

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 27 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today marks a sad but happy day as we mark the end of Year 13's time at Hele's School. For many, they have been a part of the fabric of Hele's for the past 7 years (with a few well-documented breaks along the way!) but from the start of next term, they will come in just for exams and then be free to fly the nest! We are so proud of their strength, resilience and determination and wish each and every one of our Hele's graduates the best of luck for the remaining exams in June and whatever lies ahead.

As one cohort prepare to leave, it was poignant this week to attend the presentations of Year 7 and 8 students engaged in our Centre of Excellence. From magnanimity through to a passion for table tennis, the topics were diverse and insightful, and I felt every inch the proud Principal! Well done to all those students involved and thank you to the many parents, grandparents and wider family and friends who came in to celebrate their fabulous young people, as well as Mrs Brookshaw and Mr Bean for their ongoing support and challenge of this group.

**Fundraising:** Following the tragic death of a Year 10 student last year that rocked our school community, Hele's is keen to support the epic fundraising efforts of Nick Shearing-Brown, Cameron's Dad, as he cycles from London to Paris shortly. Nick has broken his initial fund-raising goal and is having one last push in the coming weeks to try to get to the £3000 mark. All money raised will be used to support families or projects related to the Seahorse Intensive Care Unit where Cam was cared for. If you can give anything at all to support this amazing charity, please visit [Nick's Just Giving page](#) or follow his amazing feat online. We wish Nick a safe and successful journey to Paris, where his family will be waiting to cheer him over the line and celebrate his epic achievement.

**Creative and Performing Arts at Hele's:** Our staff work hard to ensure our young people get the very best opportunities to learn and grow across so many curriculum areas, both within and beyond the classroom. I am pleased to share the first edition of the CPA newsletter from Drama, Music and Art (attached a separate document) and would urge you to take a look to see the richness of opportunity afforded our young people. We would be delighted to welcome families to the forthcoming events we have planned to keep the Arts central to our provision.

**Good news:** On the back of a celebratory event with the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and an interview with The Mirror about the national acclaim for the song she and her friend composed and performed on Britain's Got Talent about being in a military family, Emily Rawlins in Year 7 takes to the stage once more this weekend to see if the group make it through to the semi-finals of BGT. Whatever the outcome, we are incredibly proud of Emily and her friends and we wish them the best of luck for this Saturday's competition!

J'adore Lawson in Year 10 was part of the Plymouth Schoolboys U15 football team who were crowned South West champions last week. Undefeated for two seasons now, the team won the cup final 4-0 against a strong Taunton side. What a phenomenal season J'adore and his team have had, with J'adore even selected to play in an older age group at times and taking a lap of honour with their silverware at Plymouth Argyle FC on the last game of the season.

Best of luck to Year 11 student, Euan McCabe as he travels to Sheffield for the British Senior National Diving Championships (Commonwealth Games 2022 Qualifier) this weekend. Euan has even had to arrange to sit his Chemistry GCSE exam in a Sheffield school today to enable him to take part in the competition – if that isn't dedication to his sport and his studies, then I don't know what is!

To round off my term in style, 33 Platinum Award winners from Year 7 and 4 Diamond Award winners - Emma Bagshaw, Megan Lawton, Ela Yilmaz and Lorcan Urcia - will join me for a celebratory cake and a pat on the back in recognition

of their hard work. It is a huge accolade to achieve so many Achievement Points (150 for Platinum and 200 for Diamond) and to reach the heady heights of these awards - well done to all and keep up the great work!


**Looking ahead:**

- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May: CCF (RAF) Cyber Course at Devonport High School for Boys
- Term 6: Year 10 and Year 12 1-to-1 interviews with SLT
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June: Year 7 Subject Parents' Evening via MS Teams, 4 – 7pm

**Staffing news:** When staff move on it is always a bittersweet day, reflecting on individual contributions to the school and wider community and sharing in excitement for the opportunities which lie ahead. Today, we say a fond farewell to our Senior Exams Officer, Karen Pollard, who is retiring after a long and selfless service to countless students at Hele's School through the most stressful of times – exams! Karen has been practising hard for retirement and we are quite sure she will manage the transition just fine! We also say au revoir or auf Wiedersehen to Angela Pike who has been promoted to the post of Lead Practitioner for MFL at another Plymouth school. We know Ms Pike will be fantastic in this role and our loss is absolutely someone else's gain! We wish both colleagues all the very best for the future and are very grateful for a combined service of over 30 years to our school.

**Finally:** I wish you all a lovely half term - hopefully the weather will be kind to us! Whether you celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee or otherwise, I hope you can find time to relax, refresh and prepare for the run in to the summer! We look forward to welcoming back staff and students on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**

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Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: [heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk) website: [www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk](http://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

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