

Hele's School

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



Friday, 3 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support and patience with the partial school closure yesterday, the second NEU strike day of 4 that are planned. We will shortly revisit our risk assessment and planning documentation to look ahead to the strikes planned for Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March and how School may be impacted. I will write to confirm provisional arrangements for these dates as soon as I can, so that families have as much notice as possible to be able to make plans.

Year 6 Transition: We are delighted to have received official confirmation this week that Hele's will be full once again at 240 pupils in Year 7 in September 2023. This will be the fifth consecutive year of being over-subscribed since we increased our pupil admission number from 210 to 240 to support strong parental choice, and it allows us the certainty to continue our plans around staffing and estates for the coming academic year.

Hele's staff have been asked to formally present to school leaders from across Plymouth next week to share 'gold standard' practice' around our transition plans. Whilst our transition and enhanced transition programmes are deemed to be strong and effective, we are always looking to improve this process in any way we can to ensure the very best start for the new Year 7s each year. If you are a parent of a Year 7 child and you have any constructive feedback to share on the experience of how your son/daughter was supported to make the move to Hele's from Primary, we'd love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in suggestions you may have to improve the lived experience for parents during this process. Please email any feedback to Mrs Crawford, Deputy Principal at crawfords@heles.plymouth.sch.uk and we will make sure we factor this into our planning for September.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF): You will know that the Hele's CCF is a well-established and active contingent in the southwest and that Year 9 students can join the RN, RAF or Army sections and undergo an induction process at this time each year. The opportunities through CCF have this week been shared with Year 9 through assembly and further information has been sent home to parents of Year 9. We know there will be a strong level of interest in joining the CCF, but if you have any questions about CCF or the recruitment process, please feel free to contact Major Randall, Contingent Commander at randall@heles.plymouth.sch.uk.

Staffing news: We were pleased to welcome 2 new staff to the team this week – Rebecca Miller, Learning Support Assistant and Elizabeth Ho, Technology Teacher (fixed term).

Good news: We have received our feedback for the Quality in Careers assessment process the school has recently engaged in. The purpose of this external verification is to ensure our Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance provision is high quality and impactful and to shine a light on any areas we need to improve further. Below is the summary section from the report, which I share for your interest as we look ahead to Careers Week next week.

There are many areas of very good practice within the careers and work-related programme. These include:

- *A comprehensive and well-received work-related learning programme, involving employers, planned, and delivered by the Careers Support Manager.*

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

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- *An annual 'in-house' Careers Fair, which is open to students from Year 7 – 13 and parents/carers, and is attended by a broad range of employers, training providers and FE/HE representatives.*
- *Impartial guidance, where students are made aware of the full range of post-16 and post-18 opportunities in education, training, and employment.*
- *Strong careers focus within the Art Department, involving visiting speakers working within the creative industries and visits to HE art departments.*
- *The Year 11 mock interview programme, organised by the Careers Support Manager, where students are carefully matched according to their career aspirations and interests*
- *A strong link with the Enterprise Adviser, who is passionate about his role in helping to develop the CEIAG programme, particularly relating to employer links.*

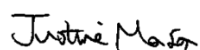
Lots to celebrate then, but we are not resting on our laurels, and we are already planning how we can make a very good provision even better! We will continue to look at how we more explicitly connect subject classrooms with the world of work and specific career pathways and jobs, and we are also looking at ways we can secure more time to deliver impartial Information, Advice and Guidance from a trained Level 4 Advisor to a wider audience. Watch this space!

Looking ahead:

- Sunday, 5 March: Ten Tors Training Walk, Dartmoor.
- Monday, 6 March: National Careers Week.
Year 11 Mock MFL Speaking exams.
- Tuesday, 7 March: Year 9 Open Sites visit for selected students to Boringdon Hall.
- Wednesday, 8 March: Year 9 and Year 12 National Theatre Connections performance.
- Thursday, 9 March: Year 9 Open Sites visit for selected students to Boringdon Hall.
English trip to the Theatre Royal Plymouth to watch 'An Inspector Calls'.
- Saturday, 11 March: Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training Walk, Harford and surrounds.
- Tuesday, 14 March: Year 10 Geography fieldtrip to Bristol.
- Wednesday, 15 March: NEU strike day 3.
- Thursday, 14 March: NEU strike day 4.
Science Sixth Form 'speed dating' event with employers and researchers.

Good luck to the Ten Tors team, who are pounding the tors of Dartmoor once again on Sunday as they continue their training schedule for the big event in May. Whatever plans you may have for the weekend, I hope you have a good one. Thank you for your ongoing support of Hele's School.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal