

FOR LIFE, NOT SCHOOL, WE LEARN



Plymouth High Sixth Form

Sixth Form Prospectus



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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

Please use the QR codes below to reach our online application form.

Current PHSG students, please use this QR code (you may be asked to login, please use your school account).



Students from other schools, please use this QR code



WELCOME

from the Head of Sixth Form

It is with great pleasure that we welcome students into Plymouth High 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 (PSHE) 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 Plymouth High School for Girls (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





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.



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.



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 tours of Parliament, and London galleries to adventures in Italy, Germany or France, local fieldtrips in Wembury and Dartmoor, and further afield University visits and more; there is a multitude of ways that we enliven learning.

Our 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 PHSG 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.”

Sixth Form student



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 Advisor has a Level 6 Diploma in Careers Guidance and Development. They are able to provide guidance in a supportive environment. The Sixth Form team, with the support of the Careers Advisor, are committed to developing the careers provision within Plymouth High to ensure 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 though it’s 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



MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY (MDV) CAREER PATHWAY

Contact: Dr Doddrell (charlie.doddrell@phsg.tsat.uk)

Plymouth High has a strong record of students going on to study and work in the healthcare sector. Many of our students are successful in gaining places on medical, dental and veterinary medicine courses. Choosing one of these career paths involves a more detailed and demanding application process, with students applying as early applicants in October of Year 13.

The MDV pathway allows students to benefit from bespoke preparation. Students on this pathway will have a timetabled fortnightly lesson that covers a wide range of skills and attributes that are needed for this rigorous application process and career beyond. Outside of the lesson, students will be given individual support and targets to improve their application and understanding of the process.

Key features of MDV pathway

- Timetable lesson.
- Individual profile created based on students data to access university widening participation events.
- Early applicant support package (October deadline for UCAS).
- UCAT practice sessions including mock exams.

- Ability to purchase UCAT materials at the school's discounted rate.
- Practice panel interviews with a local GP.
- Practice multiple mini interviews (MMI) with a range of staff.
- 1:1 meeting to choose the most appropriate universities based on the individual.
- Participation in online and in person medical conferences from across the country.
- Held spaces for the summer work experience programme at Plymouth University.
- Recorded video questions for interview experience with personalised feedback.
- Tailored reference written by Dr Doddrell for MDV students.
- Option to lead the Medical Society.
- Release time for volunteering roles.

Subject advice for MDV pathway

- All students should take 3 subjects and EPQ/Core Maths.

- All students should take Biology and Chemistry.
- The third subject should be one you enjoy and will still gain a top grade in.
- Only Cambridge can require a third science subject (Physics/Maths/Further Maths).

Support for all healthcare careers

- Talks from a range of healthcare professionals (science and non-science based).
- Personal statement and application guidance.

- Practice interviews, in person and virtually.
- PHSE support to research.
- Medical Society with a chance for students in Year 12 to lead the group.
- Help obtaining relevant work experience and work experience visits.
- Host school of the Medical Dissection workshop days.
- Support with health-related Extended Projects.





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Please scan below
to see our Advanced
Level Courses guide





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Plymouth High School for Girls
St Lawrence Road,
North Hill,
Plymouth,
PL4 6HT

☎ 0333 360 2230

🌐 phsg.org


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