

Hele's School

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



Friday, 25 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, let me begin by congratulating our Year 10 students on the start they have made to their mock exam series. It is this cohort's first experience of formal examinations and the sun has shone for them this week! Despite the understandable nerves and absence of some of the year group due to self-isolation, the students have conducted themselves very well and are now well into the swing of showing what they can do in formal exam conditions. Well done, Year 10 – a well-deserved weekend lies ahead now before it's time to do it all again next week!

PCR testing for close contacts: In a subtle but significant change to guidance, Public Health England have stated that **PCR testing is now available and will be encouraged for close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases** to enable rapid identification of asymptomatic cases and to enable timely sequencing of positive contacts. This is recommended for close contacts who don't have any symptoms, as well as those who do. To be clear though, a negative PCR test **does not** release a close contact from isolation, and they must complete their isolation period, regardless.

As a general rule of thumb:

- LFT are for regular testing when you don't think you have Covid (no symptoms, not a close contact, and about to go about your usual day) – staff and secondary age children should continue with LFTs twice a week, as now.
- PCR tests are for if you think you might have Covid (i.e. you have symptoms, you have been identified as a close contact, or you have had a positive LFT). Please note that that the online pathway now enables people to book a Covid PCR test by virtue of being a close contact alone. You can book a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119.

Hele's Alumnus visit: Sunday Times Assistant Books Editor, Lucy Knight, a former student of Hele's, returned to school this week to share her journey into journalism with A Level Media students. Lucy has carved out a great career since leaving Hele's, notably winning the Guardian's Hugo Young Award 2019 for her political piece which was subsequently published in the Opinion section of the famous broadsheet. Lucy's visit offered a fantastic opportunity for our current budding writers to listen to her story, pose questions and take some inspiration from a recent Hele's graduate. We greatly value our Alumni and the value they offer to our students; many thanks to Lucy for the generosity of her time and her words of wisdom and encouragement.

Hele's staff charity fundraising: Over the coming weeks, we have number of staff engaging in some very energetic fundraising activities to raise money for a range of worthy charities. Jack Baxendale (Learning Support Assistant) is running an ultramarathon to raise money for men's mental health charity, *Movember*. Jack is planning to run a lap and a bit extra of Burrator Reservoir on the hour every hour for 24 hours straight, totalling 100 miles by the end of the event!

Not quite as far (thankfully!) but equally as worthy, we have a team of keen paddleboarders taking to the water this weekend to take part in the 3km SUP challenge – *The Drake's Island Paddle* – to raise money for the *Chestnut Appeal* and the *Wave After Wave* water safety initiative.

Later in the summer, a 30-strong group of female staff from Hele's will don our pink t-shirts and complete the Cancer Research Mud Run – I'm not convinced how much pink will be on show when we finish this one (apart from my cheeks, perhaps) but I'd like to wish all the staff taking part on behalf of Team Hele's the best of luck in their endeavours and

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

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467



thank them for being such positive role models to our young people through keeping Hele's School at the heart of our community, and the community at the heart of Hele's School.

Good news: There is much about my role as Principal that excites me but spending time with our wonderful students is the aspect that delights me the most. Having this week interviewed a number of Year 12 students for ambassadorial roles within the school, I was genuinely blown away by the calibre of students putting themselves forward to be part of the Junior Leadership Team (JLT). I was inspired by the passion of all candidates to make a positive difference to our school community and to ensure that student voice is well and truly embedded in our school improvement journey. As I relayed to colleagues, I have interviewed for teaching positions at the school before where the prospective candidates fell way short of the standard of presentation that our students displayed!

I am thrilled we can harness the passion, enthusiasm and talent of the students listed below to make up the Junior Leadership Team for 2021-2022:

Head Boy – Adrian Trout		Head Girl – Hannah Duckworth	
Deputy Head Boy – Sam Jackson		Deputy Head Girl – Rachel Collis	
Assistant Head Boy – Maciej Miazek	Assistant Head Boy – Benji Percival-Celik	Assistant Head Girl - Lauren Pengelly	Assistant Head Girl – Ellen Best

The JLT will meet termly with the Senior Leadership Team around school improvement and together we will ensure that Hele's School goes from strength to strength. The future is bright, that's for sure!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467

