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Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

You may like to look at our [Latest News](#), it's the place where we celebrate student achievement. I am certain you will all enjoy the Legally Blonde Jr. photos as a reminder of our super successful school show held at the Barbican Theatre.

International Women's Day is an important time in the year for us and is led by our amazing Head Student Team, you can read more about that [here](#). This week also saw several of our students visiting Babcock as part of the 'inspiring the next generation of women in engineering' initiative. Catch up with what they got up to [here](#).

Our student or class of the week post is where we congratulate those young people that have been marked out as having performed particularly well.

I would like to extend a 'thank you' to all those parents and carers who write in to say how much the Latest News section has been enjoyed, we are delighted that you value it.



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: **Abbie D, 8T** was noted by a Supply Teacher for being very helpful, showing her where rooms were. The supply teacher was impressed enough to let Miss Roughton know at the end of the day. Nominated by Miss Roughton.

- ◇ Student of the week: **Ruby D, 11L** who “relentlessly works towards her GCSE examinations and thinks very carefully about which topics to revise and plans ahead in an expert way. She gives 100% effort at all times.” Nominated by Miss Freeman-Alford.

- ◇ Group of the week: **The Cast and Crew of Legally Blonde Jr.** – “The cast have spent months working hard and preparing, attending so many rehearsals and learning lines and dances. The cast and crew have also worked their socks off this week, while enjoying the experience of show week in a real theatre. Opening night was a massive success. Well done everyone, you nailed it” Nominated by Miss Tills.

Food service update

Our weekly menu options are changing after Easter. The link to what will be on offer in school can be found [here](#) (along with our current menus).

“Back to the Future – The Musical”

We have 50 tickets available in the stalls for a performance of “Back to the Future – The Musical” at Theatre Royal on 9th September 2027 for students of Years 7, 8 and 9.

Tickets cost £30 and can be purchased via the shop section on Arbor by Friday 3rd July. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Reminder – “26 in 26” reading challenge

Over 2026, students and parents are encouraged to complete 26 reading tasks to help build strong reading habits and develop confidence.

What students could do each day:

- Read for 26 minutes
- Record what they have read using any format they prefer, such as:
 - A poster (draw or write key moments from each day’s reading)
 - A diary/journal (note what they read and what they enjoyed)
 - A blog (write short reflections or summaries online)
 - Any creative method they enjoy (a digital note, voice memo, sketchbook, etc.)

Let us know what you are doing:

We would love to see how students choose to record their reading.

Please encourage them to share their poster/diary/blog with us in school at the end of the challenge – or show us progress along the way.

How parents can help:

- Help build reading into your child's routine
- Discuss what they are reading
- Support them in choosing how they want to record their reading

Celebration:

Students who complete the challenge will be recognised and included in our end-of-challenge reading celebration.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging daily reading.

My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Mrs Will, Data Manager for PHSG

“Over the years I have read many books encompassing a wide variety of genres. As I have got older, my tastes have changed and I now veer more towards feel-good or light-hearted books. My only memory of reading as a child is a book about Elizabeth, ‘*The Naughtiest Girl in the School*’. My Dad despaired of my lacklustre enthusiasm for books. Fortunately reading is something I now enjoy, and we even have some authors that we like in common such as Carl Hiaasen. This gives me hope that one day my daughter will love reading as much as me.

Nowadays, I can devour a good book in a weekend but can also go weeks before I read another. I am rubbish at remembering the names of books and their authors so this has taken me ages to make as I have had to go through my Kindle and Google storylines so that I can find the book names. I always remember whether I liked the book and how it made me feel though!

I am currently reading ‘*How to kill your family*’ by Bella Mackie which was recommended to me by a colleague. It feels different to anything I’ve read before, and

I like the style of writing. The title suggests it's gruesome, but it isn't. It is amusing and a bit sad so far.

Years ago, I loved reading *'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine'* written by Gail Honeyman and recently, whilst looking for a similar book, I decided to read it again! It is the only book I have read twice.

Jodi Picoult's *"Wish you were here"*, a story set during covid, was a very interesting recent read with a big twist in the middle (well, I didn't see it coming) and it put me off the book when it happened, but I continued with the book and after reading the author's notes (something I don't normally do), I decided I did like the book as it was based on peoples real (although very bizarre) experiences during covid.

Jane Fallon is a recent favourite author of mine, having read many of her books. Her books include romance, comedy, betrayal, revenge, friendship, and life changing decisions. Always a happy ending and suitable outcome for the baddy!



Eid al-Fitr celebration

To celebrate **Eid al-Fitr**, our Diversity student leader, Zara, we will be hosting a small celebration in school on **23rd March**, all students and staff are welcome to take part.

At breaktime, there will be a bake sale in Newman Hall, so if students would like to buy something, they will **need cash**, as this will be the only payment method accepted.

At lunchtime in Room 14, Zara will also be hosting henna and craft activities, giving students the chance to learn more about Eid traditions and celebrate together. Have a look at Zara's poster advertising the event [here](#).

Zara and her team hope to see lots of students and staff at the celebration.

St John Ambulance fundraiser by former student

Lucy Ottewell is a former student of PHSG (2016–2021) and is now studying Biomedical Science at the University of Reading.

In April, Lucy is going to be running the London Marathon in aid of St John Ambulance, a charity organisation which teaches and provides first aid across the UK. Lucy started volunteering with the organisation when since she was 14 years old and says it has given her confidence as an individual as well as practical life-saving skills.

A link to Lucy's fundraiser can be found [here](#).

Mobile phones

Thank you to our parent and carer body for supporting our mobile phone policy. A reminder that phones are not permitted to be used on the site (other than by Sixth Form students in the sixth form study centre only). Phones must be kept turned off and away in bags whilst students are on site. On the rare occasions when students are found to have not followed this rule, an after-school detention is set.

Parent consultation

The government has launched a [consultation](#) to gather insights from the public on how to keep children safe online across social media, AI chatbots, and gaming platforms (closes **26th May 2026**). Parents, guardians, and young people across the UK are being urged to shape the country's next steps on children's digital wellbeing.

The 3-month [consultation](#) is open to everyone with a view:

- parents
- carers
- young people
- those who work with children
- civil society organisations
- academics
- industry

Dedicated versions have been developed for young people and for parents and carers, making it easier for them to share their experiences and views. Our parents and carers and young people might like to take part in this consultation.

Easter activities

Please see below for a message from 'on course southwest' regarding their Easter holiday activities. These are not events organised or run by PHSG, but I thought parents and carers would welcome knowing what is available.



Hop into Free Family Fun this Easter!

On Course South West is proud to announce the return of our **FREE Family Learning workshops!** We are offering a variety of free sessions designed to engage children and parents alike through creativity, science, and outdoor exploration.

From digital creativity to backyard adventures, we've got something for everyone:

- ✨ How to Catch the Easter Bunny
- 📖 Family Treasure Hunt
- 🥚 Easter Eggs & Baskets
- 🧪 Chemistry Easter Eggs
- 🎬 Stop Motion Animation
- and so much more!

Parents and carers can bring up to 2 children per adult, and children must be a minimum of 6 years old and a maximum of 18 years old.

For more info and to enrol:

[Free family learning activities. Includes Crafts, Maths, English, Science, languages, cooking, budgeting, first aid and BSL. – On Course South West](#)

Email: info@oncoursesouthwest.co.uk

PSHE audit results

Thank you to all parents who engaged with our recent PSHE survey, and your valuable contributions to the forum and support of the ongoing development of our curriculum. I am pleased to share that in all categories, there was greater than 90% parental agreement – some as high as 99%.

We are currently reviewing all comments submitted, particularly those from parents who felt that certain topics may fall outside the appropriate age range or should be revisited more than once throughout their child's secondary education.

HPV vaccinations

Vaccinations will take place in school on 27th April 2026 for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Parents and carers can find more information about this for Year 8 [here](#), and information for Years 9, 10 and 11 [here](#). Please complete the consent form linked in the letter relevant to your child's Year group **no later than 9:00am on 23rd April 2026**.

U12s Football fixtures

Our Year 7 team took part in their first central venue fixtures last week, and what a start they made! With only 6 players, they showed incredible determination and teamwork to win both of their matches. A brilliant effort from everyone involved – we are so proud of them. Why not read more about it [here](#)?

Year 9 end of season netball tournament

The girls gave an outstanding performance in their end of season netball competition, showing teamwork and incredible resilience throughout every match. Their hard work and commitment was clear to see, and they should be extremely proud, finishing **2nd place** overall out of 7 teams. It was a brilliant display of skill and

sportswomanship, and a fantastic way to close out the season. A huge well done to all involved

Year 10 & 11 end of season netball tournament

Our Year 10 and 11 netball team in the link [here](#) wrapped up their season in style at last week's end-of-season tournament, finishing in **1st place** overall against 7 other schools. An incredible effort full of teamwork and skill. Well done to everyone involved – a fantastic achievement, we are super proud of you.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher

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

Dates for your diary:

Year 8

19th & 26th March Year 8 online parents' evening (by appointment only)

All Years

2nd April Gym & Dance Festival
Last day of Spring term

3rd April – 19th April Easter break

Monday 20th April First day of Summer term