

Hele's School

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



Friday, 4 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

In a week of uncertainty and worry for the world, I was privy to a moment of solace and calm yesterday with an acoustic performance by Bobbie, a Year 9 student, who is performing at a concert in Exeter next week and wanted to perform his set; I was only too pleased to be his audience! As well as performing a beautiful cover of 'I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire' by The Ink Spots, he also performed his own fantastic composition and even threw in an impromptu Nirvana song to take me back to my youth! I've no doubt that Bobbie will be a hit at his forthcoming public event and we all wish him the very best of luck for his concert.

Uniform consultation: If you have a child in Years 7 – 11, we would be grateful if you could devote a few minutes to share your thoughts about uniform and expectations by answering a brief survey.

We have no plans to change the uniform beyond the introduction of the pleated school skirt as the only skirt that will be accepted for all year groups from September 2022, as previously confirmed. We are, however, currently considering non-statutory guidance from the government to help support schools in developing and implementing their school uniform policy, as well as statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. Your constructive feedback is really important to us and will help to shape our policy and practice around standards and expectations. Please complete by Wednesday 9th March at 12pm, when the link will close:

<https://forms.office.com/r/6JA6yVQ3iT>

Uniform Store Plymouth: A reminder that Reception hold a limited stock of good quality used uniform and PE kit for purchase should you need to replace any items at this stage in the school year. Also, The Uniform Store Plymouth is a free service for families. A 'Click & Collect' service operates throughout the year, where parents/carers can order the uniform that they need and collect it from Redeemer Church, St Barnabas Terrace, Plymouth PL1 5NN every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 12pm. To place an order for school uniform, visit the website: www.uniformstoreplymouth.co.uk and select the items required.

Looking ahead:

- Year 11 Core Mocks and Year 13 Mocks continue
- Tuesday 8th March – KS4 Options Fair for Year 8
- Tuesday March and Wednesday 9th March - Year 12 Geography residential to Weymouth
- Wednesday 9th March – Uniform Consultation Survey closes to parents and carers at 12pm
- Looking much further ahead to Wednesday 29th June – Year 11 Prom (*please note that in the first communication of the year, this was scheduled for Thursday 30th TBC but the venue then changed the date to Wednesday 29th which was shared with parents in Term 1. There does appear to be some misunderstanding of this amongst Year 11 so please ensure you are working from the correct date of Wednesday 29th June if looking to book services for this event).*)

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Attendance: With far fewer COVID cases now affecting the school community, it is great to see student attendance back at the level we are used to at as a school and well-above national average. It is really important that we continue to encourage all students to attend school unless they genuinely are too ill or are self-isolating following a positive COVID test. High attendance, particularly after the disruption of the last two years, is the single biggest factor affecting student outcomes and life chances and your support in ensuring your child attends each day continues to be much appreciated. To make the reward of 100% attendance more achievable and immediate for students, we will now be using ClassCharts to log weekly achievement points for all students in Years 7-11, with the accumulation of points leading to bigger celebration events and awards throughout the year. Please do continue to check ClassCharts regularly to review your child's performance across school and celebrate any achievement points they receive.

Good news: You will know our CCF is an important and unique element of Hele's School, with a long and proud tradition with the Armed Forces. I was thrilled to hear of the success of our staff and Cadets on activities during half term and the positive feedback I have received since. 17 Royal Navy Cadets had a great time at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth staying on board STV Hindostan, a Royal Navy training ship. They had an amazing weekend of activities culminating in a meeting with the Captain of BRNC! Hele's is the first Cadet Unit that the Captain has requested an audience with and the Cadets were buzzing with excitement about this, as were Sub-Lieutenant Skingle and Major Randall.

Last week too, Pilot Officer Ramage took some RAF Cadets to RAF St Mawgan for a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Course. The Cadets did us proud and Pilot Officer Ramage has been invited back as an instructor on the next course!

Staffing update: Warmest congratulations to Gillian Parker, who was this week successful in securing a new role in the school as Creative and Performing Arts Technician. Mrs Parker will take up her new role as soon as we can appoint someone to pick up her existing role of Pastoral Support Manager to Year 9.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason

Principal