



# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and I wish you all a happy New Year.

## Plymouth High is 150 years old



You may know that 2024 is the year we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are planning a series of activities and events in school across the year, but we have settled on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> as the day we officially celebrate our school being 150 years old. More details to follow. If you were a student at Plymouth High you may like to get involved in the information gathering we are doing. We are keen to collect memories of what it was like at Plymouth High over the years and are inviting people to write short accounts of what they remember of school. Our plan is to share these accounts with students and staff and also via our website and social media channels. Of course, when sharing the written accounts, we will not use the full names of the authors. If you would like to contribute, please send your account to Vicki Benwell at [Vicki.Benwell@phsg.tsat.uk](mailto:Vicki.Benwell@phsg.tsat.uk). Please include which house you were in and the years you attended school. It would be best if written accounts were fewer than 200 words. Thank you in advance to our 'old students' for their contributions.

## What's going on in school?

We post our stories about what is going on in school in our 'latest news' section on our website [here](#) as well as on our school Facebook page. I hope you enjoy seeing what our students are up to.

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## **Mobile phones**

Our parent feedback group met with staff and Governors before the Christmas break to discuss mobile phone use in school. We are now ready to gather the views of our parent body around the use of mobile phones to help inform our policy moving forward. Next week, Miss Roughton, Deputy Headteacher, will write to you inviting you to complete a questionnaire. We will combine the responses from parents with our staff consultation outcomes. Of course, once we have a new policy ratified it will be shared with our whole school community. Thank you in advance for taking part, parent voice is important to us.

## **Year 9 options**

This week we have shared with year 9 students and their parents the GCSE options booklet and next week there will be an assembly for year 9 where the process will be further explained. Parents and carers of year 9 will no doubt be discussing with their child which options they will pick. My advice about options is straight forward; students should pick subjects that match both their strengths and interests and not because a friend has picked a particular subject. There will be a year 9 options evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January starting at 4.30pm at school. Students and parents/carers will be able to visit the subject areas they are considering selecting and will have the chance to reflect on the demands and expectations of those subjects at GCSE. There will also be a general options talk during the evening. We look forward to seeing year 9 students and their parents/carers at the event.

## **Sparx maths change of hand-in day**

The maths team have changed the setting and handing-in day for Sparx maths for 2024. Sparx maths will now be set every Tuesday with the hand in day the following Tuesday. The deadline time each Tuesday will be after the maths Tuesday lunchtime help club, Top Up Tuesday. The idea is that if a student has a problem with a question on their homework that they could not resolve by using the online videos or other resources available to them, they can get some last minute support before the deadline. The expectation is that students complete every question every week and that they achieve 100%. Questions are set based on the work students are currently

learning or have recently learnt and are matched to each student's individual ability. Sparx maths success rates at Plymouth High are consistently amongst the highest in the country and we thank you for your support in helping our students make the best possible progress in maths.

### **Thank you Q Store**

A big thank you to Laura Fox and Becky from Q Store at Eden House, for organising a heavily discounted prom dress sale in December. The event was well attended with a number of dresses being purchased. As a result of this event, the PTFA raised £260. Earth Alliance would like to take this opportunity to ask you to think about ensuring that your prom dress doesn't cost the Earth, and to consider the local charity shops as well as online sites such as Vinted when searching for the perfect dress. St Luke's charity shop on Cornwall street usually has a large selection of dresses to choose from. At Plymouth High, we feel the prom should be about friends marking a milestone and having fun together and not about spending lots of money. Anything that we can do to limit our impact on the environment along the way is a bonus.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Underdown'.

**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**