



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

14th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Many thanks indeed to parents and carers who have passed on their congratulations to us following the publication of our Ofsted report. We are always grateful to parents who take the time to write to us. I thought I would take this opportunity to provide some context around the process and our future plans. You will no doubt remember that our inspection was an ungraded inspection. This means it does not result in individual graded judgements but focuses on whether we are judged to be at the same overall grade as the previous inspection. Plymouth High remains a Good school, although the threshold for Good is considerably higher under this current framework than the previous version. We were delighted that inspectors picked up on some of our successes and were able to see how our school improvement journey is making a positive difference.

We have ambitions to continue improving our school and our motivation here is that students will enjoy an even better school experience through sustained school improvement. We want our students to have high aspirations, to think confidently and be active citizens for life. We continue to work towards providing a truly outstanding educational experience. We do this for our young people because we want the very best for them. We remain focused on helping our students to get the best possible outcomes in an environment that values each young person and celebrates their successes, whatever they may be.

You will remember from my letter last week that we have been working on addressing the 'academic reading' area for improvement. We are in the 'onboarding' process with The Day [click here for more info](#) and hope to be rolling it out to students soon. Whilst *The Education Inspection Framework* [click here](#), does not specifically mention academic reading, we nevertheless absolutely agree that extending students

Headteacher: Mr Simon Underdown
St Lawrence Road, Plymouth PL4 6HT
Tel: 033 33 602230 Website: www.phsg.org
Email: office@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk



opportunities to read academic texts (in addition to their appetite for fiction) will have real benefits.

We are hopeful that The Day, our Sparx reader programme, our proactive library team, our student librarians and our whole school engagement with reading will enable our students to have the best possible chance to maximise their opportunities and enjoyment through reading. Indeed, our Head Student Team are heavily involved in the Trust wide reading agenda and are supporting other schools to produce their own school magazine. You can read all editions of our amazing student produced *Hear me Out* magazine [here](#).

A reminder about our upcoming events

We have our Trust wide staff training afternoon on Tuesday 25th June where students finish school at 1.15pm. At the moment, lunchtime starts at 12.30pm, so students will still be able to buy lunch in school if they wish on the 25th. Of course, breaktime food is still available.

We have our 150th anniversary celebration on Thursday 4th July. Students will take part in 150 based activities in the morning and finish school at 12.30pm. Some students will be staying behind to support the afternoon events with our invited guests. There will be separate communication from Miss Roughton regarding supporting the afternoon event.

We are unable to change bus and train times for the 25th June and 4th July. If you would like us to supervise your child until 3.30pm on either of these dates, please contact your child's head of year.

Key stage 3 examinations

Teachers have been returning to year 7, 8 and 9 students their end of year examination papers and have spent lesson time reviewing them. As are usually the case following assessments, students will have had successes and identified areas for improvement. Students will most likely want to try and resolve any areas for development and their teachers will be happy to support this. Please do contact your child's teacher(s) if you have any questions regarding these papers.

Mobile phones

Many thanks indeed for your support with our recently introduced mobile phone policy. It is having a very positive impact in school, principally because students are engaging with each other in a wider variety of ways and enjoying their social time together. The vast majority of our students are following the new policy perfectly and we are grateful to parents for positively reinforcing the message that school being a phone free time is good for mental health. Young people can be very susceptible to the negative impact of some aspects of social media and we continue to encourage parents to have conversations with their children regarding phone use.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.