

Hele's School

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



Friday, 9 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

If you attended this week's Christmas Concert, you would know exactly why I've been walking in a winter land these past couple of days; it really was brilliant evening with such high levels of engagement, joy and talent oozing from the newest Year 7s to the most seasoned Year 13s and everyone in between! Thank you to our superb staff team who brought the show to us and who give so generously of time and spirit to work with our young people, and well done to all our performers – we are very proud of you!

Reminder of lunch arrangements for next week: Students who have pre-booked Christmas Dinner on ParentPay will attend their confirmed sitting at 1.20pm – 2pm on their allocated day: Year 7, Monday; Year 8, Tuesday; Year 9, Wednesday; Y10, Thursday; Year 11 and Post-16, Friday.

For those with no booking, a reminder that all students can continue to purchase hot and cold food each day in the usual way at Break 1, between 11 - 11.30am. *As previously communicated, there will be no food service beyond the pre-booked Christmas Dinner sittings in Break 2.*

Life lessons with Scrooge: A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the English Department's appeal for donations for the Plymouth Food Bank. The response has been fantastic, and Mrs Hammond is now having to store boxes in all manner of places in her room as she can no longer get to her board to write on it!

There is still time to donate, with the collection closing next Friday. A reminder of items that are needed: ***cereals; tinned meat (steak/chicken/curries/pies); tinned fruit/custard/rice pudding, coffee/tea bags; tinned peas/carrots/sweetcorn; jam/peanut butter/chocolate spread; UHT milk/long-life fruit juice cartons; crisps/savoury snacks; toiletries (deodorant/shampoo/shower gel/shaving items/nappies size 6 and 7); cleaning products and washing powder/conditioner.***

Collection points are in E4, E7 and E10, but students can also pass on any donations to their usual English teacher at the end of any English lesson. Your support, no matter how big or small, would be very much appreciated.

Enrichment Week, Monday 17 July – Friday 21 July 2023: We hope that you have enjoyed receiving the Enrichment Week booklet and perusing the fabulous trips and opportunities on offer for Year 7 – 9 students for summer 2023 - we've had a great response to the application process so far! A reminder that choices need to be submitted electronically through a booking form within the booklet by midnight on Sunday, 11 December to allow us time to start allocating places. No deposits are required until the allocation of an activity has been confirmed, which will be when it appears on your ParentPay account. In case you have not yet submitted your child's choices, please use this link: [APPLICATION FORM](#)

Good news: Lilly Summer Webb in 10D performed a solo ice-skating routine to Disney's 'Fly A Kite' at the Plymouth Pavilions Christmas Gala last night. The evening, which involved some amazing skaters from Plymouth and beyond, was a tribute performance to mark the end of an era before the ice rink sadly closes on New Year's Eve. What a privilege to be invited to take part in this historical event – well done, Lilly!

It was great to hear news of the total sum of money raised by Emma Beasley (9G) in her sponsored silence for Children in Need - £102.40. Brilliant effort, Emma!

Congratulations to all CCF Cadets who were presented with awards in a special celebration last night:

RN Awards

Best Junior: Lucy Woodman

Best Senior: Dominik Drajer

Promotions: Elise Dilworth to Cadet CPO

Army Awards

Best Junior: Luke Patten/Imogen Palmer

Best Senior: Grace Weaver/Ben Smallbones

Promotions: Ben Smallbones and Grace Weaver to Cadet Clr Sgt

Lily Dyson and Emily Dyer to Cadet Sgt

RAF Award

Best Junior: Luke Richards

Best Senior: Isobel Prowse

Badges: CSBTR Badges

Paul Newcombe Most Enthusiastic Cadet

Runners Up:

Army: Ellie Tyson

RAF: Toby Woolven-Allen

Winner: Ikah Soria

Cdr Glasspoole Best New Recruit

Runners Up:

RN: Amelia Gledhill

RAF: Tianna Foley

Winner: Theo Sowden

Major Randall Special Mention Award

Casey Ackland

Scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep: You will have seen in the national press that data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that scarlet fever cases continue to remain higher than we would typically see at this time of year in the UK. The bacteria usually cause a mild infection producing sore throats or scarlet fever that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare circumstances, these bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness – called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). This is still uncommon; however, it is important that parents are on the lookout for symptoms and see a doctor as quickly as possible so that their child can be treated, and the infection stopped from becoming serious. Make sure you talk to a health professional if your child is showing signs of deteriorating after a bout of scarlet fever, a sore throat, or a respiratory infection.

The UHSA has issued some advice to schools and parents this week. It is well worth reading and will only take a few minutes: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

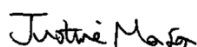
Looking ahead:

- Sunday, 11 December: Closing date for submitting choices for Enrichment Week online
- W/b Monday, December: Christmas Dinner each day (advanced bookings only)
- Tuesday, December: Year 7 Sustainable Gifts Fayre, 5.00 - 6.30pm
- Wednesday, 14 December: Year 11 RS students to Exeter University lectures
A Level Awards Evening, 5.00 – 6.00pm
- Friday, 16 December: Christmas Jumper/Mufti Day. Last day of term - School ends at 3pm
- Wednesday, 4 January: Term 3 starts for students

This time of year always seems to be so frantic, with lots going on, things to do, presents to buy and places to be, but it was a timely and moving reminder to me personally last night at my son's Christingle at St Stephen's Church in Saltash of the importance of simply stopping for a moment to marvel in the present and to give thanks – a welcome opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the love and joy that brings.

If you want your own space and moment to simply 'stop and notice' this weekend, please do visit the Plympton Team Ministry Christmas Tree and Crib Festival in Plympton St Mary and Plympton St Maurice churches on Saturday or Sunday – you might even be able to spot the tree provided by Hele's Year 7 students, who have been inspired by the sustainable gifts they have been crafting this term.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal