



23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope this finds you well.

Our 150 birthday plans are now well underway. All students and staff have been given a 150 commemorative pin badge to wear to school. Wearing the badge represents a wonderful way to celebrate the longevity of our school and is also something special to keep. We have a number of 150 birthday plans in place which you can find out about on our special 150 birthday webpage [here](#). Please do take a look, there is a wealth of interesting information about the long history of our school. We have set aside Thursday 4th July as the day we officially celebrate the school's 150th birthday. There will be 150 birthday related activities in the morning for students to take part in and then we will invite visitors into school for the afternoon. The visitors will include our alumni, past headteachers and other staff, members of the local education community and Trust board members. School will finish after period 3 on 4th July meaning that students will leave school at around 12.30pm unless they are staying to support the afternoon activities, more information about this in due course. We will be unable to change bus or train times for this day so they will run at the normal times. As is usual, if you would like us to provide a safe space for your child until 3.30pm on 4th July, please contact your child's tutor.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

HPV vaccine is offered nationwide to all boys and girls from year 8. HPV vaccine protects against cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital areas.

Kernow Health will be on site to deliver the HPV vaccination programme for **all** students in **Year 8 on 23/04/2024**.

Please follow the link [HPV Vaccination Consent Form \(kernowimmunisations.co.uk\)](https://kernowimmunisations.co.uk) to give consent and QUOTE school code **DV148369**.

More information explaining the vaccination programme can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

World Book Week 6th to 13th March

It is World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. We have a number of activities planned to celebrate books and reading throughout the 7 days and you will have seen the letter from our library team, outlining all the things we have organised.

Perhaps the most exciting event is the 'come dressed as a book character' day. This will happen on Thursday 7th March. Students must sign up for this and come dressed as a book character. It is not a mufti day, so students not wanting to dress up must come into school in full uniform. If parents would like to make a voluntary donation to a book related charity, we will pass the money raised to [Home | Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity \(roalddahlcharity.org\)](https://www.roalddahlcharity.org). Students can pass their donation to their tutor on 7th March in tutor time.

The book related activities have something for everyone, including a book quiz in the library, tutor time activities and a trust-wide 'create a comic strip' competition.

World Book Day tokens

If your child would like a £1 World Book day token, they can collect it from the library or reception. These World Book Day tokens can be exchanged for a special £1 World Book Day book or to take £1 off the price of a book at participating booksellers (you can find a list of these on the World Book Day website [here](#)).

Year 7 and 8 parents

A letter has been sent to you regarding an author talk by Emma Carroll happening on Wednesday 13th March. Students from these year groups will attend a talk during their period 1 lesson and will also have the chance to meet Emma at a book signing event in the library at break. If your child would like to pre-order a copy of Emma's latest book to be signed or has a preowned copy of an Emma Carroll book that they would

like to have signed, please fill in the Microsoft Form that accompanied the email by Monday 4th March.

Inclement weather and uniform

We have noticed that a number of our students have been coming to school in the recent wet weather without a coat and they are getting wet and cold. We have 18 unnamed coats in lost property that we are very keen to return to their owners. Students should go to reception to find their lost coat.

Thank you for your support with our uniform standards. As a reminder, no jewellery is permitted except a single stud in each ear lobe and a watch. Makeup or false eye lashes are not permitted and blazers are a compulsory item for all students in years 7 to 10. Thank you for your ongoing support to help us maintain the high standards we set for our school.

Online safety

The internet can be a source of inspiration, knowledge and fun, but there is a darker side. Young people can be at risk from harmful content on the internet from those wishing to groom children and from age-inappropriate and damaging content. Our Trust has created a new safeguarding hub to support parents in helping their children make healthy choices. There's lots of information on the hub to help parents best support their children as they grow up and become more independent. Please do take a look [at our new hub here](#)

Mobile phone consultation

Thank you to those who took part in the mobile phone consultation in January and February.

We had approximately 400 parents take part in our consultation, sharing their thoughts and views on mobile phone use at PHSG. Of course, we are mindful that Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, has just released new guidance on mobile phones in schools, parents can read about the new guidance [here](#).

It will take a little time to review the data and read all the comments from our parent and staff consultation, but we will be putting together a summary document that we will share with you in the near future, so please watch this space.

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

International women's day

We will be marking international women's day ([click here for more information](#)) this year with assemblies and activities run by the head student team and a 'wear a red accessory day' on Friday 8th March. The accessory might be a ribbon pinned to the blazer, a hairband or scrunchie. Just a reminder that this would not include hair colour change or nail vanish/makeup and it's not a mufti day.

The head student team are keen to support two charities that work to promote women's welfare, they are; Action Aid, a national charity that works with women and children in poverty and who help with women suffering in period poverty <https://www.actionaid.org.uk>, and Trevi, a local charity, based in Plymouth that supports women in recovery <https://trevi.org.uk/>

Students can bring in voluntary donations on 8th March, or parents can choose to donate directly to the charities by visiting their websites.

Trust-wide staff training

A reminder that we have a Trust wide staff training afternoon on Tuesday 26th March. This is essential training for staff and helps us to maintain the highest possible standards of care and education at PHSG. Students will leave school at 1pm. We are not able to change the bus or train times for this day, but they will run as usual. If you would like us to provide a safe space for your child until 3.30pm on 26th March, please contact your child's head of year. Our school calendar is posted on our website [here](#), I hope you find it useful.

Year 12 parents evening

Parents of students in year 12 will have received booking information regarding the upcoming parents evening. I hope that you find the meetings useful. In the unlikely event that you are unable to make an appointment with your child's class teacher, please do contact Mr Jenkins, head of sixth form, who will do all he can to resolve the situation.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.