

Hele's School

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



Friday, 21 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

What better way to end the school year than an action-packed Enrichment Week and a hugely successful Work Experience Week; thank you to Mr Giles, Mrs Smith, Mrs Yeomans and Mrs Ayres for their superb organisation of the week, and to all the staff who led or supported such a wide range of activities - a grand finale if ever there was!

Apologies for the long letter, but there is an awful lot of important information about the start of term within, as well as reminders about standards and expectations for the new school year. Please do keep this letter for reference.

Start of Term Arrangements, September 2023: Arrangements are detailed below.

Monday 4 September	Hele's Staff Training Day – School is closed to students.
Tuesday 5 September	WeST Staff Training Day – School is closed to students.
Wednesday 6 September, WEEK A	8.30am – Year 7 only in school for an induction programme, supported by Year 10 Mentors . <i>Note: early lunch for Year 7 all week.</i>
Thursday 7 September	All remaining year groups (Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13) return to school.

2023-2024 Term Dates: The term dates for the next academic year are confirmed below and can also be found on the Hele's School website.

Holiday	Term End for Students	Term Start for Students
Summer		Wednesday 6 September 2023
Autumn mid-term	Friday 20 October 2023	Tuesday 31 October 2023
Christmas	Tuesday 19 December 2023	Wednesday 3 January 2024
Spring mid-term	Friday 9 February 2024	Tuesday 20 February 2024
Easter	Thursday 28 March 2024	Monday 15 April 2024
Summer mid-term	Friday 24 May 2024	Monday 3 June 2024
Summer	Friday 19 July 2024	

In addition to the dates above, School will be closed for staff training as follows:

- Monday 4 September 2023 (Hele's Training Day)
- Tuesday 5 September 2023 (WeST Training Day)
- Monday 30 October 2023 (WeST Training Day)
- Monday 19 February 2024 (WeST Training Day)

School day from September 2023:

8.40 - 9.10am	REGISTRATION / GUIDED READING / TUTORIAL OR ASSEMBLY
9.10am – 10.10am	LESSON 1
10.10am – 11.10am	LESSON 2
11.10am – 11.40am	BREAK 1
11.40am – 12.40pm	LESSON 3
12.40pm – 1.40pm	LESSON 4
1.40pm – 2.10pm	BREAK 2 (Lunch)
2.10pm – 3.10pm	LESSON 5

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Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ

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Staffing farewells: We have several staff leaving us at the end of term, either through retirement or to explore pastures new. We wish our esteemed colleagues the very best of luck for their next steps and thank them for their service to our young people and families.

Teaching Staff

Phil Jenkins, Technology	Retiring
Karl Fonseca, Assistant Principal	Promoted post
Celine Allison, MFL	New job
Kevin Sinclair, Science	New job
Lee Knight, MFL	New job
Jessica Russell, PE	World travel
Louise Stoodley, RS	End of fixed term contract
Nick Bennett, Computing & IT	End of fixed term contract
Jaiye Cordory, Technology	End of fixed term contract

Support Staff

Linda Smith, Administrator	Retiring
Kerry Goble, LSA	Retiring
Steve Baker, Premises	Retiring
Luke Giles, Community Sports Manager	Into Industry

I will write again in September to welcome everyone to the new academic year and to introduce the new staff we have joining Hele's School in the Autumn; I am pleased to report that we will be fully staffed for the new academic year.

Uniform: Our uniform allows students to feel part of the school and have a sense of belonging. We will continue to be very vigilant about ensuring our students wear their uniform correctly and I have included a reminder of the school's dress code to help you when buying school wear over the summer. In short, uniform and general appearance should be appropriate for school, our place of work, and conform with Health & Safety standards. It is therefore required that:

- All students are wearing polishable black shoes with no obvious logos – not trainers or canvas shoes. 'Hybrid' footwear, such as Nike Air Force 1 for example, **is** acceptable. If you are unsure as to whether a pair of shoes is acceptable for school then please do not hesitate to get in touch to check before spending your hard-earned cash – I am aware that many retailers market their wares as 'back to school', which can be very misleading for parents since it doesn't always match a school's own uniform expectations.
- For all students in all year groups who opt to wear a skirt, the regulation school skirt is the only skirt that will be accepted.
- School trousers follow the acceptable style laid out on the website - no jeans, jeggings, leggings or $\frac{3}{4}$ length trousers.
- Make up is unobtrusive and natural and worn only in Years 10/11 – no obvious nail polish.
- Extreme hairstyles and colours are not acceptable. If hair is long, it should be tied back for practical lessons.
- False/acrylic nails and false eyelashes are **not** to be worn in school.
- Ear piercings are a plain silver or gold stud – no nose studs, lip, tongue or eyebrow piercings, or ear stretchers permitted. We recommend any new piercings are done at the start of the holiday to ensure healing time for September. Where a piercing cannot be removed for 6 weeks from piercing, a clear plastic retainer **MUST** be worn.
- Coats are advised for inclement weather and should be suitable for the conditions.

I must stress that we do not wish for any student to miss out on valuable learning time and do not wish for any student to feel uncomfortable in addressing their uniform, however, we also need to ensure that all students meet the expectations that come with being a Hele's School student. Our rules and expectations about uniform are clearly laid out on our website. Further details of uniform and a link to the uniform web shop can be found on the Hele's School website, [here](#).

I am always heartened when I speak to our parental body that they share our high standards and want to support the school in ensuring our students take a great sense of pride in being a student at Hele's School. We value your help with this matter enormously as we aim to prepare students for the world of work where dress code and presentation remains of utmost importance.

Support with uniform: If you have old but good quality items of uniform or school shoes which are in good condition, please could you consider donating this to School so that we can help other families? Alternatively, please consider donating to [The Uniform Store Plymouth](#), which is free service for families to kit out their children for school. The service is open to anyone to use – no referral is needed.

Super Six: To keep a sharp focus on learning, we will be continuing with our daily 'readiness for learning' checks for students during tutor time to ensure that students arrive for the school day with the basic equipment (their 'Super Six'): a blue or black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a Knowledge Organiser folder, a mini whiteboard kit. All these items are available

to purchase in school very cheaply if a student is not able to provide from home. For students for whom we receive the Pupil Premium, a Super 6 kit will be provided.

Mobile phones: Our policy around mobile phones remains the same in September, in that phones must be switched off and out of sight between 8.40am and 3.10pm, including social time. Your support in ensuring your child understands the need to conform to this rule is much appreciated so that items are not confiscated, or situations escalated unnecessarily. Should students choose to bring a phone or other valuables to school, they do so at their own risk and take responsibility for safekeeping - School will not be liable for loss or damage.

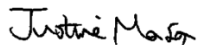
Looking ahead:

Thursday, 17 August	A Level Results, 8.30am Hele's School
Thursday, 24 August	GCSE Results, 8.30am Hele's School
Monday, 4 September	Hele's School Staff Training Day
Tuesday, 5 September	Westcountry Schools Trust Staff Training Day
Wednesday, 6 September	Year 7 start school, accompanied by Year 10 Mentors only
Thursday, 7 September	First day back for all students in all year groups
Friday, 8 September	Year 7 photos
Wednesday, 13 September	Year 11 Parent Information Evening
Thursday, 14 September	Year 12 Parent Information Evening
Friday, 15 September	Year 9 photos

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students for their hard work and positive attitude over the course of this academic year, as well as parents and carers for your continued support and feedback. We are delighted that our collective efforts have been recognised this year, both through an extremely positive Ofsted inspection and report, and our significant achievement as one of just 160 schools nationally awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark – a great Team Hele's effort, so well done to all, and thank you!

On behalf of all at Hele's School, I wish you a fantastic summer break and I've no doubt Hele's will continue to go from strength-to-strength in the year ahead.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal