

Hele's School

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



Friday, 4 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week, our Post-16 students have been putting the 'fun' into fundraising and I've really enjoyed taking part in the events organised to raise money for The Alzheimer's Society. From the chess tournament arranged by Alex in 12C where I got to flex my strategic muscle against some Year 11 students, to the virtual Bingo via MS Teams organised by 13C and Mrs Smith (and called confidently by Lucy). I've put my money where my mouth is - and enjoyed every minute too! The Bingo raised just short of £100 in Tutor this morning, which is quite literally 'top of the shop'!

Face coverings: On Wednesday, a Plymouth Headteachers' meeting with the Director of Health considered local rates of Covid and impact on schools. Whilst Plymouth infection rates remain very high - the third highest in the South West and one of the highest rates in England - it was agreed that there should be no move to issue local guidance that diverges from government guidance around use of face coverings in schools. You may recall that government guidance issued 2 weeks ago lifted the recommendation to wear face coverings on public transport, in shops and other venues, and in schools. Hele's continued to encourage use of face masks in communal areas and corridors as a short-term measure, to be reviewed this week.

From Monday, the active encouragement to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas at Hele's School will be relaxed, but we will continue to support any adult or young person who wishes to continue to wear a covering, either in or out of the classroom. Regular hand sanitisation/washing, ventilation and cleaning are control measures we will continue to use and expect.

The Friends of Hele's (Parent Teacher Association): Every parent/carer of a child at Hele's is automatically a member of The Friends of Hele's. The Friends are a significant source of support for Hele's School and their efforts and commitment are both valued and appreciated by many. Events are planned throughout the year to raise funds for school to purchase much-needed equipment, resources, rewards and prizes to support your children's experience and education at Hele's - they really do add value to what we offer at Hele's!

Please look out for an email from the Friends early next week. This will provide you with more information and details about how you can get involved to support your children's education in a practical way, no matter how much time you are able to devote or how you can offer your services. Your support will be much appreciated.

Second-hand uniform and PE kit: We know how expensive it can be to kit your child out for school, especially if your child is experiencing a growth spurt and is rapidly growing out of uniform! A reminder that we hold plenty of used but good quality items to purchase at reduced prices. All uniform/kit is washed and checked before passing on to new owners. Should you need to replace items, please contact Mrs Castle or Mrs Sparks in Reception and they will be only too pleased to see if we can source an item for you for a modest donation.

We are always looking to replenish our stock and support families, so if you have good quality uniform that your child has grown out of and you are willing to donate it to school then please do wash it and drop it into Reception - we will always put it to good use!

Whilst on the subject of uniform, please let me remind families about the importance of labelling uniform, kit and coats with your child's name - I am always flabbergasted by just how much lost property we accrue that remains

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uncollected and I am frustrated that we are unable to get it back to the rightful owner because items are not named! Please do protect your investment and label (or at least initial) where you can.

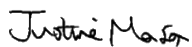
Should you child misplace any equipment or clothing, their next port of call *after first retracing their steps and checking thoroughly the rooms and areas they have been in that day*, should be Reception.

Upcoming events:

- Monday 7th February - as part of Mental Health Week, Year 8 are involved in an event to support their wellbeing, with a workshop and activities delivered by The Zone. We are looking forward to welcoming the Lord Mayor and Consort to Hele's on Monday to take part in these activities to raise the profile of young people's mental health and wellbeing in Plymouth.
- Monday 7th February - Ofqual and the DfE will confirm the arrangements for this summer's examination series. Please be assured that we will contact families and students with details of next steps as soon as we know the decision and have detail to share.
- Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th February - GCSE PE Moderation. Good luck to all our GCSE PE students - we know you'll smash it!
- Friday 11th February - technical rehearsal for Legally Blonde. This show promises to be epic, so if you haven't got your tickets yet please contact Reception to secure them - don't miss out!
- Wednesday 16th March - advance notice of the date now confirmed by VirginCare to administer Covid (1st & 2nd) vaccinations to all consenting students in all year groups on site at Hele's, as well as the Year 9 HPV immunisations - details to be sent to families much closer to the time.

In the meantime, I wish you a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal