

Hele's School

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



Friday, 5th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a result of Miss Mason's absence, due to illness, this week, it falls to me to write to you with our weekly update. I am sure you will join with us in wishing Miss Mason a speedy recovery and we hope to see her back in school when she is fit and well.

I do hope you enjoyed a safe and germ-free half term break and managed to dodge the showers to get out into the fresh air. We have had a purposeful first week back with the school feeling very calm and students engaging well with their learning and with each other.

Looking ahead to next week, we are delighted that our Drama department has been invited to showcase their work at the WeST Governors' Conference on Wednesday, 10th November, and we look forward to reinstating our Remembrance Event on Thursday, 11th November when the whole school will be observing a two minute silence. Our CCF will be leading proceedings which will be live streamed for all students to observe from classrooms.

Lateral Flow Testing: All students have been given additional lateral flow testing kits this week so that they can continue with twice-weekly testing at home. Please note that the tests are slightly different to previous ones sent home, with no requirement for throat swabbing. **Students need to carry out nasal swabbing only, as per the instructions included with the tests, and allow for 4 drops of the sample to ensure an accurate result.** With a high incidence of the virus circulating within our community we would encourage all students to continue to test and record their results. In school, we continue to emphasise the importance of regular handwashing, sanitization and mask-wearing in corridors. We would also encourage parents of students aged 12 and upwards, who have not yet been vaccinated, to take up this additional layer of protection. Details of the local offer can be found here

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom/mainstories/walkinvaccinationsessionsweek>

Year 8 Interviews: As part of our ambition to 'Know Every Child', all year 8 students will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team over the course of this term, starting next week. Appointments will come out via tutors and we will look forward to meeting with year 8 to gather their views about their experience of Hele's School.

Tutor Evening Years 7-11: We look forward to meeting virtually with parents, carers and students at the forthcoming Tutor Evening next Thursday, and would encourage all parents and carers to make an appointment to speak with your child's tutor. This is an opportunity to talk holistically about your child and an opportunity to raise any concerns you may have, share information and, of course, celebrate successes. If you are unable to make an appointment for the evening, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor, or the relevant pastoral team, to arrange a mutually convenient time for an alternative meeting.

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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Year 9 NSPCC Young Voices Project: We are delighted to have been asked to work with the NSPCC as part of their Young Voices project and welcomed the facilitators in to meet with year 9 prior to the half term break. We are really excited to be involved in this project about healthy relationships and look forward to seeing what the students involved produce as part of this campaign.

Staffing update: This week, we said a very fond farewell to Mrs Cottingham, Drama teacher and former Head of Department, following an incredible 28 years of service to Hele's School. All at Team Hele's wish her well for her future in Cornwall. We have also welcomed Mr Knight to the MFL department who will work alongside Mrs Allison to cover Mrs Blandin-Neaves whilst she is on maternity leave.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Crawford

Sandra Crawford
Deputy Principal

