

Hele's School

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



Friday, 29 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the Summer term! It has been lovely greeting students in assembly this week to share my messages and expectations for the term ahead, and I have been pleased with the manner in which our young people have returned to school and engaged with their learning, ensuring they take on board my key message that *'every minute counts'*. This is particularly pertinent for Year 11 and Year 13, who embark on their final few weeks in the classroom before their GCSE and A Level summer examinations series begins – the first external exams to run for 2 years!

Length of the school week: The Government's recently published white paper, *'Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child'* makes clear the expectation that all state-funded mainstream schools should work towards providing at least 32.5 hours of education per week by September 2023 at the latest. Hele's, like many schools, is currently 50 minutes short of this requirement, and hence we are currently carefully considering how best to meet this requirement and maximise learning time, and what this extension to the school week and therefore each day will look like from September. We will consult on our proposed model and timescale for implementation once we have shaped proposals with our trustees, governors and staff, but I am flagging this now so that everyone is aware that the length of the school day will change for next academic year. Further information will be shared later this term.

Looking ahead:

- Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday. School is closed to staff and students.
- w/b Tuesday 3rd May – Year 7 internal exams and Year 11 GCSE MFL speaking exams.
- Thursday 5th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening via MS Teams.
- Friday 6th – Sunday 8th May – Ten Tors, Dartmoor. Best of luck to our 35-mile team!

Good news: We wish Lily in Year 10, an extremely talented yet modest young woman who has previously performed in the West End, the very best of luck as she takes to the stage for a key role in the acclaimed and topical run of *'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World'*, playing in the Hall for Cornwall next week. I know Lily will not want a fuss, but I have to say that she is amazing, and we are very proud of her. If you get a chance to see the show, you will agree with me wholeheartedly!

I was thrilled to hear news of Euan Train in Year 8 and his sister Imogen taking part in a 5k run this Easter alongside Mark Ormrod to raise money for REORG, and that both siblings kept up the pace even though it was an adult race! You may recall earlier this year that Euan scaled Scafell Pike - the tallest mountain in England – to raise funds and awareness for the charity which offers Veterans the opportunity to learn Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as part of their recovery pathway, and to combat the challenge of poor mental health and physical disabilities. I know that Euan is passionate about this charity, and I can't wait to hear of his forthcoming fundraising challenges! Brilliant effort, Euan and Imogen, keep up the great work!

Staffing news: A warm welcome to Louise Stoodley, who joins the Geography Department for the Summer Term in place of Mrs Froud. We are delighted to have Louise join Team Hele's.

On a personal note, I am very pleased to have been appointed to an Executive Headteacher role in the Westcountry Schools Trust for next academic year, which will see me working beyond Hele's School for a fixed term 12-month

period. I will continue to be the substantive Principal of Hele's School – a job that I am passionate about and delight in - and I will share my time working between Hele's and elsewhere within the WeST family of schools.

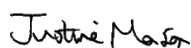
To ensure Hele's is by no means disadvantaged in any way by the demands of me working within and beyond Hele's from September, two temporary (12-month) roles have been created on my Senior Leadership Team to create leadership capacity – a third Deputy Principal to work alongside Mrs Crawford and Mrs Pomfret, and an Assistant Principal post.

Emma Clapham (Assistant Principal at Hele's) was appointed to the role of Deputy Principal by the WeST Executive Team this week. Congratulations to Emma, who will assume this role in September for a 1-year term. The interviews for the Assistant Principal role (fixed term, 12 months) take place today, and I will inform parents and carers of the outcome of that process in next week's update.

I am extremely proud that Hele's will continue to play a significant part in the ongoing strong and collaborative growth of the Westcountry Schools Trust, and the opportunities that affords Hele's staff with regards to leadership development opportunities.

Have a lovely long weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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