



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

28th August 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the start of term. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the measures for school re-opening that we shared with you before the end of term. You will also recall that Mr Willis wrote to you in July detailing our procedures, but I thought a quick recap would prove helpful.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on Thursday the 3rd of September in full school uniform. As mentioned in our previous communications, all students will start on the 3rd with tutor time for all at 8.40am. You will recall that we have set aside specific entry points for students to enable us to better manage social distancing.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 will enter via the main St Lawrence Rd gate and go straight to the toilets assigned to them for initial handwashing, then to their tutor bases.

Year 10, 12 and 13 will enter via the Alton Rd gate and go straight to the toilets assigned to them for initial handwashing, then to their tutor bases.

Year 7 will be guided by staff on their first day and there will be colleagues on hand to help all students. There are also signs up around school indicating the year based bubble areas and for the one way system. We will go through the new arrangements and the one way system with students on their first day.

We will be operating a staggered finish time at the end of the school day to maintain social distancing and ask that students remain mindful of this once they leave the school site. Students should wear their face covering as they leave the site and should only remove it once they are

away from a busy area. All students using public transport should wear a face covering.

School lunches will be available, but initially we will only be able to offer a cold packed lunch. Students will order their lunch from a limited menu in tutor time to eat between 1.30 and 2.30pm. Students are very welcome to bring their own lunch should, they wish. Those students entitled to a free school meal will order their lunch at tutor time.

There will not be a food offer at break time and students should bring their own water bottle with them filled with water as we cannot operate the water fountains in the usual way.

We sincerely hope that there will not be another lockdown, but to ensure we are prepared, teachers will continue to make use of Google Classroom from the beginning of term.

We have been reviewing the latest Government position on face coverings in school. As you will know, the World Health Organisation has recommended that children 12 years and older should be treated in the same way as adults with regards to face coverings in busy areas. Plymouth City Council has recommended the use of face covering for secondary students in busy parts of the school and some UK areas have already made face coverings in schools compulsory in busy areas.

We want our students to feel relaxed and safe in school and for parents to know that we have taken sensible and reasonable steps to ensure the safety of their child. Our initial position is as follows. We will ask students to wear face coverings as they move from lesson to lesson, but they will not be required to wear them during lessons or tutor time or when they are in their bubble areas at break and lunchtime. Of course, this position may change as the Government reviews its own advice.

When we wrote to you before the holidays, we asked that students wear a face covering as they leave school and that they should have a clear plastic bag in which to keep their mask. The only change is that we are now asking students to wear their face covering as they move from lesson to lesson.

I thank you all in advance for your understanding and cooperation. If any student has a medical reason which would prevent them from wearing a face covering as they move from lesson to lesson, I would be grateful if their parent(s) would contact Mrs Payne at spayne@phsg.org

There will be limited clubs on offer when we return to school as we have to ensure students stay within their bubble. However, as we move through the term we may well find ways of re-starting clubs in a COVID safe way.

Last term, we said goodbye to a number of our staff and wished them well for the next stage in their lives. The following colleagues left us before the holidays.

Mr Neve, Mrs Bullocke, Mrs Lemin, Ms Isabelle Furby, Mrs Sarah Hicks, Mrs Landsborough and Mrs Pudderford

We are delighted to welcome some new colleagues to Plymouth High from September.

Mrs Blunden Currie - Head of English
Miss Brown - MFL teacher
Mr Wilson - Maths teacher
Mrs Jagger Rowden – Cover supervisor
Miss Yarwood - MFL Teacher (now permanent)
Mrs Heard - Librarian (now Permanent)

We made some changes with existing staff.

Mrs Hoyte- cover supervisor
Mrs K Taylor- cover supervisor
Miss Roughton - Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Eales White - Head of Sixth Form
Mr Goodchild- Interim Head of Maths
Mrs Lewin - Head of PSHE
Mrs Will- data manager
Mrs Payne - Assistant Head Teacher (Mrs Payne maintains her SENDCo and safeguarding roles)
Mrs Hore - Attendance
Mrs Harris - Site
Miss Westaway - Head of Technology

Very best wishes,

S. Underdown

Mr Underdown.

Headteacher.