

Hele's School

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



Wednesday, 26 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw to the end of another busy term, I write to thank you for your ongoing support and to confirm the arrangements for next term.

Firstly, please note that Term 5 ends for all students and staff on Friday, 28 May at 3pm and we convene again for the final term of the academic year on Monday 7th June. The end of Term 5 marks the end of our transition back from Lockdown and Term 6 marks the beginning of a new chapter in the return to 'normality' at Hele's School. This will ensure both staff and students are ready to hit the ground running in September, providing time in the Summer Term to re-establish expectations and routines which have been relaxed over the past two terms to ease the transition for all.

Term 6 reset: Since March, we have worked hard to get everyone in the building back to functioning safely and cautiously and what a great job we've done collectively. Team Hele's at its best! It is time now though, to move on and reinstate everything that makes Hele's School such a great place to learn and great place to grow. Please read the information below carefully to ensure your child is fully prepared for the return to school after May Half Term:

Control measures – ventilation, hand sanitiser and hand washing will remain in place. Teachers will continue to wear masks where social distancing cannot be guaranteed until new guidance advises otherwise – this is anticipated to be at the government's next roadmap review point on 21st June.

One-way system – this will remain in place for all members of the school community to ensure the safe and orderly movement of people around the school site. The one-way system has worked well and helped alleviate areas of high traffic.

Egress points – having trialled students exiting at the end of the day via their nearest egress point over the last term, we are pleased to now be able to extend this to the start of the day when students in all year groups will be able to enter the site using the most convenient entry point. Once within the building, students will continue to follow the one-way system as detailed above but can move freely through the outdoor space to access their designated tutor base.

Food service – food carts have operated in each social zone throughout Terms 3 and 4 successfully and this will continue in Term 6.

Tutor bases and social zones – since the return in March, we have seen significant benefits for students from the allocated year group social zones and these will remain in place going forward. As students prepare to move up to the next year group and plans are underway to welcome our new Year 7 cohort for their Induction Day in July, we will also begin a staggered transition to the new year group areas over the course of next term. This will be handled sensitively, with tutors supporting students with the move, providing opportunities to visit in advance and ensuring all students are aware of the logistics in their new areas, including toilets, food service, etc. Details of this transition are provided overleaf:

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Year Group	Current Zone	Sept. '21 Zone	Week of term 6 move – roll out to new Tutor bases to allow expectations to be set
Post-16	Post-16	Post-16	-
11	East Quad	-	-
10 into 11	West Quad	East Quad	Week 1, w/b 7 th June
9 into 10	English	West Quad	Week 2, w/b 14 th June
8 into 9	Science	English	Week 3, w/b 21 st June
7 into 8	Maths	Science	Week 4, w/b 28 th June
6 into 7	-	Maths	Induction Day 6 th July

Lanyards – coloured lanyards have been a very useful tool in helping us to identify students from particular year groups, particularly during social time. With the move to new areas overseen by different staff, lanyards will remain in place for Term 6 to support this transition.

Assemblies – assemblies have never stopped, both throughout the Lockdown and since our return to school in March, however, these have been largely virtual, with Heads of Year delivering to their year groups through a screen. Across Term 5, we have successfully trialled live assemblies with our older students in Years 10-13, fine-tuning procedures around these, and are now at a point where we can return to face-to-face assemblies for all students in Term 6. Assemblies will be single year group, held in the Main Hall, with clear seating plans. We really look forward to seeing the students together in year groups again to share important messages and celebrate collective and individual successes.

Awards and attendance celebrations – in Term 6, we normally hold our annual Awards Evening at Boringdon Golf Club, where students, parents, carers and teachers celebrate the accomplishments of our students in Years 7-10. We are not in a position yet to reinstate such an event but do not want students to miss out on the opportunity to have their achievements recognised, and therefore will be holding extended assemblies in the last week of term to celebrate our students' achievements. Watch out for a summary of these events before we break up for the summer holidays!

Practical work – practical work in Technology, Science, and other subjects is now underway. So far, we have had some real success with this, with children and staff really valuing this move and conducting themselves in a way which means these cautious steps are taken safely for all. We look forward to extending this provision next term.

Extra-curricular activities – the offer of extra-curricular activities is really starting to grow as restrictions ease. We all recognise that children need these opportunities at school and they are a key part to the school experience. Please encourage your child to look at what's available and get involved and look out for an even broader offer coming for the next academic year!

School trips – the opportunities for learning beyond the school gates are also beginning to open up and we have some planned trips in the calendar for Term 6, starting with an Art trip to St Ives. Further along, we have CCF activities off-site and a Summer School for our incoming Y7 students, packed full of activities both on and off-site.

Road map progress and gradual easing of restrictions: we will continue to reopen aspects of provision with careful thought. As the vaccination programme gains momentum and LFTs twice weekly have become part of our routine, the rate of COVID remains relatively low locally and regionally. Decisions now are about weighing up the risk of doing things with risk of not doing things, and we will continue to risk assess each action to ensure we can operate safely.

How you can support as parents/carers:

Uniform – as mentioned in previous bulletins, part of our reset will be reverting to the high standards around school uniform on which we pride ourselves at Hele's. From Term 6, all students are expected to be in full uniform each day and we will be focusing on this overtly with students. As a reminder, students will no longer be able to wear PE kit to school – this was a short-term, COVID measure in the absence of changing facilities to ensure practical sport could still take place; it was never intended to be a longer term change to our uniform policy, nor will it become so. All students are expected to be in a blazer, tie, shirt, skirt or trousers, with appropriate footwear – i.e. polishable black shoes with no logos – not trainers. No false nails or eyelashes will be permitted. For students in Year 7, the school skirt is

mandatory and will remain so as they move through the school. For all other year groups, students choosing to wear a skirt are strongly encouraged to purchase the school skirt but where they opt not to, should opt for a skirt of approximately knee-length which does not contain Lycra.

In Term 6, our focus will be very much on the wearing of uniform and the presentation of students, including piercings, leggings, hoodies, jeans and trainers – none of which are permitted. Where a student is found to be infringing the uniform policy, a warning will be given and parents will be contacted by tutors to seek a speedy resolution. A time will be agreed to resolve the issue and follow up contact will be made. Where the issue cannot be resolved at tutor level, the Head of Year and SLT Link will become involved and where your child displays repeated defiance, they may well be removed from circulation until a resolution is found. I must stress that we do not wish for any student to miss out on valuable learning time and do not wish for any student to feel uncomfortable in addressing their uniform, however, we also need to ensure that all students meet the expectations that come with being a Hele's School student, having had a period of time to readjust through Terms 3 and 4. In most cases, uniform infringements will simply require the student to remove a prohibited item and collect it at the end of the day. We are aware though, that students can often feel reluctant to do this and their behaviour can escalate when challenged around this, so your support in ensuring they do not bring or wear any such items to school in the first place will ensure no child is set up to fail. We value your help with this matter enormously as we aim to prepare students for the world of work where dress code and presentation remains of utmost importance.

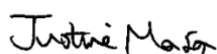
Mobile phones – during Terms 3 and 4 we trialled allowing students access to their mobile phones during social times to help ease the transition from online learning to face-to-face interactions. Unfortunately, we have seen several instances of inappropriate use of mobile phones during this period and a significant impact on student concentration in lessons. Therefore, we will be reverting back to our long-standing school rule around mobile phones, which is that phones must be switched off and out of sight between 8.40am and 3pm, including social time. Again, your support in ensuring your child understands the need to conform to this rule is much appreciated so that items are not confiscated or situations escalated unnecessarily.

Super Six - a reminder that all students should be in possession of the equipment needed for learning every day. We refer to these 6 key items as the Super 6 and this is checked daily by tutors to ensure students are prepared for the day ahead. Items students require are: a blue or black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a Knowledge Organiser folder, a mini whiteboard kit. All of these items are available to purchase in school very cheaply if a student is not able to provide from home. Failure to produce equipment will result in a same-day 30-minute Catch Up detention.

Punctuality – as transport schedules are now close to pre-COVID times and we open up all egress points to all students, it is imperative that everyone arrives at school on time for the start of Tutor Time at 8.40am. Lateness without a valid reason provided through parents/carers will result in a same day 30-minute Catch Up detention.

I hope you can see from the information above the value we place both on your child's education now but also the preparedness for life after Hele's. We look forward to working with you as we enter this new phase together and return to life at Hele's School as we know with excellence for all and excellence from all.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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