



6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

## The run up to Christmas

We have a number of events running between now and the last day of term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. As a reminder, students will **finish at 12.45pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and the DHSB contract buses will arrive at 1pm. We are unable to change the times of other buses or the train service. Should parents or carers like us to supervise their child until 3.30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December, they are asked to contact their child's Head of Year.

## Christmas lunch

The Christmas lunches this year will happen over two separate days and are year group specific.

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for years 7, 8 and 9
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for years 10,11 and sixth form

At £2.80 per student for a school Christmas lunch, the meal includes a traditional roast (such as turkey or a vegetarian alternative), sides and a dessert. Students in receipt of a free school meal can choose to have the Christmas lunch on the day for their year group, this would use up their entitlement for the day. Please note that **A drink is not included in the price.**


**Main Course:** Roast turkey or a vegetarian option, including traditional trimmings like stuffing, roast potatoes, and vegetables (carrots, peas, or Brussels sprouts).

**Dessert: A festive choice such as:** Christmas pudding, mince pie, or yule log.

For those students who will not be having a Christmas lunch on the dates above, alternative food will be available from Bertha's at lunchtime, but there will be a reduced selection. Our breaktime choice will remain unaffected.

As part of our commitment to ensuring that all students have access to a nutritious lunch, we want to remind parents and carers about topping up parent pay accounts. You will remember that it is possible to set alerts for when a child's account dips below a limit that parents/carers set.

### **Carols and Mince Pies**

A reminder that our annual CAMP evening is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 5pm.  [Click here to purchase your tickets](#). If you would like to donate mince pies for the event, these can be delivered to reception for the attention of Miss Roughton. Many thanks indeed to all the parents who have already donated, we really appreciate your generosity.

### **Christmas jumper day**

Students are invited to add a Christmas jumper to their uniform on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December should they wish. If students would like to wear a Christmas jumper on this day, they do not need to wear their blazer or their school jumper, but all other school uniform rules will still apply. If students choose not to wear a Christmas jumper, full school uniform rules will apply. There are no donations attached to this event.

### **Awards ceremony**

We will be holding our annual awards ceremony after school on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. This is to present GCSE and A level certificates to year 11 and 13 from the 2023/24 academic year. The annual prizes will also be awarded. Parents of year 11 and 13 from 2023/24 have been contacted separately with details. We very much look forward to seeing you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Drama Festival**

Our drama festival will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. This is an in-school event for students. The Houses have been working on their drama pieces and we are

all very much looking forward to seeing what they have come up with. This is a non-uniform day and no financial charitable contribution is expected.

### **Carol service**

Students and staff will come together on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December to enjoy the annual Carol Service at our local Church. It is a full uniform day and an important event in our calendar. I am sure students will really enjoy it.

### **Food influencer**

PHSG students have been invited to take part in our Trust wide food influencer competition. We have shared this information with students and there are posters up in school, but as the deadline is fast approaching, I thought an 11<sup>th</sup> hour reminder would be appreciated.

To enter, students must submit their main meal dish with ingredients to [catering@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:catering@tsatrust.org.uk) on the official submission form (students have been sent this again today for convenience) by the **13<sup>th</sup> December**.

### **Fostering**

There is a successful Fostering care team in Plymouth who are a not-for-profit organisation and are supported by the city council. Anyone interested in fostering or knows someone who might be, will find the Foster for Plymouth website really interesting and helpful. Please see the link here [Foster for Plymouth - Plymouth City Council](#)

### **Reading**

The Day website is an excellent resource because it provides young people with engaging, age-appropriate news articles that promote critical thinking. It covers current events with clarity, helping students understand complex global issues while encouraging discussion and debate. The site also offers context for news stories, linking them to historical events and broader themes, making learning more meaningful. With balanced reporting and thought-provoking questions, The Day fosters media literacy and helps readers develop informed opinions. We encourage

our parents and carers to look at The Day with their children and to discuss the articles. The recommendations for this week are:

Chemistry [2024's Nobel Prize in Chemistry - The Day](#)

PE [Greatest Paralympics in history ends - The Day](#)

Business [Apple to launch phone that can think for us - The Day](#)

Psychology [Scientists probe 'Good Samaritan' instinct - The Day](#)

### **Year 11 mocks and lunchtime arrangements – a note from Mr Law**

Congratulations to both you and your children for successfully navigating the mock examination period! I know this can be an intense and draining time, and I want to commend the students for their hard work and perseverance. I hope they take pride in their efforts, tackling such a challenging period is no small feat.

It is now important for students to take some well-earned downtime to relax and recuperate at home. However, as they begin receiving feedback on their examinations, they should take the opportunity to reflect on their revision strategies: What worked well? What might they do differently next time?

This is also a great time to organise revision materials and study spaces, ensuring their resources are tidy and accessible for the preparation that lies ahead for their GCSEs in the summer. Having a bank of revision resources already to go can make a significant difference in reducing stress and improving efficiency.

On another note, I met with the students this week to outline expectations regarding going offsite at lunchtime, which will begin this coming Monday. Every consent form I have received has granted permission for the student to leave the school site at lunch. If you have not seen this form or have not yet given permission, please get in touch with me at your earliest convenience. Of course, students will not be permitted off site unless we have received your consent.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to guide the students through this pivotal stage in their education.

### **A level taster sessions**

In the new year, we will be running our A level taster sessions for year 11. The taster sessions provide year 11 with the opportunity to experience episodes of learning and

get vital information regarding the challenge and content of our A level subjects. We want to ensure that students are on the right courses from day one of their sixth form journey to best ensure they are making progress towards their best post-18 next steps. I know parents and carers of year 11 students are having conversations at home about next steps, but please do reach out to our sixth form team or look at the post 16 section of our website [here](#) if you would like further information or support. Mr Jenkins, Head of sixth form will be visiting all year 11 tutor groups next week to share some FAQs and every year 11 student will be interviewed about their next steps early in the new year. As a reminder, year 11 will receive their official mock grade results on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at the mock results event.

Very 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.**