



6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to our new parents and carers and a welcome back to our established parents and carers. I do hope you had a relaxing summer break and that your child has been looking forward to returning to school. Our new year 7 students seem to have settled in well, they have been making new friends, enjoyed exploring the school and are starting to find their feet. Our year 12 students have made a strong start, exhibiting positive attitudes that will serve them well on their sixth form journey. We are delighted to yet again welcome around 40 year 12 students from other schools and I am certain that they will feel fully part of the PHSG family in no time.

I am hopeful that our students will enjoy school this year, make strong academic progress, enjoy wider school life and develop their friendships. We are extremely fortunate to have wonderful parental support at Plymouth High, and I would like to thank you in advance for how you help us throughout the year to maintain our high expectations.

I will continue to write to you each week with school updates and information, although the last communication before each holiday will be a bumper newsletter celebrating all that has gone on in school that term. The email should arrive with you at about 3.30pm each Friday.

Year 11 and year 13 examination results, 2024

Our year 11 and year 13 students performed wonderfully this year, with most of our year 11 students deciding to stay with us for sixth form and 85% of our year 13

students going straight to University this September. For more information, please see the [latest news](#) page on our website. Indeed, the latest news page is a good place to visit from time to time to find out about all the amazing things our students have been up to.

Our new year 11 and 13 students will no doubt be thinking about their mocks (November/December for year 11 and January for year 13) and their final examinations. Teachers, tutors and Heads of Year will be supporting our young people so that they have the skills and knowledge necessary to realise their goals and ambitions. Heads of Year will be in touch with parents of year 11 and 13 students along the journey of getting prepared for these important examinations. The support that parents offer their children makes all the difference to outcomes and I thank you all for everything you do at home.

The annual September reset

The beginning of the year is a good time to remind our young people about school expectations with regards to conduct, uniform and mobile phones. Tutors have been going through this with their groups and I thought you would appreciate a reminder of where to find the necessary information. Our student code of conduct can be found [here](#), details about our uniform can be found [here](#) and the expectations around mobile phone use can be found [here](#). I thank all our parents and carers in advance for your invaluable support as we do our best to maintain the highest possible standards. Parents and carers may find it helpful to have a look at the student code of conduct, uniform expectations and the mobile phone rules on our website to aid conversations at home.

On occasion, a child may exhibit behaviour that will result in an after-school sanction in line with our policies. On the rare occasion that we need to set an after-school sanction, we will always inform parents by email 24 hours before the set after-school sanction. Parents will no doubt know that Section 5 of the Education Act 1997 gives schools authority to detain pupils after the end of a school session on disciplinary grounds. All schools, except independent and non-maintained special schools, have clear legal authority to detain pupils without the consent of the parent.

Attendance

As you may have seen in the news over the summer holidays, the Government has made amendments to the expectations on school attendance with new legislation coming into effect on 19th August 2024. Following this, our Trust and school policies on attendance have been updated. All our attendance information can be found on our [school website here](#).

Our attendance improvement coordinator, Miss Monelle, is available for parents to contact should they have any concerns about their child's attendance. Attendance information is always included in school reports and Miss Monelle will also contact parents should there be any concerns around their child's attendance. Thank you to our parents and carers for doing all you can to maximise your child's attendance at school. As a reminder, there are a number of conditions under which we are not permitted to authorise absence and one of those is for a family holiday or event.

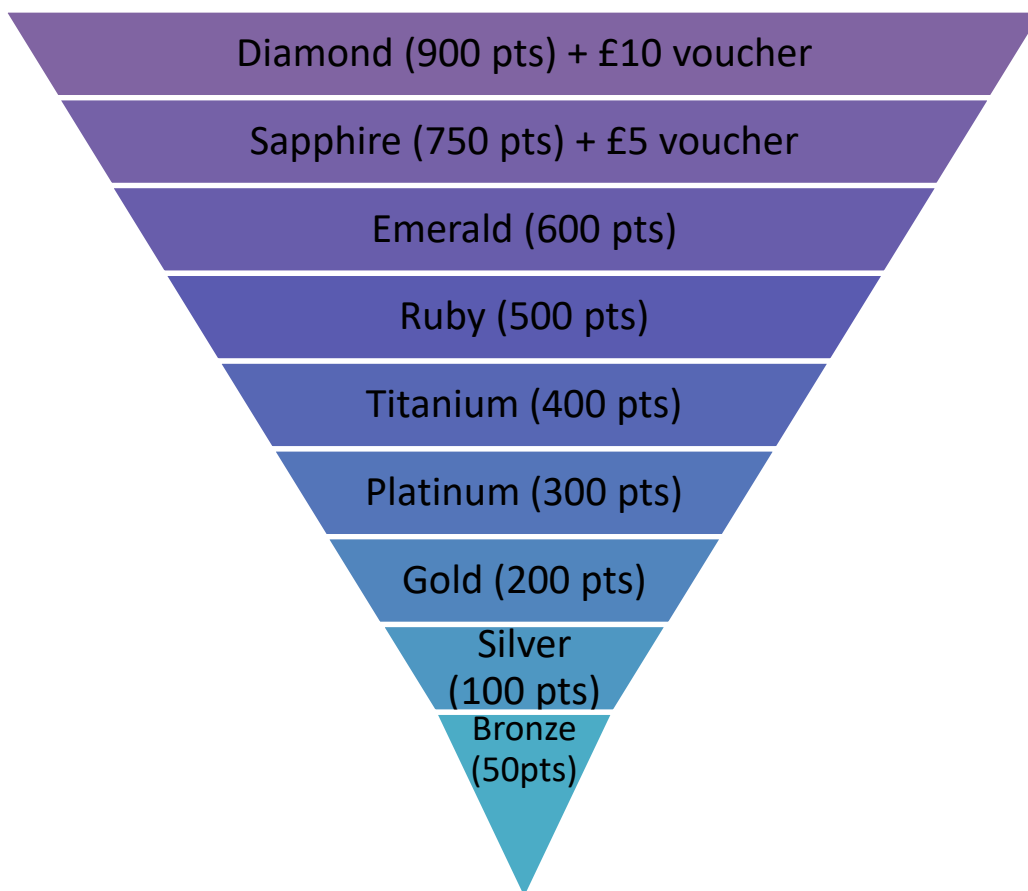
Improvements to our achievement point system

Dr Doddrell has been working over the last few months on improving our student reward system for students in years 7 to 11. The main aim has been to find a way to record reward points for students throughout their year 7 to 11 journey without the annual reset, and we are now ready to launch our revised plans.

Students will still collect achievement points for all the great things that they do at school and these will be added to SIMs in the same way. The points will remain visible to all in the SIMs app but these will now roll forward each year for students to graduate between the different certificate levels and will not reset each September. Each student will start this September with the total number of achievement points earned since they started at the school putting them at the correct starting point within the tiered system.

As a school we know that our students do so many fantastic things and we want the momentum and successes to continue to build throughout their time at the school. This system will aid this, whilst supporting our school and the Earth Alliance team to make PHSG an even more sustainable environment.

Below summarises the new points required for each certificate for Years 7 to 11.



Assessment and reporting

Miss Roughton, Deputy Headteacher, has been reviewing our reporting system in a bid to make the information we provide more useful to students and parents. She details here how we will report student progress in our school reports system. This system will ensure that you are kept up to date with how your child is both progressing with their studies as well as informing you of their effort and behaviour.

We want ALL students to:

- Make progress and excel
- Know how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve
- Know that they can achieve
- Celebrate their progress, whatever their starting points

The first report that you will receive in October is an early indication of how well your child has settled into their studies and will provide parents with an idea of their child's effort and behaviour in lessons. The report includes a statement about how well your

child is progressing in each of their subjects and a number to indicate their approach to learning in each of their subjects.

Miss Roughton will give more detail in my next letter on the reporting process with regard the statements on the first report about attitude to learning. We hope that our refined system will give you a clear picture of how you child is progressing at school.

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.