



THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

07 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

## **Pulse involvement**

Miss Cook would like to congratulate 8L on winning the bi-weekly PULSE draw. All students are expected to do a mental health check-in via PULSE at least once every two weeks. For every tutor group where 100% of tutees engage in a bi-weekly period, the students are congratulated with house points and put into a draw to win the Tranquil Turtles. As a result of winning the draw, 8L were each awarded with their own Tranquil Turtle (a small desk pet), and Crush, a large teddy and the leader of the Tranquil Turtles, will now sit in their form room for some well-deserved cuddles.

Please encourage your child(ren) to check-in via PULSE to allow the school to remain informed on their mental health and to ensure their tutor group has the chance of winning the Tranquil Turtles.

## **Electric car racing team**

The season for the Formula 24 Racing Team here at PHSG has begun. Old members have been invited to a meeting next week to help map out our season and prepare for the 122 new members!! After half-term, the new members of the team will also be invited to their first meeting and so will need to keep an eye on their emails to ensure they don't miss anything.

Miss Cook and Mr Thackray are very excited about the upcoming season, even if a little bit overwhelmed by the number of applicants. We look forward to working with your child(ren) to ensure we have a super successful season.



## **Reading update**

Reading enriches knowledge, enhances empathy, improves communication, stimulates imagination, boosts critical thinking, reduces stress, and fosters lifelong learning.

You may be interested to know that staff at PHSG are enjoying the reading selections too and we encourage parents to click on the links in my letters and take a look. Many of the articles ask a question at the end and give possible responses for students (and parents) to think about. The Day could be seen as a crucial resource for our young people at a time when they may be consuming stories from a wide variety of (often unverified) sources online. All The day stories are verified and are free from political bias and they are specifically written to give a balanced view. There are always a range of current affairs stories which parents and carers might find interesting to use as a starting point for a discussion at home. For example, students can read about what the new US President is doing and how recent evidence is changing how people are looking at the Letby case.

Since we started using The Day, there have been nearly 2000 articles read by our students. Well done to everyone who is making good use of these opportunities.

Try these recommended reads from The Day, they are most definitely worth a look.

Geography [Storms - a wild start to winter](#)

Music [How does the K-pop industry work?](#)

Sociology [Experts say, limit children to three presents](#)

## **Year 11 and 13 Students and Parents. SUMMER EXAMINATIONS**

This week, you and your child will have received their official statement of entry for the Summer 2025 external examination series for GCSE and A' Level qualifications.

Please advise your child to check that all the details on the statement of entry are correct and report any issues to our examinations officer, Mrs James.

Some students may have clashes i.e. two examinations at the same time on their statement of entry. We will be looking at this and organising the examinations to take place on the same day but at alternative times and we will be in touch with individual students who this affects after February half term. In brief, in the instance of two or more examinations in one session we will:

- Decide the order in which to hold the examinations.
- Give candidates a short supervised break between papers within a session.
- If the total time of two or more examinations in one session is more than three hours including extra time and/or supervised rest breaks, students may conduct an examination in a later or earlier session within the same day. “Clash” candidates must be supervised between papers.

All of these examinations will take place under JCQ regulations and your child will be familiar with the regulations from attending their mocks, which are held under the same conditions. To help you and your child to navigate the examinations series, we have also sent you a booklet containing key information about the examination process.

You will know that should a candidate fail to follow the examination rules, it could result in their disqualification from one or all of the subjects for which they are sitting examinations.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school Examinations Officer, your child’s tutor or their Head of Year.

### **Promoting anti-bullying**

Our anti-bullying ambassadors are currently working towards their Diversity and Inclusion Badge. As part of that campaign, we are inviting students to come in wearing bright socks or a bright hair accessory (not coloured hair) on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The idea is that sock colours are inspired by the colours in the PRIDE flag. This is to celebrate the fact that PHSG is an inclusive school. It is important to us that everyone feels welcome here, regardless of background, ethnicity, beliefs or how they identify.

Please see our latest news [here](#)

## **Dates for your diary**

### **All years**

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February, Frozen Jr school production

14<sup>th</sup> February Bright socks day and last day of the half term, normal school day

24<sup>th</sup> February First day back after the holiday, normal school day

### **Year 12**

27<sup>th</sup> February Year 12 parents evening, online via appointment booking

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "S. Underdown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Simon Underdown

Headteacher.