

Hele's School

A great place to learn. A great place to grow.



Friday, 19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, that's it! The first full week back with everyone on-site and the time has simply flown by! With the lighter mornings and brighter evenings to boot, it certainly feels like things are on the up but we by no means take our eyes off the importance of keeping our Hele's community safe and have been so impressed by the manner in which the vast majority of our youngsters have returned to school.

Learn & Grow Provision: as you may remember, in Term 2 we launched a new provision in school called Learn & Grow for students in Years 7-10. This provision grew from the need we identified in a number of our students following the first lockdown to receive targeted support and intervention to help them get back on track with their learning. Learn & Grow is staffed by a team of fantastic Post-16 tutors and was well-attended in Term 2 with around 10-20% of students in each year group taking advantage of the opportunity. The staff at Learn & Grow, who are some of our finest Hele's students, offer a peer-tutoring model and have been fully trained in providing high quality tuition and safeguarding. They also work closely with our Key Stage 3 and 4 subject coordinators to ensure that the content of tuition sessions is carefully mapped against key subject priorities as identified in lesson feedback.

From the start of next term, Learn & Grow sessions will run daily Monday to Thursday after school from 3-4pm. Students can attend as many nights as they wish, subject to demand. All those attending will have the opportunity to work individually or in a small group with a tutor focusing on areas identified as being priorities. There will also be the opportunity to work privately on any homework to ensure work is kept up to date.

In order to register your child for Learn & Grow, even if they have attended previously, please register your child by completing the following short form: [Learn and Grow Form](#) Where we feel your child would significantly benefit from attending this letter, you will receive a personalised letter over the coming week from your child's Head of Year. If you have any queries about Learn & Grow, please contact Emma Clapham, Assistant Principal. (clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

LFT home testing: this week also marks the completion of our mass on-site Lateral Flow Testing process in school and the Sports Hall has been recommissioned for its intended use. What this signals though, is the onus shifting to students and parents and the beginning of home testing every 3-5 days. Again, we have been hugely impressed by the student response to this and the maturity and responsibility exhibited by students in taking home their testing kits.

For those families in our community observing Ramadan, I felt it may be useful to share some information received in school earlier this week. This pertains to The British Islamic Medical Association's view that taking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lateral flow device (LFD) tests during Ramadan does not invalidate the fast. I hope this information is of use.

The DfE has also published a collection of [guidance providing information for parents and carers](#) of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which may be of interest.

The collection brings together information and guidance for parents/carers on:

- essential information for the spring term
- coronavirus (COVID-19) testing
- clubs and out-of-school settings
- home schooling and remote education

Year 8 Options Form deadline: please note the deadline for the return of Year 8 Options Forms is **Wednesday 24th** March, not Monday as previously communicated.

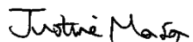
Uniform: as we move towards the Easter Holiday and the next stages of the government's road map, we are sure that those families who have not been able to provide a perfect uniform for the return to school will be able to correct this. We wish to support families at this time but maintain committed to ensuring the highest quality of uniform is worn by our students. In advance of the Easter Holiday, we will be focusing on issues with uniform which do not require any additional purchases, namely the wearing of piercings, make up (including false eyelashes) and inappropriate PE kit. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed for school, ensuring that the only piercings worn are one pair of small studs in the ears and that make up is natural. A reminder too, for families for whom we are in receipt of the Pupil Premium, that the personal allowance allocated to each student can be used against uniform items by simply contacting our Main Reception.

Good news: as you may know, Hele's School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is affiliated with the Coldstream Guards. This week, Major Randall received the Coldstream Gazette for 2020, a prestigious book that is sent annually to all serving and retired members of the Coldstream Guards across the country, as well as CCFs and ACFs.

I was absolutely thrilled (and moved to tears, once again!) to see photographs within the gazette of Duncan Bibby and Hannah Duckworth, both in Year 13, with a write up that recognised them both for their "...exemplary soldiering, behaviour and attitude". A truly wonderful achievement to appear in this national publication and very well-deserved for our two outstanding Cadets!

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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