

Hele's School

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



Friday, 15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I've enjoyed seeing the array of cakes and baked goods on display this week as part of Year 7's challenge set by the MFL department; there have been some wonderfully creative efforts on show, so well done to all families who engaged in this activity at home - I hope the entries tasted as good as they looked!

I've no doubt that the GCSE Hospitality group will be presented with culinary delights today as they visit the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth to find out about the many departments within a busy hotel, and I look forward to hearing of their tales upon their return - it'll be hard to top the experience the Geographers on their fieldtrip to Torcross last week, however, given they were joined by a seal frolicking in the surf as they measured beach incline and pebble size - how magical!

There will be plenty to catch up on too from the Duke of Edinburgh Gold participants, who are in the midst (and undoubtedly in the mist!) of a 4-day expedition on Exmoor. Best of luck to our explorers and here's to a dry and settled weekend ahead!

Vaccinations on Tuesday: If you haven't yet done so, please consider the information emailed earlier this week on behalf of Virgin Care, the Schools Immunisation Service, regarding the forthcoming nasal Flu and Covid vaccinations next Tuesday, 19th October. A reminder that the deadline for consent is midnight on Sunday 17th October.

Whilst this is a Schools Immunisation Service-led event, we remain alert to anxieties that may exist amongst some young people at times of vaccination. Virgin Care are very experienced with administering large-scale immunisations and will manage young people and their worries sensitively, but please be assured that we will ensure we have a strong Hele's staff presence for the duration to provide our students with a friendly and familiar face and any individual support they may need, before or after the vaccination. Please do contact us if you your child is particularly worried or upset about the forthcoming vaccinations so we may put support in place wherever possible.

We realise this is an anxious time for some adults too, so just to reiterate that Virgin Care stress that **no child will be vaccinated in school - on 19th October or any other day - without the consent of their parent/carer** - if there are any discrepancies between a child and parental view of consent, Virgin Care health professionals will call parents away from the vaccination session and arrange for vaccination to be caught up, if and when required.

Bus service disruption: CityBus have responded positively and openly to the concerns raised on behalf of our children with regards to interrupted services, particularly of the 21/21A after school. They have acknowledged and apologised for some instances of service disruption experienced over the past few weeks and attributed this to several factors that they hope will soon ease. I have been assured that plans are afoot to restore the full timetable as quickly as possible, and I am meeting with colleagues from CityBus shortly to explore current problems and solutions.

In the meantime, it is worth reiterating the importance of your child wearing a coat or suitable waterproof each day as the weather becomes more autumnal - they will certainly benefit from this whilst waiting for the bus, whether it is on time or not!

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



WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

Staffing update: This week, we welcomed Gareth Allen, Cover Supervisor, to the Hele's staff. Mr Allen will add capacity around covering teacher absence with Hele's staff who know our children best, which we believe will ensure consistency of learning experience in cases of planned or unplanned teacher absence. We are particularly excited knowing that Mr Allen was previously working as a Music Teacher, and that he is pleased to be able to add to the enrichment opportunities on offer for our young musicians.


We wish Mrs Blandin-Neaves, Head of MFL, the very best of luck as she leaves today to feather her nest and prepare for the arrival of Baby Blandin-Neaves; we look forward to welcoming the newest member of Team Hele's to the world in the coming weeks! Miss Pike will cover the Head of MFL role until Mrs Blandin-Neave's return next academic year.

Good news: Warmest congratulations to Jack Brimming 9D and Ronnie Reynolds 9D, who have both been successful in their recent football trials for Plymouth Schoolboys and have made the final 18-man Plymouth Schools FA squad. Over 100 students trialled for the squad across 15 schools so this really is a great personal achievement for the boys, their families, and their coaches, both in and out of school. We look forward to hearing of their progress throughout this season.

Also, a huge pat on the back for Elliott Palmer 8F on being awarded 3rd place for his entry to the National Pixel Art competition. Elliott clearly has a real talent in this area and has won a pixel display kit after his superb short pixel animation of a character 'zapping' another was commended – truly electrifying!

Term end: A reminder that all students finish school for the half term holiday at 3pm this Thursday, 21st October, and that this day will be a yellow-themed mufti day in support of YoungMinds. A £1 donation is strongly encouraged, with all proceeds going to the charity that works to support mental health and wellbeing in children and young people. Term 2 begins on Monday, 1st November.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason

Principal