



THINKING
SCHOOLS
ACADEMY TRUST

Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Year 11 and 13 Celebrations

Year 11 and 13 enjoyed their celebration days this week, having fun on the bouncy castle and spending time together as a year group. We wish them well with their upcoming public examinations and thank our wonderfully supportive parents and carers for all the help and guidance you provide at home. As a reminder to Year 11 parents and carers, information on our sixth form, including entry requirements, can be found [here](#).

Year 10 Revision Evening

At our Year 10 revision evening last night, we shared our intention to use 'seen' tasks to help students bridge the gap between the Year 10 and Year 11 mocks. These tasks will be question papers issued to students after the Year 10 mocks and before the summer holiday. Curriculum leaders are busy selecting the most appropriate questions to help students focus on key information for Year 11. The same papers given to students before the end of term will be sat in school in Year 11 before the October half-term break. Students will be encouraged to treat these papers as focused revision exercises. It is not possible to cheat, so please feel free to help as much as you can and encourage your child to use online curriculum resources. We have already trialled 'seen' tasks in PE and RS with great success. More information will be provided after the May half-term holiday.

Learners self help

What should they do when they don't know what to do? This is one of the most powerful questions a learner can ask themselves. At school, we often talk about how



learning happens when things feel uncertain or challenging. Moments of confusion are not signs of failure. They are opportunities to pause, reflect, and choose a strategy.

We are encouraging students to think about what they do when they feel stuck. Do they reread the question? Do they try a different method? Do they look for patterns or ask a classmate to help explain? These strategies show persistence, flexible thinking, and a willingness to keep learning even when the path forward is not immediately clear.

At home, you might want to ask your child: *What do you usually do when you're stuck on a problem or not sure where to begin?*

Together, you could discuss how approaching difficulties with curiosity and calm helps build confidence and independence. By reflecting on how we respond to uncertainty, we develop habits that support us not just in school, but in all aspects of life. After all, *for life, not school, we learn.*

SharePoint PHSG Revision Websites

We are pleased to inform you about our dedicated SharePoint websites for several subjects to support your child's GCSE and A level revision. These subjects include Mathematics, Science, Design Technology (DT), History, Physical Education (PE), and Music. Each site provides valuable resources, interactive materials, and revision guides to enhance your child's learning experience. We encourage you to explore these websites with your child and take advantage of the wealth of information available to help them succeed in their studies. Your GCSE or A level child will have the necessary links to be able to show you the sites. Of course, revision materials are available on Teams for all subject areas.

Supporting Our Young People

As girls grow and their bodies change, they may become more susceptible to headaches and stomach or back pains due to their menstrual cycle. If your daughter occasionally suffers from these symptoms, it would be helpful for them to carry paracetamol to self-medicate. We recommend bringing only two tablets, rather than a full box, to manage headaches or particularly bad menstrual cycles.

If your child needs to self-medicate with paracetamol more regularly, we suggest communicating with A01 so that these medications can be stored securely and issued when needed. Additionally, if your child has new shoes and might get blisters, it would be beneficial for them to bring plasters to school. Whilst we do have plasters available, it is often better for students to apply them themselves when needed. Encouraging self-reliance in these situations is helpful.

We understand that girls may occasionally need sanitary products unexpectedly. We have a small stock of products available in our toilet areas, main reception, and A01. However, it is usually nicer for students to have what they need with them, perhaps having spares in their bag just in case.

Encouraging Reading

It is really important to encourage our young people to develop good reading habits. The following tips can help:

1. Set aside dedicated time.
2. Choose diverse genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry).
3. Create a reading list or goals.
4. Find a comfortable reading space.
5. Eliminate distractions (turn off notifications).
6. Join a book club or discussion group.
7. Explore different formats (e-books, audiobooks).

Below are our weekly reading suggestions. The articles we recommend are always linked to subjects taught in school and come from The Day publication. They are well worth a look:

German [Am Sonntag bekommt die Erde einen zweiten Mond - The Day %](#)

Psychology [Review of the year: animal magnetism - The Day](#)

Mathematics [Maths theory holds the key to nature's beauty - The Day](#)

Survey Time

Thank you to those parents who completed last week's survey on school life. Your thoughts and feedback are invaluable to us, and we would greatly appreciate your participation. Your responses help us identify areas for improvement and celebrate our successes. Simply click on the link below and complete the survey at your convenience:

Week 2: Attendance

Link [here](#)

If you missed previous surveys, you can find them here:

Week 1: School Life

Link [here](#)

Thank you in advance for your time and valuable feedback. Together, we can make our school an even better place for our students.

Pre-loved Uniform - PTFA

We have many families who make use of our pre-loved uniform sales, and we would be grateful for any donations of blazers and skirts. If you have pre-loved uniform that you would like to donate, please pass it into reception. It's great if donations are washed and ready to wear. Our super PTFA team manages the pre-loved uniform and is always keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in finding out more about the PTFA, please email them pta@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher

Latest news

Please [click here for our latest news](#). It's a great place to see what our students have been up to.

Dates for your diary

All years

Friday 23rd May, last day of term

Monday 2nd June, first day back after the holiday

Year 7

Thursday the 5th and 12th June Year 7 parents evening – online via appointment. Links will be sent out in due course

Years 7,8 and 9

Week beginning Monday 19th May, KS3 end year written examinations