



26 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

## **The courts and Bertha's**

Contractors have now successfully moved Bertha's to the new location which means that as soon as the electricity is connected, we'll be able to reopen.

## **Technology lessons in years 7 to 9**

As part of the Key stage 3 Technology curriculum your child will experience working with resistant materials, using graphic design software and sewing with various textiles. The technology department would like to request a voluntary contribution of £5.00 towards covering the cost of some of the materials that will be used in the projects that students undertake. By asking for such contributions it enables us to buy in bulk plywood, acrylic and textiles and therefore receive larger discounts with suppliers. Students are of course able to take all finished products home at the end of each project. If parents feel they are able to make the voluntary contribution, the technology department thank you in advance. Payment for this can be made via your child's existing Parent Pay account. Thank you to those families who have already contributed. Your support is greatly appreciated and really helps in making your child's experience more meaningful and enjoyable. Please note that these contributions will not cover food technology where students and parents kindly provide their own ingredients for their lessons.



We are also asking for donations for our "donation station" in food technology and also material for textiles. The donation station in the Food Technology room is a store in case students forget an ingredient, or have a mishap in their preparation for a recipe. Students can check with their food teacher about which food items are particularly needed. Old sheets, curtains, bags and clothes would also be appreciated to help students practise their sewing skills and for making samples.

### **Duke of Edinburgh award scheme**

You will remember that I have included in my letters to you information about the DofE award scheme. We have a new DofE manager and deputy in post and they are working hard to ensure that all students who had signed up at the start of the year will be able to see it through. You will remember that our previous DofE manager left us rather suddenly in term 1. Parents and students in year 9 had been hoping that they could sign up for the Bronze award this year. Unfortunately, we do not have capacity to take on new enrolments this year, but we are hoping to offer DofE to the current year 9s when they reach year 10. However, I know that some are keen to get going as soon as possible. To that end, our DofE manager has been researching ways that students can take part in DofE outside of school. Please see below for details about the organisations locally that run DofE. PHSG does not have any connection with these organisations, but I did think parents would appreciate the signposting.

**Plymouth Scouts** – website: [plymouthscouts.org.uk](http://plymouthscouts.org.uk) which has links to all Scout Groups across Plymouth. If parents are unable to find a local group, please email John Davies [dc@plymouthscouts.org.uk](mailto:dc@plymouthscouts.org.uk) who can put you in touch with your nearest group and can signpost to groups in South Hams and Cornwall. Parents of students who are already in a Scouting group can email [plymouthscoutsdofe@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthscoutsdofe@gmail.com) to register for DofE.

**Girlguiding Plymouth** – to join Girlguiding you have to register on the National website [Register a child | Girlguiding](http://Register a child | Girlguiding) they will then put you in touch with a local group (all over the city). Parents of students who are already in a Guide group can email David Hood [DofE Adviser | Girlguiding Devon \(devonguides.org.uk\)](http://DofE Adviser | Girlguiding Devon (devonguides.org.uk)) to register for DofE.

**Air Cadets (Plymouth and Cornwall Wing)** – there are several Squadrons in Plymouth (City of Plymouth, Devonport, St. Budeaux, North Plymouth, Plympton, Plymstock and Saltash) and parents can find their local one at [Royal Air Force Air Cadets | Royal Air Force Air Cadets \(mod.uk\)](#) and from there register with a Squadron and join DofE through them.

**Plymouth Drake Sea Cadets** – website: [www.sea-cadets.org/plymouthdrake/](http://www.sea-cadets.org/plymouthdrake/) there are two groups that meet at Crownhill Fort Road on a Tuesday and a Thursday evening. There is currently a waiting list to join but it is possible to register interest at [admin-plymouth@cadetmail.mod.uk](mailto:admin-plymouth@cadetmail.mod.uk)

**Devon Army Cadets** – website: [Devon Army Cadets | Army Cadets UK](#). There are detachments in Mutley, Honicknowle, St. Budeaux, Torpoint and Saltash, and they can be found here [Find a detachment | Army Cadets UK](#) and from there parents can follow a link to enable their child to join as a cadet.

I do hope the above is useful.

### **LGBTQ+ History month**

February is when we mark LGBTQ+ History month at school and across our Trust. Our student leaders are preparing activities and information to share with the student body. Of course, marking LGBTQ+ History month is about; acceptance, understanding, kindness, inclusivity and celebrating difference – all values that are important to us at Plymouth High.

### **Year 11 mock results**

Students and parents received their year 11 mock results this week. Students will be reflecting on their successes and areas for development in order to get the most out of the run in to the summer examinations. Thank you to parents for your support at home as our young people prepare for their GCSE examinations. Some students have made decisions about what to do differently post mocks compared to pre mocks to maximise their outcomes whilst others have made promises to themselves about ways of working and studying between now and the summer. Teachers are supporting year 11 in class with revision materials, practice questions/activities, advice on

examination technique and guidance on what students should be doing independently. If your child would like further support, please do encourage them to have a conversation with their teacher.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', followed by a horizontal flourish.

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