

150th Birthday Quiz Timeline

Year	Event
1874	School opens under the name “Sherwell House” on 14 th September under the presidency of Bishop Dr Frederick Temple and founders Isaac Latimer , J Metcalfe and others. The first Headmistress was Miss Annie Kendall . 70 students, including Bertha Collier and Alice Anthony – the first two students on roll begin their studies.
1877	The Main Building (reception, mathematics (rooms 1-4), LRCs, rooms 21, 20 and 19) was built and the school moved location.
1906	In September 1906, the first science teacher was employed at the school, Mrs Drew
1914	The first ever school magazine was published
1917	An airship flew over the school and the school dog “Shauneen” got very excited
1921	The school shield was designed by Miss Bate, featuring a beehive, an owl, Plymouth’s coat of arms and the PHS initials
1923	PE lessons were introduced, including hockey, netball, country dancing and eurythmics
1937	An experiment in banning homework was trialled and ended in disaster as the students did not increase their productivity in class and instead “merely expanded their energy on other activities”
1939	In 1939, the Headmistress house was demolished to make room for an extension called ‘The New Wing’ (Room 5, Heads of Year office, Lab 7, Lab 9, food tech, languages (rooms 15, 16, 17)
1941	In March of this year, a bomb hit the building next door to the school. The South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Blind, (now known as the Annexe Building) was hit by a bomb during the Blitz of World War 2. This destroyed what is now the music room, drum room, A05 and A06. You can see that this part of the building does not match the rest as it was rebuilt. In April, the roof of the Main Hall caught fire, following another raid by German aircraft In May a bomb fell in the school grounds, smashing all of the school’s windows. The stained glass in the front doors was skilfully restored, recreating Frederick Temple ’s initials Plymouth High School is renamed Emergency High School and continues to educate students left behind after the evacuation of students and families from Plymouth during the war.
1945	All school fees were abolished under the 1945 Education Act
1947	Dr Elizabeth Glas joins the school as a German teacher
1950	The school’s first Charity Ambassadors were recruited. They organised a school bazaar which raised money for local charities. The first charity was the ‘Society for Medical Research’
1955	The first carol service was held
1956	The four houses were introduced named after Alice Anthony – one of the first students, Annie Kendall – the first Headmistress, Isaac Latimer and Frederick Temple – two of the school’s founders.
1962	The South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Blind relocates and the school takes over the building, calling it the ‘Annexe Building’. The music department were the first to relocate.
1963	The first Drama Festival is held
1972	The first Student Council meeting was held where it was agreed that hats would be removed from the school uniform
1973	Mrs Muriel Newman takes over as the new Headmistress
1974	100 th birthday celebrations took place
1977	The old ballroom in the Annexe Building was converted to a sports hall and was called the Annexe Hall. This room is now the Dr Glas Sixth Form Study Centre
1978	The school cat Pouffje (pronounced Poofy) roamed the buildings and slept in the Headmistress’s office

1979	In the summer of 1979, a young student, Lizzie from Temple House left PHSG in Year 11. 'Lizzie' now works in Main Reception as part of the busy office team (Mrs Hore).
1980	The PTFA raised funds to buy the school's first colour television and VCR.
1982	The Student Council raised concerns about the 'garish yellow paint' in the main corridor and so it was repainted
1984	The school bought its first computer for £1200. It was a BBC Model B. A printer was bought the following year.
1986	The use of caning was abolished in UK schools, although it had never been implemented at Plymouth High School for Girls
1990	Plans were drawn up for the school to move into the recently closed Tamar High School, however, the plans were abandoned in 1991 and Devonport High School for Boys instead took over the buildings and still use them to this day.
1991	A young PE teacher named Mrs Payne started in September 1991. Mrs Payne is now Assistant Headteacher, SENCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead of PHSG.
1993	In September 1993, a young student named Ruth joined Year 7 in Latimer House who would later become an English Teacher (Mrs Readey)
1994	£1.4 million pounds of funding was granted to extend the 1939 New Wing to include a brand-new dining hall (The Newman Hall), a new canteen and three new science labs above (labs 10, 11 and 12).
1995	In September 1995 a young Year 7 student named Jade joined Anthony House who would later become a languages teacher (Mrs Gilchrist)
1997	The Metcalfe Building was built behind the Annexe Building who was the hon. Secretary of the Plymouth branch of the National Union for Improving the Education of Women, who first suggested that Plymouth High School should be established in 1874.
1998	In September 1998, a young student named Shellie joined Kendall House who later trained as a Chemistry Teacher (Miss Joynes)
1999	Mrs Sue Martin joins as Headteacher
2002	A grant of £375 000 was secured to build the Gym and PE Department which opened in 2002.
2008	Miss Mary Utton joins as Headteacher
	The first school newsletter was sent to parents via email
2009	A second extension to the 1939 New Wing was completed thanks to £1.3 million from Plymouth City Council, funding the building of four new rooms: rooms 14 and 18 in languages on the ground floor, and Lab 8 and the Head of Year meeting room above.
	Dr Elizabeth Glas, a former German Teacher passes away and leaves the school £100 000 to turn the Annexe Hall into a learning space. This is now the Dr Glas Sixth Form Study Centre.
2012	PHSG celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
2015	PHSG held a 'Mock Election' in 2015, where the students voted for the Green Party with 196 votes. Labour Party came second with 190 votes. Conservative Party came third with 186 votes.
	The annual Harry Potter Quiz was held for the first time
2018	Mr Shaun Willis, Deputy Headteacher, takes over as Interim Headteacher as Miss Utton retires whilst the search begins for our next Headteacher.
2019	Mr Simon Underdown joins as Headteacher
2020	In March of this year, the school closes as part of the National Lockdown to help prevent the spread of COVID-19
2021	PHSG joins the Thinking Schools Academy Trust
2021	Bertha's catering hut was opened this year, named after one of the school's first students, Bertha Collier.
2022	A ginger cat named Simba started to roam the school grounds, until his owner moved away in 2023
2024	PHSG celebrates its 150 th Birthday... with 835 students on roll