



THINKING
SCHOOLS
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SCHOOL

Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

3 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

In my letter last week, I mentioned the 'seen' tasks that year 11 have been doing and that the year 11 parents' evening is a good chance to discuss the results. I do hope parents and carers find this helpful. Students in other years will be gearing up for end of half term tests in some subjects. Parents and carers can help by discussing the assessments with their child and looking at the revision materials together. Students who have an assessment scheduled will know all about it. Should you have any questions, please do contact your child's teacher.

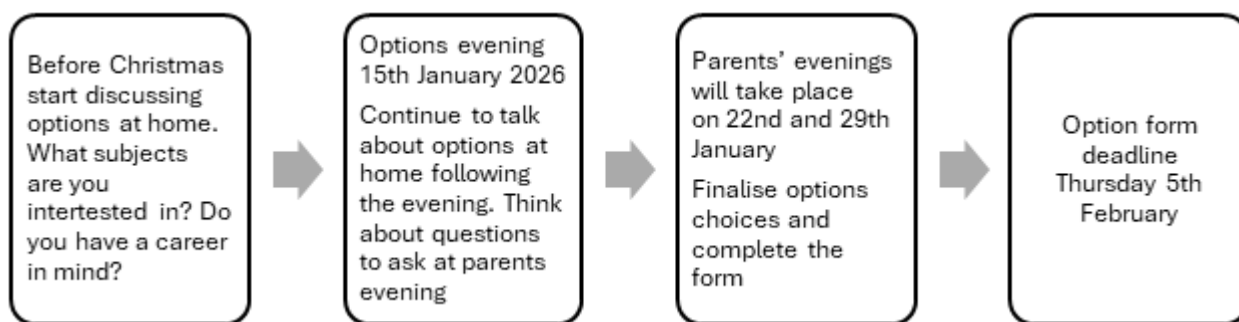
Thank you for your ongoing support

Thank you to our wonderfully supportive parent and carer body for being such a positive voice at home with regards to our behaviour policy, it really does make a difference. Helping our young people to make the right choices both at home and at school and to accept consequences are crucial life skills. That consistency between home and school expectations is one of the reasons we enjoy such strong and positive relationships with our young people and wider community. Thank you for working with us to help guide and encourage our young people as they navigate the challenges of growing up.

Year 9 options

As your child begins Year 9, we are excited to introduce the GCSE Options Process. This is an important milestone in their educational journey, and we are committed to supporting them and you through every step of the decision-making process. Please see below a brief timeline to help support you and your child. More information will be coming out to year 9 parents from the Head of Year 9, Mrs Hatfield, in the coming weeks.





Library hours

I am delighted to report that we have now secured yearlong staffing for the library across the whole week. Students can access the library at break and lunchtime and after school every day. The after-school provision runs until 4.30pm on Monday and Friday and until 4.45pm Tuesday to Thursday. Students can use the library to read, take out and return books and to study. We also have a small computer room attached to the library which students can use for research, completing homework and checking their Teams pages.

"The Stories of Us" - Exploring and celebrate identity across our whole Trust

In the week beginning 6th October, students at Plymouth High will have the opportunity to explore identity. This is intended to celebrate who we are and give voice to our stories and to explore what identity means as a school community and beyond the school walls.

There will be various activities for students to complete throughout the week. Starting on Monday, the library will be hosting the "The stories of Us" box where students can reflect on three things which make up their identity and post them in the box.

On Wednesday lunchtime in Newman Hall, the Anti-bullying Ambassadors will be making "People Paperchains" to reflect the togetherness we feel in friendship groups, as a school and beyond.

On Friday lunchtime in room 14, Miss Hofmann and Nour (Deputy Head Student) will be hosting a reflection station where students will be given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements, the things which make them proud and, determine their identity and contribute to their story.

The week promises to be really interesting with an opportunity for students to celebrate and talk about their uniqueness, their identities but also to reflect on what makes us the unique and special individuals we all are.

Yellow mental health. Friday 10th October

Hello Yellow! World Mental Health Day: Friday 10th October

To mark World Mental Health Day we will be taking part, alongside thousands of other schools, communities and companies, in the Hello Yellow campaign organised by the charity YoungMinds.

Students and staff are encouraged to wear something yellow to show young people that they are not alone with their mental health. To mark this important day, students are encouraged to wear a yellow accessory or yellow socks alongside their school uniform (no dyed hair, face paint, nail varnish etc please) Students will also take part in some special activities during registration with their tutors.

Attendance

Parents and carers will know that there has been a national drive around school attendance for some time. We are fully behind the initiative and wholeheartedly believe that high school attendance contributes positively to belonging, friendships and good mental health as well as strong academic progress. Thank you to our parent and carers for supporting our determination to maintain excellent attendance. Plymouth High's attendance remains in the top 10% of schools nationally and every year group has better attendance figures than the average for their year. Of particular note are year 12 and 7 whose figures are 97% and 98% respectively.

High energy, high caffeine drinks

I would like to remind parents and carers that, in line with our existing school approach, high-caffeine energy drinks are not permitted anywhere on the school site. These are drinks labelled as "high caffeine content – not recommended for children".

While this is already our routine practice, it is worth noting that national legislation is under consultation to restrict the sale of such drinks to under-16s. Our school policy goes further and applies to all students, including those over 16, to safeguard concentration, sleep and overall wellbeing, and to ensure consistency across the whole school.

We thank you for your ongoing support in helping students make healthy choices and maintain a positive learning environment.

Parent Governor vacancies and community governor vacancies.

We now have space on our Governing body for a parent and community Governor's. If you would like to find out more, please click [here](#).

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher

Click [here](#) for latest news.

Dates for your diary

Yr11 parents eve 9th & 16th October

All year groups

Last day for students: Thursday 16th October – this is a normal school day with full uniform expectations.

Non-pupil days: Friday 17th October and Monday 3rd November

October holiday: 20th to 31st October

Tuesday 4th November: First day back - this is a normal school day with full uniform expectations.