

Hele's School

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



Friday, 24 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today draws a week of Open Morning tours to a close and what a popular event it has been! We opened our doors to Year 5 children and their families from across the City to come and see, hear and feel first-hand why we think that Hele's School is a special place to be, and we were taken aback by the level of engagement with multiple tours having to be organised each day to cope with demand. Some lovely feedback was received from our visitors, particularly regarding the warm relationships between staff and students, the purposeful and calm learning environment, the specialist teaching spaces and especially the welcoming and happy environment.

Whilst we have one eye on recruitment, the other (teary) eye was firmly fixed on marking the end of an era for our Year 11s as they officially left school today. We are pleased and proud of the positive way that our Year 11 students have tackled their GCSE examinations. It has undoubtedly been a time of high pressure, but our students have risen to the challenge admirably and deserve every success in August. Whilst we will welcome most of Year 11 back to study in the Sixth Form, there are a number who fly the Hele's nest and head to College or a Training Provider or take up an Apprenticeship. We wish each and every Year 11 the very best for whatever lies ahead.

Last night saw a wonderful showcase of the Creative and Performing Arts at Hele's, with an array of talent on show. Having been working out of school on WeST business for a few days this week, my disappointment of not being able to attend the evening in person was slightly muted by the ability to catch snippets of performances via Twitter. What a night to have to miss out on, but what a team! From the technician support, to the staff and students catering and serving their delicious wares, to the CPA faculty staff, to the fantastic performers and not forgetting everyone supporting; it looked like a brilliant evening was had by all. My sincere thanks to all who made the evening a roaring success.

Staffing update: Following the exciting news of Mrs Skingle's promotion to an Assistant Principal post in another Plymouth school for the start of the next academic year, we have an opportunity to restructure our pastoral leadership team at Hele's for September. I'm pleased to announce that Mrs Stewart, Science Teacher, has been appointed to a Pastoral Leader role for 2 terms in the first instance, pending a national recruitment campaign for a permanent Head of Year. The pastoral structure changes are summarised below:

Year Group	Current Pastoral Team	September 2022 onwards
Year 7	Mrs Crosley, Head of Year Miss Keen, Pastoral Support Manager Mrs Crawford, Deputy Principal	Mrs Crosley, Head of Year Miss Keen, Pastoral Support Manager Miss McNamara, Assistant Principal
Year 8	Mr Carwardine, Head of Year Mrs Williamson, Pastoral Support Manager Mrs Crawford, Deputy Principal	Mrs Stewart, Head of Year Mrs Coath, Pastoral Support Manager Mr Rayner, Assistant Principal
Year 9	Mrs Skingle, Head of Year Mrs Coath, Pastoral Support Manager Mrs Crawford, Deputy Principal	Mr Carwardine, Head of Year Mrs Williamson, Pastoral Support Manager Mr Rayner, Assistant Principal
Year 10	Miss Prifti, Head of Year Mrs Adamson, Pastoral Support Manager Ms Clapham, Assistant Principal	Mrs Aldersley, Head of Year Miss Glasspoole, Pastoral Support Manager Ms Clapham, Deputy Principal
Year 11	Mrs Aldersley, Head of Year Miss Glasspoole, Pastoral Support Manager Ms Clapham, Assistant Principal	Miss Prifti, Head of Year Vacancy, Pastoral Support Manager Ms Clapham, Deputy Principal
Post-16	Mrs Curtis, Head of Year Mr Stone, Director of Post-16	Mrs Curtis, Head of Year Mr Stone, Director of Post-16

Good news: Emily Rawlins in Year 7 last week joined her friends from the Voices of Armed Forces Children Choir to perform in a flag-raising event at the Houses of Parliament and performed songs portraying what it means to be a military child with a parent on deployment. Not many people get a chance to engage in such an event, and I've no doubt there were memories made that will last a lifetime. Given the strong presence of military families at Hele's, I've no doubt that many in our school community will be involved in the Armed Forces Day celebrations on Plymouth Hoe this weekend - here's hoping the sun shines!

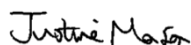
Looking ahead:

- Friday 24th - Sunday 26th June: RAF Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) training at St Mawgan.
- Monday 27th June: Year 10 and Year 12 internal exams continue all week.
Year 9 HPV immunisations.
Enrichment Week, London visit – Parent/Carer meeting via MS Teams, 5pm.
- Wednesday 29th June: Year 11 Prom at Boringdon Golf Club, 7 - 11pm.
- Thursday 30th June: Post-16 Induction Day 1.
Year 5 Challenge Day 1.
- Friday 1st July: Post-16 Induction Day 2.
Year 5 Challenge Day 2.

Finally: Last month I shared details of an ambitious fundraising event in memory of a Hele's student who tragically died in June last year. I received an update from the Shearing-Brown family yesterday to confirm that Dad, Nick had successfully completed his London to Paris bike ride for the Grand Appeal at Bristol Children's Hospital in memory of Cameron, with just over £4,600 being raised so far. Mum, Becky wrote, *'Please convey my thanks to those in the Hele's community who supported Nick – it means a lot to us to know that something good can come from tragedy'*.

The money will be ring fenced to the Seahorse Paediatric ICU at Bristol Children's Hospital, where Cam spent his final days and was cared for with such love and compassion.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

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A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467

