

Hele's School

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



Friday, September 29, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was an absolute joy this week to see (and hear, more to the point) our Year 7 students engage in a full day of celebration of language and culture from across the globe. Covering a range of foreign language learning, Sign Language, Salsa dancing, French theatre and African song, our fabulous young people threw themselves into the event and had a great day, filling the corridors and classrooms with colour and sunshine! Well done to all involved, and thank you to our staff from MFL and Creative and Performing Arts for such an uplifting and energetic programme.

Space for Everyone: We are over the moon with the news that Plymouth is hosting the UK Space Agency's 72ft replica of the LauncherOne rocket over the coming days! The Space for Everyone Tour provides a free opportunity to learn about the important role of space in our everyday lives through fun and educational space-related activities, as well as careers advice from local space professionals about the many exciting space-related job opportunities that exist – from engineers to coders to space doctors, artists and everything in between!

We know just how enthusiastic many Hele's students are about space, with our thriving STEM programme, our annual involvement in the Institute for Research in Schools project (IRIS), and the hugely successful visit to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida earlier this year, so there will undoubtedly be much interest in this event. The rocket is on the Piazza in Plymouth City Centre opposite Costa and House of Fraser until October 2.

Staffing update: Best of luck to Jessica Smith, Pastoral Support Manager, who has temporarily left us to 'feather the nest' and start her Maternity Leave. We are pleased to confirm that Mrs Smith will return in July; we are in the process of appointing to this fixed-term PSM position for the duration of Mrs Smith's absence.

Farewell and thank you to two members of our Cleaning Team, Sarah Gregerson and Kate Clarke, who both leave Hele's today to explore new opportunities. We wish our colleagues the best of luck for what lies ahead.

Next week, we welcome a new member to Team Hele's - Emma Tompsett joins us as Literacy Intervention Teacher, a new role focusing on phonics and reading interventions to support our ambition to get every young person reading at or above age-related expectations.

Good news: Hele's has had a long association with Plympton Tennis Club through sharing facilities, coaching and expertise, and the partnership has produced many exceptional young players, Tennis Leaders and coaches from our community over the years.

Following an update received from PTC this week, we acknowledge the marvellous achievements of several Hele's students who are excelling in their field: Isaac Jackson, Ruby Watson and Catrina Bukid (Umpires for the Devon Mini Red Competition), plus Dan Brooks, Ynah Sala, Will Hopper, Toby Harp, Nate Brooker and Eddie Stuart (regular Coaches for younger children). Mathew May was runner-up in the Plymouth Closed U18 Tournament, and Matthew also tasted success as he paired with Isaac Jackson to compete in a very close fought League Doubles Final.

A large Hele's contingent plays in every age group for the club, and I've no doubt we will be celebrating more success from our students next season, whether on court competing or from the sidelines coaching and encouraging the next generation of superstars. Congratulations to all on a successful season, and keep up the great work!

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467




Looking ahead:

Monday, 2 October: Year 11 GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Slapton Sands
Wednesday, 4 October: Year 11 GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Slapton Sands
Thurs. 5 & Fri. 6 October: KS3 Performance of 'The Last Laugh', Hele's School Studio, 5pm
Fri. 6 – Tues. 10 October: Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition
Weds. 11 – Fri. 13 October: Primary Transition Drama Tour
Thursday, 12 October: Tutor Parent Evening via MS Teams, 4-7pm

Very best of luck to our wonderful young people who are directing, supporting or performing in our Key Stage 3 production of 'The Last Laugh' next week. The cast and crew have worked so hard on this show and they would love to share their final product with you – we really would appreciate your support. Tickets are being snapped up for the performances this coming Thursday and Friday, so don't miss out on what promises to be a show like no other and secure your seat for just £4 a ticket. Hope to see you there!

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal