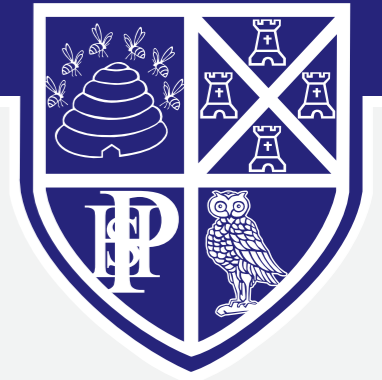


'FOR LIFE, NOT SCHOOL, WE LEARN'



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



WELCOME from the Headteacher

Plymouth High is a genuinely special place and offers a wonderful learning environment; it is certainly a privilege to be the Headteacher of this impressive school.

We provide our students with high quality support and care so that they can excel academically. We understand that Sixth Form is about growing, finding out about oneself and studying hard to realise ambitious expectations. Students must feel comfortable to ask, to question and to learn. Our motto, 'for life not school we learn', guides us in all we do and underpins the way we approach curriculum learning and pastoral development. We are determined to enable our students to be their best selves and to achieve the kind of outcomes which will make them truly proud. We do all this within a clear and supportive pastoral framework and never underestimate the power of good relationships and kindness.

Starting Sixth Form is an exciting time as students study in greater depth and complexity those subjects which really interest them. They will enjoy the challenge and rigour of A Level and the satisfaction that comes from working hard to understand and apply new concepts. Some of our students have clear ideas about

where they would like their A Level study to lead, whilst others select their courses based solely on what they enjoy. Whatever the motivation for their choices, it is crucial that students have real enthusiasm for the subjects they will study.

Sixth Form is a time for young people to learn more about who they are and how they fit into the world, with good friendships being just as important as they always have been. At Plymouth High, we see it as a real privilege to help our students develop and grow into young adults and to guide them to become ever more confident and independent. We will demand much of every student in the Sixth Form, expecting them to work hard and take responsibility. In return, we will deliver interesting and engaging lessons, giving every young person the opportunity to be their best self.

Every year, the majority of Plymouth High School students make the decision to stay with us as they move from year 11 into the Sixth Form. We also welcome students

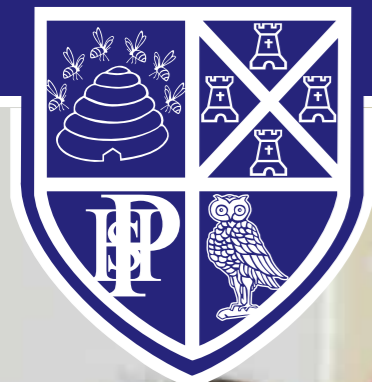


from other schools around the City and beyond. Our Sixth Form is a friendly and vibrant community where students want to do well and can expect expert academic and pastoral support. I hope that you will consider Plymouth High for your A Level study.

Kind regards,

Simon Underdown
Headteacher

'for life, not school, we learn'



WELCOME from Head of Sixth

It is with great pleasure that we welcome students to Plymouth High’s Sixth Form to begin the next, and very important, stage of their journey into the world beyond school.

Learning and Thinking Skills are at the heart of Plymouth High and we want students to be independent, intellectually curious young adults who are willing to demonstrate high levels of academic endeavour to deepen their understanding of the world around them. Our dedicated and professional teaching staff ensure every student is challenged to achieve to the very best of their ability and we will support them as they rise to the challenge of Sixth Form study. Collaborative working relationships with teachers and fellow pupils ensure that lessons in the Sixth Form are dynamic, challenging, interesting and enjoyable in equal measure. We are proud of the outcomes achieved by our Sixth Form students and many go on to attend some of the best universities in the world with many others offered higher level apprenticeships by some of the world’s biggest and most successful firms.

In addition to supporting students to achieve their best possible results, we also want them to leave

school with the life-skills employers are demanding. The Sixth Form team are all easily available to give advice, and there is also specialist in-house support for Careers and UCAS applications. Our dedicated enrichment programme of tutorials and personal, social and health education prepares students for life beyond school as young adults.

Our key aim is to equip students to be ready to take the vital decisions about their next steps - we want our students to be successful, happy and resilient; and to become independent, responsible and ambitious young citizens. We want our students to remember their time at school as being fun, rewarding years which saw them grow into young adults ready to make their mark on the world. There is no ‘typical’ Plymouth High Sixth Form student; we welcome girls and boys from a wide range of backgrounds and with many different interests and abilities. What does define our students, however, is a love of learning, a sense of ambition and



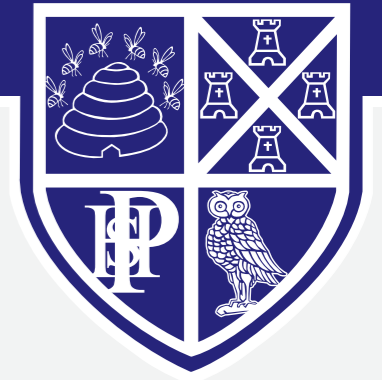
an unwavering commitment to being an inclusive, tolerant, kind and supportive community.

If you choose our school, we look forward to welcoming you to Plymouth High.

Alan Jenkins
Head of Sixth Form

“ *The pupils and staff were all extremely welcoming and very soon I felt at home. Working alongside other students who loved to learn made all my lessons stimulating and engaging. The teachers went over and above to make sure every pupil succeeded, and they left nobody behind. I was sad to leave in Y13 but equally felt that I was now well prepared for the future!* ”

Lola – student who joined PHSG in Year 12



UCAS PROCESS

Supporting University Transition



ADMISSION PROCESS

Acceptance into the Sixth Form is by interview and by fulfilment of the general requirements of at least a grade 6 in Maths and English and an overall average point score at GCSE of 6; plus subject requirements as outlined in the subject booklet.

Applications from students with an average points score below this may be considered following publication of results, provided they meet the subject entry requirements and places

are available in the subjects the student wishes to study. In this case students will be assessed as to their suitability to study A Levels at Plymouth High as determined at interview by the Head of Sixth Form, their academic record and criteria as determined by the Governing Body.

If you are thinking of joining our Sixth Form, please complete and return the application form as soon as possible.

Many of our students choose to enter Higher Education, whether straight from Year 13 or following a formative gap year. In every case we endeavour to support their decision making and the process of application and transition to university.

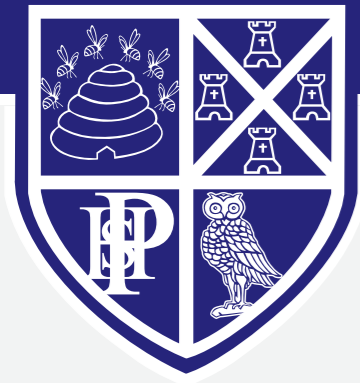
During Year 12 there is a cohesive programme of information and advice which introduces the options available. Higher Education (universities) Further Education (vocational colleges) and Apprenticeships are all explored. Where possible, external expert speakers are invited to contribute.

The University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) can be a little intimidating and confusing, so tutors and lead teachers assist students in completing their applications. A great deal of time is spent investigating the types of course available, and the benefits of specific institutions and course types. Students are encouraged to consider teaching and assessment styles, extra-curricular opportunities, professional body accreditation and many other

factors over and above simply the subject which they wish to study.

Attending Open Days is actively encouraged, and our experienced Sixth Form team will offer counsel and ask pertinent questions to help students make wise choices for their institutions and courses. During Year 13 students will narrow down their selection to two choices, and work hard to achieve the best possible results in their A-Levels to secure their ambitious place at an appropriate institution.

We are proud to be able to say that each year our students have great successes. These can range from securing places at the most prestigious universities, requiring the top grades at A Level, such as Oxford, Cambridge, or Imperial College; embarking on a course in Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Medicine; or any one of a huge variety of creative, vocational, commercial, or professional courses such as politics, computing, physiotherapy, law, engineering, economics, modern languages, humanities, and architecture.



ENRICHMENT

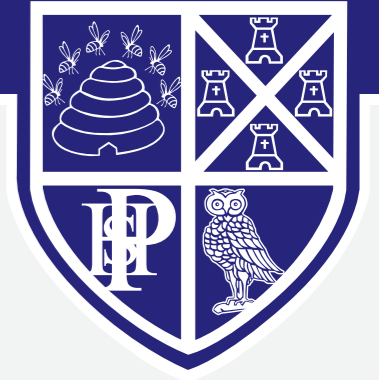
A Level studies are challenging and students are expected to spend a considerable amount of time studying outside their lessons, however these are also two years when students can develop as individuals, focus on their real interests and enrich themselves and their studies with new experiences. Plymouth High's motto "for life, not school, we learn" is at the core of the school's curriculum and the wide range of opportunities provided. From Young Enterprise to Model United Nations debates, or visits to Cern, Italy, and Ghana; French and German exchanges, visits to Parliament or dissections at Dartmoor Zoo there is a multitude of ways to enliven the learning. Extended Project Qualification

is studied by almost all students giving them a chance to study something of their choice, in depth and which, if done well, might lead to a reduced university offer. Students are also supported in developing the strength of character and resilience to succeed. Many leadership roles are offered in the Sixth Form, particularly as our House system is central to school life. Students might become part of the Head Student or House Captain teams, or become a Subject Captain, peer mentor, or lead a club or activity. Our Sixth Formers are vital ambassadors for the school so we encourage them to develop the confidence to lead, participate and speak at school events such as our termly Festivals.



“ The opportunities for extra-curricular development are also a unique part of what the school offers; the role of subject captain allows you to share your passion for a particular area of study with younger students, House Team roles are vital to the school's strong sense of community, and the Head Student Team, in my experience, gives you the chance to make a real difference to the school and wider community. Plymouth High is a school that encourages and fosters independence, but also the ability to ask for help. ”

Harriet, former Head Student



CAREERS

Careers support and guidance is an integral part of our Sixth Form. Following a rigorous external assessment by CSW Investor in Careers in January 2020, Plymouth High achieved the Quality Standard Careers Award. The award, which shows we are fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks, reflects the importance we place on providing guidance and support to our students.

Whether you intend to apply for university or not, our goal is to ensure that you have access to wide ranging, impartial advice regarding careers options for your future. Career exploration is embedded across the curriculum and in every subject, you will be encouraged to work closely with the Careers Leader/Advisor, your tutor and subject teachers who all provide a network of support in terms of information, resources and advice.

In addition, our PSHE programme will enable you to explore different career pathways and develop your career decision-making skills so you can decide which route would be best to take.

Our Careers Leader and Advisor; Mrs Longford, (Careers Development Institute Registered Professional), has a Level 6 Diploma in Careers Guidance and Development. Based in the Careers Centre, beside the 6th form area, Mrs Longford is able to provide guidance in a supportive environment. Students can drop in or email to make a careers appointment during a study period.

The Sixth Form Team are committed to develop the careers provision within Plymouth High to ensure that our Sixth Form students have the skills to enable them to make career decisions both now, and in the future.



“ During the first week, I made plenty of new friends while also reconnecting with old ones, and thriving in the new social environment. The Sixth Form staff have been extremely helpful when it comes to us assimilating with the 'step up' in work and I'm really enjoying the free periods where we get to exercise a key skill: independence in learning. Even only a week into being here, I know I made the correct decision to go to PHSG! ”

Lauren - PHSG student writing about her first week in the Sixth Form



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