

# Thinking Tools:

A guide for  
Year 5 and  
Year 6  
students



“Thinking - like  
all skills -  
is something that  
takes practice.”

# We are a Thinking School

What does that mean?

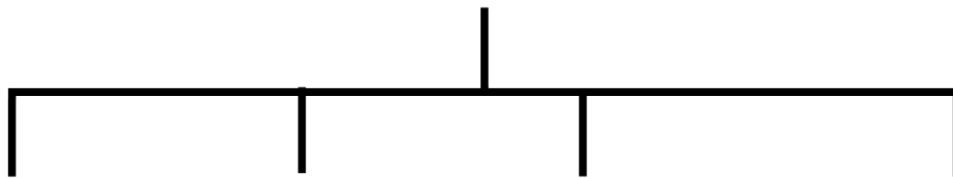
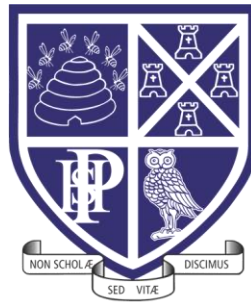
A Thinking School is a place where everyone thinks about their thinking (both teachers and students). That means we learn to:

- Ask good questions
- Keep working on difficult problems
- Work things out in different ways
- Try out new ideas
- Talk and listen kindly
- Solve problems with others

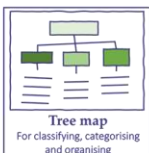
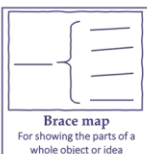
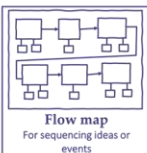
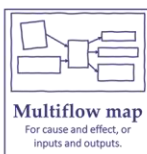
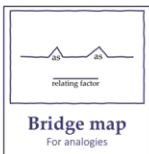
It helps us become confident learners, do well in school, and feel proud of how we think and grow.

# Our Thinking Toolkit

There are lots of tools we use at Plymouth High School for Girls to help our students think deeply.



## Thinking Maps



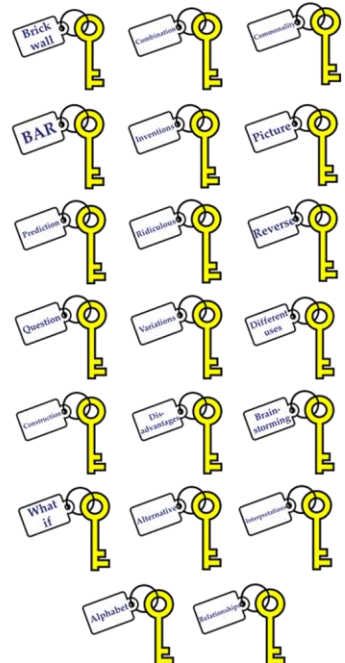
## Habits of Mind



## Thinking Hats



## Thinker's Keys

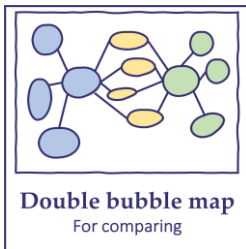


# Thinking Maps

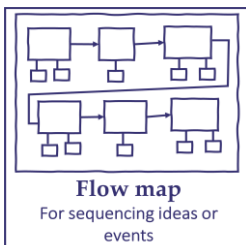
Making your ideas easier to see.

We use Thinking Maps to help us plan, sort, and organise our thoughts. There are 8 different maps, and each one does something special.

Here are three of our favourites:



- The **double bubble map** helps us compare things



- **Flow maps** help put information into the correct order

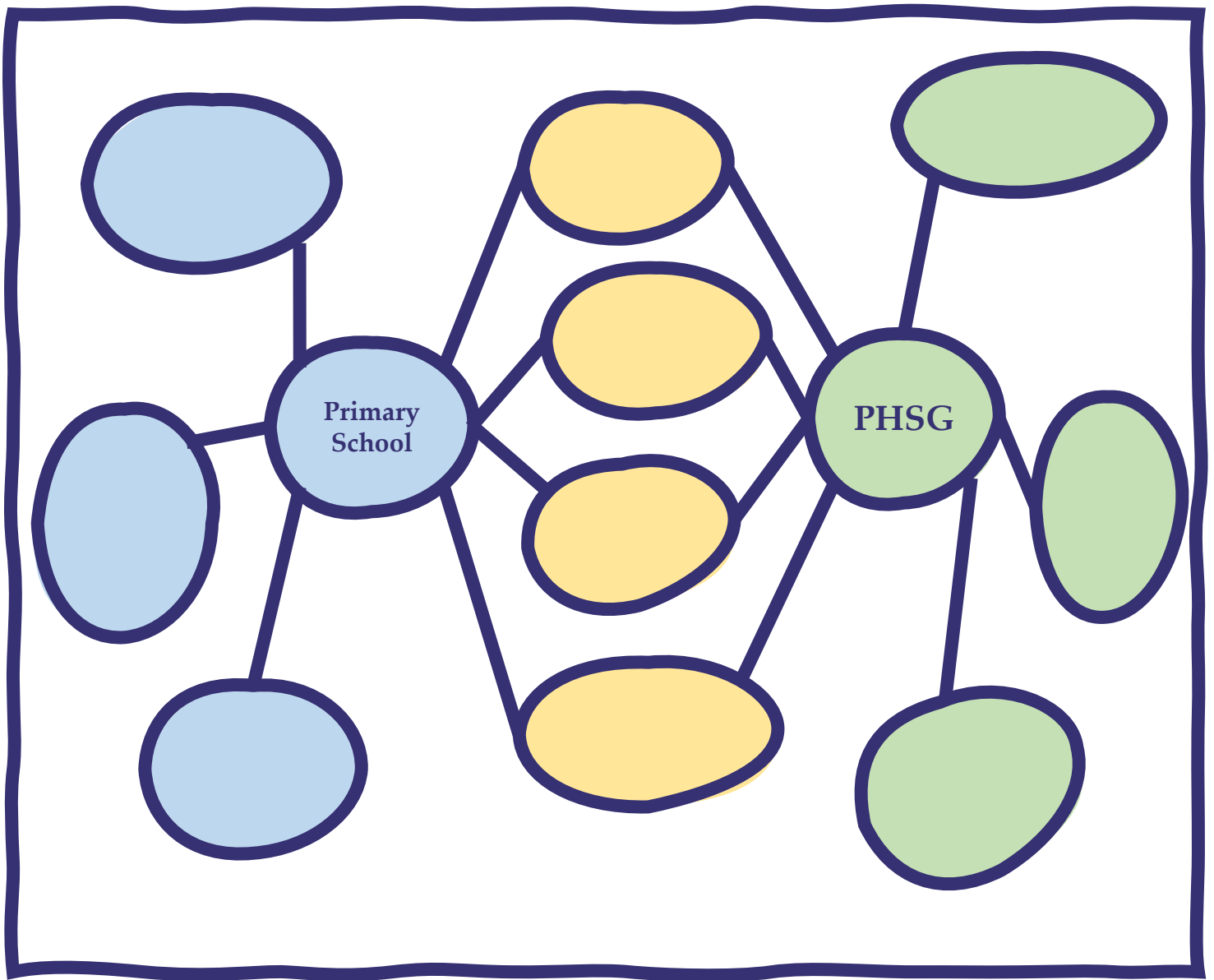


- **Circle maps** allow you to write down everything you know about an idea

You can draw these maps at school or home, to plan a story, study for a test, or even sort out your ideas before solving a problem. They're quick to draw and great for making your thinking clear

# Thinking Maps

Making your ideas easier to see.

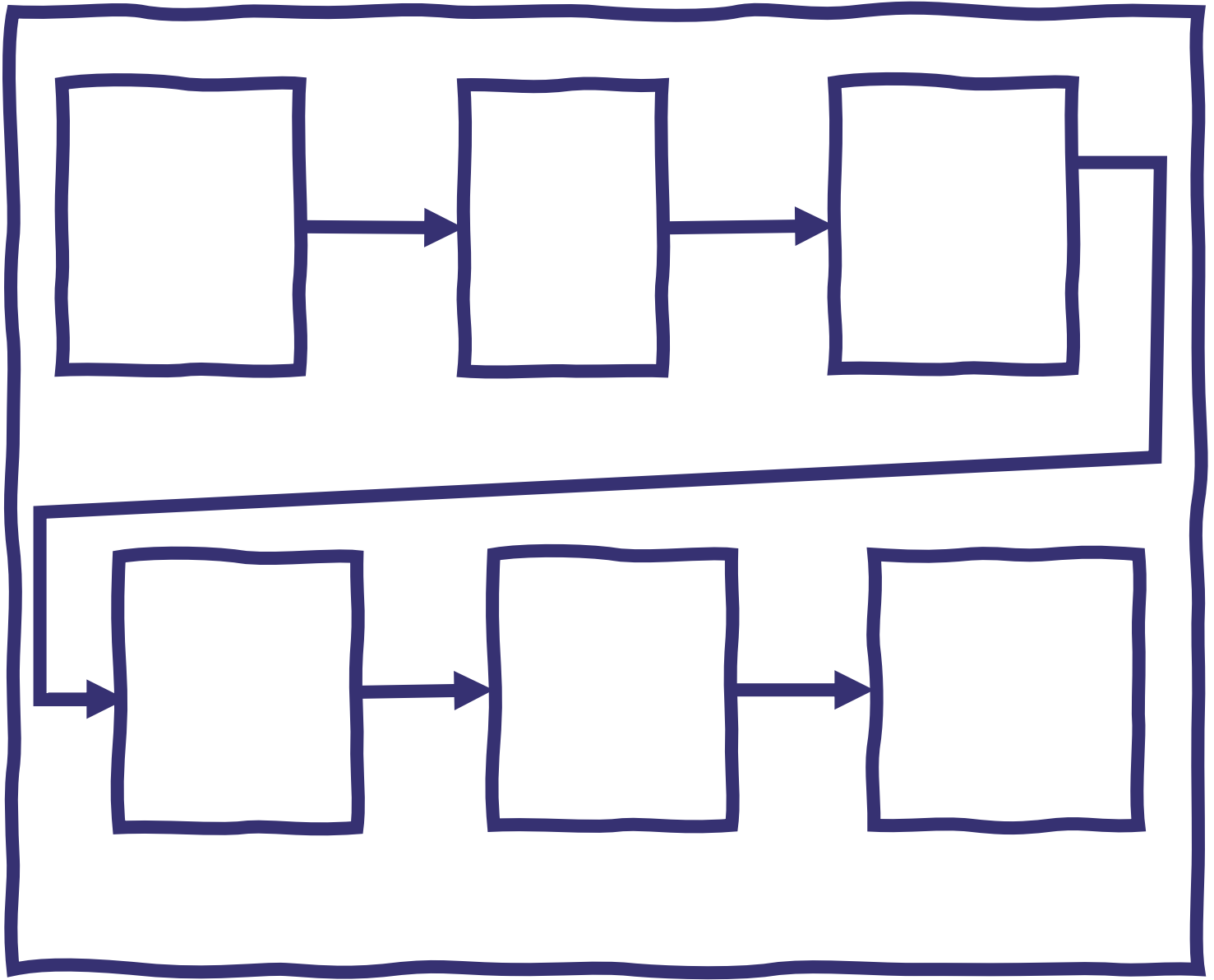


## Using a double bubble map to compare two things:

- In the blue bubbles, write things that are true only of your primary school.
- In the green bubbles, write things that are true only of secondary schools or PHSG
- In the yellow bubbles, write things that are true about both schools

# Thinking Maps

Making your ideas easier to see.

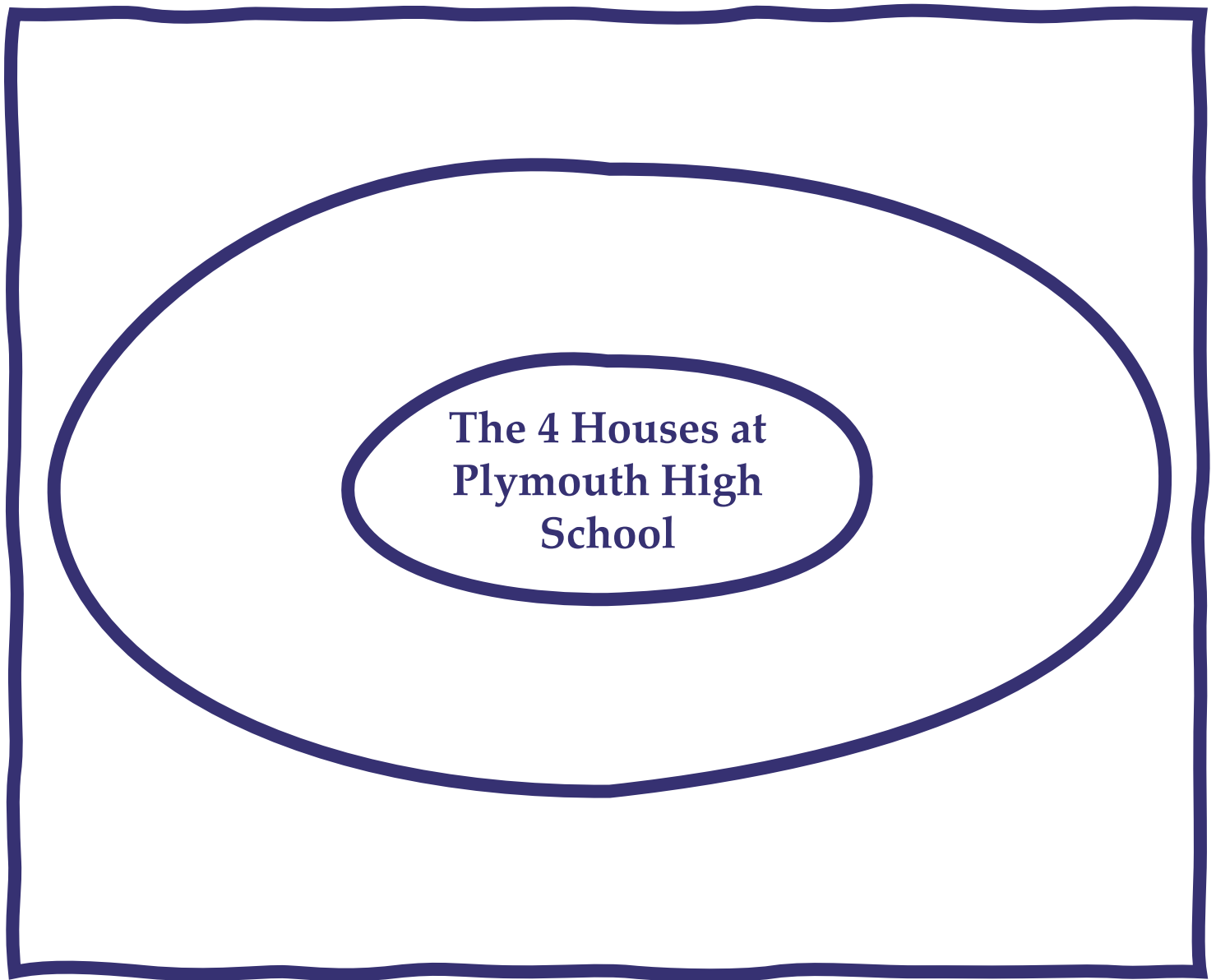


## Using a flow map to put things in order:

- Divide your journey to school into 6 parts and put each part into a box in the correct order

# Thinking Maps

Making your ideas easier to see.



Using a circle map to brainstorm all that you know about an idea:

- Inside the larger circle, write all the facts you know about the 4 Houses at Plymouth High School for Girls

# Habits of Mind

Smart ways to think when things get tricky

What do you do when you don't know the answer? Good learners don't give up, they practise good "Habits of Mind". These are helpful ways to act and think when something is hard.

There are 16 habits, here are five favourites:



## **Persisting**

Keep going – Stick with the challenge even when it's hard.



## **Striving for accuracy**

Try your best – Check your work and aim to improve it.



## **Applying past knowledge to new situations**

Use what you know – Link new learning to things you've done before.



## **Think about your thinking**

Think about your thinking is known as 'metacognition'. Ask yourself: How am I learning this? Could I try a different way?



## **Finding humour**

Find the funny side! A little humour helps when things get tough.

When you show these habits in class at Plymouth High School for Girls, your teacher might even give you achievement points!

Try using these when you find things tricky. You can practise these at primary school before you join us!



# Thinking Hats

Six hats. Six ways to think.

When solving a problem, there can be many ways to think about it. Other times, when you're in a group and have to make a decision, it can be tricky! Sometimes people talk over each other, or only share one point of view.

The Thinking Hats help with that. Each hat is a different colour and reminds us of a different way to think:



The **Red Hat** reminds you to think about your emotions and feelings about the problem. These are important things to be aware of!



The **Green Hat** reminds us to think creatively and differently - sometimes the obvious way isn't the best way!



The **Black Hat** reminds us to be careful and consider the downsides or difficulties



The **Blue Hat** reminds us to be organised. Sometimes it is important to stick to a plan, and make sure that all thinking hats are given a chance.



The **Yellow Hat** reminds students to think about the benefits, or positive effects



The **White Hat** is a reminder to consider just the facts – what do you definitely know?

Use the **red**, **black**, **yellow** and **white** hats to describe your thoughts about moving from primary school to Plymouth High School for Girls.

Try using the Thinking Hats at primary school before you join us when you're stuck or working in a group—it makes teamwork fairer and smarter!

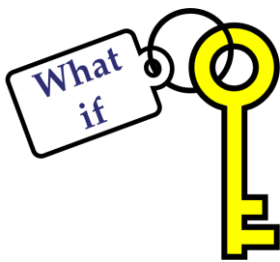
# Thinker's Keys.

## Unlock great thinking.

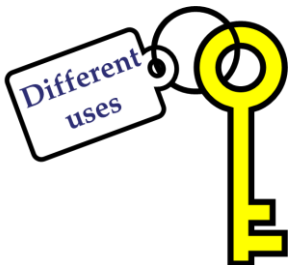
Thinker's Keys are questions that stretch your brain in new directions. They help you to:

- Ask “what if” questions
- Make up inventions
- Look at things in reverse
- Spot patterns and connections

There are 20 Thinker's Keys, here are some of our favourite keys, with examples:



**What if** everyone had to walk backwards for a day?"



How many **different uses** are there for a rock?



If you could make 3 changes to your home what would you:

- Make Bigger?
- Add?
- Replace?

How might you use examples keys above to think about ideas?



*Non scholæ sed vitæ discimus* | For life, not school, we learn