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Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

You will know that student leadership is a big part of what we do at Plymouth High School for Girls and the 2026 student leaders have got off to a super start. Next week, we have our first Trust-wide Student Voice meeting of the calendar year, and I am delighted to share that several of our own student leaders have been selected to Chair student discussion groups. This is a significant undertaking as the Chair must prepare the agenda, manage the meeting which can include representatives for up to 26 different schools, and create the minutes. Our student Chairs are from Years 10 and 12.

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: **Alice C, Year 8** for always being extremely positive and engaged in Art, having an excellent sketchbook, and for producing a fantastic Cezanne painting study. Nominated by Miss Walsh.

- ◇ Group of the week: **Ellen S and Ellen B, Year 12** for their fantastic written piece to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. The experiences they shared with us were an important reminder and chance to reflect, especially in these unsettled political times. Nominated by Miss Redmond.



Year 11 and 13 examination preparation

As we approach the final stage ahead of the GCSE and A level examinations in the summer, teachers continue to run revision sessions in school ([timetable of sessions found here on our website](#)) and have provided lots of information and helpful resources in our revision hub [found here](#). A student login with school details is required for the individual subject SharePoint revision sites. My thanks to parents and carers for supporting their children as they study hard for the public examinations. A reminder that our Sixth Form entry requirements begin with an average GCSE point score of a 6.

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

Please see the letters [here](#) regarding vaccines available in school 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 Thursday 12th February 2026. Vaccines will be given at school on 23rd February 2026.

Catering survey

Our food service provider is keen to gather your thoughts on the quality of the food service in school and have created a survey to learn what you think. We have a group of student leaders who work alongside our food service provider and your survey responses will be another layer of feedback that will help gauge the quality of catering in school. As a 'thank you' for taking part, all responses will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a £100 Amazon voucher, and a further £100 Amazon voucher for the school.

This survey is open until the Easter break and can be found here:

[Secondary Parents Feedback Survey 2026](#)

Chinese New Year

On Thursday 12th February, The Refectory will be celebrating Chinese New Year and welcoming the Year of the Horse. Students can enjoy a delicious selection of traditional dishes bursting with bold spices and fresh ingredients, perfect for celebrating new beginnings and good fortune. We hope our students will enjoy the joy, the flavours, and the celebration.

Popular Apps and Games - A Handout for Parents

Drawn from the Ofcom Online Nation Report 2025, this [free handy guide](#) for parents and carers looks at the more popular apps and games used by children and young people. Specifically, it covers:

- Key insights
- A comparison of safety and wellbeing features within apps and games
- Help and support links for those games and apps (e.g. Family Pairing, YouTube Supervised Experience etc.)
- A few of the more popular helplines
- App/games reviews from Common Sense Media

2027 Iceland trip

Parents and carers will know that we are planning a trip to Iceland in 2027. Please be aware that Arbor payments for the deposit will open on Monday 9th February at 8:00am. This is a first come, first served system with only 40 places available. The trip is open to:

- **Current Year 8 students** – Those who are thinking of picking GCSE Geography in Year 9 options.

- **Current Year 9 students** – Those who have chosen GCSE Geography in their Year 9 options. This does clash with work experience which will be rearranged, with support from Mr Doyle.
- **Current GCSE Geography Year 10 students** – All GCSE examinations will have ended by this period.
- **Current GCSE Geography Year 11 students** – Those who are thinking of studying A-level Geography and who will be enrolled in PHSG Sixth Form. We cannot take young people who are not PHSG students.

Welcome to Our Monthly Literacy Spotlight!

Here we celebrate the birthdays of beloved authors and share their most famous works to inspire a love of reading at home.

Author	Birthdate	Year	Birthplace	Famous Works
James Joyce	Feb-02	1882	Dublin, Ireland	Ulysses, Dubliners
Charles Dickens	Feb-07	1812	Portsmouth, England	Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol
Victor Hugo	Feb-26	1802	Besançon, France	Les Misérables, The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Mr Underdown, Headteacher at PHSG

“I love a ‘*who done it?*’. Stories where the reader is led on a journey through a mystery that culminates with a significant discovery. I have often wondered if this is somehow linked to my enjoyment of mathematics, working through a problem to get ‘an answer’. I very much enjoy authors who can paint a picture for me, who write in a smooth and elegant fashion and who pop twists and turns into their writing.

I usually choose fiction but also enjoy non-fiction. I was given *Mr Wilman’s Motoring Adventure* by Andy Wilman for Christmas and devoured it. When I find an author I like, I usually read everything I can find written by them. To this end, I haven’t included in my bookshelf below all the Carl Hiaasen, Lee Child, Robert Harris, Richard Osmond and Michael Connelly books I have, just a couple of each. Bella Mackie is wonderful; her writing is so clear and simple, and I found I just skipped through the pages. Her books are such a rewarding read.

If I were to make a single recommendation, I might go for Richard Osmond’s *Thursday Murder Club* books. I thought they were fabulous. Happy reading everyone.”



Safer Internet Day – 10th February 2026

To mark and support Safer Internet Day, we have created a [reading list](#) and posted it on our website. Parents and carers are sure to find this useful and will likely want to recommend some of the titles to their children.

Celebration of Women and Girls in Sport

The 'Celebration of Women and Girls in Sport' will take place at Home Park Stadium during half-term on **Wednesday 18th February 2026**. This free event is sponsored by Babcock and run in partnership with Plymouth City Council and Active Devon. Visitors can try a variety of sports, meet local teams, and enjoy live demonstrations. A Health and Wellbeing Zone will provide guidance on physical and mental health, and raise awareness about violence against women and girls.

All attendees also receive **FREE** entry to Argyle's FA Women's National League **match** against Exeter City at 7.30pm, with stadium seating open from 6.30pm.



Very best wishes,

Simon Underdown
Headteacher

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

Dates for your diary:

All Years

16th – 20th February Half term holiday

23rd February First day back after the holiday. Normal school day

