

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 28 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a pleasure this week to once again welcome social enterprise company 'Humanutopia' to Hele's School to work with all our students in Year 9 and Year 10. Hele's has a long-standing and positive relationship with the organisation, whose mission it is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all participants by empowering them to make positive changes in their life.

As well as whole-cohort intensive input, 50 Year 9s have been trained to be 'Hele's Heroes', enabling them to discover the skills they will need to help make a positive difference to themselves and other people in our community. Our Heroes are putting their skills and confidence to the test as they welcome 120 Year 5 students from WeST Primary Schools through the gates to lead a day of learning and fun for all – no mean feat, but the day is going brilliantly so far, and our young people are shining!

**Staffing update:** Congratulations to Gemma Stewart (Science Teacher and Acting Head of Year 8) on securing a Head of Year role on a permanent basis. Mrs Stewart stepped into the vacant role at the start of this academic year on a temporary basis, and we are delighted that she enjoyed the role so much that she has accepted the permanent position. Mrs Stewart is looking forward to continuing to work with our young people and families in Year 8 and will follow them into Year 9 next year.

Today, we said a huge thank you and bid a fond farewell to much-loved Kitchen Assistant, Lynda Wilton. Lyn has been a constant in the Catering Team from 1997 – that's 26 Years of feeding hungry young people and adults alike, and always with a welcoming smile and a kind word for all – although she first started working here as a Cleaner in 1986! Lyn is looking forward to her well-deserved retirement after a whopping 37 years of service at Hele's, and we wish her lots of love and happiness for the exciting things that lay ahead of her.

**Good news:** The spring fete in aid of Devon Mind raised an impressive £435.72 in just 30 minutes – well done to 13A and Miss Finnie and Mrs Curtis for arranging the event and thank you to all that supported!

Our Golf team took part in the Devon Schools Golf Championship at Downes Crediton Golf Club last week. The boys played 18 holes in very difficult conditions, and although they didn't progress through to the English Schools Team Championship, they gave a very good account of themselves and represented Team Hele's brilliantly. Well done to: Charlie Ashbee 11E; Sam Stirling 11F; Brett Hadfield 10E; Will Gloyn 9A; Sam Organ 9D; and Lucas Jowett 7G.

## Looking ahead:

- Friday, 28 – Sunday, 30 April: Ten Tors Challenge weekend, Dartmoor
- Monday, 1 May: Bank Holiday
- Tuesday, 2 May: NEU National Strike Day: Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 attend school as usual - Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 work from home
- Wednesday, 3 May: Centre of Excellence Presentation Event for Year 7 and Year 8, 3.30 - 6.40pm
- Tuesday, 9 May: Geography Fieldtrip to Dartmoor – Year 8 y population
- Thursday, 11 May: Geography Fieldtrip to Dartmoor – Year 8 x population

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Of all the challenging outdoor events in Britain today, Ten Tors stands alone in its scale and ambition for young people aged 14 years+. It is an important part of the Hele's CCF calendar and the memories from the annual event will stick with participants for a lifetime.

With a huge lump of pride in my throat and a tear in my eye, I waved off our teams this morning as they left the safety of Hele's and headed to Okehampton Army Camp in readiness for a kit check, briefing and good night's sleep before their dawn chorus alarm call and a 7am start to the event tomorrow.

Our very best wishes to the fantastic young people we have who will be pushing themselves to the limits over this weekend on Dartmoor:

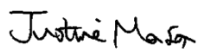
35-mile team: Sammy Clemow; Toby Clevet; Amelia Gledhill; Luke Patten; Flynn Richards; and Alfie Wood.

45-mile team: Niamh Bennett; Dom Drajer; Matt Duckworth; Lily-Jo Dyson; Jacob Frost; Isobel Prowse.

Be safe, be resilient, enjoy the experience and sense of achievement, but most of all look after each other, Team Hele's – you've got this!

If you would like to follow the progress of the 2 teams over the weekend, the official Ten Tors Website is the best source for all information: <http://www.tentors.org.uk/>

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**