

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 23 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the membership of the NEU has voted to take further industrial action in schools across the country on Wednesday, 5 July and Friday, 7 July. We anticipate a significant number of teaching staff at Hele's to be involved in strike action and are therefore carefully considering how we can minimise disruption. Further details will be shared with families early next week. The Year 6 Induction Day has been moved to Thursday, 6 July. Despite a partial opening on strike days requiring some year groups to work from home on those days, our scheduled evening events on Wednesday, 5 July will continue as planned, with supervision being provided by senior staff and others – this affects the Year 6 Parents' Induction Evening at Hele's School from 6pm and the Year 11 Prom at Boringdon Golf Club from 6.30pm, both of which continue without disruption.

**Summer Multi-Sports Holiday Club (ages 6 – 12 years):** Our popular Hele's Holiday Club is running once again this summer, from Monday, 24 July to Friday, 1 September inclusive. Offering a fantastic opportunity to get involved and make new friends, a standard day costs £15 per child, with early drop off and/or late pick up arranged at extra cost. Further details can be found on our website by clicking the link [Hele's School - Holiday Club \(heles.plymouth.sch.uk\)](https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk), or alternatively email [holidayclub@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:holidayclub@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

**Summer Athletics Camp:** Aimed at those aged 11 - 17 years, we have a range of week-long sports camps running out of Hele's School this summer, giving young people a chance for coaching and game play in Volleyball, Rugby, Basketball and Netball. Each sports camp costs £75 for the week and will be delivered by Unity Through Sport CIC. For further details about the programme and to book, please email [unitythroughsportcic@gmail.com](mailto:unitythroughsportcic@gmail.com).

**'Holy Women & Heretics':** The Faculty of English and the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University are holding a joint online study evening on Tuesday, 27 June. The event is aimed at GCSE students with an interest in literature, gender, politics, theology, religion, and philosophy of religion - especially those who may be considering studying these subjects at university. Further details: [https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/open-days/study\\_evening](https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/open-days/study_evening).

A link to the registration is here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4tQeN\\_ZDTiiDbdRUcykHQg\\_-\\_/registration](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4tQeN_ZDTiiDbdRUcykHQg_-_/registration).

**ClassCharts and mobile phones:** Could I please remind parents of the importance of checking ClassCharts for the latest information about your child – attendance, achievement and behaviour points, detentions and key announcements. Announcements are made throughout the week to relay timely information to parents and students so please do keep up to date with the latest information affecting your child.

If you are not already in the habit of checking your child's phone, we would strongly recommend parents do this routinely to ensure the content they are accessing is suitable and that the communication they are both sending and receiving is appropriate. We speak with a number of parents each week who have become aware of incidents or ongoing issues through checks on phones but would suggest this is done regularly to avoid any issues continuing over time. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's tutor or Pastoral Team.

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**Principal: Justine Mason**

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In school, we continue to use the 'see it, lose it' approach to mobile phones, with stepped sanctions for repeat offences. We thank you as always for your support in ensuring we maintain the best learning environment for all students, free of mobile phones unless they can add value to curriculum work.

**Good news:** I am always taken aback at the talent and reach of Hele's students beyond the school gates, and last weekend saw 2 theatre productions featuring the many gifts of our students. Plymkids Theatre Company's Juniors had a hugely successful sell-out run of *School of Rock* in the Quad Theatre at Marjons and many of the cast were from Hele's, which was wonderful to hear. Well done all involved, and as the words go, 'Rock got no reason, rock got no rhyme...you better get me to school on time!' Sage advice if ever there was!

Last Sunday, several performers from The Pauline Quirke Academy had the privilege to perform at His Majesty's Theatre in London's West End in *Trouble's A Brewin'*, a western musical set in Albuquerque. Jake Hunter in 7E had a starring role as Wyatt Burp, a cheeky sidekick who had the audience in stitches, and Jess Davies in 11A made a brilliant debut as Annie Wethermoon. Congratulations to our fabulous performers!

On a different note but an equally exceptional achievement, we are absolutely thrilled to have received news that Isobel Prowse (Hele's CCF RAF Section and Year 11 student) has been selected for a second consecutive term to be His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Devon for 2023/24. It is incredibly rare for a Cadet to be invested into this role for more than a single year and serves to show the quality and commitment that Izzy exudes. We look forward to hearing about the many civil, voluntary and social events, including Royal visits, that Izzy will attend as part of this prestigious role. An amazing achievement, Isobel – we are all incredibly proud of you!

#### **Looking ahead:**

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

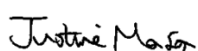
Wednesday, 5 July: NEU Strike Day – further details to follow  
Year 6 Induction Parents' Evening, 6pm – 7pm  
Year 11 Prom, 6.30pm – 11pm at Boringdon Golf Club

Thursday, 6 July: Year 6 Induction Day  
Year 13 Prom, 7pm, The Loft

Friday, 7 July: NEU Strike Day – further details to follow

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**