

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 20 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw a positive first term to a close, I'd like to thank you for your support to ensure our start to academic year 2023-24 has been a successful one. The overwhelming majority of our students have embraced the wealth of opportunities available to them, both in and out of the classroom, and have been exemplary in their learning and conduct.

Their superb conduct was displayed in the whole-school invacuation practice this week, where students followed procedures to the letter, and 1400 young people across the site fell silent for the duration. It is reassuring to know that in the very unlikely event of ever having to invoke this procedure for real, the maturity and respect our students demonstrate can be counted on to keep everyone as safe as possible.

There has been a healthy mix of work, rest and play this term, culminating in the wonderful celebrations at the Year 11 Awards Evening last night. Welcoming the GCSE Class of 2023 back to Hele's and presenting subject and pastoral awards really was the icing on the cake of a great term. Our award winners deserved their moment to shine after securing some exceptional individual results, and collectively as a year group achieving Hele's School's best ever GCSE results.

Achievement through collective effort was also evidenced with the Sixth Form vs. Staff Basketball match, organised by our Post-16 students in aid of Devon MIND. With over £300 raised for the charity, the final result was not only a fair reflection of a very competitive game, but the 6-6 draw also meant that no one lost face! Thank you to our event organisers, players and supporters – a great Team Hele's effort!

**Communication with School:** A polite reminder of protocol around communication with teachers and support staff. Please do not arrive in Reception asking to see staff without prior contact or having an appointment as this will only lead to disappointment. School is an incredibly busy place and days are full for staff, with briefings each day before school, teaching commitments throughout the school day, including break duties, as well as after-school meetings or clubs. Staff are very pleased to speak or meet with parents, but we need to ensure the correct process for arranging this is followed to be fair to everyone and ensure we can plan time accordingly. School policy for responding to enquiries is to reply within 2 working days of receipt of the initial email/phone call received. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

**Careers in the NHS:** To promote awareness of the many different career opportunities within the NHS, the Plymouth NHS Careers Hub is coming to Hele's on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to talk to students during Break 2. Although everything that everyone does within the NHS is ultimately for patients, their families, carers and the public, there is a wide-ranging set of roles where people contribute in different ways to make a difference and help others. This includes front-facing services working directly with patient care (Nursing, Healthcare, Dentistry, Doctors, Paramedics, etc.) to the 'back office' function, including HR Managers, Finance Managers, IT Support Technicians, Estate Technicians, Chefs and Engineers, to name but a few. In fact, there are 350 different careers in the NHS, probably more than in any other organisation in the world! Please encourage your child to visit the sessions to find out more. All students from Year 7 to Year 13 are most welcome.

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**Principal: Justine Mason**

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**Nasal flu vaccination:** Cornwall and Devon School Age Immunisation Service will be visiting Hele's School on Friday, 3 November to deliver the nasal flu vaccine to all those who have given advance consent. The link closes at midday on Wednesday, 1 November, so there is still plenty of time to consent if you haven't yet done so. Please click on <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> and ensure you quote the full code. The code for Hele's School is: **DV136557**.

Unfortunately, Cornwall and Devon School Age Immunisation Service have limited capacity in clinics later on in the year, so the best chance of young people receiving the vaccine is in school on Friday, 3 November. Any enquiries, please contact [kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net](mailto:kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net) or telephone 01392 342678.

**Good news:** We are delighted to hear that 3 Hele's students have been selected to join a squad of just 20 players for Plymouth Schools FA U14 for this season. A huge well done to Ashton Harvey (Year 9); Molly Stroud (Year 9); and Charlie Field (Year 8). The trio were selected after rigorous rounds of trials that involved over 100 talented football players – what a super achievement to make the final squad! We wish the team, and especially the Hele's players, the best of luck for the season ahead.

Congratulations to Kayleigh Bevington in Year 7, who fought hard to win the South and Southwest Tour Tennis Tournament (U12 Girls) at the Devonshire Tennis Centre last Sunday. Kayleigh plays for Devon County and has been training hard all year, spurred on after coming runner-up in the Devon County Closed Tournament (U11 Girls) at Ivybridge Tennis Centre at the end of August. Competing regularly and getting better with every game, Kayleigh is a super role model for hard work and dedication. We look forward to hearing of future success.

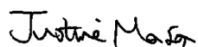
**Looking ahead:**

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.
<b>Tuesday, 31 October:</b>	<b>Term 2 start for all students.</b> Latin trip to Bath for Years 7-10 and Year 12.
Wednesday, 1 November:	NHS Careers Hub (Main Hall).
Friday, 3 November:	Years 7 – 11 nasal Flu vaccine. NHS Careers Hub (Post 16 Centre).
Thursday, 9 November:	Post-16 Parents' Evening.
Friday, 10 November:	CCF Remembrance event, East Quad.
Saturday, 11 November:	CCF poppy selling in Plympton retail outlets.
Sunday, 12 November:	Remembrance Day service and parade, Plympton.

We look forward to welcoming back all students on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you in advance for ensuring students return to School properly equipped, wearing uniform correctly, and excited about the term ahead. With colder weather anticipated next term, should you be shopping for school jumpers over the week ahead then please remember that round-neck sweaters or sweatshirts are **not** part of our uniform and will not be accepted in School. Please purchase a plain black V-neck jumper that allows the school tie to be visible. Such jumpers can be purchased from our uniform supplier, Adelle as well as most supermarkets.

Wishing you a restful half term.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**