

Hele's School

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



Friday, 2 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's quite remarkable to think that we are now in July and the end of this academic year is just around the corner! I will write to confirm arrangements for the end of term, and importantly for the return to school in September, as soon as the Government reviews plans on 12th July for lifting restrictions from 19th July or thereafter. We are receiving some 'soft' intelligence that schools may be required to Lateral Flow Test children onsite immediately before returning in September, and if this direction does materialise over the coming weeks then it would invariably require a careful plan to get everyone back to school over the first few days of the academic year. I will keep you updated on what continues to be a shifting landscape.

Boys' mental and physical health project: We are pleased to be running an exciting 4-week project on boys' mental and physical health with Gavin Seymour from the Plymouth University Outreach Team. Gavin is a specialist in physical & mental health and was the lead expert on a national BBC One wellbeing documentary, has authored national courses in personal training and nutrition, is an Associate Lecturer for the University of Plymouth, has worked in professional sport for Plymouth Argyle FC and has a diverse career background & qualifications covering many aspects of physical and mental health. We are delighted to be able to use his expertise.

Laptop donations: We were thrilled to receive another ten laptops this week from MailForce, a charity originally set up to help healthcare workers obtain essential PPE but is currently running the 'Computers for Kids' campaign. Working with companies, disused laptops are collected, refurbished and provided to as many children and young people as possible to help them access education. We are incredibly grateful to MailForce for their kind donation.

Free online Level 2 Accredited Courses: You will have received information this week from School alerting you to an opportunity to study online for free through The Aim Group. A range of Adult Education courses have been made available to parents and carers around the themes of understanding and supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. A reminder that the deadline for registering interest is 12th July via this link: [Hele's School - Register your interest here](#)

YMCA Plymouth Holiday Club: The YMCA are hosting a holiday club for 8-16-year olds this summer. This summer, YMCA has partnered with Plymouth City Council's 'Fit and Fed Programme', so any children who have free school meals are eligible for a free place. You can find out more information and book online here: <https://www.ymcaplymouth.org.uk/holidayclub/>

Have your say on NHS and council proposal for a new health and wellbeing centre in Plymouth: Plymouth City Council and the local NHS are working on plans for a new, purpose-built health, care and wellbeing centre in the West End of Plymouth, in the vicinity of Colin Campbell Court. The centre would include a range of services – which could include outpatient services accessible to people across the city - all under one roof. A local engagement programme began at the end of May and continues to 4 July, with project partners keen to hear from local people about the services and facilities they think could go in the building. To have YOUR say, fill in a short survey [here](#) or for more information, click [here](#).


Good news: We are delighted to be able to welcome back to school, twin sisters Elizabeth and Sarah Chard, who graduated from Hele's Sixth Form in 2016. Both girls pursued their love of Science since leaving Hele's and have gone on to make their mark, for sure - Sarah studying Forensic Science at UWE Bristol then undertaking a Master of Research Degree looking at drugs in wastewater, and Liz achieving a First Class Honours Degree in Physics with Professional Experience at the University of Salford, and about to embark on a Master's Degree (and hopefully a PhD, she informs

me!) In between their study and research, Sarah completed an internship in archaeology and forensic anthropology in Romania and Liz took a year out to do a year in industry with a research facility called Energy House Laboratories, which works with companies and researchers from around the world to help develop products and research techniques to improve energy efficiency in buildings. Sarah and Liz will soon be meeting with our A Level Scientists to share their experiences and the fabulous opportunities that Science has afforded them so far. What wonderful role models they are, particularly for girls considering a career requiring STEM expertise - I've no doubt they will inspire many, students and staff alike!

If you have any connection with Hele's Alumni through family or friends - or indeed, this may apply to you as a Hele's graduate yourself - then please do contact me. One of the best resources available to our students is to meet and hear from those who have gone before them, and we are keen to capitalise on any offers to speak with our students about all sorts of career paths. We'd love to hear from you!

Wishing you a restful weekend.

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

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