



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

October Newsletter

Head's Update

5th October 2018

Welcome back! September is always an exciting month and it has been a pleasure to see everyone return to school, ready to work and achieve their best. There is a real buzz around the school with a range of different activities taking place to keep the students motivated.

Students have already taken part in Freshers' Fayre, Hummingbird, the Sconnerdown Trip, team building and so many other events: there are too many to mention here. Staff have also been involved in team building at the start of term, raising £3400 for charity and arranging many trips for the coming months. It is this community and family ethos, which makes Plymouth High School so special and something we want to strengthen even further in the coming year.

Our focus this year is centered around four key words:

- ◇ Ambition
- ◇ Confidence
- ◇ Enthusiasm
- ◇ Community

Your daughter/son will be reflecting on these words in the coming months and we believe these values will help them achieve further success.

As always, the relationship between home and school is important and contributes to this community feeling. Thank you for supporting us in upholding the high standards we have for our students – it really is appreciated. I am sure this will be an excellent year and one where your daughter/son will achieve their best and take advantage of many wonderful opportunities.

Mr S Willis
Interim Headteacher

Inside this issue:

Results
Departmental News
Hummingbird News
Student Achievements
Uniform
Important Notices
Term Dates
Dates for your Diary
STEM Careers Fair

Results

Plymouth High School for Girls is delighted to announce another excellent set of results from our students in years 11 and 13.

'For Life Not School, We Learn' – KS5 Success

In year 13, over 48% of students achieved A* - B grades, with many securing higher than their target grades: these excellent results are a product of hard work and determination from students, staff and parents over the past two years. Congratulations to all. There were lots of individual subject celebrations as well, with thirteen subjects exceeding 80% of students achieving A* - B.

In keeping with our motto 'For life, not school we learn', these students are now moving onto exciting new horizons whether that be university, employment or apprenticeships. The majority of our students achieved their first choice of university, with students studying a range of courses at a range of different universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. The remainder of students are continuing in their choice of apprenticeships, gap years or the world of work!

As a school, we are delighted with the success of this year group and all they have achieved. We wish them well in their exciting new adventures and are sure that they will look back fondly on their time at Plymouth High School for Girls.

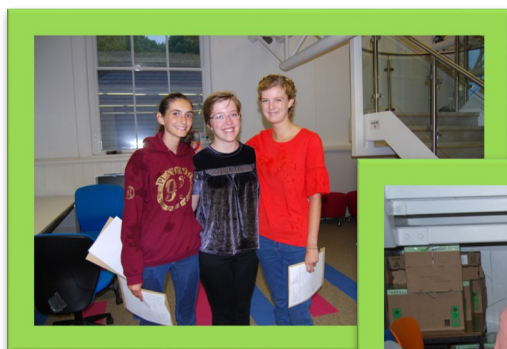
Excellent Results For KS4

GCSE results day was again full of smiles and cheers after another excellent set of results from our Year 11 students.

Staff and students celebrated the results of many who had exceeded their target grades and achieved impressive results, which will enable them to move forward onto the next stage of their education. We are now busy enrolling the vast majority of these students onto KS5 courses and look forward to achieving more success with them in the next two years.

Shaun Willis expressed his delight at the excellent results of all students: 'It is always a pleasure to see students, parents and teachers celebrating all the hard work of the past two years. Students and staff at Plymouth High work so hard to succeed and it has been wonderful to see them progress. Well done to all at Plymouth High - really well deserved'.

Congratulations to all students who have picked up results this year and good luck to you all for the next stage in your careers!



Departmental News

Careers

The first day of the new academic year gave our Year 12 students the opportunity to get to know each other whilst fine tuning their team working and decision making skills.

The activities, led by the RAF Careers team, began with teambuilding and personal development exercises that relied upon trust and communication.

In one of the activities students had to put together a clock. This required them to have excellent verbal communication skills as they were only allowed to visit the clock individually.



One of the most challenging activities was blindfolded team skipping!

Students learnt that in order to achieve their shared goal they must work together to complete the task, listen actively and demonstrate commitment to the team.

Valuable lessons which will help them strive towards success in sixth form and in their future career.



PSHE

Year 8 have had a busy time learning CPR in wellbeing. They used CPR training kits donated to us from the British Heart Foundation, donated with the aim of training as many people as possible to Call, Push and Rescue.



Departmental News

PE

On 26th September PHSG swimming teams competed in the South West Championships at Milfield School. The Intermediate team did extremely well and are waiting to hear if they have qualified for the National Finals.

The U16 netball team competed in the West Devon round of the National Schools Cup on the 27th September. They did extremely well, winning their matches against DHSG, Stoke, Plymouth College and Kelly College. They have qualified to represent the area at the Devon finals in November. This is a fantastic achievement as a team from PHSG has not progressed this far in a number of years. Well done girls, and good luck in the finals.



Individual Success

Niamh in Year 9 recently completed in the National Open Water race in Sheffield. Despite the very cold conditions, she achieved 11th in her age group.

Steven in Year 13 travelled to the Youth Commonwealth Games this summer and won a Team Silver Medal for his fencing.

Emily in Year 12 represented England U17s in the Schools' International Championships, Emily set a new championship record to win a gold medal in the 80m hurdles. She also claimed the silver medal in her age group at the England Athletics Championships in Bedford for the 80m hurdles.

Congratulations to you all, we are very proud to have such talented sports students at PHSG.

If your son/daughter competes outside of school we like to hear how they are getting on, and celebrate their success, so please email Mrs Goolden egoolden@phsg.org and let her know.

Plea from the PE Department and Sports Council

We have a small number of fitness machines that we use in school but are looking to raise money to purchase some new equipment. In the meantime, if you have an unused fitness equipment (especially treadmills, exercise bikes or cross-trainers) that you are willing to donate please let Miss Luscombe know: kluscombe@phsg.org.uk. Many thanks.

Hummingbird News

Hummingbird enters the Premier League

The dawn of Sunday 16th September saw a team of 28 PHSG students embarking on the long drive to the Castle Combe Race Circuit in Wiltshire. Following our terrific Second Place at the South West F24 heat in June we had been awarded a place in the National Finals. However, the tough and unforgiving Predannack track had damaged the car badly and written-off our 400 Watt 24 Volt motor.

The Castle Combe event has a reputation for attracting the best teams in the country, and 2018 was no exception, with 7 of the National top-10 teams entering. It was with some trepidation that we joined the high performing teams in the practice laps.

Although Hummingbird was running smoothly, we developed a problem with the on-board data logger and were not able to gather any information on economy or efficiency.



Race 1 began with Hannah F driving, but under instructions to drive slowly and conserve energy; the high winds and unknown motor performance suggested that we would not manage to complete the 90 minute race without the embarrassment of running out of juice by the end. Our dedicated team of analysts were collecting data on the other cars, and we continued to be frustrated about the lack of information coming from Hummingbird, but just kept going, being doggedly followed by DHSB's car which was looking for the opportunity to overtake.

A really fast pit change gained us 30 seconds and we shot out ahead of DHSB, and Josie had the instruction to climb to full speed... This new strategy saw us gaining 10 seconds each lap on the leading cars, and we began to climb up the field. With fingers crossed for sufficient energy, we swapped drivers once again, and Anya, our lightest driver took over "keep going at full speed until the car stops!". After an anxious start, Anya proved that she was made of steel (or titanium) and began overtaking every car in front of her. The new and untested motor was delivering excellent performance, and as the race closed we realised that we had energy left to spare, and had managed an impressive 6th place.

Race 2 began with the usual clamour off the grid, but Hannah P held her nerve and quickly pulled ahead, using the full power of the car, and throughout the entire race Hummingbird ran smoothly and with pace. An uneventful race is always a good one, and this was one of the best. Excellent driving, quick pit changes, positive strategy and we were delighted to achieve an incredibly impressive 5th place in the second race, beating some of the best in the country.

The icing on the cake was being given the Portfolio Award; given to teams with the best documentation dealing with the development, team inclusion, and improvements to the car. This was the 6th time we have received the award. Yet another trophy for the bulging cabinet! Now we are ready for the National Finals in October, and are ranked in the National Top Ten.



Student Achievements

Student of the Week

Winner for week ending 14th September

Individual: Lowenna 11LUS

Reason: *Despite it not being a school day for Lowenna she offered to get up early and call for a new year 7 student and took her on the bus to school. She then spent the day in Plymouth waiting to help her catch the bus home. Lowenna then made sure she was home and happy. Thank you from the parents of the year 7 student*

Winner for week ending 21st September

Individual: Abigail 9WAN for: her contribution for the charity First Light. Abigail is working her way through 100 challenges in 100 days. *Mr Watson*

Group: All those students who helped with this week's Open Day and Evening.

Also nominated:

Grace Year 11 for: during Open Evening - being alone in IT, with no teacher and was amazing. *Miss Roughton*

Sam 10MCA for: positive attitude and approach in Maths at the start of the year. *Mrs Randell*

Uniform

Shoes

We wish particularly to clarify our policy regarding shoes: canvas shoes are not allowed on health and safety grounds so students should be wearing black leather shoes NOT trainers and not trainer style shoes.

Please be aware that some manufacturers label such shoes as "school shoes" but if they look like trainers they are not part of acceptable PHSG school uniform.

Coats

Coats must be plain—no denim jackets or hoodies.



Are you in the Sixth Form? Would you like to contribute to the excellence of English in school and have an interesting addition to your CV? If so, why not apply to become an English Captain. Our English Captains will have the opportunity to:

- Help promote the English Dept. at open evenings
- Put up displays around the Metcalfe
- Create competitions
- Run reading groups
- Help present items in assemblies
- Offer support to younger pupils struggling in English

If you are interested in being considered, please email Mr Rutherford

Important Notices

PARKING

Out of respect for our neighbours and for health and safety reasons there is **NO PARKING** on the school site or for collecting/dropping off students on the double yellow lines outside our school gates.



NUT ALLERGY

Please be aware that we have a student who is severely allergic to nuts and we would, therefore, appreciate where possible that you try to avoid putting nuts into packed lunches.

Although we are not going completely nut free, we have stopped selling packets of nuts as snacks in the canteen to try to reduce the risk to her and appreciate your support.

Many thanks.



STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

For safety reasons if your daughter has to leave school during the school day, and you are unable to collect her, she must have a note in her planner with clear instructions that you give permission for her to leave unaccompanied. Without your express instructions to this effect we will not allow any students to leave school unless they are collected by an adult from reception.

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

The school also benefits if your child is eligible for free school meals so please check the criteria below – if you meet any of these you can register by going online at:

www.democracy.plymouth.gov.uk or call into the school if you are unsure.

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- ◆ Income-related Employment and Support Alliance
- ◆ Guaranteed element of pension credit
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, (most recent award notice—with no Working Tax Credit **AND** annual income that does not exceed £16,190)
- ◆ Universal Credit—from 1st April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

Please Note: Eligibility for Free School Meals cannot be determined until you have received your first Universal Credit statement or entitlement letter. We have been Informed by DWP that they may take up to 6 weeks to process your first/new claim.

- ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

Important Notices

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL SITE

Please be aware there is no access to the school for students until 8am, at which time the pedestrian gate will be opened. Students should then go to the Newman Hall until registration at 8:40am.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Students may contact staff if they have queries, firstly by visiting them in their department area, and only contacting them using school email system if they really can't see them in person.

Parents may wish to contact staff, the following outlines what the Headteacher regards as important considerations regarding home/school communication, particularly by email:

- ◆ All communication must respect the dignity of the recipient.
- ◆ Within 48 hours: receipt of an email will be acknowledged by school either by the person contacted, or the most appropriate person able to deal with the issue (term time only, not after 5pm nor over a weekend).
- ◆ Within 5 working days: school will provide a response to the email by telephone or in writing, or e-mail. This may include informing the sender that more time is required to provide a full response. If this is the case staff should indicate a time frame for a response.
- ◆ Staff will not be expected to monitor or respond to e-mails outside their normal working hours (nor at weekends and published school holidays).

Whilst this is extremely rare, if a member of staff receives an e-mail or call which is of an aggressive tone, sets unreasonable demands or could otherwise be interpreted as harassing, they will refer this to a senior line manager in the school, who will decide if consideration needs to be given to dealing with further communication under our Complaints Policy.

SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR EXPANSION FUNDING UPDATE

'Thank you for all those who communicated with us regarding the potential for expansion. We have decided not to pursue these plans for the moment but it may be something we will consider again in the future.' - Mr Willis

Term Dates

TERM DATES 2018-2019

Autumn Term:

Tuesday 4th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018

Thursday 6th September - Years 7/12 return

Friday 7th September—Whole School return

Half term: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October 2018

Spring Term:

Monday 7th January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019

Half term: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019

Summer Term:

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Wednesday 24th July 2019

May Day: Monday 6th May

Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July 2019

The five non-pupil days are:

Tuesday 4th September 2018

Wednesday 5th September 2018

Friday 19th October 2018

Fourth and Fifth day (20th & 21st December) to be commuted to twilight sessions

Dates for your Diary

Years 7 and 8 Halloween Disco	Thursday 18th October 2018
Half Term	Monday 22nd October 2018
Year 11 Revision Evening	Tuesday 30th October 2018
Sixth Form Open Evening	Wednesday 21st November 2018
Year 13 Parents Evening	Thursday 29th November 2018
Year 11/13 Presentation Evening	Tuesday 18th December 2018
End of Term	Wednesday 19th December 2018

Science | Technology | Engineering | Maths

young women

into

STEM

careers fair

Refreshments,
Transport available,
See the zoo after dark!

DZP
Dartmoor
ZOO

Wednesday 14 November 2018
Dartmoor Zoo, 1745 - 2000

Book your FREE place via:
www.winstemplmouth.org



This event is sponsored by Babcock International Group
www.babcockinternational.com