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# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

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Thank you to those parents and carers who regularly visit the [Latest News](#) page on our website, it is where we celebrate our student's achievements. The page is regularly updated, so if you haven't had a look recently, why not see what's been going on?

## Spotlight on student excellence

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

- ◇ Students of the week: **Harriet H and Darcey H, Year 10** for their hard work in supporting 7K and 8K to choreograph their gym and dance pieces in preparation for the festival. Nominated by Mr Goodchild.
- ◇ Group of the week: **Neive A, Martha C, Lamara H, Elizabeth J, Annabelle L, Orlaith M, Megan O, Amelia J, and Annabelle R, Year 9** for representing the school in their end of season netball tournament, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, showing great resilience, determination and teamwork. Nominated by Miss Jones.



## Eid al-Fitr

On behalf of us all at PHSG, I wish our community a happy Eid to all who are celebrating. As a reminder, our diversity student leader, Zara, is holding several activities on Monday of next week to mark Eid-al-Fitr. All students are welcome.

## Author visit, Manjeet Mann

PHSG welcomed actor, filmmaker, and award-winning author Manjeet Mann into school on Thursday. Many of our students already know her through her powerful books '*Run, Rebel*'; '*The Crossing*', and her latest novel, '*Roar*', all of which are available in the library. You can read more about Manjeet's inspiring visit and book signing [here](#).

## Shepton Mallet trip

Year 10 History students recently visited Shepton Mallet Prison, one of the oldest working prisons in the UK where they took part in an exciting escape room challenge. There is more about this on our website [here](#).

## HPV vaccinations

Vaccinations will take place in school on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. You can find more information about this for Year 8 [here](#), and information for Years 9, 10 and 11 [here](#). If you would like your child to receive the vaccine in school, please complete the consent form linked in the letter relevant to your child's year group **no later than 9:00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**.

## My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Mrs Moody, Attendance Improvement Coordinator

“When I read a book, I like something light-hearted that lets me escape from the real world for a while. I absolutely loved the *Harry Potter* series when I read it all those years ago, and the books still have pride of place on my bookshelf. I’ve passed that love on to my son – although I think his enthusiasm surpasses mine! The *Harry Potter* books are the only ones I’ve read in that particular genre, as I usually gravitate toward a good, uplifting “feel-good” read.

For example, you can’t beat an old-fashioned, easy-to-read story that follows the trials and tribulations of families in London during wartime, or a book that has you laughing out loud on one page and crying on the next – something like “*PS, I Love You*” or “*Me Before You*”. There’s nothing quite like setting your own worries aside and becoming completely absorbed in the lives, loves, and laughter of the characters.

I’ve always felt that a truly good book is one that makes you want to read *just one more page* because you simply *have* to know what happens next, while at the same time not wanting it to end at all.

Thrillers or anything too “scary” are definitely out for me – I like to be able to sleep at night. I much prefer stories that lift you up rather than leave you checking the shadows, and there’s something wonderfully comforting about knowing a book will make you smile rather than keep you awake.



## “Read a little more” – 2026 Year of Reading poem

Miss Roughton thought parents and carers may enjoy a poem in this, the *year of reading*. Thank you for your support in helping our young people to continually broaden and increase what they read. Anything parents and carers can do to promote reading at home and talk about literature will make a difference.

“In twenty-twenty-six, let’s open every door,  
To stories, words and wonders, let’s choose to read some more.  
It doesn’t need to be a novel, leather-bound and grand;  
A magazine, a leaflet, any page you hold in hand.  
Read the guide that shows you how  
To make the new machine go *now*;  
Read the recipe you’ve saved,  
Or the map for roads unpaved.  
Read to learn or read for fun,  
Read in shadows, read in the sun.  
Read a joke that makes you grin,  
Read a fact and take it in.  
Each word you meet expands your mind,  
A spark, a seed, your thoughts refined.  
Reading grows the world you know,  
One quiet moment helps you grow.  
So let’s all read a little more,  
A paragraph, a page, or four.  
In every book or guide, you’ll see  
A stronger, wiser, brighter *you*  
The one you’re meant to be.”

## Opportunity to support University of Exeter research

We have been invited to support a research project being carried out by a postgraduate student at the University of Exeter. The study forms part of an MA dissertation in Classics and Ancient History and focuses on a topic known as “*Classics Poverty*” in Devon.

The project aims to explore why Classical subjects such as Latin, Classical Civilisation, and Ancient History are rarely offered in state-maintained secondary schools in South Devon. To help build a clearer picture, the researcher is gathering data from school communities in our area.

If you are interested in contributing your insights or taking part in the study, please read the attached letter and then click on [this link](#). Your involvement is voluntary but will help support valuable academic research and shed light on the educational landscape in our region.

## Sparx Maths Easter treasure hunt

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, students who have completed all Sparx tasks on time from the start of January to the end of this term are invited to collect an Easter treasure hunt map from Room 2 at lunchtime.

They will find hidden Easter signs around the school and complete each numeracy challenge that they find along the way. Students completing the challenge and returning a correct set of answers to Room 2 can choose an edible or alternative prize.

## RideTandem – DHSB buses

RideTandem are inviting parents and carers to register their interest for the school bus service for September 2026. **If you have already registered your interest, no further action is needed.**

Parents and carers can view full details of the current 2025 service (including routes and timetables) here: <https://devonport-hs.ridetandem.co/>

The bus service is managed by RideTandem using their app-based pass system, making it easy to purchase, manage and track your child's travel. For more information about how the service works, please visit:

<https://www.ridetandem.com/services/student-transport>

To secure a seat on the bus service, parents and carers must complete the registration form below by **31st March 2026**:

<https://forms.gle/pmniwQkvgm5tw1dAA>

Please note that the timetable and pass costs are set by DHSB and may be subject to change but will be confirmed ahead of parents and carers needing to purchase the passes.

Interest in the service is greater than ever so parents and carers are urged to register in time to maximise the chances of securing a seat.

After 31/3/26, parents and carers who have completed the form will be contacted and invited to purchase their September 2026 pass.

If you have any further questions, please contact [ewan@ridetandem.co](mailto:ewan@ridetandem.co).

## Digital Safety Update for Parents

We know how hard it can be to monitor what children are doing online and to start conversations about what they are seeing, their motives and healthy screen habits.

BBC Bitesize has published new guidance written by a clinical psychologist to help parents talk more confidently with their children about life online – useful for all ages. Advice for parents: [BBC Bitesize Media Literacy Series & Guidance](#)

They have also launched *Solve the Story*, a new media literacy series helping young people understand misinformation and think critically about what they see online. Solve the Story: [Launch announcement & overview](#)

Instagram has also announced that it will begin alerting parents if their teen repeatedly searches for self-harm or suicide-related terms, as part of its parental-supervision tools [please see the link here](#)

For a deeper look at emerging online risks, parents can download [Digital Deception – Understanding Deepfakes](#): Understanding Deepfakes, a clear guide to help families understand manipulated media.

I do hope you find these resources helpful.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown**  
**Headteacher**

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

## Dates for your diary:

### Year 8

**26<sup>th</sup> March** Online parents' evening (by appointment only)

### All Years

**2<sup>nd</sup> April** Gym and Dance Festival and last day of Spring term

**20<sup>th</sup> April** First day of Summer term

