

Active Schools is a national programme in partnership with SportScotland with the aim of providing more and higher quality opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity before school, during lunch and after school, to develop effective pathways between schools and sports clubs in the local community. The Active Schools team are a service in the new Live Argyll Trust. Live Argyll works to deliver leisure and library services across Argyll and Bute and the Active Schools team deliver their service with an aim of getting 'more kids, more active, more often'.

Hermitage Academy have had a large focus on indoor rowing this year, an initiative which Active Schools have supported the school with. The school entered into the Scottish Rowing Indoor League and had great success, with over 150 pupils coming along throughout the course of term 1 to log their best times on the rowing machine for their age group for the competition. The Scottish Rowing Competition ran over 4 rounds, with the first 3 being based in the school with results being uploaded online to Scottish Rowing, to gain ranking as a school and individually in year groups across Scotland. The final round was held at the Scottish Indoor Championships which was held in Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, Motherwell.

The final event saw over 160 pupils competing on the day, of which 42 were from Hermitage Academy. The pupils performed fantastically at the event with multiple medals being brought home, and the school bringing back an overall 2nd place ranking in Scotland.

Due to the sterling performances there was a real buzz for indoor rowing in the school after the Championships, and Mr MacAulay in the PE department, has done a great job to keep this momentum going, allowing pupils to come down 3 lunchtimes per week to practise. Due to the high uptake for this and the fantastic results they gained when competing, Active Schools managed to get funding, alongside some help from the school's PTA, to get the school 2 new rowing machines. The result of having these new machines in the gym has meant more pupils can row at the one time, giving more opportunities to pupils to stay fit and healthy.