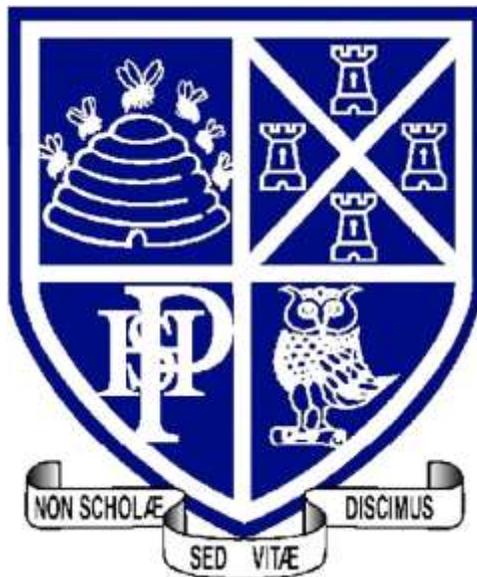


Plymouth High School

Year 12 Expectations Evening



“For life not school we learn”

St Lawrence Road, Plymouth PL4 6HT

Tel: 01752 208308

Fax: 01752 208309

email:

rvanes@phsg.org

spayne@phsg.org

website: www.phsg.org

Studying for A Levels

Studying for A Levels is particularly demanding and it is vital that students become responsible for a much greater percentage of their own learning during Sixth Form. This means that they will be encouraged to think for themselves. They must take the opportunity to undertake independent study wherever possible during their study periods in school but also at home.

A level courses are studied over two years and measurement of progress will be by internal assessments throughout the course. This will usually include formal examinations at the end of Year 12 which helps ensure students are on track, and also provides valuable information for predicting grades for university applications and writing accurate and informative references.

At A Level, if students are studying less than 4 hours per week per subject outside of lesson time, they are probably not working hard enough.

Studying for A levels is very demanding on time and energy and the time is very short

- Good attendance and punctuality are basic to success
- Research suggests that a 90% attendance rate equates to a student dropping a whole A Level grade
- We do not frown on part-time paid employment in principle but students ought not to:
 - a) take mid-week jobs
 - b) take on too much work and at inappropriate times (i.e. very early morning or till late in the evening. Weekend work is most appropriate).

Students **must not** take jobs between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm Monday to Friday in term time.

As always both prospective employers and University admissions tutors will ask for the number of unauthorised absences a student has had. Holidays during term time will not be authorised.

Examinations

Examinations take place at the end of the two year course. It is vital that regular revision takes place throughout the duration of the course.

All students will receive copies of examination regulations and guidelines when timetables are issued. If they are entered for an exam and fail to attend they will be charged the full exam fee and penalties unless a doctor's note is produced. Exam timetables should be checked carefully and Mrs Hardwick informed of any errors.

Communication

It is vital that subject staff and tutors are able to contact students on a regular basis. Details of events and other important issues are communicated to students via the school e-mail system and all students should endeavour to **check their school e-mail account on a regular basis**. We also have a Sixth Form Facebook page which is used to communicate messages to students.

If students or parents have any concerns then please contact the personal tutor and/or Head of Year. It is essential that the student, parents and staff at school work together to achieve the very best outcome possible.

Summary of Expectations

All students will be expected to adhere to the following standards:

- Attend full-time
- Wear an ID badge as provided by the school (it must be visible at all times)
- Meet all work deadlines
- Dress in a way appropriate for a place of work – no blue jeans
- Use independent learning time effectively – attend all supervised study sessions with appropriate work
- Make sensible use of school facilities
- Respect staff and other students
- Set a good example
- Take responsibility for learning and engage fully in lessons
- Follow the signing out procedure if leaving the premises during the school day

If students do not develop good working habits particularly regarding homework and good use of study time, teachers will discuss the situation with the student and their parents as it may be an indication that an A Level course is not suitable.

We want our students to succeed academically but we also hope that they will develop into responsible young adults. There are many opportunities in school to develop communication, leadership and team-working skills and we encourage them to take up these opportunities wherever possible.

Target Grades at A Level – a guide for parents

Target Grades are:

- Considerations of performance at GCSE in relation to likely performance at A Level
- Based on a national database about the performance of students nationwide
- Estimations based on past patterns of performance (nationally)
- Estimates showing the A Level grades that are typically gained by students starting from a particular level of GCSE performance - some do better, some do worse

Target Grades are not:

- A statement of the A Level grades students will gain
- A guarantee of students gaining certain grades
- A limit on the grades students can achieve

We use a highly respected organisation called the Fischer Family Trust to provide us with probability profiles for each student and for each of their subjects. These profiles are used to derive “Target Grades” which will appear on reports alongside a staff prediction of a likely grade at the end of the course, based on current progress being made by the student. This information forms the basis of student Progress Tracking Reviews with tutors.

The target grades are not restricting, and each year many students exceed their target grades through diligence and application.

Final grades can go up as well as down, and other factors such as

- The amount of work a student is prepared to do on the subject outside lesson times
- Excessive time spent earning money!
- Thursday night (student night!) and Pounds In Wednesdays social activities will each have a significant effect on grades at the end of the courses.

Higher Education and Careers

Entry standards to Higher Education are rising all the time, the situation is very competitive and great commitment is needed throughout the two years. Universities now have access to much greater information about students; they will know the results of the individual modules and all past examinations taken by the candidate. With this information they will be able to discriminate between University applicants. Prospective employers may also request this information.

At PHSG we have a full programme of support for students as they consider their futures. Appropriate information and guidance is available which draws upon the expertise of experienced staff.

However, an increasing number of students are considering Higher Education abroad. We do have some knowledge of these opportunities but not the in depth knowledge and understanding that we possess about the UK system. Therefore, students wishing to explore opportunities abroad may have to rely on their own research with some support from staff.

Aims of Sixth Form

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.