

Hele's School

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



Friday, 10 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

At just before 11am this morning, a sombre Remembrance event was held in the East Quad. The ceremony was beamed via a live feed into every classroom. The school watched and listened as Major Randall read the names of the Old Plymptonians who lost their lives in World War II, before the sound of the Last Post reverberated around empty corridors and silent classrooms and created a charged atmosphere to focus our thoughts. Head Boy, Harrison Aslett and Samuel Williams, Assistant Head Boy read the Exhortation, as the Contingent Commander and Isobel Prowse, Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, laid wreaths of poppies in remembrance on behalf of Hele's School and Hele's School CCF. A 2-minute silence was impeccably observed as the whole school community remembered those who have died, have been injured or have been affected by wars around the world. Lest we forget.

Scholarship at Hele's: Last year, Hele's was one of 104 schools nationally that took part in research projects with the Institute for Research Schools (IRIS) and it was a super surprise this week to receive a certificate of commendation for our participation, and a glossy copy of the IRIS Impact Report with two members of Team Hele's featured within – Xsara Lord, Year 13, and Cat Rutley, Teacher of Chemistry. The report documents the tremendous benefits that growing a culture of research and innovation in schools has on students and staff, and the reflections of both Xsara and Miss Rutley were able to show the value added to the Science research undertaken last academic year. We are building on the success of this project this year by continuing our relationship with IRIS.

On a related note, last week we saw the launch of our annual Scholars Programme through our ongoing partnership with The Brilliant Club. This research programme gives students the chance to learn beyond the curriculum, so that they can build the knowledge, skills and confidence to apply to the most competitive universities. Fifteen of our Year 9 students will take part in a series of university-style tutorials, delivered by a PhD researcher, over the course of an academic term to inspire students with their expertise and love of learning: the culmination being a written thesis on their research question and a graduation ceremony at a top university. Working with the University of Plymouth and PhD researcher Linan Zhang this year, students are exploring the theme of '*International development: the good, the bad and the ugly*', and will be delving into areas including Geography, Politics, International Relations and Ethics. I wait with interest to see the work our students produce.

Good news: One of our ambitions is to keep Hele's at the heart of the community and have the community at our heart, and this week has seen this play out with 2 super fundraising efforts for charity.

Isabelle Baxter in Year 9 baked for 2 days solid and encouraged staff and students to contribute their wares to a bake sale she had organised in aid of [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), selling out in minutes and raising a whopping £213.55! A fantastic effort, Izzy, very well done!

Since Spring Term, Post 16 students have been busy raising money and awareness for [Devon Mind](#), a charity that helps young people across Devon with mental health issues. Students have run a wide range of fundraising events, including cake sales, Staff vs Students Netball and Basketball matches, and even a sponsored head shave from one brave soul! A proud group of Sixth Formers presented a cheque for £1015.73 to the charity this week – a huge amount! Very well done to all our fundraisers and supporters.

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

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Road safety: A polite reminder to those collecting and dropping off children not to wait or park on the zig zag lines outside the school gates please or turn vehicles in the school driveway/entrance to the gates, or indeed in the driveways of local residents. The entrances to School – Seymour Road, Trelawny Road and Plymbridge Road - are each incredibly busy at the start and end of school for pedestrians and drivers alike. Your vigilance and care to keep our school community safe is much appreciated.

Looking ahead:

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.
Thursday, 23 November: Creative and Performing Arts trip to see Edward Scissorhands, Theatre Royal Plymouth, 7.30pm

You will note from the dates above that it is a busy weekend for our CCF. Thank you to the staff and cadets for representing Hele's School in such a fitting manner; they always do themselves, the contingent, and the school proud on such occasions and we wish them well.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal