

Hele's School

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



Friday, 23 September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is fair to say that last Friday's whole school sponsored walk was a hit in all manner ways! Not only did our young people benefit from the fresh air, exercise and opportunities for teamwork and bonding along the way, but we were literally inundated with positive comments and praise from members of the public who referenced the polite and helpful demeanour of our students and what a credit they were to Hele's School. And on top of that, over £3,600 has been raised so far, with money still coming in. Congratulations to the following students, who literally 'went the extra mile' and have raised the most sponsorship money so far: Ela Yilmaz 8D - £60; Phoebe Pook, 7F - £50; Toby Maddison, 8B - £45. Mr Rayner, Assistant Principal, now has the task of working with the School Council to propose how the money is spent to support student rewards. Thank you to all families for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

Open Evening: On Wednesday this week, we opened our doors to families old and new for our annual Year 6 Open Evening. Footfall on the night exceeded 1000 visitors and the place was packed to the rafters! As always, our students were exceptional and helped staff show our visitors why we believe Hele's is a special place to be part of. Once again, we received some lovely feedback about our student guides and those helping in departments. My special thanks go to Grace Weaver and Toby Keatt, Head Girl and Head Boy, and to Year 8 students Josh Dyke and Lorcan Urcia for doing such a wonderful job of taking to stage to share their experiences of Hele's School.

Good news: I was thrilled to hear of the success of Elise Dilworth in Year 13, who was a finalist in the NCH essay competition 2022 run by the New College of the Humanities in London and recognised for and won a certificate and medal for her outstanding essay in the humanities and social sciences. Elise has a passion for Psychology and clearly a talent to match. Keep up the great work, Elise!

Maddison Hext in Year 10 has been singing in local choir 'Legacy' for 4 years, originally put together to get secondary school-age children singing and to perform for the Mayflower 400 celebrations. Maddison was presented with an opportunity to engage with a choir in Plymouth Massachusetts USA this October as part of an exchange programme. Needing to raise her own funds for the experience, Maddison has been incredibly busy over recent months contacting local businesses to donate raffle prizes and running a coffee and cake bar at Harewood House, amongst other fundraisers. Not only has Maddison absolutely smashed her target and funded her trip, but she has organised matching drinks bottles for all 26 members of the choir heading to America and paid £660 into the Legacy account to help American visitors planning for next year's exchange – what a superb effort! Well done Maddison, your determination, resilience and creativity is to be applauded.

Congratulations to Alex Pritchard, Kristian King and Oliver Burn in Year 9, who last week played in a cup final for Plympton Cricket Club, and won the cup - 'owzat' for a great achievement?

Looking ahead:

w/b Monday, 26th September: Year 6 Tours (advance bookings required via Reception)

Thursday, 29th September: Year 11 Subject Parents' Evening, 4-7pm via MS Teams

Thursday, 6th October: European Day of Languages

Year 11 Geography fieldtrip to Slapton Sands

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Staffing news: It was a pleasure this week to make some formal presentations to valued members of staff from the Hele's CCF. Pilot Officer Ramage was presented with a certificate in recognition of his recent Commissioning, Sub-Lieutenant Skingle was celebrated for successfully completing his CCF RN Section Commander's course, and Major Randall was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, which is an honour awarded to uniformed adult volunteers who have dedicated at least 5 years' service to a cadet force. These achievements were even more poignant and special given the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II; certificates were signed by Her Majesty and with all future awards changing to being signed by King Charles III, this really was a particularly significant accolade for our staff and a moment in history.

There was also wider celebration of the CCF with the receipt of the formal report from the biennial inspection that arrived in school at the start of term, which stated: *'This is an extremely well lead CCF with a number of high grade CFAVs (Cadet Force Adult Volunteers) whose aim is to give the cadets the best experience they can. It is extremely well supported by the school senior management team. This is a very happy CCF which gives the best atmosphere for the cadets to learn and develop. An excellent review'*.

I'm sure you will share my delight in hearing about the ongoing successes of Hele's School students and staff. A reminder to please keep School informed of any out of school achievements so we can share the good news more widely and celebrate the fabulous endeavours and achievements of Hele's students, in and out of the classroom.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal