

Hele's School

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



Friday, 3 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Centre of Excellence students had a wonderful visit to Bath this week, participating in workshops led by actors, translating Latin inscriptions of tombstones, and handling Roman artefacts that were 2000 years old to get a great sense of history. The interest in Latin, and learning about classical civilisation in its broadest sense, continues to grow at Hele's, with 39 students now in Year 7 alone...and growing! Given such strong numbers and levels of engagement we are encountering across the whole of Key Stage 3, we remain on course to fulfil our ambition to offer Latin GCSE in the Key Stage 4 Options for a September 2024 start.

What is my child learning? We are delighted to publish our latest curriculum overviews for you to see; they will be sent to you next week. These will inform you of what your child is covering in each subject across this academic year, and it affords the perfect opportunity to talk with them about their learning at different stages of the course. All overviews are on our website and can be found [here](#), and then by clicking on the appropriate Key Stage and Year Group.

Fundraising and charity work: Congratulations to the Combined Cadet Force on news of their successful application to the CCF Association's Contingent Growth Fund. The contingent at Hele's has been awarded a grant to purchase 2 virtual reality flight/bridge simulation computers, 4 VR helmets and a portable power bank for use in the field. This top-of-the-range kit will undoubtedly add value to the already exceptional experiences on offer to our cadets.

A huge thank you to our fantastic Receptionists, Vicky Castle and Sonia Sparks, for encouraging staff to dress in pink on the last day of term and to donate £1 towards Cancer Research. Over £110 cash has been raised for the charity, with further online donations from staff made via the special QR code or text message. Thank you too, to the lovely Mum of Mrs Smith, Head of PSHE, for her generous donation of delicious home-baked cupcakes for the Staff Room to support the fundraising!

Further fundraising is underway, with the selling of poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion. Poppies are available from Reception for a donation, or from selling points across the site during every Break 1 and Break 2 next week. Please do encourage your child to bring some change to school with them should they wish to buy a poppy.

'B in 2 win' attendance challenge: Christmas is a time of giving, and so in the run up to the end of this term, we will be rewarding those students consistently attending school, who are always on time and always in lessons, through our 'B in 2 win' attendance challenge. For each week of 100% attendance from Monday, 6 November to Friday, 15 December, a student will be entered into a grand prize draw to be held on the final two days of term, Monday, 18 and Tuesday, 19 December.

With just over 6 weeks until school breaks for Christmas, each young person with full attendance has a chance to achieve 6 reward stickers and 6 entries to the prize draw, so will have better odds of being drawn from the randomiser at the end of term to win a prize. The only stipulation is that a student must be in school and in lesson to receive their prize on the days of the draw or that prize gets drawn again – students need to 'B in 2 win'!

We would dearly love to call on the support of our local community to add value and help us in our quest to create a positive buzz about attendance, as well as a bit of fun towards the Christmas build up. Prizes will include our own school-based incentives – from Amazon vouchers, to fast-track passes in the Dining Hall and food carts, to festive mince pies and hot chocolate with a favourite member of staff, and much more in between - plus offers from local businesses who have been generously donating. If you are a small business-owner or you work for a business that you feel might be able to offer Hele's School a small token of support, please contact Sandra Crawford, Deputy Principal on 01752 337193 or via email,

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crawfords@heles.plymouth.sch.uk. Any support would be gratefully received. No prize is too small!

As well as individual prizes on offer, we will also be rewarding the Tutor group with the strongest collective attendance at the end of the 6-week period with a free celebratory breakfast during the last 2 days of term. Which Tutor will win the treat, I wonder?

Curriculum delivery takes place every lesson right up until the end of term, and so exceptional attendance is vital to ensure essential learning is secured. To keep attendance at the forefront of everyone's minds, later today you will receive a report for your child's attendance from Term 1. Please do discuss this with your child and remind them of the 'B in 2 win' challenge to further incentivise good attendance this term.

Good news: Kitana Emberson in Year 8 recently competed in the Regional Qualifier for Gymnastics at the University of Bath, where she represented the City of Plymouth. Not only did Kitana nail her routines, but she was awarded first place and proudly took her place at pole position on the podium for the medal ceremony. A super achievement, well done Kitana!

Jack Walker in Year 10 pursued the opportunity for STEM work experience with the Engineering Development Trust, in partnership with Babcock, that was shared in my weekly update a few weeks back. As well as thoroughly his time there, Jack's commitment and ability afforded much attention, especially as he went on to win the award of most creative idea of the week! Jack has always been interested in Motorsports, in particular Formula One, and has since gone on to enquire with F1 firms about securing first-hand engineering experience in their business units. A very bright future lies ahead for this young man, for sure!


Looking ahead:

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| Thursday, 9 November: | Post-16 Parents' Evening. |
| Friday, 10 November: | CCF Remembrance event, East Quad. |
| Saturday, 11 November: | CCF poppy selling in Plympton Sainsburys' and other local retail outlets. |
| Sunday, 12 November: | Remembrance Day Service and Parade, Plympton. |
| Tuesday, 14 November: | Year 12 Learn to Live Roadshow, Plymouth Guildhall, 12.45pm – 3.00pm. |

Should you wish to take 15 minutes out of a busy day to sit down with a cup of tea and some quality reading material, then look no further than the Hele's School website where the fifth edition of the Key Stage 3 student newspaper, '[Hear from Hele's](#)' can be found. Well done to our team of trusty journalists!

Thank you for your support this week, particularly with the closure of the school site yesterday and the flip to remote learning. We recognise this will have caused families extra pressure, but we do appreciate your understanding.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal