

# Hele's School

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



Friday, 5 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope that you and your family had a peaceful festive period and restful break. We are now 3 days into the new term and already Christmas feels like a distant memory, but it would be remiss not to highlight some of the fantastic work done in the run up to the big day, particularly with regards to the charitable work undertaken by staff and students alike. Firstly, we had our fabulous Post-16 team who raised £360 for their chosen charity this year, Pete's Dragon. Special thanks to 12C, Mrs Finnie and Mrs Curtis for the fantastic events that led to this. The whole school engaged in Christmas Jumper Day on the final day of term in aid of Save the Children. In total, the school community raised £652.41. Finally, the grand total came through from the Royal British Legion following our CCF poppy selling at Sainsbury's in the build up to Remembrance Sunday back in November. Through this, and their in-school collection, our cadets raised a total of £2759.60 for the charity. Fantastic efforts all round and excellent examples of our ethos of Hele's School being at the heart of the community and having community at its heart.

As we look ahead now to the new term, it's certainly going to be fast and furious – there are only 26 school days left before February half term!

**Attendance:** All parents will be receiving up to date attendance information for their child over the next week with their current year to date attendance. As part of our ongoing drive to improve attendance, and, as a result of a positive student response to our initiative of last term, we will be raising the importance of a full week of attendance through our FullWeekFriday reward scheme. 10 lucky winners will win a snack of choice following a full week of attendance. Names will be selected on Fridays and winners rewarded if in school. At this time of year when holiday advertising is at its peak, please can we remind parents that no holidays will be authorised during term time, in line with our attendance policy. This policy, along with our term dates for the remainder of this year and next, can be found on the school website.

**Pastoral Consultation:** We start the term gathering feedback from our students, parents and carers about the physical design of our pastoral system, with year groups currently in designated zones for both the 30-minute tutor period, and for social time, as well as a dedicated year 7 induction team. We have already canvassed teaching staff, and key pastoral staff, to get their views on possible models which might serve the enhancement of teaching and learning, as well as continue to provide a purposeful and responsive tutor time session in the morning. We are keen to get your views as part of this consultation and will be inviting you to share your feedback via a simple consultation form which will be in the newsletter next week. Students will also be asked to share their views over the next two weeks via their Student Council Representative. Any changes to our current system will be implemented from September 2024 and communicated to all students, parents, carers and staff in advance once the views of all stakeholders have been considered later this term.

**Staffing news:** We are very pleased to welcome a new Food Technology teacher into the Hele's family this term. Lindsay Cole joins us from another WeST school and we extend a warm welcome to her, along with three new Learning Support Assistants: Sophie Arrowsmith, Stephanie Jensen and Helen Wraight. Welcome all!

**Good news:** Having mentioned above the importance of good attendance, it was very pleasing to see significant improvements in attendance in Term 2 compared with the same period last year. Students added over 6% as a result of their collective efforts which is absolutely fantastic! We know that when students are in school and learning, their

---

**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  
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467



chances of academic success are significantly enhanced. Furthermore, attendance at school ensures students can also engage in the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and we are thrilled to share the latest clubs news with students as we return to school for the spring term. If your child doesn't currently take part in a club or activity, why not support a New Year's resolution to try something new? Options are shared daily with students through the Student Bulletin and details are available on the school website [here](#).

**Looking ahead:**

Tuesday 9 January:	Y7 – Y11 nasal Flu immunisation
Wednesday 10 January:	Post 16 Open Evening, 5 – 7.30pm
Thursday 11 January:	Year 11 Art trip to Cardiff
Tuesday 16 January:	Year 12 Art visit to Arts University Plymouth, periods 1 and 2 Careers Fair, 4.30-6.30pm (4.15pm early access for Year 11 students)
Thursday 18 January:	Arts Award Trinity College Performance (selected Year 7 and Year 8 students)
Thurs 18 and Fri 19 January:	Year 11 Employer Interviews

Finally, after a much-anticipated wait, the tickets for the forthcoming School Production, 'Les Misérables', finally go on sale on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. If last year is anything to go by, tickets will sell out quickly so don't miss out! If the teasers on social media follow through to the big stage during Show Week, this really does promise to be a performance like no other and definitely one not to miss! Tickets will be available from Reception - please do book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Kindest regards,



Justine Mason  
**Principal**