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Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year and welcome to the parents and carers of our new students. I hope you all managed to enjoy some time with friends and family over the summer. Just as in previous years, I will continue to write to parents and carers each Friday with a round up and important reminders.

I do hope your child or children have enjoyed the first few days of term and have already started to get into the swing of the new school year. It has been such a pleasure to see our students after the long summer break and it's always an exciting time when we welcome our new year 7 and 12 students.

You may have seen our GCSE and A level press releases over the summer break celebrating the achievements and successes of our hard-working public examination groups. Please click [here](#) for the GCSE story and [here](#) for the A level story. I suspect our new year 11 and 13 students have already started thinking about what it will be like for them, and I wish them luck.

In this first letter of the year, I thought a bit of housekeeping might be helpful.

Reminders

Each student has a tutor, and this person is usually your first point of contact should you have a question or query. Tutors can either deal with queries you raise or find the colleague in school best placed to help. Your child will know the name of their tutor so please do make sure you are familiar with who it is.

We have welcomed our new food service contractor, Innovate, to Plymouth High for the start of the new year. I am very pleased with what they have produced and served



to our students; it very much feels like an improvement in quality. You can find out more about the food service on our website [here](#)

Arbor is our new management information service platform. Parents can use the Arbor app to access information about their child. Please see [here](#) on our website.

Attendance is super important, and we are always grateful to our wonderful parent/carer body for supporting us so well with maintaining excellent student attendance at Plymouth High. We all know that students benefit hugely from being in school all the time, educationally and socially, so thank you in advance for your ongoing support. Our ambition is that over the course of a year all students aim for their very highest attendance. Attendance at 96% or more really does give each young person the best possible chance to be successful. For perspective, this would mean that between now and Christmas each student would only miss 0,1 or 2 days of school. Every term and every year we always have many young people who manage 100% attendance which really does give them an advantage. If you would like any support with improving your child's attendance, please do contact our attendance improvement coordinator Mrs Moody absence@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk. Thank you for knowing and understanding that I am not permitted to authorise holiday leave in term time.

In conjunction with our superb governing body, we have introduced a revised positive behaviours policy for this new academic year. The new system is designed to help students *recognise and correct* before they incur a sanction. For a small transgression (we rarely have anything other than small transgressions at Plymouth High) a student will be given a 'C2' by a member of staff. If a student collects 3 'C2's in a half term, then they will receive an after school detention with advance notice given to parents. After school detentions run for 1 hour and students are expected to bring some reading or work to do and remain in silence for the whole period. We sincerely hope this system will encourage students to reflect on any small mistakes made without ever having a detention. Full details of our behaviour policy can be found [here](#), but scroll down to page 26 to see the [C system outline](#).

School lottery

Our wonderful and hardworking PTFA have decided that they would like to trial the use of School Lottery to raise funds for school. Whilst the PTFA are not intending to specifically promote gambling, they have found that many schools have successfully used School Lottery to raise funds for school for those little extra things. Parents can find out more about School Lottery here. Of course, there would be no expectation that parents buy lottery tickets, and the option to contribute to school via the usual

methods to PTFA remain open. Should parents decide to take part in school lottery, some of the cost of each 'ticket' does go to School Lottery to cover things like administration costs. However, there are prizes, just like in any lottery, and a share of the ticket money comes directly to school. Should you wish to get involved, please [click here](#)

Roller Disco

Our super PTFA are in the process of organising a roller disco for the 25th October. Please see the [news article](#) for details. Parents/Carers can sign their child up using [this link](#).

Temporary outgoing number

This year we have upgraded our new phone system in the school and have a temporary outgoing phone number whilst we wait for BT to apply a change to the system.

Calling the school on our main number (033 33 602230) will work as usual. However, when you receive a call from the school, it will come up with 033 03 830916. Through testing we have noticed that this comes up as Suspected Spam on some mobile phones, as it is an unfamiliar number.

If you do receive a call from 033 03 830916 please note this is from the school and isn't spam. We have been informed by BT that our original phone number will migrate over on the 12th September.

Clubs and teams

Please do take a moment to have a look at our [PE clubs and teams](#) and discuss with your child whether they might like to get involved.

Road disruption – advance warning

Wales and West Utilities are planning some upcoming replacement gas works in the North Hill, Mutley area of Plymouth. This is all part of their multi-million-pound, 30-year, gas pipe investment programme across Wales and the Southwest of England. As part of this programme, old metal gas pipes within 30 metres of buildings are being

upgraded to new, long-lasting plastic ones. Work will be in three phases from 6 October to 4 November.

Phase 1 :

- Two-way traffic lights on North Hill and partial closure of the bus stop outside Plymouth Girls High School
- Alton Road will be closed at the junction with North Hill
- Hill Park Crescent Lane will be closed at the junction with North Hill

Phase 2:

- Bus stop suspension on North Hill Alton Place. No right hand turn from North Hill onto Alexandra Road and Greenbank Avenue.
- Alton Place will be closed from the junction with North Hill to 3 Alton Place
- Chester Place will be closed at the junction with North Hill

Phase 3:

- Road closure at Chester Place at the junction with North Hill
- Multiway traffic lights on Mutley Plain

Diversion routes will be clearly signposted, and motorists are advised to allow extra time for travel. Times, dates and durations are subject to change.

This will impact on where parents can drop and collect their child from outside the school gates and the locations of bus stops may also change during this period. Please ensure that you are aware of when the works will start and any changes that may need to be factored in with regards to both your or your child's daily routines take account of these works and diversions.

Best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher

Latest news

We publish our latest news on our website [here](#), so perhaps pop in now and again to get a flavour of what's going on.

Dates for your diary

All year groups

9th September, PTFA AGM at the school, 5pm start.

18th September, open evening for year 7 entry 2026 and beyond. Start time 4pm in school.

17th October, non-pupil day (staff training). Start of the holidays for students.

Year 10

24th September, year 10 expectations evening in school, 4.30pm start.

Year 11

9th and 16th October, year 11 parents evening online by appointment

Year 12

10th September year 12 expectations evening 4pm start in school, 4.30pm start.