



THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have reached out to us over the last few days. The outpouring of kindness and thoughtful messages from our wider school community following our desperately sad news last week have been so gratefully received and very much appreciated.

## Congratulations to our amazing Biologists



We are thrilled to share the outstanding achievements of our sixth form biologists in the prestigious **British Biology Olympiad**. This highly challenging national competition, designed to test students' knowledge beyond the A level curriculum, saw 16 of our talented Year 12 and 13 students take on its demanding assessments last month.

Special congratulations go to **Holly W, who achieved a Gold Award, placing her among the top 5% of entrants nationally**—an incredible accomplishment! Indeed, many of our students performed well, earning Commendations and High Commendations for their impressive results.

Competitions like this exemplify the spirit of our school motto: *For life, not school, we learn*. These ambitious and curious students sought out this challenge, not just for accolades but for the sheer joy of learning and pushing their intellectual boundaries.



This powerful mindset will serve them well in all their future endeavours. A huge well done to Holly and all our budding biologists for their dedication and enthusiasm.

## **Theatre trip, Woman in Black**

We have been able to secure 45 tickets for a matinee performance of 'The Woman in Black' on 6 November 2025. Tickets are priced at £20 and are for seats in the stalls. The trip is open to students in current years 9, 10 and 12, particularly those who love a good scare! Parents can buy tickets via ParentPay.

## **Reading**

I do hope you have been enjoying our 'The Day' recommended reads.

Reading broadens our perspective, deepens our understanding, and keeps us updated on global events. Why not challenge your thinking and take a look at the recommendations below? Please do encourage your child to dip into the selections below. They have also been sent the links.

History [Millions gripped by 1945 teen journal - The Day](#)

Politics [The 2025 world agenda - The Day](#)

Psychology [Endless choice is ruining us, experts warn - The Day](#)

English [Eight books that could transform your life - The Day](#)

Geography <https://theday.co.uk/six-secrets-of-britains-happiest-town/>

RE [Head hails ruling backing prayer ban - The Day](#)

## **Parent Pay and Buying food**

As part of our commitment to ensuring that all students have access to nutritious food in school, we would like to remind parents and carers about the need to keep ParentPay accounts topped up.

We would like every student to be able to purchase their food of choice and we appreciate your cooperation in helping your child understand the importance of managing their meal allowance effectively at both breaktime and lunchtime.

Please be kind enough to check the food account balance for your child to ensure that it is in credit and that they have sufficient funds to make the purchases you deem necessary. Accounts that are not sufficiently in credit could lead to a child being unable to make a purchase. Remember, you can set alerts on the ParentPay app to alert you when the account has dipped below a the figure you set.

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding the payment process, please feel free to contact the school.

## **Year 12 parents' evening**

Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the postponement of the parents' evening originally scheduled for Thursday, 27th February 2025. We have now rescheduled this parents' evening, and you will receive a letter in the coming week to invite you to make an appointment for the revised date. Unfortunately, we are unable to transfer the appointments made for the 27th February to the new date. Therefore, the entire booking process will need to be repeated. Please accept our apologies for this. The new parents evening will take place on **Thursday 3rd April 2025** and the meetings will be offered **from 15:45 until 18:00**.

## **Bedrock parent support years 7, 8 and 9**

To strengthen those all-important home-school links and ensure that everyone is invested in our literacy strategy, parents of students in years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to attend the online Bedrock Parents' webinar on **Thursday 20th March (7pm to 8pm)**.

The hour-long webinar is designed to share:

- Insights on why language is vital to academic success
- Essential takeaways to equip parents to play an active role in language development at home
- A demo of Bedrock's platform and the parents' portal

[Click here to book your place on the Bedrock Webinar](#)

## **School website latest news page.**

This is where we celebrate student achievements and promote school related news. Please click [here](#) to read our latest news.

## **Dates for your diary**

### **All years**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March PTFA meeting online 6pm to 7pm. Please contact the PTFA at [pta@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk](mailto:pta@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk) if you would like the link to attend the meeting.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March rescheduled World Book Day

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April Gym and Dance Festival, this is non-contributory mufti day. Normal school day timings. Last day of the Spring term.

## **Year 8**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March year 8 parents evening online

Best Wishes



**Simon Underdown**  
**Headteacher**