

Hele's School

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



Friday, 6 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year and I hope that you and your family had a peaceful festive period and restful break.

The term has started with a flurry of activity, with events such as the launch of the Latin programme at Hele's, which was attended by over 50 interested parents, the Year 10 Subject Teacher/Parents' Evening and the Year 11 Mock GCSE results event. Next week continues in the same vein, with the Careers Fair on Tuesday and the Post-16 Open Evening on Wednesday - already the Christmas holiday seems a long time ago!

UKHSA guidance: Amid high levels of Flu, Covid-19 and Scarlet Fever nationally, the UK Health Security Agency has issued some advice for the return to school. Please see the [Back to school advice, 02 January 2023](#) for full details. There is no cause for alarm, but it seemed prudent to summarise the advice. Parents are urged to continue to:

- emphasise routines of handwashing to your child
- keep your child off school if they are ill and have a fever (a high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- promote 'catch it, bin it' - catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then disposing of used tissues in bins
- get a flu jab for your child if they are eligible – see [getting your child vaccinated against flu - NHS](#)

It is important to note that the advice is designed to help keep our schools open this winter, and to protect the NHS. Your support in sharing this messaging with your child is much appreciated.

Staffing news: 3 colleagues have joined Team Hele's this week, and we have been delighted with the start each one has made. A warm welcome to Kevin Sinclair (Science), Samuel Atkinson-Sporle (History) and Angela Byrne (Head of MFL). Samuel is an ex-Hele's student and has been a Head of History in Cornwall in recent years, and we are thrilled to have attracted him back to cover Mrs Farmer's maternity leave as Head of History. Many of you will also know Angela (née Pike) who left Hele's to take up a leadership role in another Plymouth secondary school last year, but who has returned to cover Mrs Blandin-Neaves' role as Head of MFL while she is on maternity leave.

Good news: At Hele's, we hold dear the fact that we are at the heart of the community and have the community at our heart; kindness, care and love are key values, and these run through all those in Team Hele's, adult and young person alike. It gives me great pleasure then to pass on my warmest congratulations to one of our Hele's parents who epitomises these values and has been formally recognised in the New Year's Honours List – the first to be signed off by King Charles. Kerry has been fostering for almost 10 years, and over that time she has cared for almost 20 children and young people for a variety of lengths of time, providing love, care, and security for some incredibly vulnerable young people at their time of need. The British Empire Medal that Kerry has been awarded for services to fostering is richly deserved, and I've no doubt that it will be some garden party at Buckingham Palace when she collects her prestigious medal!

CCF update: Contingent Commander Major Kevin Randall has put together a 3½ -minute video showcasing the experiences of the CCF from last calendar year. It is well worth a watch, whether your child is a Cadet or not and can be accessed by clicking the link: https://youtu.be/IOF9N_771Do

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Current Year 9 students will have the opportunity to join the CCF after Easter. More information will follow this term through tutors and assembly.

Looking ahead:

- W/b Monday, 9 January: Year 9 internal exam period for running in-class assessments
- Tuesday, 10 January: Y7 – 9 Flu vaccinations (nasal spray)
Careers Fair, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
- Wednesday, 11 January: Post-16 Opportunities Evening, 5 – 7pm
- Monday, 16 January: MFL Careers talk to Year 8 from David Binns, UK Director of Sanako, a Finnish Education Technology company
- Thursday, 19 January: Year 11 Art trip to London
- Thursday, 19/Friday, 20 January: Year 1-1 Employer interviews

Finally, after a much-anticipated wait, the tickets for the forthcoming School Production 'Fame' have gone on sale and are selling fast. If the rehearsals I've dipped into are anything to go by, this really does promise to be an amazing performance and one not to miss! Tickets are available from Reception - please do book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal