

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 11 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been another busy week for Team Hele's and there's certainly no let up as we head into the final week of this Half Term. From PE moderation across Year 11 to the erection of the set for the eagerly anticipated school show, Legally Blonde, it is all go in school with all hands to the deck to ensure the best experiences for all in what remains challenging times. If you haven't yet got your tickets for the show next week, Friday night is now sold out but there remains limited availability Monday-Thursday so don't miss out!

**Household Support Fund:** Having raised it in this Bulletin two weeks ago, we are very pleased that a number of families have benefited from the referrals submitted for support with household energy costs. Applications for a £245 contribution to fuel costs through the Household Support Fund had originally been due to remain open until March but given the unprecedented demand, it is likely the service will close to new applications from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February. If you think you are eligible to apply for support based on the criteria on the attached form, please do complete it and submit it to Emma Clapham, Assistant Principal ([clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)) before 12pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to ensure it can be submitted before the new deadline. We are informed that those families meeting the criteria and currently spending over 10% of their monthly income on fuel will be prioritised. If you have already submitted a completed form to school, this referral has been actioned and payments will be made directly to your fuel provider using the details given on the form. There is no official confirmation of a referral being successful, but please do contact Emma Clapham if you have any queries.

**Plympton Foodbank:** During the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the Plympton Food Bank was able to feed more than 1100 people in need, including 411 children, in Plympton and the surrounding area. This week we received a letter of thanks from the Foodbank for the contributions made by the Hele's School community who collectively donated 77.75kg of food throughout last year. As a school with community so deeply at our heart, it is great to know we made such a difference to many people's lives through this work. The Foodbank are keen to continue receiving support, either through donations of food, money or even time, working as a volunteer. For further information, please do visit their website: [www.plympton.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.plympton.foodbank.org.uk) where you can also find information on how you can receive help through the service.

**GCSE & A Level Exams:** On Monday, Ofqual announced that exams will go ahead this year as planned. This will be the first time since 2019 that a full exam series has taken place and we are happy that the work we have undertaken so far this year will now come to fruition in what is the fairest way possible. There have been some amendments made to arrangements for this year to ensure current students are not disadvantaged compared to those students who have previously sat exams. The measures put in place include the release of advance material, sharing the broad content of some exams in some subjects, access to support material such as formulae and equations to limit the amount students are required to memorise and an assurance that grading this year will offer a 'safety net' to students by pitching it between the 2019 and 2021 standards. This is all heartening news for us as a school and for our students and families. Further detail has been sent to parents and carers of those students taking exams this year and we will continue to provide timely updates as we prepare students for the exams which begin in May.

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**Principal: Justine Mason**

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: [heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk) website: [www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk](http://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

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WESTCOUNTRY  
SCHOOLS TRUST

**Good news:** Congratulations to our U16 Girls Badminton Team who this week were crowned as Plymouth Schools Champions. A fantastic achievement for all involved, and we are so proud of them!


I had the perfect excuse to pull out the tea and chocolate biscuits earlier today, as I congratulated the first boy and first girl in Year 7 to reach the heady heights of 150 Achievement Points, thereby securing their coveted Platinum Award. Isabella Hawson and Lorcan Urcia were an absolute delight to spend breacktime with, with their hard work and enthusiasm shining through in abundance! Well done, Bella and Lorcan, a great achievement!

Our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a hugely valuable and unique feature of Hele's School and continues to support hundreds of students yearly across the three services of the Army, Navy and RAF. Students can apply to join the CCF from Year 9 onwards and engage in activities from sailing to flying and hiking to shooting. It really does provide an exciting, enriching opportunity for our young people but none of it would be possible without the dedication of our volunteer staff. A number of teachers and support staff undertake extensive training on top of their day job in order to provide the best possible experience for students and it was wonderful to receive confirmation this week that History teacher and Head of Year 11, Sarah Aldersley, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant as a result of her efforts. Huge congratulations to Sarah!

Next week sees the last week of term for staff and students, with school finishing at 3pm on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February. For staff, we return on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February for a Training Day. For students, lessons begin on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. Year 11 and 13 will be returning to sit their Core Mock Exams and for all other year groups, it will be business as usual!

In the meantime, do enjoy the last weekend of this term!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**