

Hele's School

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



Friday, 3 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another busy one at Hele's this week, not least as for our Year 11 cohort, who now benefit from an extended 4pm finish each day until their GCSE exams. The additional 6th period offers Year 11 students the opportunity to revise in optimum conditions with materials carefully designed to offer the highest-leverage improvement to their current grades. In addition, bespoke, targeted intervention also takes place during this time covering key subjects which make up the English Baccalaureate, namely English, Maths, Science, MFL and Humanities. We have been thrilled with the uptake for this provision, which was designed in response to some very strong student voice work following the Year 11 Mocks. Attendance has been over 80% each night, with students really making the most of the opportunities provided for them. I am quite sure they will reap the rewards of their hard work in August when they pick up their GCSE results! Well done all, and thanks to parents and cares for your tremendous support in this endeavour – another brilliant Team Hele's effort!

Peer Listeners: It gives me great pleasure to reward those students who go above and beyond to make our school the best place it can be for the whole community and so spending time with our Joint Leadership Group of Sixth Formers, our School Council Representatives and our newly-trained Year 12 Peer Listeners this morning at a special celebratory breakfast was an absolute joy! Well done to all those involved in this important Student Voice project; we are all looking forward to seeing the value that the newly-launched Peer Listeners programme will add to the experience of Hele's students.

Latin developments: Interest in ancient civilisations continues to grow at Hele's and we were thrilled to be able to invite Clare Holleran, author and Classics and Ancient History Professor from the University of Exeter, to share her expertise and passion with our Latin students this week. The lecture was reviewed perfectly by Year 8 student, Aaron Yates, who reported: *'... we were taught about the letters of Pliny the Younger to Cornelius Tacitus, which gave eyewitness records of the event and helped better the understanding of the eruption of Vesuvius which affected many different areas. We were also taught about the phases of the eruption, which were the Plinian phase (named after Pliny the Older) and the Pyroclastic phase, which was the most destructive of the two. It was very enjoyable and we will be able to use this later in our coursework.'* If anyone is interested in finding out more about our Latin programme, please do speak to Mrs Brookshaw, Centre of Excellence Leader.

Good news: After her success in coming runner-up in a national poetry competition last year, Year 11 student Sarah travelled to London earlier this week to attend a prestigious awards ceremony as a special guest. Sarah held her nerve as she proudly performed her poem in front of Royalty, with The Queen Consort, Camilla, being the guest of honour. A wonderful experience and a memory that Sarah and her family will hold dear for many years to come. Congratulations on your tremendous achievement Sarah and keep writing and performing!

We were delighted to hear of the success of Harry Webb in Year 7 who competed at the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival yesterday and performed a stunning guitar solo in a pressured environment. He did incredibly well in securing a strong Merit for his performance and was only just shy of a Distinction. Well done, Harry, we are very proud of you!

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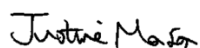


Looking ahead:

- Monday, 6 February: Opening night of the School Show, *Fame*. Performances run all week.
- Friday, 10 February: End of Term 3.
- February Half Term: STEM trip to Florida and the Kennedy Space Centre.
- Monday, 20 February: Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST) Staff Training Day – all WeST Primary and Secondary Schools closed to students for staff training.
- Tuesday, 21 February: All students return to School to start Term 4.
Start of Year 11 and Year 13 internal exam period.

With just over 72 hours to showtime, I'd like to send our very best wishes to all the wonderful young people, staff and volunteers who have helped bring Fame to the stage at Hele's; we are all in for a treat next week, that's for sure...break a leg, Team Hele's, it's your time to shine!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal