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SCHOOL

Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

12 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

We have had a wonderful start to the year. Our students have really stepped up to the mark and made a super effort to be their best selves. I am delighted with how smartly they are wearing their uniform, how kindly they have been getting on with each other and the focus they have shown in their lessons. My thanks to our fabulous parent and carer body for so positively supporting PHSG values and expectations, having you all on board makes such a difference and is always so appreciated by staff, thank you.

Below you will see a link to information that has recently been added to our website. Often, when we post new and important information, I will include links in my letter in an attempt to make it as easy as possible for you to access it. I hope you find this process useful and time saving. Thank you in advance for taking some time to look through.

[Parental Support and Resources – Online safety guide \(conspiracy theories\)](#)

Open evening 18th September

It is our main open evening after school on Thursday 18th September. If your child would like to be an ambassador for the event, they can collect a letter from reception for you to read and to give your permission for them to attend.

Student Printing Credits – Guidance for Responsible Use

As part of our commitment to sustainability and responsible resource use, we are updating our guidance on student printing. We are asking all students to be mindful



of their printing habits and to consider the environmental impact of unnecessary printing.

Green Agenda & Environmental Responsibility

Printing consumes paper, ink, and energy. To support our Green Agenda, we encourage students to:

- Only print what is essential for learning.
- Use double-sided printing whenever possible.
- Print in black and white unless colour is absolutely necessary.

Reducing waste helps us lower our carbon footprint and supports our school's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Printer Credit Allocation

Each student receives a set amount of printing credit per academic year:

Key Stage	Annual Credit Allocation
KS3	£1.50*
KS4	£2.25
KS5 Yr 12	£ 4.50
KS5 Yr13	£5.25

*For a year 7 this gives 230 Black and White single sided A4 sheets

Printing Costs

Paper Size	Colour Type	Single-Sided	Double-Sided
A4	Black & White	£0.0065	£0.0090
A4	Colour	£0.0295	£0.0350
A3	Black & White	£0.0149	£0.0174
A3	Colour	£0.0379	£0.0634

In instances where a block of work such as an art project requires increased printing, particularly in colour, additional printing credits will be allocated to students. This will be arranged by the class teacher in collaboration with Thinking Technology (This

is the name of the Trust team that manages our IT systems) to ensure that each student has sufficient credits to complete their work effectively.

Additional credit will not be issued without authorisation from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or the Head of Year (HOY). Thinking Technology has been instructed not to refund or top up credits without this approval.

We appreciate your support in helping students develop responsible printing habits and contribute to a more sustainable school environment.

Reading and Literacy

I am pleased to remind our existing parents and share the information with our new parents that the school has access to *The Day*, an excellent online resource that provides daily news articles tailored for young people. It's a fantastic way to stay informed about current affairs, develop critical thinking, and support learning across subjects. All articles have been fact checked and verified, so parents and carers can be sure that what their child reads on The Day platform is appropriate for them.

You can access *The Day* using the following link:

[The Day publication - click here](#)

The Day is considered a trusted source in the era of misinformation and fake news for several key reasons:

Independence and Editorial Integrity

- *The Day* is independent of all media groups and writes all its own content, which helps ensure that its reporting is free from external influence or commercial bias.

Educational Focus

- It is designed specifically for children and young people in primary and secondary education, making its content age-appropriate, clear, and focused on developing critical thinking skills.

Endorsed by the UK Department for Education

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, *The Day's* content was endorsed by the UK's Department for Education, highlighting its credibility and value as an educational tool.

Wide Reach and Impact

- With a readership of 900 schools and nearly 1 million students daily, it is one of the most widely used news platforms for young people in the UK, indicating strong trust and adoption in the education sector.

Collaborations with Trusted Institutions

- *The Day* partners with respected organisations like the University of Oxford (on youth mental health initiatives) and the LEGO Group (on sustainability challenges), reinforcing its commitment to meaningful, student-focused content

We encourage students and parents to explore the site regularly and discuss the articles at home. It's a great tool for sparking thoughtful conversations and building awareness of the world around us.

If you have any questions or need help accessing the site, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

School Payment platform

As I mentioned previously in communications, our payment platform is now Arbor (ParentPay no longer operates) meaning that all payments for trips / equipment and food from the canteen are now in the Arbor App. Any meal credits have come across into Arbor and you can also see the meals your child has purchased. Please do check out the activities and shop sections.

We have uploaded some step by step guidance on how to add credit to accounts and consent for trips on the Arbor page of the school website [here](#).

All parents were resent their login details yesterday, but please do check your junk mail.

Food service

I do hope that your child has enjoyed the food provided by our new contractor. Thank you to parents and carers who have contacted us regarding concerns over meal deal signage and pricing information. I met with the food service lead this week to share these concerns and they are in the process of making changes to the signage to better help students make choices that are right for them.

Thank you for ensuring that your child's food account (accessed through the Arbor app) has sufficient funds for their purchases. Sometimes students might forget their

packed lunch, so having an amount on every child's account is a good idea so that meals can be purchased if the packed lunch has been forgotten.

Free School Meals

We've had a few questions about how the Free School Meals (FSM) system works this year, so here's a quick overview:

- **FSM students get £2.90 per day** on their account (the amount resets daily and doesn't roll over).
- This covers a **main meal** (e.g. pasta, jacket potato, sub roll, or hot meal with veg) **plus one** of the following:
 - Dessert of the day
 - A piece of fruit
 - A bottle of water
- **Free flavoured water** is also available to students (students are encouraged to fill into their own water bottles).
- **New this year:** Students can choose **either** a dessert **or** a bottled drink — not both.
- Students **can buy snacks at break**, but this may leave them short for a full meal at lunch.
- To help students make the most of their allowance, the current **£2.90 meal deal** poster is in tutor rooms and on noticeboards.

Computing lessons

Very sadly, our Computing teacher, Mr Richards, is currently unwell due to a serious back injury and will be absent from school for the time being. We wish him a swift and full recovery and hope to welcome him back to school soon.

In the interim, Computing lessons will be covered by Mrs Tica, a fully qualified teacher of both Computing and Mathematics. Mrs Tica brings a wealth of experience to the classroom, having worked for many years in education and previously as a computer engineer. Mr Richards remains in close contact with Mrs Tica to ensure she is fully briefed on the curriculum, lesson plans, and learning objectives.

Please be assured that your child's education will continue without disruption, and that the high standards of teaching and learning in Computing will be maintained during Mr Richard's absence. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

PTFA - Next meeting ONLINE at 6pm on 7th October

All parents and carers are welcome to join the PTFA and I thank you in advance for those that are considering it. The PTFA run and manage a series of fun events for our students and raise money for those little extras that can make a big difference in school. Please see below for the links to join the remote meeting on 7th October at 6pm.

The PTFA are currently organising a Halloween roller disco. Please do see if your child would like to attend and [click here to sign up](#)

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 351 975 642 010 9

Passcode: KD9qd95q

Dial in by phone

+44 20 3321 5202,,331682593# United Kingdom, City of London

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 331 682 593#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Very 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

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