

Welcome to Hele's School!

Thank you for considering Hele's School as your destination for Post 16 study. We aspire to be an outstanding learning community where discovery is exciting, endeavour and creativity are nurtured and dreams and ambitions are fulfilled.

We are extremely proud of the academic success achieved by our students; approximately 20% of our students enrol at Russell Group Universities and all students progress on to Higher Education, apprenticeship, employment or training. We use up-to-date subject knowledge to guide students on a journey of exploration and discovery. This learning is then enhanced through opportunities to apply your learning to real world contexts whenever possible. Recent study visits have included: Auschwitz, CERN, the Euroscola conference at the European Union in Strasbourg, the World War 1 battlefields in Belgium and study visits to London and Paris, among others.

All students have a personal tutor with whom they meet every day. Our tutorial system allows time for individuals to discuss learning in depth, identify successes, as well as steps required for further improvement. Whilst learning is important we also recognise that careers advice and guidance needs to be a constant theme through the pastoral care we offer. Students are involved in alumni presentations, enterprise activities, work experience and HE conferences and these activities ensure our students look beyond the south west for their career opportunities.

The Post 16 leadership team is here to support the students with any barriers they may encounter, whether academic or personal. Mr Farmer (Pastoral Head of Post 16), Mrs Curtis (Pastoral Support Manager) and Mrs Gray (Post 16 Administrator) are all here to empower students so they can reach their goals and aspirations.

As a Post 16 student at Hele's you would enjoy the benefits of smaller teaching groups and state of the art facilities that promote an inspirational academic ambience. We offer opportunities to hone your skills, build on your strengths and develop as an individual. It is our aim to support you in achieving excellent academic results, whilst providing a wide range of opportunities far beyond the curriculum, to help prepare you for the competitive world of Higher Education, apprenticeships or employment.

On behalf of the Post 16 team at Hele's School, I look forward to working with you in the future.

Kairn Stone

Director of Post 16

stoneka@heles.plymouth.sch.uk



“Students’ attitudes to learning reflect their high standards of behaviour, both within and outside the classroom. They were polite and enthusiastic about the new school building .” ***Ofsted 2017***



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Post 16 Pathways

Hele's School welcomes all 16 -19 year olds who could benefit from the wide range of courses we offer.

We aim to do the following:

- ◆ meet the needs and aspirations of individual students
- ◆ offer an attractive and appropriate range of courses in an environment conducive to learning
- ◆ provide equal opportunities
- ◆ provide relevant qualifications
- ◆ guide and encourage students towards appropriate progression routes either in education or employment
- ◆ encourage the development of key skills and the learning of skills for life
- ◆ recognise the needs and expectations of employers, parents and Higher Education
- ◆ broaden horizons, motivate and widen aspirations
- ◆ encourage young people to value themselves and to fulfil their potential through a system of guidance and personal support

Two Possible Routes

Route A

For students with a **minimum** of 5 passes at grade 5 or grade C including:

- ◆ English and Mathematics grade 5 and above
- ◆ required entry grades for specific subjects

Advanced (Level 3) Courses

We offer a range of Advanced General Certificate of Education (GCE), Applied GCEs and Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical qualifications which normally take place over a period of 2 years. You will need Advanced courses to progress to University or into some careers.

Route V

For students **without** 5 GCSE passes or a grade 5 or above, who want to top up on core GCSEs and undertake a year long practical qualification.

Level 1 or 2 Courses through the PLC (Plym Learning Consortium)

A wide range of courses are offered covering preparation and qualifications for all areas of work. Courses last 1 year and offer progression to a higher level, or might lead to students starting an Advanced Course.

“ Programmes of study in Post 16 meet the needs of students and support their future career pathways. “

Ofsted 2017

Route A: Advanced Courses

Advanced courses are examinations of high academic standard and are for those who wish to proceed to Higher Education or to start a career with a more demanding level of entry.

Government reforms have changed the A Level exam curriculum. The most significant change to these new A Levels is that they will be assessed in full at the end of Year 13.

Cambridge Technicals and BTEC at Level 3

They are equivalent to other advanced courses but have a more practical focus. They are assessed in a more holistic manner through portfolios of controlled assessment coursework and are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. A few of the very elite universities do not accept these qualifications in their entry policies. Many of these courses are more accessible to students with a grade 5 or C at GCSE.

Route V: Vocational Courses / Pre-Apprenticeship Year

This is a one year course, and is an individually negotiated programme leading to vocational (NVQ or equivalent) and improved academic qualifications. It is an option relevant to the needs of young adults not intending to access Higher Education and is designed to cater for a wide range of abilities, interests and needs.

This route can give students the following benefits:

- ◆ the opportunity to obtain Vocational qualifications (NVQ level 1-3 as appropriate, and BTEC Foundation and Intermediate)
- ◆ the scope to retake core GCSEs and to gain other qualifications
- ◆ a functional skills qualification, recording levels of attainment in areas such as ICT, numeracy and literacy
- ◆ enhanced experiences of the real work place and a summary of their achievements
- ◆ an updated profile of their experiences and achievements
- ◆ support through careers advice in developing an action plan to guide future progress

No particular qualifications are required to start this course; students can design a programme of study to suit their ability. Up to three days a week will be spent out of school in training and at the work place.

Students on this route can progress in the following ways at the end of the year:

1. Progress on to advanced level courses within the school or other institution.
2. Further vocational study, e.g. NVQ 2 or 3 through the school.
3. Develop their vocational skills in employment or training.

There are a range of qualifications such as:

Animal care
Child care & education
Plastering
Plumbing
Painting and decorating
Building and construction
Beauty therapy
Health & social care
Digital technology
Business administration

“ Students have a strong personal development programme that supports them on to their next career pathway.”

Ofsted 2017

How Do I Choose My Subjects?

Consider your strengths, as well as any future plans you may currently have. If you have a particular career in mind, it is important to research which subjects might be essential and which are preferred for entry into a particular field. Ensure that the courses you are looking at meet your academic profile, and that you are on track to achieve the entry requirements. To help you to make appropriate decisions, you are advised to consider what you enjoy studying.

Initially you are asked to select up to 4 subjects on your application form, and from these choices we will build a curriculum to suit as many students as possible. **Students study 3 subjects at A Level.**

Talk to your parents and other relatives, read the subject information sheets in this booklet, discuss your plans with your current teachers and find out as much as you can about the subjects at the Post 16 Open Evening. We can arrange for you to meet groups of Post 16 students to talk to them if you are stuck. Any decisions made during Year 11 are not set in stone and can be flexible up to the point of entry to support you in making the right choices.

Personal Tutoring

Personal and academic progress will be carefully monitored during the course by the student's subject teachers, tutor and Pastoral Leader. Each student will be allocated a tutor who will play a central part in supporting the student as well as reporting to parents. Tutors will:

- ◆ monitor academic progress
- ◆ monitor attendance at lessons
- ◆ deliver the tutorial programme based around Study Skills and career planning
- ◆ prepare references and applications for employment and Higher Education
- ◆ offer guidance regarding progress and future options
- ◆ provide opportunities for students, as maturing young adults, to consider and discuss those important issues they meet in their lives, both within and outside school

Students will be working with the team of tutors every day and will find that this aspect of school becomes a central part of their weekly routine and long-term success.



“The courses students follow are also complemented by a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that broaden their interests and develop their employability skills.”

Ofsted 2017

Welcome to the Plym Learning Consortium

Coombe Dean School, Hele's School, Plympton Academy, Plymstock School

When you join Hele's you will become part of the Plym Learning Consortium (PLC) which covers four secondary schools to the east of Plymouth. The PLC provides over 500 students with access to a broad range of Level 3, BTEC and A Level courses.

Whichever you choose, the decision to continue to gain further skills, knowledge and qualifications is certain to help you make progress towards achieving your career ambitions. You can be assured of the full support of your teachers, tutors and PLC.

Rationale

The PLC schools work collectively and strategically to offer the widest choice possible to all our students enabling continued progression towards chosen career paths. The consortium seeks to provide opportunities for students to access as broad a curriculum as possible, particularly where it is increasingly difficult for an individual school to sustain very small class sizes.

Being a Partnership Student

If your home centre does not offer your preferred combination of courses, partnership working makes it possible for you to study up to two courses at another centre. All centres report on student progress and attainment regularly and this information is shared in the first instance with the home school, which then distributes it.

Transport

Transport is provided by the PLC minibus, which takes students from each school to a partner school for study. The minibus runs before period 1 and after period 5 as well as at break time and lunchtime each day.

Entry Requirements

For all subjects, students wishing to study at a partner PLC school are required to meet the entry requirements for the course as set out in the partner school's prospectus. Depending on the subject(s) you are interested in, there may be further requirements which will be discussed with you at interview.

How to Apply

You will need to complete the application form provided by your home school, who will liaise on your behalf.

