

Hele's School

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



Friday, 9 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that we are about to enter our penultimate week of the first academic term – where has the time gone? It has been a first term like no other, but the manner in which our children, staff and families have embraced these new and unfamiliar ways of working – in spite of the disruption and challenges faced by all - has been something special. I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support and patience. I do recognise you have been bombarded with information from me each week since our return, but it is important in these uncertain times that you get a full picture of what is going on each day 'on the ground' to keep our children learning in school. It continues to be an incredibly busy time!

'Learn & Grow' catch up provision: starting in Term 2, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our Learn & Grow catch up provision. Running separately in each year group bubble and **open to all students in Years 7-10**, Learn & Grow is an after-school provision offering both generic and targeted support and tutoring, as well as an opportunity for students to complete homework and extension tasks. The provision will be funded through the Catch-Up Premium issued by the Government to assist students in bridging any gaps they may have from the lockdown period, and it will form part of our core offer.

The sessions will run Monday - Thursday each week after-school, with each session lasting one hour. Learn & Grow will be staffed predominantly by a team of high-achieving, fully trained Post-16 students who will offer both classroom and computer-based learning opportunities. Previous student voice activities, other student-led activities in school and educational research have all shown peer-tutoring to be hugely beneficial in the learning of students and we envisage this provision to be highly effective and in demand. As such, if you would like your child to attend, please complete the short survey below to state your preferred day(s): **survey link: <https://bit.ly/2SxrZsL>**

Depending on demand, we may not be able to offer all students the full range of days requested, but we will certainly work with you to meet need as far as our resource will allow. We are very excited about the launch of this exciting provision and look forward to working with your child to further enhance their learning.

Continuity of education: I wrote back in mid-September to share the school's plans for continuity of education in exceptional circumstances where there is some level of restriction applied to education or childcare in a local area. Should such circumstances arise then we will ensure a high-quality and safe provision that aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has defined the different tiers of intervention for educational settings when managing local outbreaks and implementing restrictions:

Tier 1: All students attend full time

Tier 2: Part-time rota system in place

Tier 3: Most secondary school students studying from home

Tier 4: All schools back to full lockdown

We have adopted government advice in full and developed a comprehensive strategy to our approach to Remote Learning across a range of scenarios. This includes the support of individual and small groups of students who may be self-isolating/shielding to ensure they can access high quality resources during their period of absence.

Over recent months, our staff have worked extremely hard to create a virtual school using Microsoft Teams. MS Teams is a platform that will enable us to upload all lesson resources, deliver live lessons, set assignments and provide feedback on students' work. We will continue to refine and improve our provision based on emerging best practice but our plans at present are as follows:

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Tier 1 Individual Students	Tier 2 Weekly rota for alternative years	Tier 3/4 Extended remote learning in operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student independent learning (supported by teachers) • Remote learning resources accessed in MS Year Group Curriculum Team • Oak Academy will be mapped alongside our curriculum on a termly basis and will be utilised when appropriate • Hand in on return and feedback in line with departmental policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year group bubbles in school continue with normal timetable • Year group bubbles work remotely and receive remote lessons in line with normal timetable & curriculum • The majority of lessons will be live, but some may be pre-recorded • Teachers may use Oak National Academy lessons where this matches the Hele's curriculum • Educare provision for vulnerable students and children of key workers • Feedback in line with departmental policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year group bubbles work remotely and receive remote lessons in line with normal timetable & curriculum • The majority of lessons will be live, but some may be pre-recorded • Teachers may use Oak National Academy lessons where this matches the Hele's Curriculum • Educare provision for vulnerable students and children of key workers • Feedback in line with departmental policy • Enrichment opportunities

Since the previous period of lockdown, all staff and students have received training on the use of Microsoft Teams. Over recent weeks, students have been shown how to download MS Teams onto their home devices and where to find their work and how to attend live, remote lessons.

To read more about our contingency planning for these scenarios or to access helpful videos produced to support you in accessing MS Teams, please see the parent section of our website. We will continue to keep our plans under review in order to ensure we can provide the best possible provision for our students.

ClassCharts, homework and MS Teams: you will know that we have been successfully using ClassCharts to share attendance, rewards, behaviour and homework with parents over recent years. We know that parents really value this platform as it enables you to provide the best possible support for your child. We intend to use ClassCharts for these purposes for the foreseeable future with Key Stage 3 and 4. However, we will keep this under constant review in response to student, parent and staff feedback.

During any further period of remote learning teachers will be using MS Teams Assignments to set work. Students will be expected to submit it virtually and teachers will then provide feedback in line with the departmental feedback policy.

We are delighted that many departments have embraced this and have been keen to set MS Assignments to ensure that students are confident and familiar with this process. Where a piece of homework has been placed on MS Assignments, we have asked the teacher to reference this on ClassCharts to enable you to have the conversation with your child and support them at home.

Key Stage 5 home learning tasks will only be visible on MS Teams and will not be placed on ClassCharts.

Good news: Following my accolades last week to the Hele's girls who featured in the Devon Under-13 Girls Football Cup Final, it appears I inadvertently missed a player from the roll call! Apologies to Ashleigh Gavican-Laphorn (Year 8) for the oversight – with such poor accuracy on my part it's a good job it wasn't me in front of the goal! Anyway, I'm reliably informed that Ashleigh had a great game, so very well done to her and her teammates.

I was thrilled to hear news of the success of Marley Tyndall (Year 10) achieving the runner-up spot in a cooking competition at CTSW Training Provider this week. What makes this culinary achievement even greater is that Marley was competing in the age bracket above his own - 17- and 18-year olds undertaking their Level 3 Hospitality training. My compliments to the chef!

Kindest regards,

Justine Mason

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Principal

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