

Hele's School

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



Friday, 1 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of last week, I had the absolute pleasure of watching the Plymkids Theatre Company's performance of 'We Will Rock You!' at the Quad Theatre, Marjons. Hele's has a strong and long-standing relationship with Plymkids and it was lovely to see such a good turnout of Hele's staff, students and parents in attendance to support the many Hele's students in the show. It really was a superb evening, so well done and thank you to all involved!

Covid: The UK Health Security Agency has published guidance this morning to support the next stage of the Government's 'Living with Covid' strategy, though there is nothing specific to school settings.

The new guidance states:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Adults with symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.
- Free COVID-19 tests are no longer available, other than for specific groups including NHS staff and eligible patients.
- Hygiene measures, including regular hand washing/sanitising, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and regularly cleaning surfaces remain.

The national in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme ends today, Friday 1 April. 12 to 15 year olds will still be able to [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#), access a vaccine at a vaccination centre or pharmacy, or [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#). Appointments and walk-ins can be accessed for 12 to 15 year olds now, and bookings will open up for 5 to 11 year olds from the beginning of April.

Looking ahead:

- Sunday 3rd April – Training walk on Dartmoor for Gold/Silver Duke of Edinburgh.
- **Monday 4th April – Year 10 GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Bristol Harbourside. POSTPONED DUE TO LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF STAFFING – NEW DATE TO BE CONFIRMED.**
- Thursday 7th April – Hele's Performers present their National Theatre Connections piece, 'Like There's No Tomorrow', at the Theatre Royal, 7pm.
- Friday 8th April is the last day of term. School will end at the usual time of 3pm. We will be holding a 'mufti day' on this day in exchange for a donation of £1, with all funds raised going to the [Disasters Emergency Committee \(DEC\)](#) appeal to support humanitarian aid in Ukraine.
- Wednesday 13th April, 12.30pm – 5pm - Plympton Health and Wellbeing Event at the Rees Centre, Mudge Way (see attached flyer).

Good news: Congratulations to our Year 8 Netball team, for coming third in the Plymouth Schools end of season tournament. Great job to all involved!

Staffing news: A flurry of activity this past week as we continue our recruitment drive for September. I will write at the appropriate time to formally welcome new colleagues to Hele's School, but I thought you would be interested to hear of our appointments in the meantime.

Teacher of Geography – Stephanie Waters (currently teaching Geography and running the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Teignmouth School).

Teacher of English – Josh Bean (currently teaching RS and PD at Hele's School).


Teacher of Languages – Lee Knight (currently teaching Spanish and German as a maternity cover at Hele's School).

Premises Manager – Pete Cory (currently Caretaker at Hele's School).

Caretakers – Mark Thorne and Matt Francis.

It looks like a nice weekend ahead, albeit a little chilly! Best of luck to our Duke of Edinburgh group with their 10-mile training walk around Western Beacon and Harford.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
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