



Plymouth High School

SIXTH FORM

P R O S P E C T U S

I N F O R M A T I O N

## **Welcome to Plymouth High School Sixth Form from the Headteacher**

I am delighted that you are considering Plymouth High School Sixth Form for your post 16 choice. I am exceptionally proud of the school and what it offers our young people. There is a very special feeling about being a Sixth Former in the school. Our Sixth Form is open to both girls and boys.

If you have been with us for a number of years, you will know from personal experience that Plymouth High is a very special place. It's now that your investment in Plymouth High School reaps rewards. You are the senior students in the school and as such receive many privileges. The younger students will look up to you and you will be acting as role models within and beyond the School community. For Plymouth High girls, there's continuity of learning by specialist teachers who know you well.

I also extend a warm welcome to those who wish to join us from other schools. Let me reassure you. Plymouth High School is a caring and friendly school where teachers are dedicated to their students, enthusiastic about their subjects and responsive to your individual needs. Members of staff go out of their way to support students. I know you will soon settle in, make friends and get to know your teachers and tutor. You will soon become a valued member of our unique, talented community. This is the right place to be. Ofsted (September 2011) stated that overall this is a 'good' school and Sixth Form students are highly supportive of the Sixth Form and of the quality of education it provides. The Sixth Form successfully ensures that the vast majority of students progress to Higher Education, employment or training with the vast majority securing their first choice university.

Never has it been more important to our students in this competitive world to gain the qualifications and skills they will need in their future lives. Our motto 'For Life Not School We Learn' remains as true today as when the school was founded.

We aim to provide a range of courses that will meet your personal needs. Our students are all gifted, many with unconventional talents and our aim is to seek out these gifts and talents, give direction and opportunity for them to flourish and to celebrate success. Plymouth High School provides the freedom and security for you to be yourself.

You'll be able to read about all the different courses we offer in this prospectus.

Plymouth High School enjoys an excellent reputation for its successes at advanced level. The vast majority of our Sixth Formers go onto study at University, enrolling on degree courses ranging from Archaeology to Zoology and at institutions including Oxford, Cambridge and the Russell Group Universities. Whatever you wish to follow, we aim to provide you with qualifications that are of real value to you and provide the means to progress onto the next stage of your career - Higher Education, training or employment.

Our Sixth Form is a very special place of learning and activity. You will have extra freedoms and responsibilities. There are numerous opportunities to take on positions of leadership and our Sixth Formers are excellent role models for the lower school. Sixth Formers organise and run many extra-curricular activities for themselves and the lower school including House events, teams, clubs, committees and Student Voice. We will treat you as an adult and as an individual with individual needs. We will help you to work independently and with self-motivation.

In the past we have been designated a Specialist Technology College and have also received formal commendation for our strengths in Languages and Internationalism. We retain the legacy benefits of these awards and continue to be able to:

- ✓ Offer new courses.
- ✓ Provide better equipment and facilities such as the Language lab, Languages ICT suite, new Science Laboratory and prestigious Library.
- ✓ Help more and more of our students to link with this new world of information and learning.
- ✓ Work collaboratively with our partners in education – primary schools, secondary schools and Universities.
- ✓ Develop our international links through which we can help our students develop an understanding of internationalism, global citizenship and intercultural awareness. We hope you will contribute to the development of a just and equal society and once you leave Plymouth High you will be ready to take positions of responsibility and leadership in a global society.

The Sixth Form exists for your personal success and happiness. Plymouth High's reputation for outstanding results is based upon giving our students the highest level of individual attention they need to reach their goals. The special family atmosphere and supportive, positive relationships between staff and students are always singled out for particular praise by our past students. Whatever courses you choose, you will find your learning is challenging, stimulating and memorable and lessons are creative, imaginative and exciting.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

Mary Utton  
Headteacher

## **Heads of Sixth Form – Mrs Payne and Dr van Es.**

Plymouth High School Sixth Form is a friendly and supportive environment in which all students are valued as individuals. The positive atmosphere enjoyed by our students enables each one to develop both their academic and personal strengths and we are extremely proud of the accomplished and mature young people who study with us.

Our aims are that PHS Sixth Form students will:

- Be able to communicate to people of all ages;
- Have confidence in themselves and their abilities;
- Be able to handle responsibility effectively;
- Have skills and experience much wider than their academic work;
- Have been encouraged to achieve their personal best results in all their courses.

Our students are encouraged to take an active and responsible role in the day to day life of the school, and they are expected to work hard to maximise their potential. They can also expect to enjoy the friendships that Sixth Form life brings and the wide range of social, sporting and cultural activities available to them.

### **Individual Support and Guidance**

The Heads of Sixth Form and the personal tutors are an experienced, dedicated team who will provide you with individual, personal attention throughout your time with us. Whether you need advice and assistance in making decisions or resolving a particular difficulty, your tutor will give you the time and support you need. Your tutor will be someone who knows you well and will always act in your best interests. In addition, you will be able to arrange individual tutorials with your subject teachers to discuss your progress and help you improve your performance. The Heads of Sixth Form will always be on hand to give you experienced, up to date information on the world of work and Higher Education. Our weekly tutorial programme, which includes Careers and Higher Education Guidance, enables us to do all we can to assist you in securing your university or employment placement.

### **Progress and Achievement**

You will receive regular and constructive feedback on your academic progress through academic mentoring with a personal tutor. We aim to build your confidence and help you make the transition from GCSE by providing you with thorough assessments, progress reports and individual work reviews which will assist you in setting yourself challenging targets as well as giving you helpful strategies to ensure that you achieve your highest potential.

### **Facilities**

Our Sixth Form Centre is a purpose-built building which comprises a large open room with a warm and friendly atmosphere for socialising, and a dedicated study area for private study. There are facilities in the Centre for making snacks and drinks and for storing your books and equipment. Located adjacent to the Sixth Form Centre, Sixth Formers have exclusive use of the Sixth Form Computer Room and the school's Learning Resources Centre has excellent computers with facilities for colour printing and laminating to give your coursework a professional finish. You will have access to Higher Education information through prospectuses, DVDs and CD-Roms, which are stored in the Sixth Form Computer Room. You will also have a great deal of help with UCAS applications from the Heads of Sixth Form and your personal tutor.

## **The Sixth Form Curriculum**

Our curriculum aims to offer you maximum choice of courses to cater for your individual strengths and preferences. Detailed descriptions of the full range of courses are contained within this prospectus. Whatever aspirations and goals you have, we can design a programme of study to help you reach them. Further breadth of study and enhancement activities to complement your individual programme are offered through opportunities to acquire enrichment qualifications in a variety of courses which can include an Extended Project or an additional language course at GCSE level. Careers Education and Guidance, Employability skills and aspects of Citizenship are provided through a specially designed PSHE and Tutorial programme delivered by specialists and visiting speakers.

### **Learning Skills**

As our motto indicates, we believe strongly that you should leave us with a real love of learning which will last for life. Our reputation is based upon high quality teaching which will provide you with opportunities to build upon your successes at GCSE and further extend your range of learning and thinking skills so that you develop yourself as an independent, competent learner - ready to take on the challenges of the 21st Century. A dedicated Study Skills programme will be used during the first half term to enable a smooth transition from GCSE to A level study and other post-16 studies.

### **Other Opportunities within the Sixth Form**

Though important, there is more to life in the Sixth Form than academic study. We are immensely proud of and grateful to our older students who act as role models and mentors for younger students. University Admissions Tutors always speak highly of our students because they have wide experience of leadership as House Captains, or have acted as representatives of Student Voice, Amnesty International, The Model United Nations and a host of other organisations. You might also become involved in the Young Engineer Programme, running a Young Enterprise company, participating in the Bar Mock Trial, reviewing the newspapers on radio, showing visitors round the school and many other activities which we are sure you will enjoy to the full. In addition, there are opportunities to take part in Work Experience placements and attend conferences relevant to possible future career/university course choices.

### **Library and Text Books**

All students joining year 12 at PHSG will be issued with a number of text books for each course. Post 16 texts tend to be expensive and so spare copies are not normally held in stock. Therefore, in order to ensure the books are maintained and returned, a deposit of £40 will be requested before joining year 12 and repaid when the student leaves providing all books are returned in a suitable state.

Above all, we aim to provide the opportunities, conditions and experiences in which our students leave **well-qualified, confident, aware, competent, capable, articulate, caring, well-organised** and able to make their own way successfully in the much less supportive environment of work, Further or Higher Education.

***Our Sixth Form truly is a unique, vibrant and exciting place.***



## Guide to A Level Course Selection

Our curriculum is designed to accommodate the greatest number of chosen combinations of subjects but we cannot guarantee that every combination will be possible. The idea is to enable students to have a much wider education in the Sixth Form by making courses available in a different way to suit the needs of different learners.



All our A Level courses are recognized by Universities and employers.

### Advanced Level Courses

Students choose **3 subjects\*** from the following list:-

#### GCE A Level Courses Offered

(subject to demand and timetabling restrictions)

Art and Design	Geography	Physics
Biology	German	Politics
Business Studies	History	Product Design: Design Technology
Chemistry	Mathematics	Psychology
English Literature	Music	Religious Studies
French	Physical Education	Theatre Studies (Drama)

Where courses are over-subscribed, students with higher grades at GCSE may be given preference depending on individual circumstances. Achieving a grade B (or 6) is therefore not an absolute guarantee for a place on any particular course.

Please note that just because a course is offered, there is no guarantee that it will run from September 2016. Courses can only run subject to demand.

**Please indicate on the application form if there are any other courses not currently offered that you would be interested in.**

**plus** an Extended Project

**or** Further Mathematics (only available if choosing Mathematics at A Level)

\*We recommend students study 3 A level subjects but there may be some students who take 4 A levels. This will only apply to students with a high APS (of 8 or more)

**Further details of all these courses are available from departments and in the prospectus.**

## A2 LEVEL RESULTS 2016 (Year 13)



	<u>PHSG</u>	<u>National Results (2016)</u>
Percentage A*-A grades	25.40%	25.80%
Percentage A*-B grades	52.20%	52.90%
Percentage A*-E grades	98.50%	98.10%
Average point score per entry	227	

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>Total</u>
Art	5	1	2	6	1	0	0	15
Biology	3	5	6	8	2	3	0	27
Business Studies	1	3	4	7	4	1	0	20
Chemistry	0	6	5	2	1	0	0	14
English Literature	2	5	10	13	3	0	0	33
Extended Project	2	7	5	4	17	13	5	53
Geography	2	6	4	2	1	2	0	17
German	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	8
Home Economics	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
History	4	8	11	7	0	0	0	30
Law	0	2	3	3	4	0	0	12
Mathematics	3	4	13	6	5	4	1	36
Further Mathematics	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
Music	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Physics	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Politics	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	6
Product Design	0	1	3	6	2	0	0	12
PE	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	6
Psychology	3	2	8	7	4	1	0	25
Religious Studies	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	9
Theatre Studies	0	3	5	3	0	0	0	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>343</b>

## TREND ANALYSIS

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<b>GCSE results</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
% pupils achieving 5A*-C	95.80%	98%	100%	97.5%	98%
% pupils achieving 5A*-C (including Eng + Maths)	95.80%	97.5%	99.1%	94%	95%
% pupils achieving 5A*-B	75.0%	86%	94%	80.5%	89%
% pupils achieving 5A*-A	35.0%	50.4%	55.3%	48.3%	53%
% pupils achieving 8A*-A	22.5%	30.3%	32.5%	34%	36%

<b>A2 results</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
A* - B	52.2%	57.5%	52.3%	51.5%	49.2%
A* - C	76.4%	77.7%	83.3%	73.8%	76.2%
A* - E	98.5%	96.4%	98.1%	96.7%	96.9%
Average points per entry	227	222	225	236	206.3