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Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Year 11 received their mock results this week and have been thinking about how to plan their revision as we head towards the summer public examinations. As ever, parental and carer support makes all the difference. I would encourage parents and carers to discuss with their children the revision strategies they intend to use and also to talk about the extracurricular revision opportunities in school. Please click [here](#) for the schedule.

Students have access to our new and comprehensive [revision hub](#) as well as other online resources supplied by teachers. Revision and preparation now and throughout the run-in to the summer examinations will make a big difference to those final grades. In addition, our new style Year 11 reports will help parents, carers and students to identify knowledge and skills gaps, thereby highlighting revision needs.

Year 13 mocks have now finished, and students will receive their results in due course.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting our work in school and for playing such a big part in helping our young people to be their best selves and to maximise their outcomes.



Spotlight on student excellence

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been celebrated for demonstrating commitment to our school values and ethos:

- ◇ Student of the week: **Rosie L, Year 11** for showing great enthusiasm for learning. She only had 1 hour for her lesson but made fish and chips entirely from scratch including filleting a whole fish! Nominated by Mrs Brown.
- ◇ Group of the week: **New House Teams** for hosting super assemblies. Great participation of the Junior and Senior House Captains and positive promotion of their Houses and the competitions. Nominated by Miss Roughton.

Years 9, 10 and 11 – Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio and Meningitis ACWY vaccines

Please see the letters [here](#) regarding vaccines available in school (and the opportunity to give consent) and remember that our visiting health care team can only administer the vaccines if permission has been given. Online consent will need to be completed before 9:00am on 12th February 2026. Vaccines will be given at school on 23rd February 2026.

Safeguarding – Mobile phone use

From the beginning of December 2025, Google released new and updated parental controls for Android devices. These include:

- Set the amount of screen time that can be spent on a device each day to help establish healthy habits.

- Set downtime schedules to automatically lock the device at night to ensure restful sleep without distraction.
- Control app usage by limiting time spent on specific apps, or blocking apps entirely.
- Add more time by granting extra minutes when a time limit is reached, or to extend a scheduled break.

You can find further details about these updates on the Google blog [here](#) and 'Internet Matters' have a handy Android guide for parents which you can find [here](#).

AI in school

We are very excited to be leading the way with a trial of an AI assessment platform, and we are hoping to roll this out across a range of subjects within the curriculum. At present this relates to GCSE and A Level only. Please be assured that the marks and feedback are being checked by experienced colleagues before being "signed off".

Initial results indicate an exceptional accuracy correlation. In addition, the specific feedback generated is far more detailed than our teachers have capacity to produce. Feedback is extensive and specific to the mark schemes. We are confident this potential development in our working practices will further contribute to the ongoing success of each student.

Details of the platform are as follows:

Top Marks AI is an advanced assessment platform designed to transform marking in the humanities and social sciences. It enables educators to batch mark handwritten student scripts with unparalleled accuracy and efficiency.

Key capabilities include:

- *Bulk Marking:* Automatically transcribe and mark entire classes or cohorts
- *Accuracy & Reliability:* Calibrated to exceed 90% correlation with chief examiner scores, outperforming typical human marker accuracy
- *Extensive Subject Coverage:* Over 400 calibrated tools across 50+ humanities and social science subjects
- *Detailed Personalised Feedback:* Every student receives formative feedback tailored to their specific work
- *Cohort-Level Insights:* Generate whole-class feedback to identify trends, strengths, and areas for development

House competition

PHSG has *four* upright pianos located around the school, and this year they are getting a stunning makeover – designed by our students. Each House will have one piano transformed with the winning student design. This is our student’s chance to showcase their creativity, brighten our school spaces, and leave a lasting artistic legacy.

Students have all received an email with the competition details on it, so please do encourage them to take part.

Reading spotlight for the week

I would like to share with you this article that looks at whether or not books can bounce back? As children turn online for entertainment and learning, some say that times have simply changed. Others are hopeful that 2026 will mark a reading resurgence.

The below link will take you to The Day's website:

www.theday.co.uk/?id=07A12FCA-1B41-46B0-94D3-B87FDB915341

And the article can then be found here:

[Vision 2026: Year of reading begins - The Day](#)

My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Miss Redmond, PA to Headteacher:

“Growing up in America, my love of reading began the way it does for most children of my generation – curled up with a Judy Blume book. Her writing was funny, honest and deeply understanding of what it felt like to be growing up at that time.

I’m now especially drawn to the imagery, symbolism and emotional richness found in authors like Jung Chang (“Wild Swans”) and Amy Tan (“The Joy Luck Club”) who create an entire world in a single paragraph – filled with heritage, memory, and the complex beauty of family dynamics.

One novel that has stayed with me is *The Kitchen God’s Wife*, a story that bridges generations and cultures, showing how tales passed down between mothers and daughters can wound, heal and ultimately shape identity.

From Judy Blume’s open-hearted honesty to Amy Tan’s evocative imagery, my reading journey has taught me to listen, imagine, and empathise – giving me new ways to understand myself and opening windows into understanding the lives of others.”



Consultation on the PSHE curriculum

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality, relevant, and age-appropriate Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the curriculum alongside the new curriculum outlined by the DFE. This review includes evaluating the placement of existing topics and incorporating new statutory content that will become mandatory from September.

Last week, we sent out detailed information outlining the proposed curriculum structure, including the topics scheduled for each year group. Where a topic appeared across multiple year groups, this reflects our intention to revisit and deepen understanding as students' progress through their education.

You are now able to access a [feedback form via this link](#) which allows you to share your views on the suitability and appropriateness of the topics for different age groups. Your input, alongside feedback from students and staff, will play a vital role in shaping the final version of our PSHE curriculum for implementation in September 2026. Our PSHE team would be grateful if parents and carers would submit their feedback via the online form by **28th February 2026**.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support in ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of all learners.

PHSG performs Legally Blonde Jr.

We are thrilled to announce that tickets for PHSG's 2026 show 'Legally Blonde Jr.' are now on sale. This year we are very excited to be performing at the **Barbican Theatre** with fully raked seating for a clear view of the stage. Please join us for a fabulous show. Performances are on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th March at 6:30pm and last an hour. You can find more information and the **link to book tickets** on our website [HERE](#).

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher

Keep up to date with our latest news by clicking [here](#)

Dates for your diary:

Year 9

29th January Year 9 online parents' evening

5th February Year 9 options deadline

All Years

16th – 20th February Half term holiday