

Hele's School

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



Friday, 11 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Some of the many strengths of our school community are kindness and compassion to others, and this week I met with students who have been so moved by events in Ukraine and want to know how they can best support those who have been forced to flee their homes because of the invasion. Lily, Mabel and Lacie in Year 8 want to organise a mufti day towards the end of this term to raise money to donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal, and have gone away to do further research and talk to students and staff about other ways our school community can provide support. Further details will be shared once confirmed.

Many of our young people are interested and concerned in developments in Europe and we continue to be vigilant and sensitive in School to that. The following resources may be relevant and useful in helping parents and carers guide discussions around war in Ukraine, should your child want to talk about events:

- A guide, written by Educators for Social Responsibility, helps adults talk to young people about difficult issues in the world: [Family Education – Talking to Children About War and Violence](#)
- How to support and comfort your children when talking about war and conflict: [Practical tips from UNICEF when talking about war and conflict](#)
- How to Help Students Talk about the News: [Educate Against Hate](#)
- If children are seeing upsetting content online about conflict and war in Ukraine and in the rest of the world: [Childnet - Supporting Your Child with Upsetting Content](#)
- If you need any extra help or advice about how best to support your child at this worrying time, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor or Pastoral Support Manager.

Uniform consultation outcomes: Thank you to all those with a have a child(ren) in Years 7 – 11 who completed our survey to share your thoughts about uniform and expectations. We are in the process of analysing responses and I will feed back the key headlines and next steps shortly. In the meantime, 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, and The Uniform Store Plymouth provides a number of items free of charge to families via www.uniformstoreplymouth.co.uk. Your support as we continue to keep the spotlight on uniform and expectations is much appreciated.

Attendance: Congratulations to the following tutor groups for securing the best attendance in their year group last week:

7E - 99.1%
8B – 100%
9H - 96.9%
10E - 99.6%
11A - 99.1%

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Looking ahead:

- Sunday 13th March - A walk-in Covid vaccination clinic is running in Plympton Library from 10am-5pm. No appointment is necessary. Please note that your child cannot receive a vaccination if they have had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 3 months. If you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting the COVID-19 Coordination Hub on 01752 308634 or by email at covid19@plymouth.gov.uk.
- Monday 14th March, period 5 – STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) event for all Post-16 Science and Technology students. We have 14 ambassadors from a wide range of backgrounds - including NHS, veterinary, physiology, marine biology, engineering, design, laboratory chemistry and health physics - coming to talk about their careers, education, and day-to-day working life.
- Monday 14th March - Battle of the Departments Reading Challenge launch to students in years 7, 8 and 9. To mark National Science Week, the battle is between Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics and requires students to see which department inspires students to read most in their subject area! The Library has a good range of books and articles available to encourage this important subject-related non-fiction reading. There's Murderous Maths books and Horrible Science books and articles on topics from artificial leaves using bionic photosynthesis to the historic importance of the number zero. There are prizes for the winning department, the winning tutor group and the winning tutor so there's a lot to encourage students to follow the science and improve their subject knowledge! The challenge finishes on Friday 25th March. Year 7 students already taking part in the Sponsored Read might like to take a turn towards non-fiction and earn their class a chance of winning the Science Reading Challenge.
- Tuesday 15 March, 6.30pm – linking with Law firm, Womble Bond Dickinson, our students have a wonderful opportunity to attend a public talk at the University of Plymouth (Devonport Lecture Theatre) from National Law Society President, Stephanie Boyce. Stephanie will talk about her journey to becoming the first President of colour of the Law Society of England and Wales and only the sixth woman ever, as well as the barriers that she has and continues to break down. She is determined to inspire everyone, regardless of their background, to join the Law profession. The event is free and open to anyone who might be interested either in a career in Law or wants to hear from an inspirational figure who has shattered glass ceilings. Sign up here: <https://plymouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/national-law-society-lecture>
- Wednesday 16th March – Year 9 HPV & Covid immunisation session at School.
- Thursday 17th March – provisional 'mop up' Covid immunisation session at School for those having completed the consent process.
- Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March – Employer interviews, where every Year 11 student will have a 30-minute formal interview with an employer. Visitors are from a range of career backgrounds and professions, including the NHS, Finance, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Architecture, Engineering, Law, The Armed Forces, Construction, or other fields represented by Training Providers. This year we even welcome back one of our past Geography teachers, Lara Miller, who changed her career from teaching and is now a Police Officer! Students have been working on writing their CVs and interviewers will provide valuable written feedback on these at the end of the event. We are very much looking forward to another great event in our Careers calendar!

Good news: The weather may be awful outside today, but a ray of sunshine is William Kidd in Year 9, who is travelling to Sheffield this afternoon for the British Schools Judo Championship. Not only is William representing Hele's School at the games, he is using this as an opportunity to develop his skill and continue to work hard towards achieving his black belt whilst also volunteering to coach younger children in Judo, thereby fulfilling part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award too! Best of luck, Will, we'll all be rooting for you!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal