monitoring of young people's progress from S4-S6 is now providing more information to better inform pupils and parents about their progress.
- The examination presentation policy has been reviewed to increase its flexibility for young people.
- The training sessions to support the Parent Council and their roles and responsibilities in school improvement are complete.

We also recognised that there is further work to be completed and agreed continued development of key areas including;

- Monitoring and evaluating the changes to the curriculum regularly and rigorously to ensure that they provide effective progression pathways for young people.

- Improving further the communication and engagement with parents, staff and young people.
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of the interventions to address under-achievement.
- Reviewing i-time to ensure it is having a positive impact on young people's learning.

What happens next?

Education Scotland has prepared a letter to parents providing detailed information on the improving areas and areas that we have agreed to continue to improve on. A copy of this letter is attached for information and is also available on both the school and Education Scotland websites.

The Council will continue to work with the school to monitor and review the progress in achieving the remaining areas for improvement contained within the Action Plan. Further progress updates will be shared with you over the coming months.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, pupils and staff for their ongoing support and engagement throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Marie Knowles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ann Marie Knowles
Head of Service: Education