



Press Release

Hele's School Awarded World Class Schools Quality Mark

In June 2023, Hele's School was accredited with the World Class Schools Quality Mark, joining a coveted network of just over 140 schools in the UK. The Quality Mark is awarded by education charity World Class Schools Quality Mark, whose unique assessment framework assesses the students, for their demonstration of World Class skills and competencies. The premise is that if the school is truly World Class, then its students should be able to demonstrate this in whatever context they find themselves.

Hele's School is one of just a handful of non-selective state schools awarded the Quality Mark in the 2023 academic year, following a challenging assessment process in which students worked to identify and demonstrate their World Class characteristics using the WCSQM character development framework as a benchmark. The framework highlights characteristics across individual areas including leadership, community, learning and workplace for secondary students, and 'I learn', 'I am' and 'I feel' for primary students. Over time students demonstrated how they had met each characteristic, either at school, at home or in their local community, uploading evidence and a summary for each completed characteristic via the WCSQM internet-based app, BeWorldClass.

Once a significant number of students are proving World Class characteristics, WCSQM assesses the students' completed portfolios via a student-led assessment process.

"At WCSQM we wholeheartedly believe it is the students that make a school, and a school that prioritises the development of World Class characteristics in its students will always be World Class. The skills and competencies these students have demonstrated will help them excel in any environment, and make them ideal candidates for whichever further education / career pathway they choose to take. These are the World Class citizens of the next generation, and we're incredibly proud to award them for their achievements so far." Miranda Perry, Director, WCSQM.

Mrs Mason, Principal of Hele's School said, *"We believe wholeheartedly that every young person should be exposed to opportunities both within and beyond the classroom to ensure they become rounded and grounded citizens, who not only can successfully participate in local, national and global communities, but have the skills, confidence and moral purpose to be positive agents of change in those communities. At Hele's, we challenge each other – adult and child - to be the best that we can be and to leave a legacy for the next cohort of young people joining our school. The students from Year 10 and Year 12 who have had their portfolios scrutinized against a rigorous external framework and demonstrated World Class skills and competencies is a cause for celebration – we couldn't be prouder of the achievement of our students! This wonderful achievement is also testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, who plan and deliver such a wide range of opportunities to develop leadership, communication, the world of work and community – this is a fantastic Team Hele's effort to achieve such a prestigious award!"*

Building on the news of the WCSQM being awarded to Hele's, the school has also been informed that Year 12 student Xsara Lord has been shortlisted for World Class Schools Student of the Year – Hele's will receive further news of Xsara's placement in early July, though to be shortlisted for such a prestigious accolade is a huge achievement in itself.

WCSQM was established as a charity in 2018, accrediting students using a framework of skills and competencies young people need to flourish in an emerging global economy. The charity's mission is to level up opportunities so that every student can develop World Class characteristics both in and out of the classroom, regardless of their circumstances or



background, to schools can be their network to new schools by July 2023, so that only the best in the country are represented.

help them achieve their potential. By definition, not all World Class. Therefore, it is the charity's mission to close

Notes

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Principal Mrs Mason (back middle row) with Hele's School's World Class Students from Year 10 and Year 12, including Xsara Lord in Year 12 (back row, third from right) who has been shortlisted for World Class Student of the year.