

FOR LIFE, NOT SCHOOL, WE LEARN



Plymouth High
School for Girls

Sixth Form Prospectus



WELCOME from the Headteacher

Welcome to our sixth form prospectus, the start of your post GCSE learning journey. Plymouth High sixth form is a vibrant and enjoyable place to study, a place where young people want to work hard to maximise their academic outcomes and to make the most of what school has to offer. Our specialist teaching and support staff will guide every sixth former through their learning and development journey. We have guided pathways for students thinking about medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, Oxbridge, apprenticeships, employment and of course all other University courses. We encourage our students to be ambitious with their choices and to make full use of our outstanding careers and 'next steps' service. We have high expectations of our able and determined young people and we are clear about how important it is for them to make the most of every lesson, every private study period and every tutorial. Students who are committed to their study and see sixth form as a full time occupation will be successful at Plymouth High. They will have the best chance of realising their post A level ambition.

We offer a wide range of A level subjects taught by specialist teachers who are passionate about both their subject and helping their students. Lessons are pacy and interesting and students are provided

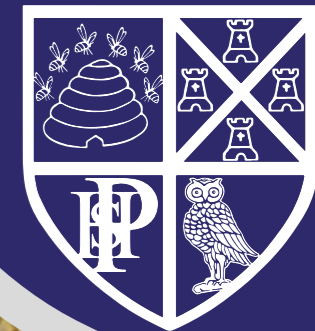
with a comprehensive set of activities to complete outside of class to supplement their learning. We help students transition from the GCSE style of learning to a more independent approach through carefully structured lessons and guided private study.

We see our sixth form students as role models for the rest of the student body and encourage them to take up one of our many student leadership opportunities. Student voice and student leadership is a big part of life at Plymouth High and affords our young people the chance to express themselves beyond their academic learning. Joining Plymouth High is about getting involved, developing as a person and maximising academic outcomes and life chances. It is about being your best self.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown, Headteacher



WELCOME

from the Head of Sixth Form

It is with great pleasure that we welcome students into Plymouth High's Sixth Form to successfully equip and support them onto their best post-18 next step. From the moment I received excellent information and guidance from my Head of Sixth, I realised the positive impact that this role can have on the outcomes of individuals. Our Sixth Form team are acutely aware of the dynamic and at times challenging stage our sixth formers experience whilst in our care. Getting to know and value the individual is a critical part in supporting and facilitating our students through to a successful post-18 choice.

Learning and Thinking Skills is at the heart of all we do at Plymouth High Sixth Form and we want students entering our Sixth Form to be independent, intellectually curious young adults who are willing to demonstrate high levels of academic endeavour in deepening their understanding of the world around them. Our dedicated and professional teaching staff will ensure that every student is challenged to achieve to the very best of their ability, and 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 that they go on to attend some of the best universities in the world along with being offered higher level apprenticeships by some of the world's biggest and most successful firms. This goes to prove that those fortunate enough to benefit from a Plymouth High Sixth Form education will be well placed to confidently embark on their next step.

In addition to supporting students to achieve their best possible results, we also want them to leave school with the life-skills we know employers are demanding. We develop in them the ability to work with others to find innovative solutions to complex problems, encourage them to be creative, critical thinkers and support them in refining their communication skills. 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. To do this Plymouth High Sixth Form will help them build the portfolio of skills, qualifications and characteristics to be successful, happy and resilient; and to become independent, responsible and ambitious young citizens.

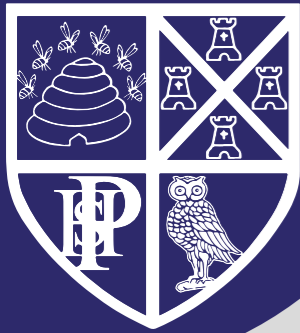
We are committed to ensuring that those students fortunate enough to complete their Sixth Form studies at PHSG will remember their time at the School as being fun, rewarding years which saw them grow into young adults ready to make their mark on the world. There is no 'typical' Plymouth High Sixth Form 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





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.

UCAS PROCESS

Supporting University Transition

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.

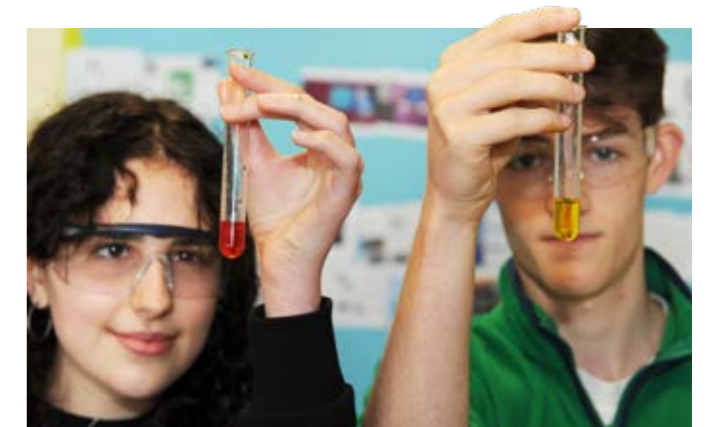
During Year 12 there is a cohesive programme of information and advice which introduces the options available. Higher Education (universities) Further Education (vocational colleges) and Apprenticeships are all explored. Where possible, external expert speakers are invited to contribute.

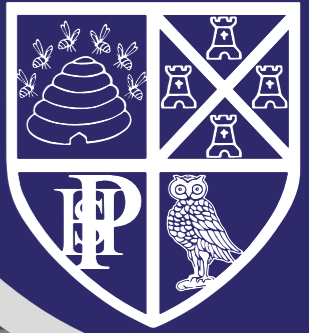
The University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) can be a little intimidating and confusing, so tutors and lead teachers assist students in completing their applications. A great deal of time is spent investigating the types of course available, and the benefits of specific institutions and course 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.



“During my time at PHS Sixth Form I felt supported with every opportunity I wanted to pursue which has allowed me to move onto unique and exciting experiences. My needs were prioritised, allowing me to succeed not just academically but within leadership roles. Throughout Sixth Form I had the opportunity to be involved in House Captaincy and Prefect roles. I was also trusted to create my own activities from scratch which all Sixth Form students used during their registration time. Due to the opportunities and support provided by the Sixth Form team I am able to move on and thrive in areas I did not think were possible.”

Caroline Robinson



CAREERS

Careers support and guidance is an integral part of Sixth Form. Following a rigorous external assessment by CSW Investor in Careers in October 2023, Plymouth High achieved the Quality in Careers Standard 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.

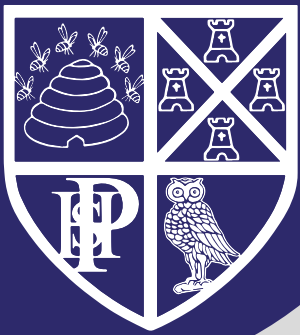


“During the first week, I made plenty of new friends while also reconnecting with old ones, thriving in the new social environment. The Sixth Form staff have been extremely helpful when it comes to us assimilating with the ‘step up’ in work and I’m really enjoying the free periods where we get to exercise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