

Hele's School

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



Friday, 22 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

An action-packed and exciting Enrichment Week draws to a close a demanding academic year for all, and what a way to end the term - fantastic stories of students in Years 7-9 pushing themselves out of their comfort zones, trying new things, learning new skills and strengthening relationships has been a joy to hear about. Thank you to Mr Giles, Mrs Smith, Mrs Yeomans and Mrs Ayres for their superb organisation of the week, and to all the staff who led or supported such a wide range of activities. A great Team Hele's effort! Congratulations too to our Year 10 students who have been on Work Experience this week – it has been wonderful to receive such glowing reports from all areas of the world of work.

Apologies for the long letter, but there is an awful lot of important information about the start of term within, as well as reminders about standards and expectations for the new school year. Please do keep this letter for reference.

Start of Term Arrangements: We look forward to welcoming students back to School on **Monday 5 September 2022**. The start of term arrangements are detailed below.

Thursday 1 September	WeST Staff Training Day – School is closed to students.
Friday 2 September	Hele's Staff Training Day – School is closed to students.
Monday 5 September, WEEK A	8.30am – Year 7 only in school for an induction programme, supported by Year 10 Mentors . 11am – All remaining year groups (Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13) arrive during Break 1. Tutor period starts at 11.30am. Subject lessons for all year groups begin at 12.30pm. <i>Note: early lunch for Year 7 all week.</i>

2022-2023 Term Dates: The term dates for the next academic year are confirmed below and can also be found on the Hele's School website.

Holiday	Term End for Students	Term Start for Students
Summer		Monday 5 September 2022
Autumn mid-term	Friday 21 October 2022	Tuesday 1 November 2022
Christmas	Friday 16 December 2022	Wednesday 4 January 2023
Spring mid-term	Friday 10 February 2023	Tuesday 21 February 2023
Easter	Friday 31 March 2023	Tuesday 18 April 2023
Summer mid-term	Friday 26 May 2023	Monday 5 June 2023
Summer	Friday 21 July 2023	

In addition to the dates above, School will be closed for staff training as follows:

- Thursday 1 September 2022 (WeST Training Day)
- Friday 2 September 2022 (Hele's Training Day)
- Monday 31 October 2022 (WeST Training Day)
- Tuesday 3 January 2023 (Hele's Training Day)
- Monday 20 February 2023 (WeST Training Day)
- Monday 17 April 2023 (Hele's Training Day)

Uniform: Our uniform allows students to feel part of the school and have a sense of belonging. We will continue to be very vigilant about ensuring our students wear their uniform correctly and I have included the school's dress code to help you when buying school wear over the summer. In short, uniform and general appearance should be appropriate for school, our place of work, and conform with Health & Safety standards. It is therefore required that:

- All students are wearing polishable black shoes with no obvious logos – not trainers or canvas shoes. ‘Hybrid’ footwear, such as Nike Air Force 1 for example, **is** acceptable. If you are unsure as to whether a pair of shoes is acceptable for school then please do not hesitate to get in touch to check before spending your hard-earned cash – I am aware that many retailers market their wares as ‘back to school’, which can be very misleading for parents since it doesn’t always match a school’s own uniform expectations.
- **For all students in all year groups who opt to wear a skirt, the regulation school skirt is the only skirt that will be accepted from September.**
- School trousers follow the acceptable style laid out on the website - no jeans, jeggings, leggings or ¾ length trousers.
- Make up is unobtrusive and natural and worn only in Years 10/11 – no obvious nail polish.
- Extreme hairstyles and colours are not acceptable. If hair is long, it should be tied back for practical lessons.
- False/acrylic nails and false eyelashes are **not** to be worn in school.
- Ear piercings are a plain silver or gold stud – no nose studs, lip, tongue or eyebrow piercings, or ear stretchers permitted. We recommend any new piercings are done at the start of the holiday to ensure healing time for September. Where a piercing cannot be removed for 6 weeks from piercing, a clear plastic retainer **MUST** be worn.
- Coats are advised for inclement weather and should be suitable for the conditions.

Where a student is found to be infringing the uniform policy, a warning will be given, and parents will be contacted by Tutors to seek a speedy resolution. A time will be agreed to resolve the issue and follow up contact will be made. Where the issue cannot be resolved at Tutor level, the Head of Year and Senior Leadership Team Link will become involved and where your child displays repeated defiance, they may well be removed from circulation until a resolution is found.

I must stress that we do not wish for any student to miss out on valuable learning time and do not wish for any student to feel uncomfortable in addressing their uniform, however, we also need to ensure that all students meet the expectations that come with being a Hele’s School student. Our rules and expectations about uniform are clearly laid out on our website. Further details of uniform and a link to the uniform web shop can be found on the Hele’s School website, [here](#).

I am always heartened when I speak to our parental body that they share our high standards and want to support the school in ensuring our students take a great sense of pride in being a student at Hele’s School. We value your help with this matter enormously as we aim to prepare students for the world of work where dress code and presentation remains of utmost importance.

Support with uniform: If you have old but good quality items of uniform (excluding the old-style skirts) or school shoes which are in good condition, please could you consider donating this to School so that we can help other families? Alternatively, please consider donating to [The Uniform Store Plymouth](#), which is free service for families to kit out their children for school. A **pop-up uniform shop will run in Plymouth City Centre** over the summer. The service is open to anyone to use – no referral is needed. The shop will open on **Tuesday 26th July** and will be open every **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10am to 3pm** (venue to be confirmed on their website, [The Uniform Store Plymouth](#)).

Mobile phones: Our policy around mobile phones remains the same in September, in that phones must be switched off and out of sight between 8.40am and 3.00pm, including social time. Your support in ensuring your child understands the need to conform to this rule is much appreciated so that items are not confiscated, or situations escalated unnecessarily. Should students choose to bring a phone or other valuables to school, they do so at their own risk and take responsibility for safekeeping - School will not be liable for loss or damage.

Super Six: To keep a sharp focus on learning, we will be continuing with our daily ‘readiness for learning’ checks for students during tutor time to ensure that students arrive for the school day with the basic equipment (their ‘Super Six’): a blue or black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a Knowledge Organiser folder, a mini whiteboard kit. All these items are available to purchase in school very cheaply if a student is not able to provide from home. Failure to produce equipment will result in a same-day 30-minute Catch Up detention. We much prefer to celebrate a student’s readiness for learning, however, and will recognise this through ClassCharts. Again, for students for whom we receive the Pupil Premium, a Super 6 kit will be provided.

Community Support over the Summer: Over the coming year, we will be having a real focus on Mental Health & Wellbeing. This will extend to all areas of our community, including students, staff, parents and the wider Plympton community. As part of this work, we will be collaborating with other local services and seeking the views of all stakeholders as to how we, as a school, can support in this important aspect of everyone’s life. The Rees Centre in Plympton is the dedicated Wellbeing Hub for Plympton and is one of the partners we are working with to support our students and families. Although operating at a slightly reduced capacity, The Rees Centre will be open throughout the summer holidays offering a range of services for children and families. From weekly onsite advisors from the DWP (Department for Work & Pensions) who can help with

all things work, money, benefits and debt-related, through to advisors from the Plymouth Energy Community and Skills Launchpad there is much on offer to support parents, alongside a menu of options for young people. The Rees Centre is also a referral point for the Foodbank should any families find themselves requiring this service over the summer. Please visit the Rees Centre website or see the attached flyer for further details of the range of services on offer.

Staffing farewells: We have several staff leaving us to explore pastures new. We wish our esteemed colleagues the very best of luck for their next steps and thank them for their service to our young people and families.

Teaching Staff

Gisela Simmons, Maths	Retiring
Louise Skingle, Head of Year 9	Promotion
Lewis Garforth, Deputy Head of PE	Promotion
Scott Wakelin, Science	New job
Simon Swales, Maths	Relocation
Daniel Stares, Computing	Into industry

Support Staff

Jackie Fergus, Reprographics	Retiring
Louise Anderson, Learning Support Assistant	Retiring
Cathy Newby, Science Technician	Teaching post
Gareth Allen, Learning Supervisor	Teaching post
Hannah Adamson, PSM	Teacher training
Francesca Bryce, Deputy SENDCo	Teacher training
Linda	
Lexi Manners, Learning Support Assistant	Relocation
Linda Saunders, Cleaner	New job

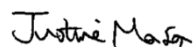
I will write again in September to welcome everyone to the new academic year and to introduce the new staff we have joining Team Hele's in the Autumn.

Examination results: We wish our students the very best of luck for August when they receive their GCSE and A Level grades and can confirm their anticipated next steps. I've no doubt there will much to celebrate! Results will be issued in the Post-16 block on Thursday 18 August (A Level) and Thursday 25 August (GCSE) from 8.30am. A separate communication has been sent to the families of exam candidates already but we would like to reiterate that if a student would like someone else to collect their results on their behalf, we *must* have a letter or email of authorisation *from the student on their school email* naming the person that we can release their statement of results to. The person authorised in the student's letter *must* then bring suitable photographic identification along with them on Results Day, e.g. their passport or driving licence. I'm sorry, but results cannot be issued to anyone, including parents, without the appropriate permissions from the student and subsequent ID.

Sponsored Walk, Friday 16th September: We are really excited that the whole school sponsored circular walk from School is back on the calendar and is planned for September - we last organised this biennial 10-mile route around Plympton and Saltram in June 2018! As it was before Covid scuppered our plans, we anticipate that the day will be a fantastic, inclusive event, which will bring together all members of our school community. Further information will be shared the first week back in September, but please mark the date in your diary in the meantime.

We look forward to welcoming Year 7 students and Year 10 Mentors back to school on Monday 5 September at 8.30am and the full school from 11am on the same day, but until then, on behalf of all at Hele's School, I thank you for your continued support throughout the year and wish you and your family a restful and relaxing summer. We look forward to working with you again in the new academic year.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467

