

Hele's School

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



Friday, 21 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very wet and windy week – never a good combination in schools! It is certainly not feeling like mid-May outside but within school, although different this year, it has definitely felt like the end of an era for our GCSE and A Level students this week. There have been tears (and smiles!) aplenty as students marked a series of ‘lasts’, finished the last of their summer assessments and began the series of farewells leading up to their Leavers’ Events. Even the weather couldn’t take the shine off the celebrations for Year 13 yesterday and Year 11 today; the traditional Leavers’ assemblies offered a wonderful trip down memory lane, looking at photographs from the first day in Year 7, through the years of fun, laughter and experiences to becoming the fine young adults they are today. It is with a huge sense of pride and admiration that we have waved off our students in this year’s cohort, particularly given the way they have conducted themselves over the past 18 months or so. They really have been wonderful year groups and are a credit to us and their families. Thanks must also go to the families of these students for all of your support over the years and for working alongside us as a school to nurture, grow and develop your precious babies – thank you! We look forward to welcoming most of our Year 11s back to Hele’s Post-16 in September but for those moving on to pastures new and those Year 13s flying the Hele’s nest for the final time, we wish them all the very best for what we know are incredibly bright futures ahead!

For the remainder of the school, Term 5 will end next Friday, 28th May at 3pm. This will mark the end of our transition phase from lockdown. Term 6 will start again on Monday 7th June and see the reinstating of some familiar routines and procedures in school. I will write separately about the ‘reset’ and commend you to ensure you read this carefully so that you are fully aware of the expectations for the new term.

As mentioned last week, Jackie Thomas, Prevention Officer for the South West from The Children’s Society, is delivering a virtual session on 10th June from 5.30 - 6.30pm on child exploitation and abuse, entitled #LookCloser. The session is free of charge and open to all parents and carers. For details on how to register and access the session via MS Teams, please contact Mrs Crawford, Designated Safeguarding Lead, at crawfords@heles.plymouth.sch.uk.

Finally, two pieces of good news to share this week. Firstly, congratulations to Jadore Lawson in Year 10 who, following an impressive season, has this week received confirmation of a two-year contract with Plymouth Argyle’s Football Academy. It is fantastic to see Jadore following in the sporting footsteps of a number of past Hele’s players and we wish him all the best for the upcoming season.

Secondly, Henry Tayler in Year 7 is being interviewed on Radio Devon this afternoon at 3.30pm where he will talk about his winning entry to a national poetry competition earlier this academic year. Disability Talk produced an [eBook of the winning entries](#) to not only champion the rights of disabled, disadvantaged and vulnerable people, but to also promote and raise the profiles of UK Charities. Henry’s nominated charity is Shekinah, a Plymouth charity offering a range of services for homeless, addicted, socially excluded and/or otherwise vulnerable adults. I have permission to share Henry’s wonderful poem which I’m sure you’ll agree is very worth of its winner’s medal:

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

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My Uncle

*My uncle is disabled,
But why do they call it disabled?
He still loves
He still chats
He still laughs
Which to me means he still is able
In fact, to me he is more than able.
He is my uncle and I love him.*

I'm reliably informed that there will be a break in the weather tomorrow and even perhaps some sunshine, so I do hope you are able to get out and about and enjoy it!

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Justine Mason

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Principal