



17 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well.

You may have seen some of our wonderful anti-bullying ambassadors on the local news this week, Elizabeth, Megan and Reema, in support of the national anti-bullying week. Our ambassadors are in key stage 4 and work tirelessly with Miss Crouch, our anti-bullying lead, to promote good relationships and friendships. The ambassadors spoke so passionately about their commitment to be part of the team that ensures we stand up to bullying. We are fortunate at PHSG to have an extremely low incidence of bullying, but we also know that we must remain vigilant and continue to foster an environment where students feel comfortable about coming forward. Our anti-bullying school slogan of *'it's good to speak out'* captures the spirit of the work carried out by our anti-bullying team. Well done to them all.

Student leadership

Following a large number of very high quality applications and some impressive performances at interview, the Head Student Team and Earth Alliance selection panels were able to appoint student leaders to all positions in both teams. I would like to extend my thanks and a huge well done to everyone who took part. The selection panels consist of the outgoing student leadership team, myself, a Governor and for Head Student Team we also have a member of sixth form staff. The process is rigorous and the decision making is difficult every year given how well all the students perform. The Head Student Team for 2024 will be; Verity, Kitty, Frankie and Ellathea and the Earth Alliance team for 2024 will be; Joelyn and Ho Fay. There will be a full introduction to the new teams on our website in due course and I will alert

you to when this is posted in one of my weekly letters. Filling the 2024 student House leadership positions is next, I wish everyone who takes part the best of luck.

Children in need

As is the case every year, Plymouth High supported children in need with a mufti day on 17th November where all proceeds will be passed to the charity. Many thanks to parents and carers for their generosity. The head student team spoke in assemblies this week about why we support children in need and the work of the charity. Charity remains a key part of the work of our senior student leadership team and I know it is close to the hearts of our young people.

Year 11 mocks

The year 11 mocks begin next week and I wish year 11 the very best of luck. Students have been given their mock timetables and have been revising and preparing for the examination papers. There will be a 'mock results event' early in the spring term after teachers have had chance to assess the scripts. The mock results event is where students receive all of their mock grades, rather like they will in the summer of 2024 for the real GCSEs. The mocks are an invaluable 'dry run' experience and I encourage all year 11 students to try their best throughout the entire mock season.

Year 11 and 13 GCSE and A level certificates and awards evening 2023

Our annual celebration of the GCSE and A level certificates and awards is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13th December at 6pm. All students (and their parents/carers) from year 11 and 13 from 2022 / 23 are invited to attend the evening where students will be formally presented with their certificates. There will be a separate letter about this in due course where people (students and parents/carers) will be asked to say if they would like to attend. The letter will also detail how students can collect their certificates if they are unable to make the awards evening.

Supporting PTFA

Did you know that you can fundraise for the PTFA whilst you do your Christmas shopping? Please support our cause using easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/plymouthhs4girls>. There are 92 supporters already and they have raised over £2000. Thank you very much.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown'.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.