

Hele's School

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



Friday, 16 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our GCSE and A Level exam season is now drawing to a close with many Year 11 students finishing today. With only two GCSE exams to go next week and A Levels wrapping up then too, the end really is in sight. It would be fair to say that the exams, particularly in the heat, have really taken their toll over the past few weeks but we have been hugely impressed by the determination and resilience shown by all exam candidates who have remained upbeat throughout. Strong preparation, a sense of proportion and a positive mindset have made for an exceptional exam series this year and we hope that Year 10 and 12 students who begin their journey towards GCSE and A Level exams next week can mirror the exemplary conduct we have seen throughout. For Year 11s and 13s, it is now looking forward to the celebrations, with Prom planning and preparations for next year both in full swing! Exciting times and we wish all our students the very best.

Hot weather: Temperatures have continued to be high this week, though thankfully Plymouth hasn't experienced extreme temperatures and there have not been any Met Office weather warnings issued, hence we haven't needed to modify our uniform requirements significantly. Instead, staff are using common sense and professional judgment to get the balance right between a smart uniform and comfort in the heat, allowing top buttons and ties to be loosened and blazers to be removed. Temperatures are due to fall to around 20°C next week, which is a pleasant temperature. We expect full uniform to remain the default into next week please. We continue to keep this under review of course, and you will be informed should there be any change to this expectation. Please do ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle to remain hydrated. There are cold filtered water dispensers in each year group zone and bottles can be filled up before or after school and during breaks. Also, each toilet area across the site provides cold water taps that dispense drinking water. Students can sip water in lessons - and are actively encouraged to do so - but will not be allowed out of lessons to do so. Thank for your support.

E-scooters: You may have seen news of tragic incidents across the UK in recent weeks involving young people on e-scooters. Whilst e-scooters are legal in the UK and can be used on private land, they cannot be used on public roads or pavements and are banned from the Hele's School site. I'd appreciate this message being reinforced with children, as staff are picking up a surge in interest being shown in e-scooters. A reminder that bikes are an acceptable means of transport and can be stored on school property at the owner's risk, but students must wear a helmet and they should not ride the bike once on site given the high volume of pedestrians and cars as people arrive/leave.

Good news: Fabulous news this week related to Hele's being awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark recently, in that we have heard that Xsara Lord in Year 12 has been shortlisted for World Class Schools Student of the Year! We will hear the outcome of that process in early July, but what a prestigious position for Xsara to be in – wow!

Not only has that been something to shout from the rooftops, but yesterday we heard that Xsara's submission and presentation of her thesis on Law to *The Big Think*, a national competition run by St Edmund Hall, Oxford University, has been confirmed as coming second place with a Special Commendation! There really is no stopping this super young woman – what a week she is having and what a bright future lies ahead for her!

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For those at the other end of school in Year 7, it was a real pleasure to spend some time with our Diamond Award winners earlier this week and to celebrate their commitment to their learning. Achieving over 200 Achievement Points is no mean feat, but these young people have exceeded that milestone and have been presented with a certificate in recognition of their hard work: Oliver Markillie; Elizabeth Hoare; Freya Senior-Gosling; Jack Kimberlee; Kitana Emberson; Anya Cann; Finn Clarkson; Alfie Beasley; Kayla Faulconbridge; Betty Clarke. Congratulations to all our award winners; we are very proud of you.

Looking ahead:

Sat. 17/Sun. 18 June: Fieldcraft at RAF St Mawgan for selected CCF Cadets

W/b Monday, 19 June: Year 10 and Year 12 internal exams period
Year 6 Enhanced Transition
Year 5 tours of Hele's School (booking essential)

Tuesday, 20 June: STEM visit to The Institute of Research in Schools IRIS Conference, University of Exeter

Wednesday, 21 June: Carnegie Medal book presentations at Coombe Dean School, selected Year 8 and Year 9

Thursday, 22 June: Year 8 Parents' Evening via MS Teams

Friday 23 June: Y11 Leavers' Assembly – arrival from 11am in full uniform

Sat, 24/Sun, 25 June: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition, Dartmoor

W/b Monday, 26 June: Year 10 and Year 12 internal exams period
Year 6 Enhanced Transition
Post-16 Induction (Monday and Tuesday)
WeST Year 12 Supra- Curriculum Conference, University of Plymouth

Tuesday, 27 June: Centre of Excellence visit to the Lord Mayor's residence on Elliott Terrace, 3.30pm
Summer Concert, 4pm – 6pm

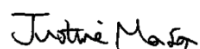
Wednesday, 28 June: UCAS information evening for parents of Year 12 in The Studio, 6pm

Thursday, 29 June: Year 5 Challenge Day

Friday, 30 June: Year 5 Challenge Day
Preparation for Higher Education Applications, Year 12 visit to University of Plymouth

Enjoy the weekend ahead.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal