

Hele's School

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



Friday, 1 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

December is upon us, and there is no better reminder than the noise and excitement generated by those Year 7s chosen to decorate the Christmas tree as a treat for their exceptional effort this term - always a joyous occasion! We are grateful to Arborcure, our grounds maintenance provider, for donating the stunning 6-foot tree. Our fabulous Year 7s – Amia Bannerman, Tilly Edwards, Henry Granville, Toby Lawrence, Jakub Lewoniewski and Ella Rowsell - have been plied with hot chocolate and cookies this morning as they have merrily decorated the tree. Let the countdown to Christmas begin!

Food Bank Appeal: From Monday, Stef Hammond (English Teacher) will be launching with students the 'Lessons from Scrooge Food Bank Appeal 2023' via English lessons, drawing on the work of Charles Dickens' novel, "A Christmas Carol" and the life lessons we may learn from the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, in showing kindness, patience and understanding in life, and especially at Christmas.

Last year, the Plympton Food Bank was blown away by the contributions from Hele's School families - our donations filled three of their long trestle tables and went on to help many families celebrate Christmas.

Below is a list of requested items for this year's appeal:

- Toiletries (deodorant/ shampoo/ shower gel/ shaving items/ nappies)
- Any 'festive treats' with dates that last beyond 27 December
- Rice (550g or 1kg) and dried noodles
- Jam/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fish
- Packet soups
- Tinned soup/ veg/ meat
- Sponge pudding
- Crisps/ savoury snacks
- Biscuits/ chocolate bars/ treats
- Long-life fruit juice
- Toilet rolls

Mrs Hammond will be collecting donations between Monday, 4 December and Tuesday, 19 December, with the intention of some staff and students dropping off donations to the Food Bank held at St Mary's Church Hall on the last day of term.

We appreciate times are tough for many families so please do not feel pressured into donating, but anything you are able to give would be much appreciated. Remember too, that if you need help this Christmas, you can access the Plympton Food Bank, or any local Food Bank in the city, with a food voucher. To find out more about how to access support you can contact Plymouth Food Bank in the following ways:

- Phone - 01752 254981
- Website - <https://plymouth.foodbank.org.uk>
- Email - info@plymouth.foodbank.org.uk

Duke of Edinburgh: Continuing the theme of giving, if there are any parents who would be willing and able to donate time in supporting our Duke of Edinburgh programme at Hele's School, then please do get in touch – we are always keen to work with enthusiastic adult volunteers and will provide the necessary training and facilitate the essential DBS

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checks that are a prerequisite to working with children. To find out more about the ways in which you can help, and the commitment required, please contact Pete Cory, our DoE Manager at cory@heles.plymouth.sch.uk.

Enrichment Week Choices 2024: We had hoped to get the Enrichment Week booklet and options form out to all students and families in Years 7, 8 and 9 today, but we have had to delay this slightly. Our intention to get this information out to all families via email by Wednesday 6 December at the latest, so please do watch your inboxes! The closing date for choices to be returned is Monday 11 December, so students will have a few days in school to talk to friends and the weekend to finalise plans at home and submit the form.

Lost property: A couple of weeks ago I wrote regarding the volume of unnamed lost property we have accrued this term. Please be advised that during Break 1 and Break 2 for the whole of next week, students will have the opportunity to look through lost items in E1 in the English block. Tutor morning notices throughout next week will contain a reminder to students to check lost property, but if your child has lost anything this term, please encourage them to look through the items.

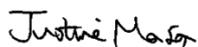
Staffing news: We send fond wishes to Jon Bevan-French as he leaves his role at Hele's School this week. Mr Bevan-French has not only added value to a huge number of young people over the past 2 ½ years through his role as Learning Support Assistant, but he is well known for his part in Viking re-enactments, adding to the excitement of extra-curricular learning during Enrichment Week and Summer School! We thank Mr Bevan-French for all he has done for Hele's School, and wish him well for the next stage of his career.

Looking ahead:

Tuesday, 5 December:	All Year 9 working with social enterprise company, Humanutopia
Wednesday, 6 December:	Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening, 6pm in The Studio
Thursday, 7 December:	Year 7 Sustainable Gifts Fayre, 5 – 6.30pm
W/b Monday, 11 December:	Christmas Dinner (pre-booked tickets only)
Tuesday, 12 December:	Christmas Music Concert – mince pies from 6.30pm, show starts at 7pm
Thursday, 14 December:	A Level Awards Evening, Main Hall, 6.30pm
Tuesday, 19 December:	Term 2 ends for all students and staff, 3.10pm

This weekend, Plympton St Mary's is running a Christmas Tree Festival at the church on Saturday 2 December (10am – 4pm) and Sunday 3 December (10.30am – 4.30pm). Refreshments are available and there is also a free children's trail, as well as an array of trees decorated by schools, community groups and businesses. Do pop down and see if you can spot our contribution from Year 7, which is dressed in some of the sustainable gifts our students have been working on in readiness for the Hele's Christmas Fayre next week.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason
Principal