

Hele's School

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



Friday, September 22, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We regularly have cause to celebrate our wonderful students for their commitment and passion for Hele's School - what I sum up quite simply as having 'pride in the badge' – and this week our young people were once again majestic in providing a warm Team Hele's welcome to the 800+ families who attended our Open Evening. From tour guides to helping out in subject areas to car parking attendants to presenting on stage alongside me and everything in between, our young people were superb ambassadors for our school in every way and they did us all proud. Well done to all!

The Big Ambition Survey: Next Wednesday, Dame Rachel de Souza the Children's Commissioner for England will be visiting Plymouth as part of her launch of The Big Ambition, a survey for children aged 6-18 and parents of young people aged 0-18 across the country.

The Commissioner hopes to use the survey to hear about what children want for the future, their hopes, dreams, and aspirations, and as we approach the General Election, this is a particularly important moment to take children's voices to policy makers to ensure that they are represented in the decisions which will shape their futures.

We will share the link to The Big Ambition survey with all our students via ClassCharts and we would welcome your support in encouraging your child to complete it. Parents can access the survey by visiting: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>.

Keeping our children and community safe: Given the change in weather conditions and visibility this week, please continue to reinforce the need for vigilance on the journey to and from school.

If your child cycles to school, please ensure they are properly dressed in warm and bright (preferably reflective) clothing, have a suitable helmet and working lights front and back, their brakes are in working order, and they adhere to the Highway Code, exercising extreme caution around other road users and pedestrians.

For those who walk to school, they should cross at designated crossings, look both ways before crossing, avoid looking at mobile phones, and pay attention to the traffic and what is going on around them. Please stress the importance of being properly equipped for all weathers, and encourage your child to wear a warm, waterproof coat to school, especially if reliant on public transport.

Finally, if dropping off or collecting your child from school, please do not stop on the yellow warning lines or pavements outside school, and do not drive onto the school site without prior permission or to access Reception. Thank you for your support.

Good news: Darya Ghorbannia in Year 9 has recently completed a hugely successful run in La Bamba in London's West End Peacock Theatre, and other venues around the UK. The new musical, choreographed by Graziano Di Prima from Strictly Come Dancing, has attracted theatregoers from far and wide. Darya played Young Sophia in the show, and received great acclaim for her performance. We can't wait to see Darya perform closer to home in future Hele's School productions!

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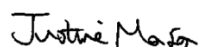
There was no containing the nerves and excitement outside the Creative and Performing Arts Office at 8am this morning, as the confirmed cast list for the School Production of Les Misérables was pinned to the door for all to see. We have been blown away by the talent and enthusiasm of those auditioning over the past week, and applaud each and every young person for putting themselves forward for consideration. We had an unbelievable number of people step forward from across all year groups - the biggest turn out we have had in the past 8 years! Very well done to the 97 young performers who have been cast in the show – let the hard work begin!

Looking ahead:

Monday, 25 September: Year 7 European Day of Languages
Wednesday, 27 September: Year 12 Art A Level visit to The Box
Weds. 27 - Fri. 29 September: Year 6 Open Mornings (pre-booking on an organised tour is essential)
Monday, 2 October: Year 11 GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Slapton Sands
Wednesday, 4 October: Year 11 GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Slapton Sands
Fri., 6 – Tues., 10 October: Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal