

THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST



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THINKING  
SCHOOL

# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that you enjoyed a good half term.

Our year 11 and 13 students continue to perform wonderfully in their examinations, many are at least halfway through by now and the end is getting nearer. We are so proud of them.

## Thinking Maps – Making Thinking Visible

One of the ways we help students become more confident, independent learners is by using Thinking Maps, a set of eight visual tools designed to represent different types of thinking. From **comparing** ideas with a Double Bubble Map to **sequencing** events with a Flow Map, each one provides a clear structure for organising thoughts and tackling complex tasks.

These maps do more than just help with classroom activities. They are part of our wider commitment to making thinking visible, allowing students to lay out their ideas in a way that reveals both what they know and how they're thinking. This not only strengthens understanding but also supports metacognition (the ability to reflect on how best to approach learning, problem-solving, and revision).

We believe that when students can visualise their thinking, they develop skills that go far beyond examination success. They learn how to plan, reason, analyse and evaluate, skills that prepare them not just for the next lesson or assessment, but for the rest of their lives. After all, *for life, not school, we learn*.

Thinking Maps are a familiar part of how our students learn across subjects, and it's been inspiring to see how they are helping students take ownership of their thinking.



## A reminder about PHSG moving away from SiMs

Parents and carers will remember that we migrated over to Arbor (from SiMs) before Easter, meaning that we no longer use SiMs. Arbor does what SiMs did and there is an Arbor app which parents and carers can download from an App store. A link to the Arbor app can also be found on our website [here](#).

## Temporary bus changes

We have been informed that from 0600 on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 until 2200 on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 there is going to be a diversion on the 103 service from Plympton to PHSG. This means that Wolverwood Road will be closed, the 103 Bus will be going via Newpark Road and Yeomans Way in both directions and so there might be some extended journey times. Further information can be found on the City Bus app and their website.

## Trust staff training

I thought I would remind parents about the calendared Trust wide staff training on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon. School will finish for students at 12.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June, unless they are attending a scheduled examination. We will not be able to arrange for bus and train times to be changed. If you would like your child to be supervised in school until 3.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June, please contact their Head of Year.

## Parent survey

Over the last few weeks we have collected your views on various aspects of the school. Your thoughts and feedback are invaluable to us, and we greatly appreciate your participation. Your responses will help us identify areas for improvement and celebrate our successes.

Simply click on the link below and complete the survey at your convenience.

Week 5: Home School communication

Link <https://forms.office.com/e/0LPRHZYUxG>

Previous surveys if you have missed them

Survey Schedule:

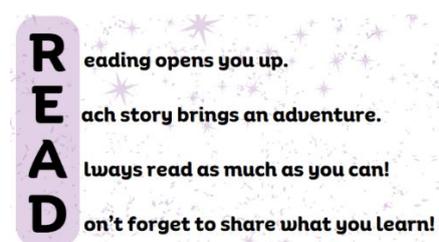
Week 1: School Life - Link <https://forms.office.com/e/GSk88szGAu>

Week 2: Attendance - Link <https://forms.office.com/e/DS8GmfyKHr>

Week 3: Extra curricular Clubs - Link <https://forms.office.com/e/4HE6RXDFye>

Week 4: Thinking Tools - Link <https://forms.office.com/e/1sRnXSyvJC>

Thank you in advance for your time and valuable feedback.



Here are this week's reading suggestions. As always, they relate to subjects that we teach in school. Your child has been sent the same links. Parents and carers may like to encourage their child to take a look. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement as we promote the power and importance of reading.

Art [World's most valuable artwork covered in soup - The Day](#)

Technology [The cheesecake made with a 3D printer - The Day](#)

Chemistry [Welcome to the planet where it rains Iron – The Day](#)

## Year 10 seen tasks

Parents and carers of year 10 students will remember that before half term I set out our 'seen task' strategy. The 'seen tasks' will be a mixture of examination style questions, essay titles, things to learn and tasks that are designed specifically to support students in their preparation for the year 11 mocks. There will be one for each subject that has a written component to the GCSE examination. Year 11 mocks start in late November.

The 'seen task' papers will be given to students after the year 10 mock and before the summer break. The idea is that students work on the papers out of lessons learning key facts and making sure they can answer the questions. Then, before the October half term, students will sit the same 'seen task' paper in class. This is what makes it a 'seen task', as the students will have 'seen' the paper before they sit it.

The idea is that through the 'seen task' papers we can help students to structure and focus their preparation for a strong start to year 11 and make successful preparations

for the year 11 mocks. There will be a 'pass' mark for each paper. The pass mark is not a GCSE grade, but represents a minimum level that the curriculum leader feels is necessary for ongoing success.

Parents and carers should feel free to support their child in any way they see fit. Strong preparation for the year 11 mock will result in higher performance in the mocks which is very likely to help students achieve their best in the final GCSE examinations. Of course, in 12 months time, year 10 will be sitting their actual GCSE examinations.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown**  
**Headteacher**

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

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

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **All years**

18<sup>th</sup> June – staff training afternoon. Students finish at 12.30pm

#### **Year 7**

12<sup>th</sup> June – second year 7 parents' evening via online appointments

#### **Year 10**

Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> June – start of year 10 mocks (written papers)