



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

15 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of year 11 and 13 students

I hope this finds you well.

I am writing to you about the study arrangements that will be in place for the summer GCSE and A level public examination series. Whilst parents will receive more detailed information from Mr Law (yr11) and Mr Jenkins (yr13) I thought you would appreciate some advance notice to help with conversations at home around appropriate examination preparation. This really is the time for year 11 and 13 students to pull out all the stops, work hard and complete as much revision and as many practice questions as possible.

Our young people are entering an increasingly competitive environment for next steps education plans and future employment. Maximising grades at GCSE and A level increases the chances that our year 11 and 13 students have the greatest opportunities and future choices. Thank you for the support you provide in helping our young people to be at their best for their examinations.

The guiding principle behind our study arrangements is to give students some flexibility around when and where they study and to best support their examination preparation whilst ensuring that teachers are on hand to provide the support our learners need.

## Year 11

The first GCSE examination is RE and is on 9<sup>th</sup> May. After that, there are examinations on most days.

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### **The year 11 celebration event will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Students will come in during the morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, enjoy their celebration event and will be able to leave at around midday. Parents who would like their child to remain in school until 3.30pm and attend their afternoon lessons should contact Mr Law who will be happy to make the arrangements. Mr Law will provide further details about the celebration event in due course.

Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> May (6<sup>th</sup> May is a bank holiday) lessons will run as normal for the Tuesday and Wednesday, full uniform is required and the celebration hoodie will be part of the permitted uniform at this time.

From 9<sup>th</sup> of May students will be able to have more flexibility. Whilst Mr Law will provide more details, the principle is that students can choose to come into school and attend the scheduled classes where their teacher will be on hand to support them. Each day, students will need to commit to a morning session, afternoon session or all-day session, but we want them to have flexibility to make the decision that is right for them each day. The only exception is that if students have an examination, they will be able to leave school directly after the examination should they wish. Mr Law will provide further details and an opportunity for parents to give their consent for their child to have this flexibility. In some cases, Mr Law may recommend to parents that particular students stay in school at all times so that we can best support them.

From 9<sup>th</sup> May, we recommend that students bring revision materials with them, this will help teachers give bespoke support based on individual need. Phones will not be permitted for revision in lessons.

When students have an examination, they should go to the examination venue to be registered.

### **Year 13**

#### **A level celebration event 9<sup>th</sup> May**

The celebration event will be in the morning and students will be able to leave school when it finishes. Mr Jenkins will provide further details in due course.

From the 10<sup>th</sup> May, teachers will be available in their classrooms as per the scheduled timetables. Year 13 students will have some extra flexibility from 10<sup>th</sup> May onwards. Again, Mr Jenkins will write to parents with more details.

### **Days when there is not an examination**

If students do not have an examination, they can choose to study at home or in school. However, school sessions will be either all morning, all afternoon or all day. Students will not be permitted to come and go during the day, unless they are choosing to leave the site after an examination.

The sixth form study centre is a great place for students to study and they can use this space when they do not have a lesson or an examination. Students would register with their tutor in the morning as usual and with each of their teachers in scheduled lessons.

On the day's students have an examination, they would go to the examination venue to be registered. They will be permitted to leave the site after the examination if they wish or stay to get support from their teachers in scheduled lessons or study in the sixth form study centre if they do not have a lesson.

Mr Jenkins will provide further details in due course, but I thought parents of year 13 students would appreciate this advance notice.

Best wishes to all and thank you for all you are doing at home to help our young people perform at their very best.

Kind regards,



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