

Hele's School

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



Friday, 21 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw a busy half term to a close, I want to thank you for your support in ensuring our young people have been well prepared and engaged in their learning since our September return. It has been a successful term in so many respects and we want to build on this further next term by bringing everyone up to the standard of the very best with regards to readiness for learning. All students have been given explicit reminders around the 3 areas that we will focus on from day 1 next term: mobile phones, uniform and Super 6 equipment. I summarise this information for you below and thank you in anticipation for supporting us to ensure every child meets our expectations.

Mobile phones: We will be operating a 'See it, Lose it' system during school hours (8.40am - 3pm) from 1st November. This offers absolute clarity to all students that they should not have their phone out during the school day for **any** reason. We will continue to use phones in lessons as a learning tool where appropriate, but *only under the specific direction of a teacher*. There will be no warning given to students beyond the message given out today; this message will be reiterated during Tutor Time on 1st November. If a phone is seen from this point on, staff will confiscate the phone and the student will be required to collect it at the end of the day. Multiple confiscations will result in longer term procedures being put in place for individuals. Our intention, however, is not to sanction students, but rather for them to recognise the benefits in their ability to focus, avoid distractions and support their positive mental health. As such, the message to students is to keep their phone off and out of sight so there will be no requirement for any staff involvement. Your support with this message is much appreciated.

Super 6: All students are required to have 6 key items of equipment daily, known as the Super 6. This is essential stationery for the school day and complements them having their other required items, such as exercise books, PE kits, food ingredients, etc. Each morning, Tutors will now undertake a full Super 6 check and issue a Behaviour Point and Catch Up detention where a student is missing equipment. You will receive notification of this through ClassCharts. Guidance will be given to students on how to rectify the situation, namely by purchasing items from the School Library during Break 1 or 2. For students for whom we receive Pupil Premium, these items are free of charge, however, ALL students are required to take personal responsibility for sourcing what they need. Similarly, students are responsible for ensuring the equipment they have is in full working order. Behaviour Points will be given by teachers until a piece of missing/broken equipment is replaced and students will be supported by their Tutor with reminders.

Uniform: Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has the correct uniform items in line with our School Policy. The response from parents and carers where individual issues have been raised during Term 1 has been really positive. We are now keen to ensure our focus on wearing the correct uniform items extends to also *wearing the items correctly*. A daily Tutor check will be used to identify and resolve issues for students and again, the Behaviour Policy will be used to notify parents of any uniform infringements and sanctions put in place. Likewise, any staff encountering students wearing their uniform incorrectly will log those concerns with Behaviour Points which you will be able to track. We hope this will enable you to support your child in making better choices around their appearance and taking a real pride in the Hele's badge as they wear their uniform with commitment.

Your support in reaffirming all the expectations outlined above is, as always, integral to all students being successful. If you wish to see the slides which have been shared with students today, please take a look: [Routine Reset Oct 2022.pptx](#)

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Learn & Grow: We are pleased to confirm that our Learn & Grow provision for students in year 7 - 10 will recommence after Half Term. Learn & Grow is an after-school provision staffed by a team of fantastic Post-16 tutors. These young people, who are Hele's students themselves, offer a peer-tutoring model and have been fully trained in providing high quality tuition to our younger students. With a wealth of expertise across the team, this means we can offer tuition to students across a range of different subjects, as well as providing support with the completion of homework or revision. Previously, we have required bookings to be made for Learn & Grow, however, we are keen for as many students as possible to benefit from this provision and as such, we will be offering a Key Stage 3 Learn & Grow Group for Years 7 and 8 in CR7 and a Key Stage 4 group for Years 9 and 10 in CR3 with no prior booking required. Groups will run daily from 3 - 4pm, Monday – Thursday, and students should go directly to the room to register. We provide snacks, along with 1:1, pair or group provision so if you feel your child would benefit from this additional support and from getting their homework done before leaving school, please do send them along! Feedback in previous years has been excellent for this provision and we look forward to the new cohort of students joining after Half Term.

Good news: Last week, I shared the news of our Year 10 students who completed the Tour de Moor. I have since watched the ITV Westcountry footage of the event and spotted 2 more Hele's students taking part in the 32-mile cycle trail across Dartmoor! Sam Waugh and Alfie Beasley in Year 7 did exceptionally well, not only to complete the trail but to present with such confidence and compassion when they had a camera pointed directly at them and they were interviewed for the ITV news! Alfie was determined to take part in the event to raise money for St Luke's Hospice in memory of his beloved Gran, with Sam offering support and encouragement every bit of the way. I've no doubt that Gran would have been incredibly proud of them both, as we are.

We know that Hele's students have a big heart and so following the theme of charity, I'd like to say a huge well done to Izzy Baxter (Year 8), who organised a bake sale this week in aid of MacMillan. Ably supported by friends Darya Ghorbannia (Year 8) and Evan Koffi Young (Year 7), the team sold out of their wares in record time! Not only did they make an awful lot of people very happy, but they also raised £107 for the charity too. A fantastic achievement!

Staffing news: We say a fond farewell and thank you today to Mrs Faithful, who leaves us after an 8-month maternity cover as Finance Officer. Mrs Faithful has done a fantastic job in this time and has been an integral part of Team Hele's. We wish her the very best of luck for the future. Mrs Putt will return from maternity leave to her substantive role after half term, and a warm welcome awaits her.

Looking ahead:

- Monday 31st October: Westcountry Schools Trust Staff Training Day. School closed to all pupils
- Tuesday 1st November: First day of Term 2 for all students (Week B)
- Thursday 3rd November: Post-16 Subject Teacher and Parents' Evening via MS Teams, 4-7pm
- W/b Monday 7th November: Year 11 and Year 13 internal exams

We look forward to welcoming all our students back for Term 2 on Tuesday, 1 November. Until then, on behalf of all at Hele's School we wish you and your family a restful half term break.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal