

Hele's School

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



Friday, 17 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The glorious sunshine has put an extra spring in the step of many this week, and it hasn't just been the temperature that has been rising at Hele's School; the unwavering busyness of term 6 continues and our staff and students continue to work hard in and out of the classroom at a remarkable pace! Just this morning, an extended registration period enabled all students and staff to attend a briefing for the activity they have opted for in the forthcoming Enrichment Week, and rooms and corridors were filled with energy and enthusiasm as everyone looks forward to what promises to be a grand finale to the academic year.

Yesterday, English Teacher, Miss Fursman, accompanied a dozen budding literature critics from Years 7-9 to Torbridge High for the Carnegie Book Award. The students gave a fantastic presentation of our nominated book, *When the Sky Falls*, by P Earle and thoroughly enjoyed the whole event – it is fantastic to see this wonderful event back and happening in person as it's highlight on the school calendar. Thank you to our Librarian, Mrs Wolf, for supporting the students through the preparation for the event and continuing to actively promote reading for pleasure at Hele's.

Thanks too to Mr Carwardine for organising the Sports Engagement programme with Plymouth Argyle - 24 students were involved in the opening event this week and returned to school in a sea of green sporting their new Plymouth Argyle shirts! We have already received some very positive feedback from parents and students alike, so I look forward to seeing this programme develop.

Middle Leader Conferences: For our Curriculum Middle Leaders it has been an intense week as they attended one of two planning conferences held throughout the week. Again, a highlight of the school calendar as staff gather to engage in intellectual debate and planning around the curriculum, with a focus too on literacy and assessment, and firm up our development plan priorities for the year ahead to ensure our provision goes from strength to strength - academic year 2022 to 2023 is set to be very exciting indeed!

Hot weather: Temperatures have been rising this week, though thankfully Plymouth hasn't hit the extreme temperatures experienced in London and the Southeast and hence we haven't needed to modify our uniform requirements significantly. Instead, staff are using common sense and professional judgment to get the balance right between a smart uniform and comfort in the heat, allowing top buttons and ties to be loosened and blazers to be removed. Temperatures are due to remain at around 18°C next week, which is a pleasant temperature. We expect full uniform to remain the default into next week please. We continue to keep this under review of course, and you will be informed should there be any change to this expectation. Please do ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle and drinks regularly to remain hydrated. There are cold filtered water dispensers in each year group zone, and these can be filled up before or after school and during breaks. Students can sip water in lessons - and are actively encouraged to do so - but will not be allowed out of lessons to do so. Thank for your support.

Fit and Fed - FREE holiday Club places: Plymouth City Council Sports Development Unit has received funding from the Department for Education to deliver a programme of FREE holiday clubs this summer. The Fit and Fed holiday clubs will provide a safe and fun environment where children can experience a wide range of amazing activities including sports, dance, arts and crafts and much more. Every child will also receive a healthy nutritional hot meal or packed lunch each day. There are over 70 clubs taking place across the city at different times and for different age groups for more information please visit PCC's website at www.plymouth.gov.uk/fitandfed. Children can attend the same club for four weeks or visit a different club each week. There are limited spaces available so places will be given to those who apply first.

Who is eligible? The Fit & Fed funding from the Department for Education is to support school aged children from Reception to Year 11 who fall within the following groups:

- Children on benefit-related Free School Meals
- Children on Child Protection Plans
- Looked After Children
- Children with Education, Health Care Plans
- Foster Children
- Young Carers
- Children of recognised refugees
- Children from asylum seeking

Good news: Murren Mockett in Year 10 has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next summer as part of the World Scouts Movement. Murren will be one of only 3 young people representing the South West and one of a small, select group of ambassadors overall representing the UK. This is a huge achievement! We are very proud of Murren and looking forward to seeing the difference she will make to communities in South Korea in 2023. Over the coming months, Murren has to raise over £4000 towards the cost of the trip so do look out for opportunities in the community to support her in this epic fundraising venture!

Olivia Tunnicliff, Year 13, Samuel Newton, Year 11, Isaac Jackson, Year 10 and Will Hopper, Year 10 have all recently achieved their Tennis Leaders' Award through Plympton Tennis Club and regularly coach younger players. This success continues the ongoing positive and successful relationship Hele's has with PTC, with many Hele's students regularly attending coaching sessions and competing in our local tennis leagues.

Looking ahead:

- Monday 20th June – Wednesday 6th July - Year 10 and Year 12 internal examinations.
- w/b Monday 20th June - Year 5 tours of Hele's School, 9 - 11am.
- Tuesday 21st June – Year 9 NSPCC project group trip to Plymouth Music Zone, 12.30-3pm.
- Thursday 23rd June - an evening with the Arts at Hele's School, 4-6pm.
- Friday 24th June - A Level Geography fieldwork activities in central Plymouth.

Finally: As a Principal, I attend a lot of meetings and I must admit that the *occasional* meeting can be a little dull, but this week has been real tonic with some fantastic conversations recognising Hele's and all we do to develop our students within and beyond the classroom.

Firstly, I met with the CEO of the World Class Schools Quality Mark for which Hele's has been accepted to apply. More to follow on this in the coming weeks. There was then a meeting for the Arts Mark where Hele's is planning to achieve the highest accolade of the Platinum Award over the coming year in recognition of the great provision across all of the arts at Hele's. Finally, I met virtually with the Centre for Excellence in Latin to explore growing the provision we already have in Latin and establishing Hele's as a regional hub for Latin teaching in state schools in conjunction with the Department for Education and Future Academies. What a way to end the week!

In short, exciting times ahead as we profit from working with leading organisations to improve and enhance our existing provision. I hope this gives a sense of our ambition and drive to be 'better each day' and ensure that we provide excellent opportunities for our young people to learn and grow from, within and beyond the school day. Watch this space for future opportunities as these exciting relationships develop.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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