

Hele's School

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



Friday, 7 January, 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

If I've learned anything through these past 20 months of Covid it has been to expect the unexpected, but even I didn't anticipate a major gas leak and the logistical challenges that would present this week alongside LFD testing for 1350, remote learning and a staggered return to school! Your patience and understanding this week – particularly from families of Year 8, who have had a 24-hour delay to their planned return – is acknowledged, and the kind words of support my colleagues and I have received from many have meant a lot, thank you. We are looking forward to having the whole school community back on site to resume normal business on Monday morning.

Parent/carer feedback on homework: In response to feedback from last term's parent/carer survey, year group overviews have been produced of ClassCharts and subject-specific platforms for accessing homework, containing information about how to access platforms such as Doodle, Kerboodle, etc. Families will receive the appropriate year group overview by email later today. All information can also be found under Home Learning tab in the Curriculum section of the Hele's website, here: <https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/curriculum>

COVID-19 immunisations: Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). VirginCare, the local SAIS, will shortly confirm the arrangements for offering further Covid vaccination sessions in school for consenting young people. I will share this information as soon as I receive it. In the meantime, parents/carers can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#) or by calling 119. *There is also a walk-in vaccination day for 12 - 15-year-olds at Plymouth Albion Rugby Club this coming Sunday, 9 January, from 9am to 6pm.*

Home Lateral Flow testing kits: Please continue to test at home twice a week. The next batch of testing kits will be distributed next week during Tutor time:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y11 and P16	Y7	Y10	Y8	Y9

Staffing update: A warm welcome to Laura Brooks, who this week joined Team Hele's in the role of Human Resources Manager. Whilst Laura's work is with staff rather than students, she may well be a familiar face to many families as she has a child at Hele's and knows the school well.

Good news: At the very end of term 2, I was made aware of some fantastic achievements by two Year 7 students which are worthy of sharing more widely. Grace Middleton (7B) completed a sponsored bike ride in aid of Children in Need, where she raised £220 through her endeavour. Well done, Grace!

Having spent some time with Emily Rawlins of 7E, I was in awe to hear about how she co-wrote and performed a song last year to capture the feelings of Armed Forces Families. The song, 'Welcome Home', was awarded first place in an international competition, which had entries from more than 95 countries. Emily and her peers recorded the song at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London. Do take a few minutes to watch the clip at <https://youtu.be/Zzv7NzfpEK4> - I've no doubt you will be as impressed as I was!

Principal: Justine Mason

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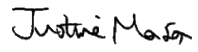
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WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

Who knows what other wonderful achievements Hele's students will secure in 2022! Please do let me know of any good news that can be shared across our school community to add a ray of sunshine to a difficult period for so many. I am always humbled and honoured in equal measure to meet with students to share in their accomplishments and to offer my personal congratulations. Discretion is assured for those who may shy away from the limelight!

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Mason". The script is cursive and fluid.

Justine Mason
Principal