

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 13 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in Assembly, students have been talked through an emergency process known as 'invacuation', a dynamic lockdown to quickly restrict access to School in response to a real or perceived threat, such as an intruder on site, or a chemical or environmental incident.

Whilst the likelihood of ever needing to deploy such a procedure is *extremely rare*, it is important that we give our school community an opportunity to walk through the routine in a calm and controlled manner to cover every eventuality, just like we do with our termly fire and emergency evacuation procedures. To that end, please be aware that we will have a whole-school walk through one day next week in Tutor.

Your child is expecting this and has been suitably prepared, having had a clear rationale explained as to why we need to practise a lockdown and a precise description of what to expect. We have not shared which day it will be on, however to maintain some element of surprise. I have no doubt the invacuation practice will be swift and slick. For your information, we plan to run 2 invacuation drills each year going forward as part of our existing risk management strategy.

**Mobile phones:** Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, has recently announced new guidance to strengthen banning phones from school sites. This is based on strong evidence nationally which shows mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in schools, such as bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Our absolute priority at Hele's School is to keep children safe, and we believe our mobile phone policy supports this endeavour:

- We do not actively encourage mobiles, but we are realistic enough to realise that they may provide an important point of communication with parents on the way to and from School.
- If a student does bring in a phone, it must remain out of sight and switched off and kept in a bag during school hours, from 8.40am to 3.10pm inclusive. This includes during Break 1 and Break 2.
- Phones must not be seen or heard. We operate a 'see it, lose it' policy for any student not complying with this rule.
- Confiscated phones will be taken to Student Services and carefully stored. The name of the student will be recorded and the student can collect it back after the end of the school day.
- Persistent offenders will be required to hand their phone into Student Services every morning and collect it each afternoon, initially for 2 days, or until they can be trusted to use their phone appropriately. This can be up to a term or indefinitely in some cases.

We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. We ask parents and carers to inform us of extenuating circumstances so we can plan and manage communication in an appropriate manner. Should you need to get an essential message to your child during the school day, please do not phone or text them but instead contact Reception who will ensure the message gets through with minimum disruption to learning. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

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**Principal: Justine Mason**

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**Looking ahead:**

Friday, 13 October: Sixth Form vs. Staff charity Basketball match in aid of Devon MIND, Break 2

Thursday, 19 October: Year 11 photos

Class of 2023 Year 11 Leavers' Awards Evening, Main Hall, 6pm

**Friday, 20 October: Last day of Term 1. School ends at 3.10pm**

Fri. 27 – Sun. 29 October: CCF RN trip to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

Monday, 30 October: Westcountry Schools Trust Staff Training Day. Non-pupil day for students

**Tuesday, 31 October: Term 2 start for all students**

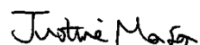
Latin trip to Bath for Years 7-10 and Year 12

Friday, 3 November: Years 7 – 11 nasal Flu vaccine

Wishing our Year 11 boys football team the best of luck for their National Cup fixture versus Launceston this afternoon.  
Go, Team Hele's!

Enjoy your weekend.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**