

Hele's School

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



Friday, 6 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

If you have a child in Year 7, stress levels may have risen slightly this week as our youngest students have had their first experience of an exam series after their SATs were cancelled last year. I have been really proud of how seriously our Year 7s have taken this opportunity to showcase their learning so far and look forward to hearing some of the outcomes. For parents of Year 11 and 13 students too, the time is fast approaching that exams begin in earnest, with a number of Year 11s having kickstarted their GCSE exams with their French, German and Spanish orals this week. For Year 10 too, looking towards exams is also high on the agenda now as the journey towards exams in Term 6 was launched this week. It was great to follow this with a really strong turnout for the Year 10 Parents' Evening via MS Teams last night, enabling parents and students to discuss any queries regarding the exams at this early stage.

Staffing news: I wrote last week with news of my remit to work beyond Hele's School next academic year, and the exciting leadership opportunities created within my leadership team as a consequence. I am delighted to announce that Christine McNamara, SENDCo, has been appointed to the role of Assistant Principal (fixed term for 12 months) to add capacity to the Hele's Senior Leadership Team from September. Miss McNamara will retain her key role as SENDCo whilst also picking up some new whole school responsibilities.

Good news: I was taken aback last Saturday night to see a familiar face taking to the stage to audition in front of Simon Cowell et al on 'Britain's Got Talent'. Emily Rawlins in Year 7 and her friends of the Voices of Armed Forces Children's Choir performed the song that she co-wrote to a packed auditorium and a TV audience of millions - and what a job they did too! I have attached the link if you'd like to watch the audition, but a word of warning...make sure you have a tissue to hand! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s_VUcwKUJM

Emily's Mum emailed me on Sunday whilst returning from the audition to confirm that Emily was doing her Science revision on the train home to ensure she was prepped and ready for the challenge of her Year 7 exams – back down to Earth with a bang, but what a great attitude! Emily popped up on my TV screen again on Monday morning, sitting on the sofa as part of ITV's 'Good Morning Britain' news programme; well done to Emily and others in the Voices of Armed Forces Children's Choir, and best of luck for the next round of BGT!

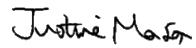
I had the pleasure of presenting five Year 11 students with their certificates and pin badges today having successfully completed the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Spending breaktime in my office eating cake and drinking tea together whilst listening intently to them share their stories from the expedition and reminisce over their experience, has been an absolute highlight of my day. Warmest congratulations to Rocco Davari, Sebastian Langmead, Natasha Sowden, Kurt Brown and Oliver Parker on their hard work and endeavour to secure this award. I am pleased to hear that four students are keen to enrol on the prestigious Gold DoE Award as a next step.

Looking ahead:

- Friday 6th – Sunday 8th May – Ten Tors, Okehampton Camp
- Wednesday 11th May – Drama department theatre visit to The Lion King, London
- Thursday 12th May – CCF Biennial Inspection with Colonel Rob Guest
- Friday 13th May – Travel & Tourism study visit to Thorpe Park
- Saturday 14th May – Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition

Finally: I waved off our brilliant 35-mile Ten Tors team earlier this morning with words of encouragement and a big smile as they head to Dartmoor to set up camp overnight before an early morning start to the gruelling event. Our team, ably supported by our fantastic CCF staff, have trained so hard for this event, and I've no doubt that all their hard work and commitment will pay off. Best of luck to all involved!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

Principal: Justine Mason

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