

Hele's School

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



Friday, 17 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The rain may have poured on Sunday as our CCF Cadets and staff marched through Plympton to mark Remembrance Sunday, but it certainly didn't dampen spirits. As we have become accustomed to over the years, the Contingent did a super job and I was a very proud Principal as they passed us by.

Keeping on the theme of being hugely impressed, the manner in which Year 11 and Year 13 students have started their Mock Exams this week has been exemplary. The seriousness with which they have engaged with the exam series and respected the tight routines and expectations that surround the Mocks is to be commended. I've no doubt there will be plenty to celebrate in the coming weeks, which will give our students a strong platform from which to push on towards the summer series.

Lost property: We seem to have accrued a great deal of lost property at the moment, particularly coats and water bottles. Mrs Castle and Mrs Sparks in Reception always reunite owners with lost items where they are clearly named, but unfortunately an awful lot of lost property ends up unclaimed. In the coming weeks, we plan to display all lost items and encourage students to claim items that they have lost. Details will be shared with students in all years through the daily student bulletin. Any coats that remain unclaimed at the end of term will be donated to Plympton Library, who are collecting coats to donate to those in need. Other uniform items not collected will be donated to The Uniform Shop in Plymouth City Centre.

Fit & Fed: Plymouth City Council has received funding from the Department for Education to coordinate the Fit & Fed programme within Plymouth. Holiday times can be pressure points for parents, with extra costs and limited opportunities to work. Fit & Fed aims to help relieve these issues with funded Holiday Club places for eligible children and young people:

- Children who receive benefit related free school meals
- Children with an EHCP
- Looked After Children
- Children from refugee or asylum seeking families, or Ukrainian families
- Children with a Child Protection Plan

There are also several funded activities aimed at teenagers aged 12 to 16 years old. For more details, please visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/teen-tasters and to book a place please email FitandFed@plymouth.gov.uk.

Christmas Concert: We are pleased to confirm that tickets are now on sale for the Hele's Christmas Concert which will be held on Tuesday, 12 December from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Tickets are just £4 per person and include a mince pie to get guests in the festive mood! We would be delighted to see you at the event, and your support for our young performers would be much appreciated. Please secure your tickets from Reception or the Drama Office.

Staffing news: Today we say a fond farewell and thank you to Karen Blakemore, Learning Support Assistant, as she retires from Hele's to dedicate time to the final year of her PhD, which she has been studying alongside her LSA work. Ms Blakemore has been a superb advocate for our young people, and particularly those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities; we will all miss her tremendously and wish her well for the next stage of her adventure.

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Good news: Last week, we saw 1069 students from across the school join the 100% club by securing full attendance. Mrs Crawford did the honour of 'pulling' 10 names from an online randomiser and I had the pleasure of visiting tutor groups to present the foodie treats to the lucky winners. 9G were very excited to find out that their class attendance of 99.33% secured them a very large tub of Celebrations chocolates to share out...as soon as they could wrestle them off Tutor, Mr Douglas!

Looking ahead:

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

Best of luck to our Year 11 Boys Football team, who will be kicking off at 3.45pm this afternoon in the next round of the National Cup. It promises to be a highly competitive fixture against fellow Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST) school, Ivybridge Community College. I've no doubt it will be a local derby with plenty of pride and passion on show by both teams. Whilst the tag line of WeST is '*stronger together*', today there can be only one chant... '*Come on, Team Hele's!*'

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal