



11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to start my letter to you this week with details of some interesting and useful online revision resources that are being developed at school to support our students as they prepare for their public examinations in 2025.

PHSG Science website year 11 preparation

To support student's independent learning and revision in GCSE Science, the science team have created a wonderful department website, which gives students access to:

- Knowledge organisers
- Examination question practise
- Links to approved revision materials and simulations for the required practicals
- Information for the upcoming year 11 mocks

Mr Waite, Head of Science, and his team will continue to develop this resource. Further materials will be added, including past examination questions as well as videos to demonstrate successful revision strategies. Students should watch this space.

Students will need to log into the [PHSG Science Department](#) via their school email account and should then bookmark it for future easy access. Please do encourage your child to show you what is available. It really is a one stop shop for science GCSE preparation and has everything students will need as they work towards achieving their best possible grade. Students are targeting grade 7 to grade 9, so now is a great time to get serious about mock and real examination preparation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Waite.

PHSG Mathematics website year 11 preparation

Miss Freeman, Head of Mathematics, has created a fabulous resource to support year 11 in the run up to both their mocks and the real GCSEs. Students can find everything they need in their bid to work towards achieving their best grade. Students are generally aiming for a grade 7 to a grade 9 and working hard now can really pay off when it comes to the mocks and the real examinations.

Your child can show you the site as they will need to log in via their school email account, [click here](#) and then your child could bookmark it for future easy access.

Please do contact Miss Freeman if you have any questions regarding the mathematics website

Year 11 mock examination preparation

I do hope that parents and carers found yesterday's parents' evening informative and useful. Parents and carers may well have also booked appointments for next week, so as we prepare for the second parents evening here are a few tips:

Before attending, parents and carers may like to think about areas where you would like feedback. This could include academic progress, social skills or areas of improvement. Having a few specific questions ready, such as "How well does my child concentrate during independent study?" or "What can we do at home to support learning?" can be useful. It is important to get a well-rounded view of your child's progress.

Parents' evening is a chance to hear about your child's strengths and areas that may need improvement. Teachers really value being able to share with you what your child can do to maximise their successes as well as how they have been getting on in class and in their revision and mock preparation. Parents will no doubt want to support the strategies recommended by teachers and we thank you for what you do at home to help us help your child to be their best self.

The upcoming half term holiday is a great opportunity for students to enjoy some relaxation as well as setting aside time to prepare for the mock examinations.

The countdown to mocks...

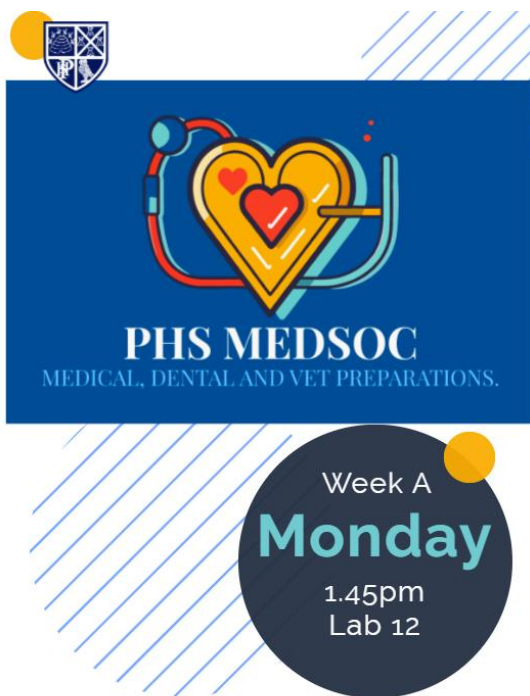


Sixth form examination preparation

Dr Doddrell is in the process of creating a website to help sixth form students find all they need for independent study and past paper practice. Students will need to log in using their school email accounts and the website can be found [here](#). Please do encourage your child to show you what is on offer. Students are encouraged to return to the site to access the documents that are being continually added and to speak with Dr Doddrell if there is something they would like added.

Doctors, Dentists and Vets

This year we have record numbers of applicants for places at university to study medicine, veterinary science or dentistry, and we are looking forward to helping our students preparing for those all-important interviews. During November we will be having our usual visit from a GP to run mock interviews alongside a host of mini practise sessions based around the most common questions.



For Year 12, the journey to their application deadline has truly begun. Our new MDV (medicine, dentistry veterinary) timetabled fortnightly lessons have begun and if your child has not yet registered for this and is wanting to attend, they run on Week B Tuesday period 3 and Week B Friday period 3. On top of these, other in school opportunities include speakers visiting school and the chance to join our student led MEDSOC. In the meantime, we will be working on university research, styles of course and beginning the UCAT admission test journey.

For the UCAT test we have for sale the official UCAT practise book for £10.40 via ParentPay (£17 RRP).

If parents have any questions, please contact Dr Doddrell at Charlie.doddrell@phsg.tsat.uk

Hummingbird rides again

Our super successful electric racing car, Hummingbird, will be competing at Goodwood Motor Circuit this Sunday in the F24 Greenpower International Final. The team are hoping to better last year's amazing result of 20th (out of 253 cars nationally)

For those wishing to track our progress the race starts at 3.20pm and clicking on the following link <https://speedhive.mylaps.com/> will give current information and updates every 15 seconds. We are hoping to be able to share pictures of the race in our half term newsletter which is due out next week. Good luck to our wonderful student racing and pit teams and thanks to Becton Dickinson for their financial support.

Parents of students in year 9

Once a child reaches year 9, they are legally able to update consent for the use of their images by Plymouth High, the wider Trust and other media outlets. Of course, you will most likely want to discuss this with your child so that they feel comfortable making their decision.

Students have been emailed a link to a Microsoft form to be completed by 17th October 2024.

[Here is the link to the MS form](#) for students to complete. More information about our privacy policy [can be found by clicking here](#)

If consent is given it may be withdrawn at any time by the student. To do this, students should contact the School Office on data@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk

Parent Pay and Buying food

As part of our commitment to ensuring that all students have access to a nutritious lunch, we want to remind you about topping up your parent pay accounts.

Our goal is to make sure that every student has a sufficient meal at lunchtime, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping your child understand the importance of managing their meal allowance effectively at both breaktime and lunchtime.

We would like to kindly remind those parents whose child has overspent and now in a negative balance on parent pay for food purchases, to clear the debt at their earliest convenience. This helps to ensure that all students are able to purchase food and drink when needed and ensures that an overspend does not accumulate.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and your continued support. If you have any questions or need assistance regarding the payment process, please feel free to contact the school.

Toilet refurbishment

As part of our ongoing site improvement programme, we are planning to refurbish the girls' toilet facilities in the Annex Building over the half term holidays. This will involve new sanitary ware and redecoration. I am hopeful that our student body will be pleased with the new facilities.

On a less encouraging note, I feel I must share with you that there have been some isolated incidents of graffiti and damage to some of our student toilet facilities. We have also found some food waste in the toilet areas. Along with the student council, we have been disappointed to see that some students have not been treating the facilities well. It is such a shame as the vast majority of our young people behave wonderfully all of the time. Indeed, as is always the case with any incidents of damage or poor behaviour at school, it will be a tiny minority of people spoiling the environment for others. We are keen to ensure that our young people make the right choices and we will be speaking with them about this at school. Our message is that it is not ok to spoil or litter the school environment and that everyone has a responsibility for saying it's not ok and to report any damage or inappropriate behaviour they may witness. We would be grateful if parents could support us by repeating this messaging at home. By working together, we can help maintain a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

Vaccinations

Kernow Health will be visiting PHSG on 2nd December to deliver the nasal flu vaccination to students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Lots of our parents and carers have already provided consent but if you have not, and you would like to, please visit [Plymouth High School for Girls - Administration Of Medicines \(phsg.org\)](http://plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org) where you can find details on how to consent. Please see the letter [here](#) from Kernow Health for more details.

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. Theatre trip, November 2025

Tickets for a trip to see The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe **next year** are now available on Parent Pay. Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis. We have been able to secure 50 tickets in the stalls available at a cost of £20 each. The date of the trip is Thursday 26th November **2025**, it will be a matinee performance and is open to all students in **current years 7 and 8**.

Reports

You will have received the first report for your daughter/son for this academic year. This initial report provides you with an early indication of how well your child has settled into their studies in terms of their effort and behaviour in lessons and in their approach to homework. Details explaining what is meant by the letters and numbers in the report are within the report documentation.

We would encourage parents and carers to talk to their child after each report in order to help them to reflect on their effort and behaviour and how this might be having a positive or negative impact on their progress.

Of course, giving encouragement and showing appreciation of your child's achievements, whether great or small, can really help to boost their confidence. Discussing organisation and time management skills at home can help to reduce feelings of being overwhelmed with projects, homework or revision. If you would like further ideas, maybe visit [the family lives website](#), it is a useful resource for parents and carers and includes information on a range of topics that can be challenging to deal with at home.

Reminders

The Parent, Teacher and Friends association will be holding their AGM in school at 4pm on Tuesday 15th October. If you would like to attend, please email ptfa@tsatrust.org.uk for further information.

The last day for students is Thursday 17th October and students return to school on Tuesday 5th November. Both of these days are normal school days. I wish you all a happy holiday.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.