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Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

4th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

The last few days at school have been really busy. Year 13 and year 11 had their prom evenings. The students were such a credit to themselves, their families and our school. They enjoyed each other's company, behaved impeccably and had a great time, we were so proud of them. Proms are also an opportunity to celebrate all that hard work and dedication that goes into preparing for challenging assessments and for marking the start of their next adventure. We wish our year 11 and 13 students the very best of luck with whatever they choose to do next. As a reminder, results days are: A level Thursday 14th August and GCSE on Thursday 21st August. Results will be available from 8.30am at school. Any student who needs someone else to collect their results on their behalf should contact our examinations officer, Mrs James, ahead of results day.

We welcomed our new year 7 students into school yesterday to help them feel settled and ready for their September start. They look to be a super year group, and we are very much looking forward to getting to know them. Our Junior House Captains did a superb job of supporting our newest students, showing them around school, answering questions and generally making them all feel at home. The day finished with a chance for us to meet the parents and carers of new year 7, and to welcome them to the Plymouth High family.

Final preparations for curriculum enrichment week have been going well and we are all looking forward to doing something a bit different with our amazing students. I am sure that everyone will enjoy their activities.



PTFA and Governors

I thought I would remind all our parents and carers that you are very welcome to join the PTFA in their wonderful work supporting the school and raising money. If you would like to find out more, please contact them on pta@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk. The PTFA will be holding their AGM in school on 9th September from 5pm to 6pm. All parents and carers are welcome at the AGM. If you are interested in joining us, please let the PTFA know so that they have an idea of numbers. In the autumn term, we will be inviting applications for the role of Parent Governor for those interested in joining our School Governing Body. Further details, including how to apply, will be shared on our school website and social media pages in the new term. Our chair of Governors is Mrs Julie Johns and our vice chair is Mr Colin Wells.

New catering company

Parents and carers will know that from September 2025, we will be welcoming in our new catering company, Impact food group operating as Innovate. Student leaders from across the Trust played a significant and integral role in deciding which company would win the contract and we are very much looking forward to working with them. Innovate are committed to high quality, nutritious and good value food, so we hope everyone will enjoy their meals at school.

The Importance of Reading

Reading is a fundamental skill that not only enhances academic performance but also fosters creativity, empathy, and critical thinking. Encouraging your child to read regularly can significantly contribute to their overall development and success. I hope that you have enjoyed our recommendations over the course of the year.

Survey Results

In June, we conducted a survey with our Year 7, 8, and 9 students to understand their reading habits and preferences. Here are some key findings:

71% said they read for pleasure with 81% saying that they read either every day or weekly. Nearly half of our students say that they read for at least 30 mins each day. Reading for pleasure for 30 mins each day is a good target to try and reach for. Our figures are above the national averages, but they indicate that a number of our young people do not read for pleasure. Anything that parents can do at home to promote

the importance and value of reading for pleasure will make a positive difference to their child's wellbeing and their ability to access academic study and information generally.

To help our parents support reading whilst their child is on holiday, we thought a few ideas on how to encourage this might be helpful.

- Read about the places you visit: This can enhance understanding and appreciation of the destination.
- Find out more about the cities you are visiting: Exploring the history and culture through books can make the trip more enriching.
- Try a new genre: This can help us to discover new interests and expand our reading horizons. Encouraging your child to read a variety of genres can help them to discover new interests and develop a lifelong love of reading.
- Explore a new author: Experiencing different writing styles and perspectives can be very beneficial.

Biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, and diaries can be really interesting because they provide the most valuable lessons in life. People who write their autobiographies usually have an interesting story to tell about the trials and tribulations of their own lives. To access the day, you may need to click on the following link first (please include the link that Donna provided previously – it went in one of the recent letters)

PSHE [I was bullied at school, says Lewis Hamilton - The Day](#)

German <https://theday.co.uk/am-sonntag-bekommt-die-erde-einen-zweiten-mond/>

Drama [Twelfth Night - The Day](#)

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a reading culture at home. We hope you and your child have a wonderful summer filled with exciting reading adventures!

A note from Plymouth City Council.

Please see below for a note that the local council has asked all schools to share with parents.

Help shape a bolder, stronger Plymouth

Local people in Plymouth are being invited to help shape the future of their city, as part of the Council's work to develop a proposal for local government reorganisation (LGR).

Local government across the country is under immense financial pressure and the government has announced that it wishes to move to a system of unitary councils by removing the two-tier current county/district model that exists in Devon. There is no magic money tree. Without bold reform, councils will struggle to sustain the services people rely on. That's why Plymouth is taking action – not just to survive, but to thrive.

Our proposal is for a modest boundary extension to embrace the 13 closest parishes to the city offers a unique opportunity to combine the best of both worlds – we want to create a vibrant city set within a beautiful rural environment of thriving towns and communities, with the highest quality of services delivered across the whole area.

But, for us LGR is about more than redrawing boundaries. It's about securing the future of Plymouth. **It's about building a Plymouth where our children can afford to live, where jobs are plentiful, where neighbourhoods are vibrant, and where services are modern, accessible, and resilient so it can respond to the challenges of the future.**

Over the past few weeks, Plymouth City Council has been listening to communities in the South Hams. Now, it's time for residents within the city to have their say. Five engagement events will take place across Plymouth in the coming weeks, alongside an online survey open to all.

Get Involved:

- Sign up to receive the latest information about LGR here: www.plymouth.gov.uk/lgr
- Attend one of five engagement events happening across Plymouth – see the dates on our website above for more information and to register to attend.
- Take the online survey and help shape the future of your city before **3 August 2025**. Go to: [Have Your Say Today - Plymouth Survey - Big Community Conversation](#)

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

15th July – Sports day

21st to 23rd July – Please be reminded that DHSB Contract Buses will not be running on these days.

23rd July – Last day of term. Early finish for students (12.30pm). If you would like your child to be supervised until 3.30pm on 23rd July, please contact their Head of Year