



7th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that you had a restful half term break.

## Team Hummingbird success

I start my letter to you this week with the exciting news that our amazing electric car racing team, Hummingbird, won no less than 4 trophies at the Greenpower Education Trust RMB Chivenor heats on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. In both race 1 and race 2 of the F24 class, Team Hummingbird came first beating many prestigious teams including the Aston Martin team.

Hummingbird is engineered, managed and raced by PHSG students with the superb support of dedicated school staff. We are so proud of everyone involved in Hummingbird and so grateful for the tremendous parental support we receive.

Following their fabulous performance at Chivenor, Hummingbird have been invited to the International Final at the Goodwood racing circuit in October. I know you will join me in wishing our team the very best of luck.

## Student voice event

This week we held our third Trust wide student voice event of the year. Students from across our 26 schools met up to discuss the issues that are important to them. They focused on what they have already achieved and their plans for the remainder of the academic year. Plymouth High student leaders enjoyed their visit to Plympton Academy (our local Trust school) where they shared ideas with the Plympton teams and collaborated on joint PHSG/PA plans. Our students were fabulous ambassadors for the school making valuable contributions to each discussion forum. Student leadership is an integral part of our Trust and our students enthusiastically embrace the opportunity.

## **Picnic for Pride**

Our Diversity student leadership group are planning a Picnic for Pride event to be held at school on 21<sup>st</sup> June at lunchtime. The idea is that students will enjoy their food together outside on the courts at lunchtime and have the chance to get involved with the activities planned by the student leaders. The usual catering facilities will be open to students on the day. The student leaders will be sharing with the school their ideas about the activities planned and are hoping for a fun and supportive day.

## **Arts week**

We are getting ready for our Trust wide Arts week which starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. It is an opportunity for all schools across the Trust to celebrate how our young people express themselves through the arts. There will be activities each day and competitions. There is a Trust 'Student got talent' event where students can showcase their talent in a 2 minute video. The video needs to be prepared by 16<sup>th</sup> June. There is also a visual art competition with a deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> June. Students have been given information about these two competitions in an assembly before half term, but they might well appreciate a reminder and a nudge from parents.

## **Academic reading**

You may have read in our latest Ofsted report that inspectors felt we should increase the opportunities for academic reading (rather than reading fiction for pleasure which our students engage in enthusiastically). We have been thinking about how this might look and wanted students to have the widest possible access to age appropriate and verified articles in the easiest possible format. We have subscribed to The Day. It is an online platform specifically designed to provide students with a diverse range of reading material that should spark their interest and help them to stay informed. We are in the process of setting it up and hope to roll it out to students soon, further details to follow in due course. If you would like to find out more about the opportunities offered by The Day, please [click here](#)

## **Break and lunch changes**

We are going to start a trial next week from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June where the only indoor spaces for students at break and lunchtimes will be supervised spaces. Students will be able to use the Metcalf building, the Library, A01, Newman Hall, a nominated quiet

study room and the LRCs as well as the outdoor spaces we have. Sixth form students will have their study centre as usual. After the examination period, we will move the indoor space allocated to the Metcalf building to the Main Hall. Of course, students will be able to access the toilets and any club that is run inside, but they will not be able to use unsupervised indoor spaces. We have decided to run this trial to support students in their social time and tutors have been talking with their groups about the trial this week during form time.

### **Dates reminder**

Our [calendar](#) is a useful resource for seeing what is going on in school, but I thought you would appreciate a reminder about three key dates coming up.

Our summer open day is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June, but it is a normal school day for students. As usual, we will be inviting students to stay for the evening to be school ambassadors. There will be a separate letter to parents about this.

We have our scheduled Trust training event in the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> June and students will leave early on this day. The school day for students finishes at 1.15pm on 25<sup>th</sup> June. We are not able to change the bus or train times for this event. If you would like us to supervise your child until 3.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> June, please let their Head of Year know.

4<sup>th</sup> July – this is the day we officially celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities for all students in the morning and then alumni and invited guests will be joining us in the afternoon. School will close for students at 12.30 on 4<sup>th</sup> July with some students staying behind to show our guests around. There will be separate communication to parents about the plan for this special day.

Best wishes,



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