

Hele's School

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



Friday, 12 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

This Monday marks the start of the formal examination series for GCSE, AS and A Level written papers, with the final exam on 27 June. Exams are scheduled to take place in the Sports Hall each morning from 8.45am and each afternoon from 1.30pm. Our Year 11 and Sixth Form students have worked incredibly hard towards this end point - ably supported by staff, families and friends - and I have every confidence that this is their moment to shine and that there will be much to celebrate on the Results Days in August, both individually and collectively.

To aid our exam students, I would appreciate your support at home in reinforcing the messages that all year groups have been given about being considerate and helping to create the right conditions for our exam students to concentrate; schools are busy places, and we have a site comprising 1360 young people who move between lessons and spend breaktimes outside playing, and whilst school life will continue as normal throughout May and June, we have urged students to minimise noise during lesson changeover and during Break 1 and Break 2 around the vicinity of the Sports Hall and the Exam Pods in the English Block. We have stopped all ball games on the Year 8 and 9 playgrounds and moved football to the Dome, and we will open the Playing Field *whenever the weather allows and the ground isn't too marshy* to create extra playing space for students away from the exam spaces.

The time will come for each and every young person to sit their formal exams, so it is important that we all employ the Team Hele's mentality and do our bit to help those sitting at those exam desks now. Thank you for your support in sharing these messages, and best of luck to our Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

Parent Subject/Tutor Evenings, 2023-24: Thank you to all those who provided feedback in the recent survey regarding Parent Subject/Tutor Evenings for next academic year. It is clear that opinion is split amongst parents, but there remains a majority of 53% in favour of keeping the current model of online meetings. Taken alongside the Staff survey outcomes, where there was overwhelming support (83%) for keeping meetings online, a decision has been made to maintain the status quo for Subject and Tutor Evenings to remain online next year.

Good news: Congratulations to Year 7 students Eve Campion and Tobias Hayter on achieving their Diamond Award. I had the pleasure of presenting them both with their certificates today over a cup of tea and several chocolate biscuits, and it was clear to see why both have accrued 200+ Achievement Points this year through their hard work, dedication, and commitment. I shall certainly take on board Tobias' feedback about ensuring there is hot chocolate on the menu for future encounters! Well done to both students.

Looking ahead:

- Saturday, 13 May: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice walk, Cann Woods
- Sunday, 14 May: Sponsored Walk for Kenya Expedition, SW Coast Path
- Monday, 15 May: A level Geography NEA launch at the University of Plymouth
- Thursday, 18 May: Year 7 Subject Evening, 4pm – 7pm via MS Teams
- Friday, 19 May: Travel & Tourism visit to Alton Towers, 4.30am departure from School
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition, Friday – Sunday

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

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467



We have 19 students from Years 10 - 13 embarking on an expedition to Kenya this summer, where they will be making a real difference to local communities, environments and wildlife over a 4-week period. Each student has raised a considerable sum of money to take part in the expedition.

In a small but significant gesture to support the hard fundraising efforts of our students, group leaders Mrs Aldersley (Head of Year 10 and Teacher of History) and Mr Skingle (Reprographics Manager) have committed to raising the money to pay for the full the transport costs for the whole group between Plymouth and London, undertaking their own fundraising events in a bid to support the team. This Sunday, they plan to complete a 10-mile sponsored walk around Cremyll, Mount Edgecumbe, Kingsand, Cawsand, Rame Head and Tregonhawke. We wish them well in their endeavour and thank them for, quite literally, going the extra mile for our students!

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Mason". The script is cursive and fluid.

Justine Mason
Principal