

Hele's School

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



Friday, 8 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we bring Spring Term to a close, I'd like to pass on my thanks for your support during what has been a busy and challenging period. We have managed to achieve so much this term, both in the classroom and beyond the school day through extra-curricular and enrichment, in spite of unprecedented levels of Covid-related absence. I am so proud of the creativity and resilience shown by staff and students alike to ensure our school stayed open to all throughout this term – a great Team Hele's effort!

Free wildflower seeds: I wrote a couple of weeks back and alerted you to the ambitious 'Seeds for School Project' run by Polenize CIC, a bee keeping and conservation community company in Plymouth. The ambition is to provide every child and young person of school age in the city with a free native wildflower seed packet containing 39 species which could support over 350 species of insects and pollinators, and I am delighted to say that Hele's received our allocation today and your child(ren) will have been presented with their free seeds at the end of today to bring home. I can recommend watching [this short video](#) to meet the Directors of Polenize CIC and learn more about the project. For further information about holiday activities please visit: www.pollenize.org.uk/seedsforschools.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics: Please be advised of a clinic running on 20th April, 10am-5pm, at Plympton Library, PL7 2AS. The clinic is a walk-in facility with no booking required. Please note that your child cannot receive a vaccination if they have had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 3 months. A number of other vaccination clinics are run each week so if the above date is not suitable, please do check [this website](#) for further dates and locations of alternative clinics.

Uniform:

If you are planning on renewing any item of school uniform this holiday in readiness for the Summer Term, please do ensure you adhere to the uniform policy. A few reminders of expectations:

- All students are required to wear the correct uniform at all times.
- This includes a school blazer, a school tie displaying the gold school logo, black trousers or a black skirt, and a white shirt.
- Hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted. A plain black V-neck jumper can be worn as an optional item.
- Year 7 and Year 8 are required to wear the standard pleated school skirt should they not choose to wear trousers. As has been communicated several times previously, from September 2022 students in any year group from Year 7 to Year 11 choosing to wear a skirt to school will be required to wear the pleated school skirt. As such, if your child is currently in Year 9 or Year 10 and you are buying a new skirt for next term, you will want to consider buying the school skirt from Adelle (see the School website for details) to save having to change it in September.
- Leggings/tight Lycra trousers, tracksuit bottoms and jeans are not permitted.
- School shoes need to be plain black, polishable and without obvious logos.

Looking ahead:

- Monday 25th April - start of term, 8.30am.
- Termly one-to-one interviews with a member of the Senior Leadership Team – Term 5 will focus on Year 9.
- Thursday 28th April - Year 9 Parents' Evening via MS Teams.

Good news: Congratulations to Ruby Watson in Year 8, who has been selected for the Devon U14 County Cup Team 2022 and will compete at the end of April against the Channel Islands, Somerset, Cornwall, Avon, and Wiltshire. The County Cup is the pinnacle of junior county tennis and we are all so proud that Ruby is one of just 5 players in the region selected to represent Devon. Well done, Ruby!

Staffing news: Gilly Parker, Pastoral Support Manager for Year 9, is moving roles from the start of next term to provide admin support for the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Parker for her contribution to the pastoral team and all of the work, time and energy invested into Year 9. We are pleased that she will continue to work with our students and families at Hele's School, albeit in a different role.

Also changing role but remaining firmly connected to Hele's is Matt Norman, Premises Manager. Mr Norman has been promoted to an Assistant Facilities Manager for the Westcountry Schools Trust and will work across the wider Trust estate in his new job. We wish him the best of luck in his new challenge, which start on 25th April.

Josh Macaulay, IT Technician, also leaves at the end of the Easter holiday, to take on a new role at the University of Plymouth. Mr Macaulay initially joined Hele's as an IT Apprentice and we have been proud to see his growth over his time with us. He has been a superb support to the school and was one of the unsung heroes behind the cultural shift to online learning during the pandemic. Best of luck to Josh for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Finally, a warm farewell to Tori Froud, Geography Teacher, who is swapping the classroom for the ocean after securing her dream job of Engagement and Inclusion Manager of the National Marine Park. Mrs Froud is known not just for her engaging Geography lessons and passion for the environment, but for her love of dressing up! It is not uncommon to see her dressed as a banana when teaching about Fair Trade, in an inflatable globe costume, or indeed as a dinosaur to both raise awareness and a smile or two around the school community! We are delighted that part of Mrs Froud's new role is to engage schools in marine conservation, and we have already had discussions about how Hele's School can continue to benefit from Mrs Froud's expertise and what our students can offer the National Marine Park in return. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with Tori and her team and exciting opportunities ahead for all.

On behalf of everyone at Hele's School, I wish you all a healthy and restful Easter Holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone return to School on Monday 25th April for the start of the Summer Term.

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

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