

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 26 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The sun continued to shine this week which was most welcome for a number of key events in school. Most notably, the school looked resplendent on Thursday as we welcomed a host of visitors to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hele's Combined Cadet Force. With representatives from across the Ministry of Defence, comprising the Army, RAF and Royal Navy, as well as former colleagues and students, it really was a true celebration of all that the CCF brings to Hele's and our students. Not only were our cadets and CCF staff a credit to the school, but special mention must also go to our Year 9 Hospitality students and the staff who supported them to cater the full event. The quality of the buffet provided for our guests was exceptional and I was a Principal truly 'proud enough' to pop after devouring all on offer!

**Year 11 and 13 Exams:** The weather hasn't let us down today either, as we bid farewell to our Year 13 students who have their official Leavers' Assembly before finishing their final A Level exams after Half Term. After 7 years as part of Team Hele's, today really is a monumental day before these wonderful young people fly the nest! For Year 11, today marks the halfway point in the exam series for most students, so to recognise their exceptional conduct in exams so far, we are making the most of the sunshine and collapsing Period 5 for a celebratory picnic following an intense 2 weeks - all the students involved today thoroughly deserve their moment to reflect and recharge! We wish our Year 11s and Year 13s all the very best with the remaining exams and can't wait to see what they achieve when results come in in the summer!

**Pop-up shop for pre-loved clothing:** Mrs Smith (Head of PSHE) and Mrs Wolf (Librarian), ably supported by some Year 12 students, are leading an innovative project which aims to reduce landfill and environmental impact caused by 'quick fashion' in a disposable world, as well as providing free clothing at a time when money is tight for many families. From next term, staff and students can bring 2 T-shirts to the Library to exchange for tokens to use to 'buy' 2 others, or gift them to a friend to use. Everyone is encouraged to access the swap shop - the only stipulations are that T-shirts must be clean and in good condition please, and not contain any rude or offensive language or designs! The pop-up shop will be open for business from Friday, 18 June for 4 weeks in the first instance. Should anyone have any spare hangers they would be willing to donate to the project, they would be gratefully received! Please pass them to the Library.

**Theatre company performance of County Lines production:** We have secured a fantastic theatre company, Alter Ego, to return to Hele's School to perform their hard-hitting piece on County Lines to raise awareness around Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). This is an important part of our safeguarding curriculum and will be shown to Years 8-10 on Monday, 5 June. Alter Ego Creative Solutions was commissioned by Norfolk Constabulary to develop an applied theatre play to raise awareness around CCE – specifically the strand of the County Lines drug trafficking model that sees vulnerable adults and young people targeted by organised groups and gangs to groom, trick, trap and manipulate them into trafficking drugs and sometimes weapons.

The play has proved highly effective in raising awareness around:-

- What is County Lines and how can it affect young people?
- The Grooming Process and how it can apply to County Lines

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- The similarities and potential crossovers between Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Where to go for help & advice

Should you have any questions about the production or County Lines and CCE, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Crawford.

**Plympton Team Ministry:** How do you find living in Plympton? Are there things you really enjoy about this town? Are there things you would like to see improve? The parishes of Plympton St. Mary's and Plympton St. Maurice would like to invite you to complete their community audit. They really want to be part of serving the community, and your responses will help them shape their community outreach priorities. You can find the link to the survey at [bit.ly/3UQ35no](http://bit.ly/3UQ35no). If you have any questions, or would like to complete the survey in a different format, please contact Rev. Lizzi on [rev.lizzi84@gmail.com](mailto:rev.lizzi84@gmail.com)

**Good news:** It's always good to hear about the things our students get up to beyond school, but when that involves helping others, it makes me particularly proud. Such an instance arose this week when an elderly lady had a nasty fall close to School. Luckily, two quick-thinking Year 8 girls, Macey-Leigh Smith and Shona Willis, as well as Year 11 student, Laya Pearce, were present and leapt into action, stopping initially to check the lady was ok, and then seeking help when they realised she was clearly injured. They went into a nearby shop to arrange for an ambulance to be called and a first aid kit and blankets to be sourced to assist the injured lady. Thankfully, the lady's family have contacted school to say that, after medical intervention, the lady recovered well, and to thank Macey-Leigh, Shona and Laya for their help and care. I, along with Head of Maths, Mrs Pearce who was also present, am super proud of all the girls for their sensible and community-minded actions; well done for demonstrating all that we want to see in Hele's students!

#### Looking ahead:

- Monday, 5 June: Term 6 starts for all staff and students  
Alter Ego Theatre Company performance – Year 8, 9 and 10.
- Tuesday, 6 June: Year 12 Biology trip to Wembury beach
- Wednesday, 7 June: Year 9 Geography fieldtrip to Tavistock (9U and 9T)
- Thursday, 8 June: Year 9 Geography fieldtrip to Tavistock (9V, 9X/Ge1 and 9Y/Ge1)

As we now look towards the Half Term break next week, a reminder that staff and students return to School on Monday, 5 June. As always, we will have a focus on all students wearing the correct uniform and being properly equipped for our final term of the year. Should your child require any items replacing, please do use the break to ensure they return with all they need. Should you require assistance with sourcing uniform, The Uniform Store on New George Street in Plymouth (opposite the Pannier Market) is a free service for families to kit out their children for school through good quality donations of uniform: [About Us - Uniform Store Plymouth](#)

As the weather continues to warm up, please remember that students wishing to wear skirts must be in the official school skirt only. Many thanks as always for helping us to uphold the highest of standards for our students. I hope you have a wonderful Half Term holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back in June. Should you fancy relaxing in the sunshine this half term with a good read, I can recommend the latest edition of 'Hear from Hele's', produced by the Year 8 team, which can be found on our website. Enjoy!

Kindest regards,

*Justine Mason*

Justine Mason  
**Principal**