

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 30 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is always a pleasure to host visitors at Hele's School and share with others the things we are doing to ensure we provide the best possible opportunities for our young people. Equally, it is a privilege to visit other schools across the country when the opportunity arises, and this week I spent 3 days in London with Senior Leaders from across the Southwest visiting some of the country's top-performing schools in terms of GCSE outcomes.

Whilst this was a super visit, providing much food for thought to support our ongoing quest to go from strength to strength at Hele's, I was disappointed to have been out of town for our school's annual Summer Show - always a highlight of my year! Thanks to social media I was able to dip into the show through clips of performances posted on Twitter. Although not the same as being there in person, I was most definitely there in spirit! Thank you to the many families and friends who supported the showcase, and a huge 'Bravo!' to all our performers who brought so much joy to so many. A fantastic Team Hele's effort!

**NEU Strike Action:** As you will know from the detailed letter sent to parents earlier this week, schools across the UK will be disrupted by national strike action next Wednesday, 5 and Friday, 7 July. Please be assured that we continue to work hard with our staff at Hele's to ensure the fullest possible programme of education for these days and to minimise the disruption students and families will face, whilst respecting the right our teaching staff have to participate in the strikes. Those year groups working from home will have work from subjects to complete set on ClassCharts; ysupport in ensuring your child/ren completes this to the best of their ability is much appreciated.

**Good news:** Warmest congratulations to Year 11 student Lucie Goord, who has secured a 3-year training placement with Bird College Conservatoire of Dance in London and been awarded a full scholarship to start this September; the culmination of 14 years of dedication and commitment to dancing, singing, and acting. We wish Lucie the very best of luck as she pursues her dream to have a career in the West End in Musical Theatre and thank her for bringing so many of us joy over the past 5 years in her school performances.

Grace Middleton in Year 8, embraces every opportunity for theatre, choir and singing in assemblies at Hele's, as well as those beyond the school gates. We wish Grace well as she takes to the stage playing Miss Honey in Plymouth Theatre Company Youth's production of Matilda at the Devonport Playhouse this weekend. Grace's hard work has also seen her transition into the older theatre group, where she has secured a main part in Legally Blonde despite being the youngest member of the company – a fabulous achievement!

From treading the boards to tramping the moors, well done to our Year 9 students who successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition last weekend. 27 students walked from School to Yelverton and back to Cann Woods, in weather that was just perfect for hiking after the recent hot spell. I'm told that the group had their very own 'mini-Glastonbury' at the campsite with a band playing at the cricket field nearby, and even indulged in some karaoke from their tents when they were meant to be sleeping! Congratulations to all our expeditioners, we are very proud of you – now onto the Silver Award!

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**Principal: Justine Mason**

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**Staffing update:** Next week, we bid a fond farewell to PE Teacher and SENDCo, Christine McNamara, as she leaves Hele's to take up a promoted post at an Alternative Provision in Plymouth. Miss McNamara, who joined Hele's School in 2005, has made a significant difference to the lives of countless students and families in her many roles over the past 18 years, including as: Deputy Head of PE; Head of Year; Head of House; Pupil Premium Leader; Careers Leader; SENDCo; and more recently, Assistant Principal. Miss McNamara's last day at Hele's will be on Thursday, 6 July. I've no doubt you will want to join me in thanking her for her years of service and dedication to our community, and to wish her well for the next exciting chapter of her career.

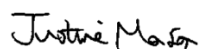
**Looking ahead:**

- Wednesday, 5 July: NEU Strike Day – Year 9 and Year 10 to work from home – work set via ClassCharts  
Brilliant Club Scholars' Graduation, University of Bristol  
Year 6 Induction Parents' Evening, 6pm – 7pm  
Year 11 Prom at Boringdon Golf Club, 6.30pm – 11pm
- Thursday, 6 July: Year 6 Induction Day  
Year 13 Prom from 7pm, The Loft on The Barbican  
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition, Dartmoor - Thurs. 6 – Sun. 9 July, inclusive
- Friday, 7 July: NEU Strike Day – Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10 to work from home – work set via ClassCharts  
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessed Expedition, Dartmoor - Fri. 7 – Sun. 9 July, inclusive
- Tuesday, 11 July: 'No Labels. No Limits' – Employer presentation with selected Year 9s and Year 10s  
Centre of Excellence visit to The Lord Mayor's Residence, 3.30pm
- Wednesday, 12 July: Sports Day  
Awards Evening for Years 8 – 10, Boringdon Golf Course, 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start
- Friday, 14 July: Sports Day reserve day in case of bad weather on 12 July
- Mon, 17 – Fri. 21 July: Enrichment Week  
Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience
- Friday, 21 July: Last day of the academic year

You will see from the events listed above just how busy the run-in to the end of term is; there is certainly no such thing as a wind down to the end of the academic year! It is important that all students keep punctuality, attendance, and conduct high in the last 3 weeks of term, so that standards are maintained and we ensure we all finish the year on a high. Thank you for your ongoing support with this drive, and for all you have done this year to support Hele's School.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**