



21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that you have all been enjoying the recent good weather. It has been wonderful to see our students out in numbers on the courts and outdoor seating over the last few days enjoying time together.

My thanks again to our parents for supporting the mobile phone policy. It is so important that we all work together to safeguard our young people from the potential negative impact of social media and unhelpful messaging. Indeed, having the school day as a break from phone use will help students to enjoy the company of their friends without the distraction of the virtual world.

Our trial with supervised spaces at break and lunchtimes continues. There are a number of supervised spaces where students can go at break and lunch with posters up around school to serve as reminders. The eating arrangements have been unchanged and the refectory sittings continue as normal. If your child is unsure about where they can go, their tutor can help them out. We feel that proving supervised areas at free association time is a sensible way for us to safeguard and support our young people and we are grateful for your support during conversations at home. Of course, our many lunchtime clubs continue unchanged.

## Outdoor education

I am delighted to announce that we are now in a position to confirm that PHSG will be running the Duke of Edinburgh programme in 2024/25. We will be using Dynamic Adventures for the expedition part of the scheme, just like we have done this year. Ms Barnett will continue as the DofE manager following a very successful period this

year, and we welcome Mrs Landsborough as the Deputy DofE manager. Ms Barnett will be writing to parents in due course to set out the plans for DofE for 2024/25.

We are also hoping to run Ten Tors in addition to DofE in 2024/25. Ms Barnett will oversee these arrangements, but Dynamic Adventures will again be the organisation we use for the expedition element. Ms Barnett will be writing to parents about Ten Tors to explain how it will work and to gauge interest. If you have already responded previously to your child's interest in Ten Tors, this will be passed on to Ms Barnett. Of course, our being able to run Ten Tors is dependent on there being appropriately sized teams for one or more of the prescribed distances.

### **Generative AI Research Study with Cambridge University Press and Assessment.**

PHSG has been given an exciting opportunity to be at the forefront of AI research within education. We are working with Pia Kreijkes, an educational researcher at Cambridge University Press & Assessment and she would like to invite all our Year 10 students to take part in the research.

The study aims to understand how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and chatbots (such as ChatGPT) influence student learning. Understanding the effects of AI is crucial as more and more students are using AI tools. The study will take place in the first week of July, during normal school time.

Please read the information sheet about the study, which explains everything parents and carers need to know about what it means to take part. We require both the students and their parents/carers consent in order for students to take part. The following link takes you to the information sheet and consent form: <https://forms.office.com/e/SkVtGvr0CM>

**Please read the information sheet and complete the form (whether or not you agree to take part) by Thursday 27th of June. Only students with permission by the 27th June will be able to take part in the research project.**

Once the research has been completed, the outcomes will be shared with us so that we can inform our practise with regards the use of AI to support students in their learning.

If you have any questions, please contact Miss Donna Roughton at [Donna.Roughton@phsg.tsat.uk](mailto:Donna.Roughton@phsg.tsat.uk) or you can email Pia directly on [pia.kreijkes@cambridge.org](mailto:pia.kreijkes@cambridge.org)

## **The Election**

With the General Election taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, we are holding a number of events over the next two weeks to raise awareness of the key issues that will affect our young people over the next 5 years. On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, we will host candidates from a range of parties standing in the Plymouth Sutton and Devonport seat including the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats as well as representation from the Green Party in a hustings debate with our Sixth Form and wider school community. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to challenge the candidates on issues that directly affect them both locally and nationally.

In the week of the election, members of our Sixth Form will participate in their own election debate on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July where they will put forward the choice people are facing at the next election and take questions from students. Our willing participants are currently absorbing the manifestos of the main political parties and preparing themselves for what should be a lively and engaging debate. Finally, our students will get the opportunity to cast their vote on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July as to who they believe should lead the country for the next five years with the result being revealed the day before the polls open for real.

## **Photocopying**

As you will know, being environmentally conscious is important to us. Our student leadership group, Earth Alliance, are heavily involved in strategic decision making at both school and Trust level and have helped us to re-think how we go about photocopying to reduce our carbon footprint.

As a result of our work with Earth Alliance, we have agreed to impose limits on how much students can print starting from September.

We are mindful that students in years 10 and above may need to print more documents for their GCSE NEA portfolios in D&T, Art and Music or they may wish to print past papers to complete at home. The limits that we have settled on will reflect these potential needs.

Year 7 to 9 - Limit of 10p per month. This gives printing of 50 sheets per month.

Year 10 to 11 - Limit of 15p per month. This gives printing of 75 sheets per month.

Year 12 & 13 - Limit of 20p per month. This gives printing of 100 sheets per month.

These limits have been chosen in light of the analysis of the data collected throughout this academic year on how much printing each student has done. These limits have been chosen so that the majority of students will not see any change to their printing credits and will be able to print as normal, but for some it might make them think about what they are printing and why.

### **Profession Healthcare Careers Advice website**

This week saw the addition of a dedicated specifically designed section of the school's website for those students aiming for a career in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science.

This section contains a wealth of information and guidance for each year group about how they can best research and prepare for one of these very rewarding but challenging future careers. Within this space, each career is discussed in detail, including academic requirements, work experience, admissions processes and the UCAT examination.

There are a number of useful links to the relevant governing bodies and industry agencies that students should be aware of during their research into these careers. There are also examples of our numerous and growing past student successes in these fields. Please click [here](#) to find out more. If you or your child wishes to discuss anything to do with these careers, please contact Dr Doddrell at [Charlie.Doddrell@phsg.tsat.uk](mailto:Charlie.Doddrell@phsg.tsat.uk) who will be happy to help.

## **Carnegie Book Awards**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, a group of six year 8 and 9 students attended a Carnegie Book Awards event at Plymstock School. PHSG were one of 8 schools from across the city who were 'shadowing' the judging process for the annual Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing. The group gave a heartfelt and moving performance, based on the book 'Choose Love' by Nicola Davies- a collection of poems highlighting the plight of people forced to leave their homes and seek asylum in other countries.

After a live stream of the ceremony in London, there was a talk and a book signing from the author of one of the longlisted books, Rachel Delahaye.

The students were a real credit to themselves and the school showing kindness and compassion in their dealing of such a sensitive topic. Indeed, they received some amazing praise from staff of some of the other schools represented at the event. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Best wishes,



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