

Hele's School

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



Friday, 31 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Performing under the lights and entertaining large crowds has been the order of events this week it seems. Last Saturday, a number of Hele's dancers travelled to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London with The Linda Mortimore and Charlotte Smith School of Dance to perform at the half time and close of the Saracens vs Harlequins Premiership Rugby match. What an experience that must have been for all those involved! Likewise, those Hele's Drama students who took to the stage at the prestigious Theatre Royal on Tuesday to perform the aptly named NT Connections production of 'Tuesday' will have secured memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. It was also fantastic to see Hele's so well represented in last week's fantastic PlymKids performances of West Side Story; I am in awe of our talented young performers for putting themselves out of their comfort zone to share their passion with so many others – great job, Team Hele's!

Hele's School Holiday Club: Our Community Sports Centre invites children of all abilities between the ages of 6 and 12 to come along and enjoy a week of multi-sports and other activities during Easter. This includes swimming, multi-sports, arts & crafts, dance, team-building activities, day trips and much more! The week is designed to promote new sports, stay active, have fun and most of all meet new friends. You're in safe hands, too! All our instructors are all DBS checked and first-aid qualified. For more information please call 231739 or email holidayclub@heles.plymouth.sch.uk.

Hele's School Community Sports Centre: Our Fitness Suite features professional, industry-standard equipment which is available to all at an affordable price. With no joining fee, a one-off payment of £10.00 will buy you AN ENTIRE MONTH of unlimited use of the Fitness Suite. As an alternative, our 'Pay As You Gym' system allows entry for just £1.00 for students and £2.00 for adults. Users must be a minimum of 14 years old and accompanied with an adult aged 18+, whilst users aged 16+ may use the facility unaccompanied. These rules are detailed in the school insurance policy and there are strictly no exceptions. Please note that Hele's students from Year 9 upwards may use the Fitness Suite free of charge after school on Monday - Thursday from 15:00-16:00 as this session is supervised by the PE Department but should not be looking to access the facility unaccompanied after 16:00 and will be turned away. For more information please call 231739 or email communitysports@heles.plymouth.sch.uk. Community opening hours are Monday – Thursday 17:00 - 21:30; Friday 17:00 - 20:30; Saturday 09:00 - 13:00.

Easter holiday activities at The Rees Centre: The popular Dungeons & Dragons themed holiday activities are once again running at the Rees Centre in Plympton this Easter. Players aged 11 - 16 will embark on an adventure, learning how to play D&D, take part in quests and make friends, while practising many academic and life skills. The day runs from 10:00 to 15:00 and comes with a cooked lunch. The cost to attend is £25 per day. Fully funded spaces are available for eligible families via the Fit & Fed scheme. Further information can be found here:

Chris@CharacterCreationRPG.co.uk or <https://bookwhen.com/charactercreationrpg>.

Anyone for Tennis? Plympton Tennis Club is reaching out to the community to make tennis more accessible. The next FREE family tennis sessions are on Tuesday 4 April, 14:00 – 15:00 or 15:00 – 16:00 on the NEW tennis courts in Harewood Park (behind Plympton Library). To book a court, email mail@tennis-plympton.co.uk confirming the

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number of players and start time. Racquets can be borrowed. A Family Tennis Membership is being offered for just £5 for the month of April 2023. This will give you free access to the courts with your own code and the potential to join in with some club sessions. This offer is open only to new members of the club. Full details about this offer and how to sign up are available from mail@tennis-plympton.co.uk.

Plympton Team Ministry: On Friday, 15 April at 10am, Plympton St Mary Church is holding a Good Friday workshop which includes art and craft activities, an Easter egg hunt and hot cross buns. This is followed by worship for all ages at 11am. All welcome!

Hear from Hele's: Please do check the Hele's School website to dive into the latest edition of the student newspaper. With articles this term covering International Women's Day; Nawruz Festival; Extra Curricular Clubs; Space Exploration and the Editor's letter, there is something to appeal to everyone. Well done to our fantastic team of reporters on a job well done!

Good news: Congratulations to Jack Walker in 9G who was part of the Ivybridge RFC under-14s team which beat a strong Sidmouth side in the Devon Cup final last Sunday. It was a hard battle but a convincing victory in the end, with the score settling at 31-12. The team have played rugby together since they were 6 or 7 years old, so I know the win will have meant a great deal to Jack and his teammates, not to mention the proud families and supporters. Well done, Jack!

Thanks to all those who bought a raffle ticket for Year 11 student Isaac Jackson's fundraising event last week, the grand prize being the most wonderful hamper of chocolate and other sweet treats. Aply supported by his tutor group, Isaac and 11E raised £118.50 for Young Epilepsy, which is a super achievement. Well done, team!


Staffing update: We say a fond farewell and thank you to Jimmy Edwards (Head of Computer Science and ICT), who today leaves Hele's to take up a promoted post leading Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at a Plymouth Alternative Provision. I'm sure those of you who have known Mr Edwards as a tutor or a teacher over the past 4 years will have been struck by his student-centred approach and his can-do attitude. As the nation entered Lockdown, he was instrumental in the whole-school strategy to upskill staff and students in MS Teams and to rapidly learn how to deliver remote learning to the highest level. We wish Mr Edwards the best of luck as he heads for pastures new.

Looking ahead:

- Friday, 31 March: Term 4 ends at 3pm
- Tuesday, 18 April: Term 5 starts for all students (WEEK A)
- w/b 24 April: Humanutopia (Social Enterprise Company) working with Y9 & 10
- Friday, 28 April: Ten Tors weekend

As a busy Term 4 draws to a close, may I thank you for your ongoing support of Hele's School. It has certainly been an eventful term, but there has been much to celebrate and I am incredibly proud of the efforts, endeavours and achievements of students and staff alike. We look forward to welcoming our young people back to school on Tuesday, 18 April. Until then, on behalf of all at Hele's, I wish you and your families a peaceful and restful Easter break...and for those football fans heading to Wembley to watch Plymouth Argyle this weekend: *"Come on you Greens!"*

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal