



THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

## **Plymouth High School for Girls Awarded National Thinking School Status**

I am delighted to announce that Plymouth High School for Girls has been nationally recognised as a Thinking School by the University of Exeter. This accreditation celebrates our efforts to help students think deeply and independently through visual tools, metacognitive strategies, rich questioning, and the development of positive learning habits.

We are grateful to our staff, governors, students, and families for supporting us on this journey. While accreditation marks a milestone, our commitment to thinking and learning continues to evolve and grow. It is a powerful reflection of our motto: "For life, not school, we learn," and our ongoing dedication to helping every student thrive as a learner and as a person.

## **Electric racing car success**

We now have 2 electric racing cars and continue to enjoy success at national competitions. Click [here](#) to find out just how well our team performed last weekend. As always, a huge thank you to our fabulous sponsors, Becton Dickinson, and to our team of staff, parents, PTFA members and Governors who so wonderfully support us.

## **ARBOR for Parents**

Starting Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, we will be launching the Arbor App for parents. This app is designed to enhance communication between the school and parents, making it easier for you to stay informed and engaged with your child's education.



## Benefits of the Arbor App:

1. Improved Communication: Receive important updates and messages directly from the school.
2. Access to Student Information: Check your child's attendance, behaviour, and academic progress in real-time.
3. Report Cards: Access your child's report cards and academic records anytime.
4. User-Friendly Interface: Navigate the app easily for a smooth experience.
5. Contact Details: Update your contact information directly in the app.
6. Examination Information: Access statements of entries and timetables for Year 11 and Year 13 students.

To get started, download the Arbor App from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play Store (Android), login details will be sent next week. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the school office.

## GWR Update

Parents and carers whose children use the train should be aware that timetables will change this Sunday, 18th May, as part of the twice-yearly nationwide updates. All amendments are now in journey planners and online systems, including [www.gwr.com](http://www.gwr.com) and National Rail Enquiries. Please double-check your journey before traveling as there may be minor changes in timings.

## Reading

Students have been sent links to suggested reading articles in The Day publication. All PHSG students have access to these articles and may enjoy sharing what they have learned with you. This week's articles are linked to English, Physics, and RE.

## Survey Time

Thank you to those who completed last week's survey on school life. Your feedback is invaluable, and some early results were shared with Governors this week. Your responses help us identify areas for improvement and celebrate our successes. Please complete the survey at your convenience using the link below:

## Week 3: Extra curricular Clubs

Link [here](#)

Previous surveys if you have missed them

### **Week 1: School Life**

Link [here](#)

### **Week 2: Attendance**

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.

### **School Calendar Update**

We have added the term dates for 2026/2027 to our school calendar. You can access the dates [here](#)

### **School Environment**

We are excited to begin a new project to enhance our school environment—and we need your help. We are creating flower beds using recycled tyres to bring more colour and life to our school grounds. We kindly ask for donations of the following items:

- Pond liners (to line the tyres)
- Soil or compost
- Flowers or flowering plants

Improving our school environment isn't just about aesthetics—it's about creating a space where our young people can feel proud, calm, and connected to nature. Studies show that greener school grounds can boost mood, encourage outdoor learning, and foster a sense of responsibility and teamwork among students. If you are able to donate any of the items listed above, please bring them to the school and ask for a member of our site team. Every little bit helps.

Thank you for supporting our school and helping us grow—literally and figuratively.

### **UKBC Biology Challenge**



We are proud to congratulate eight of our Year 9 and 10 students who recently took part in the prestigious UKBC Biology Challenge, run in partnership with the Royal Society of Biology and the University of Warwick. Over 42,000 students across the UK participated, and a special mention goes to Ruby P in 9PIC, who scored an outstanding

87% overall, securing a Silver Award and placing her in the top 15% nationally – an impressive achievement.

This national competition encourages students to explore their curiosity for the natural world beyond the classroom, with two thought-provoking test papers covering everything from cells and ecosystems to current biological breakthroughs. Our students demonstrated exceptional critical thinking and problem-solving under pressure.

Competitions like this reflect our school's belief that "For life, not school, we learn." We are delighted to see our students embracing opportunities that develop both their intellect and their thinking dispositions. Well done to all involved.

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

#### For all years

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May last day of school

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June First day back after the May break

#### Year 7

5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June parents' evening online