

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 24 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, what a week that was! Firstly, can I please thank you for the overwhelming support we have felt across the staff this week from both our parent and our student bodies. From biscuits and sweets being dropped at Reception to keep staff going through a busy couple of days, to the kindest of words being shared verbally and in writing with myself and other staff from parents and students alike - we really have felt the love from the whole of Team Hele's and it was very much appreciated!

The Ofsted report will be published and made publicly available in 30 working days' time (around 19 May), but it is important to note that as an already 'Good' school in Ofsted terms, an Ungraded Inspection (Section 8) brings no change to the overall grading of the school at this time. Whilst I am not at liberty to share the detail from the inspection until it has gone through a rigorous quality assurance process, what I can share is how incredibly proud I feel as Principal to have had the opportunity to showcase all that is so great about Hele's over the course of this week and to acknowledge how wonderful the students are, both in terms of the pride they show in our school through their conduct in and out of lessons, as well as their eagerness to talk openly and honestly about their learning and wider opportunities they have here. The inspectors were genuinely impressed at how polite, kind and articulate the many students they met were over the two-day visit.

Proceedings in and beyond school didn't stop this week as a result of our visitors and it was business-as-usual with students attending the Scholar's Programme Summer School launch at Exeter University, and the Year 12 Higher Education Fair at Exeter Exhibition Centre. Our Drama students have also had a busy week as they showcased their home performance of the aptly named play, 'Tuesday' on Tuesday evening, a week before they take to the stage at Theatre Royal Plymouth to perform in front of a sell-out live audience. The feedback received from the director who visited from London to watch the performance will no doubt further improve an already fantastic show, which is part of the National Theatre Connections project. We wish our hugely talented performers the very best of luck next week.

On Wednesday evening, we celebrated our DoE students as they collected their awards in a special evening event. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a wonderful part of our extra-curricular provision, with numbers of students from Year 9 upwards continuing to grow each year and an offer of bronze, silver or gold award for our students. It is always fantastic to share the celebrations on completion of each stage following months of hard work, so a big well done to those awarded this week.

It's GCSE PE moderation day today as the countdown to this year's summer exams begins. Do spare a thought for those taking part with the heavens due to open later this afternoon! With many practical exams including Drama and Music now complete, focus after Easter will be very much on preparation for the final written GCSE and A Level exams and we can't wait to see what our fabulous Year 11 and Year 13 students can do this summer!

**Good news:** keeping on the Year 11 theme, it is wonderful to be able to share that Year 11 student, Lily Van Veen, has been offered a full scholarship at Performers College - a prestigious theatre school in Essex. Lily is a natural performer who, back in Year 7, had a lead role in Matilda in the West End so it is no surprise that she has achieved this superb

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opportunity to take her next steps into the acting industry. Lily is the second student in as many years to gain a place at Performers - a real credit to the strong focus on the Arts at Hele's, with a particular strength around Drama and the opportunities afforded to our young people in this area. Despite her enormous talent, Lily remains humble and understated but we want to shine a light on her and wish her the very best of luck; we can't wait to see her back on the stage doing her thing in the future!

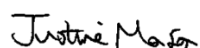
**Looking ahead:**

- Saturday, 25 March: Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh training walk, Buckfastleigh and South Brent  
Ten Tors training walks and overnight camp for the 35-mile and 45-mile teams
- Tuesday, 28 March: NT Connections Theatre Production of 'Tuesday' at The Theatre Royal, 7pm
- Wednesday, 29 March: Year 12 Geography residential to Swanage Bay (until Friday 31 March)
- Friday, 31 March: Term 4 ends at 3pm
- Tuesday, 18 April: Term 5 starts for all students

**Free School Meals:** For students in receipt of Free School Meals, the Household Support Grant is available for the Easter holidays. The eVoucher will be sent by email to eligible families next Thursday, 30 March.

With just one week left of an incredibly busy and eventful term, it's a welcome relief to see the Easter holiday is in clear sight! In the meantime, I hope you have a wonderful weekend, whatever you have planned – for our Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh students, as well as our Ten Tors 35-milers and 45-milers, it'll be training walks around Dartmoor, but for me it will be a lie down in a dark and quiet room!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**