

Hele's School

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



Friday, 6 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm still chuckling to myself after attending the Key Stage 3 production of *The Last Laugh* last night – a fun-filled show with some cracking one-liners and great comedic timing, but with a serious reminder of the importance of keeping joy and laughter in our lives. Well done to all our cast and crew on a job well done, and good luck to the new incoming cast for tonight's performance.

Student Voice: Each morning next week, our Junior Leadership Team of Sixth Form Leaders will be running Year Group assemblies, ensuring they reach the whole school community to explain their vital role in school improvement and encouraging younger students to represent their peers through standing for Student Councillor roles. The JLT work closely alongside my Senior Leadership Team and me, sharing an ambition to make our school a great place to learn and grow for all, and with a remit of keeping the voice and experience of students firmly at the heart of policy and practice.

Student Council elections will take place the following week, with meetings scheduled for the first week of Term 2 once Councillors have been appointed. One of the projects the team will discuss is the use and environment of toilets, and I look forward to hearing the recommendations put forward later next term. I know the team are also passionate about mental health and wellbeing, and I have no doubt they will build on the success of last year's JLT, whose legacy is the Peer Listening programme that has become such an important part of peer-to-peer support. Please do encourage your child to get involved in Student Voice; not everyone can be a Student Councillor, but everyone does have an opportunity to actively contribute their views through their Tutor representative.

Free and local Work Experience: We work closely with the Engineering Development Trust, a dynamic national STEM charity that brokers exciting opportunities for young people to work alongside industry experts. EDT's latest offer to Hele's students in Years 9, 10 and 11 students is a fantastic opportunity to get alongside Plymouth STEM companies like Babcock and Schnieder Electric through Work Experience in half term. This free programme will run from 23 – 26 October, with the bonus of participants being able to secure Bronze Industrial Cadets Accreditation at the same time. Three days will be delivered virtually, with the last day being a visit to the site and an awards event. Please do discuss this opportunity with your child and encourage them to take part, I've no doubt it will be an incredibly rich experience. Expressions of interest to EDT can be made using this link: <https://forms.gle/wnDKVE5Mtu5t68yH6>

Good news: Thomas Day, Year 12, has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship as one of the country's leading students in engineering. Part of educational charity The Smallpeice Trust, Arkwright Engineering Scholarships is a fully sponsored programme that encourages young people to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering.

Tom had to undergo a highly competitive selection process from an online application, a two-hour aptitude exam, and an in-depth interview hosted at a top engineering university. He was asked about his career aspirations and had to discuss an engineering project he had conducted, demonstrating his engineering knowledge and skills, leadership, and creative thinking.

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Overall, 1391 students applied to the 2023 programme, with 622 reaching the final interview stage and just over 300 scholarships being awarded nationally - Tom being one of those. A truly exceptional achievement for Tom and thoroughly well deserved, we are incredibly proud of his achievement!

As well as a nationally recognised certification to enhance his university and apprenticeship applications, Tom was awarded a £600 financial bonus to support his studies and been partnered with an engineering company, the ERA Foundation, who will assist him further in his engineering beyond sixth form, hopefully progressing on to university to study mechanical engineering. All students at Hele's School will benefit from Tom's success, however, not only having him as a super role model and advocate for STEM in our Sixth Form, as well as a mentor for future applicants to the Arkwright Scholarship, but through the £400 donation received by School to support STEM events and resources for all.

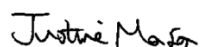
Whilst a student must be in Year 11 to apply for the scholarship, any student with an interest in the engineering field can find out more by visiting the Arkwright website <https://www.arkwright.org.uk/>, asking Mr Wills, Design Technology Lead, or indeed speaking with Tom about his experience.

Looking ahead:

Friday, 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 A Level Drama Tour
Thursday, 12 October:	Tutor Parent Evening via MS Teams, 4-7pm
Friday, 13 October:	Year 11 Boys Football National Cup fixture vs Launceston (away)
Thursday, 19 October:	Year 11 photos Class of 2023 Year 11 Leavers' Award Evening, Main Hall, 6pm
Friday, 20 October:	Last day of Term 1. School ends at 3.10pm
Monday, 30 October:	Westcountry Schools Trust Staff Training Day. Non-pupil day for students
Tuesday, 31 October:	Term 2 start for all students Latin trip to Bath for Years 7-10 and Year 12

Wishing our Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditioners a safe and incident-free few days ahead as they navigate the moors independently and camp for a few nights under the stars. Enjoy your weekend too, whatever you may have planned.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal