



The Hele's Herald



Although we are now very close to the end of the school year, staff and students have been busier than ever and there certainly hasn't been much time to slow down. I wanted to take a little time to reflect over the past school year and all the wonderful achievements and celebrations that have been happening at Hele's School. So, as we head towards Aspiration Week, which is filled with adventures, I thought I would remind everyone just what Hele's is all about and mention just a little of what has happened over the last 10 months....

We started the year celebrating a positive Ofsted report, in which Hele's was officially endorsed as a Good Provider of education.

In September, we welcomed our new Year 7s, and what a start they made: in just their first 5 weeks, the year group had accumulated over 1800 Achievement points!

Also in Term 1, eight students from our CCF travelled to Capel Curig Camp where they prepared for the journey to the summit of Mount Snowden.

Later in the term, the Food Technology department held the annual McMillan Coffee Morning and raised a fantastic £145 for the worthy charity. We are proud of the amount of money that is raised every year by our school community.

In November, our Year 11 students took part in their mock interviews. It was a very proud moment watching these students prepare for the exciting times ahead. The companies that gave up their time freely to interview were full of praise for our students (but I didn't expect anything else!).

We always have a lot of sporting success, too much to mention, but I must mention the outstanding diving successes. We celebrated three students taking part in the fifth International Ulla Klinger Cup in Aachen, Germany, all of whom have tasted success and have very promising futures.

Our RS department and students have also had a busy year too. They have participated in several worldwide video conferences and linked up with schools in the USA, Ukraine and India as part of the Generation Global Project.

I can't go any further without mentioning the Friends of Hele's and the great work they do supporting the school. Last year, all our new Year 7 students were presented with a free Maths set and the Christmas at Hele's event alone raised a staggering £751.00. The funds that the Friends raise are vital to provide those little extras for our students.

This year, the Alzheimer's Society was our Post-16s chosen charity and they raised a staggering £1065.00. As a school, this brings the **total amount raised this year for various charities to £5298.79**



And so, what have our staff and students been doing further afield over the last year? Some of our Travel and Tourism students headed off on an educational trip to Amsterdam; there have been many Geography fieldtrips to Bristol, the New Forest and Dartmoor; Year 10, 11 and 12 students studying German went on an exchange trip to Germany and then welcomed their hosts back to Plymouth, and there have been countless day visits for other subjects to enrich the curriculum.

Over this year, many ex-students have been in touch to let us know where they are and what they are doing now. It is fantastic to learn that we have Alumni who are not only enjoying life at university or full-time employment but also teaching in countries across the globe, including China and Malawi. We have felt very proud reading the profiles that they have sent to us - we have posted them on the school Facebook page and website so that you can be just as proud and inspired.

Before I turn the page and start getting excited about events for the next academic year, I would like to congratulate all the Hele's staff and students that took part in our inaugural Sponsored Walk. This was a huge event and has certainly raised a lot of money—over £2,500 to date - which will be used to improve student social areas and also help with the rewards system. It was a fabulous effort and one we will make a regular part of our school calendar.

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

And so.....on to 2018/19.

We will start our year with the Year 6 Open Evening on 12th September. We are always grateful for opportunities to showcase our school and look forward to welcoming everyone.

In **November** we will be hosting our Post-16 Information Evening. This is a really important opportunity for Year 11 students to talk to staff and get further information on the courses that will be available to them.

In **December** (although I don't wish to remind you of Christmas this early!) the Friends of Hele's will be holding the Christmas at Hele's event and our Year 7s will be hosting the Sustainable Gift Fair - please support these events if you are able to as they really do raise a lot of money for both the school and local charities.

In **January 2019** we hold the annual Careers Fair. This is open for all students in Years 8-13. It gives students the chance to come in and chat with representatives from local companies and get some valuable advice on their career paths.

Rehearsals are already underway for the school production of *Les Misérables*, which will take place in **February**. Keep your eyes open for when the tickets go on sale - this promises to be a great one!

March will see World Book Day being celebrated. Traditionally staff dress up as characters from books. This has become very competitive and I hear that some staff already have their costumes planned!

In **May** we will have more of our students taking part in the Ten Tors event. Their training is ongoing and they work so hard throughout the year. It is always a proud moment when I am standing at the finish line welcoming the students safely back after a gruelling weekend battling the elements.

Aspiration Week is still a week away as I write this newsletter, but at the start of the next academic year, plans will already be underway for the next one! This traditionally takes place during the last week of term in **July**. Booklets with what will be on offer will be sent home with students at the start of December.

There are so many great things for the students, staff, families and community to look forward to in the next academic year! Keep your eye on our website and Facebook page as these are regularly updated. I look forward to celebrating more with you throughout the year and keeping you up to date in our next newsletter in October 2018.

Thank you for your support this year. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable Summer break,

Justine Mason

Justine Mason
Principal



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Hele's School

Year 6 Open Evening

Please join us for tours
of the school and presentations
on Wednesday 12th September 2018
at
5pm, 6pm and 7pm.

OPEN MORNING

Friday 21st September
9.15 - 10.30am.

If you are unable to attend on these dates please
contact the school to arrange a convenient time
Tel: 01752 337193 www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

School performance of

Les Misérables

Tue 26 Feb - Fri 1st Mar 2019
More information will follow

A silhouette of an audience sitting in rows, facing towards the left.

Term Dates

Monday 3rd September
School closed for staff training

Tuesday 4th September
Term begins Year 7 and Year 12 (by appointment)

Wednesday 5th September
Term begins for all years

Hele's School
Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 2EA
Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460
Email: hele's.school@plymouth.gov.uk