



4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to start this week with a few calendar reminders. We have our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association AGM in school on Tuesday 15th October at 4pm. New members are very welcome. Please do contact the PTFA at phs-pta@tsatmail.org.uk if you would like to find out more.

We will be holding our year 11 parents' evenings across the next two weeks and parents will have received their invites to the online teacher meetings. If parents would like an appointment with a particular teacher and all the slots have gone, please email Mrs Will at Rachel.will@phsg.tsat.uk.

PHSG Alumni will be holding their AGM in school from 6pm on Thursday 17th October. Any 'old girls' who would like to attend would be very welcome. Ex-PHSG students may wish to contact the alumni association via their Facebook page at [\(20+\) Plymouth High School Association \(Old Girls\) | Facebook](#)

The last day for students is Thursday 17th October and this is a normal school day. The first day back for students after the half term break is Tuesday 5th November and this too is a normal school day. Friday 18th Oct and Monday 4th Nov are staff training days. I do hope families enjoy the longer half term break that we have introduced this year, the two week half term holiday will be a feature of our calendar from now on.

We will be holding our sixth form open evening on Thursday 7th November in school from 4.30pm, for more information about our sixth form, expectations and the courses we offer, please [click here](#).

Homework

Homework is an important part of the curriculum at PHSG and helps students to learn independently. It also re-enforces the learning completed during lessons and helps to develop good self-discipline and an effective work ethic.

The majority of our students make a real effort with their homework, and we are pleased with their attitude. We are grateful to our supportive parents who help to ensure that good routines are in place at home and ensure that homework is done regularly and to the best of their child's ability.

We do not operate a 'one size fits all' homework schedule, instead homework is set when it most effectively supports learning to ensure that it is purposeful.

Homework tasks will help our young people to;

- develop good learning habits and cultivate self-discipline
- become more skilful, independent and resilient learners
- be able to commit to memory core knowledge, vocabulary and concepts
- consolidate knowledge and skills
- extend and deepen understanding
- develop highly effective revision and rote learning skills

Homework in KS3

Each subject area will set homework either weekly or fortnightly in years 7, 8 and 9. In a bid to help students to plan their time outside the school day we have a homework timetable which includes the specific approach that subject areas will take. This can be found by clicking on the following link [Plymouth High School for Girls - Homework \(phsg.org\)](http://Plymouth High School for Girls - Homework (phsg.org))

All tutor groups have been given a copy of these timetables to display in their tutor bases.

Homework in KS4

Homework is set to ensure students make the requisite progress and deepen their learning by providing activities which contribute to them being engaged and enthusiastic about their courses.

Typical homework tasks (list not exhaustive)

- Rote learning (learning off by heart)
- Guided reading
- Structured worked examples
- Vocabulary development
- Applying knowledge and understanding (e.g: problem solving)
- Extended writing
- Topic review/consolidation of notes
- Research or preparation for learning in the next lesson (flipped learning)
- Consolidation of skills, knowledge or understanding
- Practising examination techniques
- Revision for an examination or assessment
- Completion of class assessment
- Extension of learning eg: reading or watching around a text or topic
- Acting on formative feedback (DIRT)
- Creative tasks to demonstrate skills, knowledge or understanding
- Giving written answers to questions

Homework in years 10 and 11 should take 40 to 60 minutes for each piece set.

Year 11 focus

Mr Law, Head of Year 11, is working with his year group and the tutor team to help our students to get the most out of their studies and to prepare carefully for their mock and real examinations. Mr Law wanted to send a brief reminder to parents about how they can support their child during this important preparation period. We know this can be a challenging time for both students and their families. Effective revision plays a crucial role in examination success, and your support is key to helping your child develop the right habits and strategies.

1. Create a Balanced Study Schedule:

Encourage a consistent routine with short, focused study sessions and regular breaks.

2. Practice Past Papers:

Help your child practise under timed conditions to get familiar with examination formats.

3. Teach to Learn:

Encourage your child to explain topics to you or others—it's a great way to reinforce understanding.

4. Prioritise Wellbeing:

Ensure your child gets enough sleep, eats well, and takes time to relax to manage stress.

If you have any concerns or would like further guidance, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to support both you and your child throughout this important time. Thank you for your continued support.

The countdown to mocks...



Health related surveys

The NHS England Youth Forum have created some surveys that they hope will enable them to capture information about your experiences using mental health services in England. Our purpose in collecting this information is to collaborate with NHS England Policy teams and Barnardo's to create long-lasting change within NHS mental health services. NHS England would be grateful if all our parents completed the surveys. Please click on the links below to take part.

Mental Health: <https://forms.office.com/e/63E1PhvURt>

New Hospitals: <https://forms.office.com/e/DV2G0DSJLk>

NHS Workforce: <https://forms.office.com/e/dMzHHs6JNT>

Transitions: <https://forms.office.com/e/prdh4U6czP>

Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Simon Underdown.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.