

Hele's School

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



Friday, 16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the last week of what has been an unprecedented year in school, there are some key updates to share with you.

Arrangements for the last day of term: Friday 23rd July is the last day of the academic year. Students in Years 7 -10 should wear school uniform as usual and come to school with their Super 6, properly equipped for their timetabled lessons. The school day will run as normal for periods 1-4, with period 5 being given over to a Tutor session to round off the year and send our students off to the summer break with a spring in their step. All students will be released at 3pm, as usual.

Year 12 provision: Remote Learning will continue for Year 12 students, with the same expectations that have been in place this week. We have had excellent engagement from our Post 16 students and I am in no doubt that this will continue into the last few days of term. We are expecting all Year 12 on-site on Friday 23rd July for Tutor and period one, and then the Junior Leadership Team would like to mark the end of Year 12 with an outdoor celebration event during periods 3 and 4. This is also an opportunity for the pastoral team to physically see the students and offer any support and guidance they need before disappearing for 6 weeks! Mr Stone, Head of Post 16, has informed Year 12 students in Tutor this morning and emailed their parents separately to confirm arrangements.

School Leavers: We have a number of colleagues leaving at the end of this academic year to take on new challenges. Whether they are retiring, embarking on Teacher Training, or to taking up a new or promoted position in another school, locally or even internationally, on behalf of all at Team Hele's, I would like to thank colleagues for their tremendous contribution to school life and wish each of them continued happiness and success:

Teaching Staff

Dominic Laphorn, Geography

Kate Baker, Maths

Bryony Radford, English

Support Staff

Hilary Dyer, Learning Support Assistant

Mark Tucorri, Learning Support Assistant

Hollie Corcoran-Bradbury, Learning Support Assistant

Rebecca Eves, Learning Support Assistant

Jo Watts, Pastoral Support Manager

CCF Staff

Colour Sergeant Colin Rose, School Staff Instructor

Good luck also to Jazmin Knight, Accountant, who is taking up a promoted post as Deputy Chief Financing Officer for the Westcountry Schools Trust in the new academic year.

Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers: We find ourselves in the fortunate position of being able to celebrate with Year 11 and 13 in their Leavers' events next week. The events are taking on a very different look and are significantly scaled down for the Prom-style events of recent years, with control measures firmly at heart still in spite of national restrictions lifted, but it won't take the shine off recognising the achievements of our students during their time at Hele's.

Equally we look forward to their next steps in life and the range of opportunities that lie before them. As with everything, when one thing ends, another begins as we are now planning for and look forward to meeting our new

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WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

Year 7 in September.

Results Days 2021: We have every intention of running our summer results events on site at Hele's, and dates are confirmed as Tuesday, 10 August for A Level and Thursday, 12th August for GCSE. Both events will take place in the Library from 8.30am – 10.30am. A separate communication will be shared with parents and students before the end of term, where Ms Clapham (GCSE) and Mr Stone (Post-16) will provide further details of the events.

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings : As you know, the Prime Minister announced that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July. One of the key changes that will take place from Monday is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing when alerted to a positive PCR case and this will now be done by NHS Track and Trace.

However, as Headteachers in the Westcountry Schools Trust we feel that it is important we continue to alert you if your child is deemed to be a close contact of a positive case for the last week of term. As a precautionary measure, then, we will continue our close contact tracking and advise that you may wish to keep your child at home to start a 10-day isolation period in the interim of being contacted by Tack and Trace. However, unless you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace directly, this is not compulsory.

We are committed to continuing to keep our schools as safe as possible, and are trying to limit the number of students, families and staff who have to self-isolate, especially going into the summer holidays. We will therefore support your decision not to send your child into school if identified as a close contact by our internal tracing next week; maintaining a cautious approach for five more days seems sensible and proportionate.

Parent Survey for Immunisations, Years 8, 9 and 10: Virgin Care (VCSL) administer the vaccinations for HPV & DTP/MenACWY at our school. As a provider of this essential NHS programme, they are continuously striving to improve the service for all involved and would really appreciate it if you could provide feedback through a short survey. If you could please spare a few minutes to complete the survey following the link below it would be really useful to the team and very much appreciated. <https://surveys.virginicare.co.uk/s/WKCKSK/>

Laptop return: if you haven't done so already, please could families who have borrowed laptops this year contact Reception and make arrangements to return loaned laptops before the end of term. If you are affected by this, you will already have received a communication from us. Returning the loan devices will allow our IT technicians to service and configure as necessary in readiness for the new academic year.

Sad news: you will have received a separate communication from me at the start of this week to share news of the tragic death of a Year 10 Hele's student on Sunday, 11 July. Thank you for the messages of support that have come into school this week; it has been a difficult week for the school staff and students but the strength and resilience of our school community has shone through, and we continue to offer pastoral wrap around care as well as targeted support for those who require it. Please do contact your child's Tutor in the first instance if you feel your child would benefit from any extra support.

St Mary's Church in Plympton has offered a listening ear to the wider community. Should anyone wish to access the support of St Mary's Church at this difficult time, please contact Plympton Team Ministry Administrator, Sarah Duckworth, at stmarysplympton@gmail.com or Rev'd Robert Harris at robdharris57@gmail.com. Alternatively, please telephone 01752 348525 to speak to a member of the team.

Finally, should you wish to express your sympathy to the family, you may do so through the condolences@heles.plymouth.sch.uk email. This account will cease at the end of term, 10am on Friday, 23 July, and we will ensure all posts are shared with the family, so they know they remain in our thoughts in these darkest of days.

Thank you for your support.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal