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# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and that you are well.

The Summer term is always a busy time for us, and we start with the Year 12 mock examinations. Year 12 will begin their Year 13 study after the examinations and feedback process is concluded. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will sit their end of year assessments starting the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May.

All students have been given details of what they will be assessed on, and their teachers will guide them on how best to revise and prepare for the papers.

Year 10 have their end of year assessments in June and, of course, our Year 11 and 13 start their public examinations next month. We wish all our students well as they prepare for these important assessments.

If you have any concerns about how your child should prepare for their assessments, please do reach out to their class teacher or form tutor who will be happy to help.

## Spotlight on student excellence

Congratulations to the following students who were celebrated prior to half-term for demonstrating commitment to our school values and ethos:



- Student of the week: **Erin P, Year 11** for working hard throughout the maths GCSE course and pushing herself to improve with every lesson and homework. Erin scored 100% in her final calculator mock and showed perfect and accurate workings for every problem. Nominated by Miss Freeman-Alford.
- Group of the week: **U14 Hockey Squad, Years 7-9** for qualifying as '*the best team in Devon*' to the U14 West of England State School Hockey Finals. Nominated by Miss Clews.

## Gym and Dance Festival

Our students performed magnificently at the Gym and Dance Festival on the last day of Spring term; it was such an uplifting and enjoyable event. The festival theme was '*Through the decades*', and Kendall House were the proud winners. Next week, you will be able to enjoy photos of the festival as we post them on our website. I hope you enjoy looking through them with your children.

## Thank you to Waitrose

We are delighted to have received a very generous £500 gift from Waitrose in Saltash towards the improvements we are making to our outside space. The gift from Waitrose will be put together with money raised by the PTFA and revenue from our limited onsite parking scheme to further enhance our student outdoor spaces. I will keep you all posted on these developments.

## My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Miss McAuliffe, Curriculum Lead for RE

“While I don't have much in the way of physical books like novels, at home, it's not that there are no reading materials. My 'bookshelf' links to my hobbies and interests.

I've got the music for the SWPC, a community choir and orchestra that I'm a member of, and this includes a variety of musical titles, including some Swahili (*The Lion King*). I enjoy knitting (wrestling wool from my cats, less so) and have plenty of knitting pattern books.

I also enjoy baking and cooking and have a number of books with recipes that I adapt. My current favourite is '*Eat yourself Healthy*' by Jamie Oliver."



## UK Children's Laureate for 2024–2026



[Frank Cottrell-Boyce](#) is the UK Children's Laureate for 2024–2026, a prestigious biannual role awarded to eminent writers or illustrators to promote children's literature. Managed by [BookTrust](#), the position champions the right of every child to read and enjoy books.

*"I write children's books because I think they help build the apparatus of happiness inside us. I'm going to do everything in my power to get reading as a right for all into the national conversation. Because it's about time."*

Mr Cottrell-Boyce announced back in 2024 that his tenure will focus on sparking a powerful national conversation about how books can transform children's lives. He highlighted extensive evidence showing that reading for pleasure is the strongest factor in improving a child's life chances. Reflecting on the impact of books on his own life, he described children's literature as building "the apparatus of happiness."

His Laureateship will centre on both happiness and urgency, tackling issues of hidden privilege, inequality, and the widening gap for children living in poverty. He called for national action to ensure every child has early and consistent access to books, reading, and their transformative long-term benefits.

## **The power of reading**

As exam season approaches for many of our young people, it's worth remembering the many benefits that reading can provide, not least through some escapism and respite from revision. The link touches upon different motivations for reading and the value it can provide: [BBC Radio 1 - Alice Levine - 9 superstar bookworms and the books they love to read](#)

## **End of Key Stage 3 examinations: More detailed information for parents**

The end of KS3 examinations will take place from the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May. The examinations are scheduled at this point in the year to allow teachers sufficient time to mark papers, review progress to date, and plan targeted interventions for the final term. This ensures that any gaps in learning can be addressed effectively, both at cohort level and for individual students.

## Preparation and revision

Revision lists and supporting resources have been shared with students this week, both during lessons and via Microsoft Teams. Students are encouraged to make full use of these materials when preparing for their examinations.

## Purpose of the examinations

We encourage all students to approach these examinations as an opportunity to:

- Practise and refine effective revision techniques
- Review and consolidate what they have learned so far
- Check their understanding of key knowledge and skills
- Prepare for the demands of GCSE and A level examinations in the future

For **Year 9 students**, it is particularly important that they work hard towards all of their examinations, including subjects they may not be continuing into GCSE. These subjects still provide valuable, transferable knowledge and skills, as well as an opportunity to experiment with different revision strategies.

## Examination dates and timetables

The KS3 examinations will take place over a two-week period, beginning the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May. Individual timetables for each Year group are provided in this letter (over page) for the first week of written papers; the second week of assessments will see students sitting papers online. Details of the dates will be shared by the individual subject teachers.

The KS3 booklet that has been sent to you via Arbor email is a great first step in helping your child to prepare for their examination but do contact your child's teacher if you have a particular concern. Thank you for your continued support as we work hard to help every child achieve at the highest level.

### Examination timetables for students

Year 7	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>
1	Instructions	Technology 30 mins	English Language 30 mins
2	Revision	Revision	Revision
3	Maths (non-calculator) 50 mins	Science 50 mins	PE 30 mins
4	Revision	Revision	Revision
5	RE 45 mins	History 50 mins	Geography 30 mins

Year 8	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>
1	Instructions	Science 50 mins	Maths P2 (calculator) 50 mins
2	Revision	Revision	Revision
3	Maths P1 (non-calculator) 50 mins	Technology 30 mins	English Language 30 mins
4	Revision	PE 30 mins	Revision
5	History 50 mins	Geography 30 mins	RE 45 mins

Year 9	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>
1	Instructions	Biology 30 mins	Physics 30 mins
2	English Language 30 mins	Chemistry 30 mins	English Literature 45 mins
3	Maths P1 (non-calculator) 50 mins	Tech 50 mins	Maths P2 (calculator) 50 mins
4	Geography 30 mins	PE 30 mins	German 45 mins
5	French 45 mins	RE 45 mins	History 50 mins

### Pre-loved uniform shop

The pre-loved uniform shop will be open again on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** between 1.30pm – 2:30pm in the new examination room (along the corridor from the Main Hall or up the stairs from Room 5).

- £5 for uniform (blazers, trousers and jumpers)
- £3 for any PE uniform

A reminder to parents of Year 11 students that you might like to donate uniform items following the exam period. We are currently low on blazers, so donations are very welcome.

Remember, uniform items are free from the shop if swapped with an existing item. Uniform shop items are free for Pupil Premium students.

## Missing Cat – Stoke area

# MISSING

**PLEASE CHECK GARAGES / SHEDS**



Rosie is a 7yr brpwn spayed female cat who went missing on 10 June 2025. She's microchipped. If you can't catch her please try and take a photo, thanks. Her family misses her, no questions asked. Please check sheds and garage

**REWARD OFFERED**

**LAST SEEN:  
DEVONPORT ROAD, STOKE, PLYMOUTH  
PL3 4DL.**

**If you have any information:  
Call 07523 102760**

Ref: PR114497

**YOU CAN HELP!**  
Please photograph this and share on social media.

[www.petsreunited.com](http://www.petsreunited.com) [facebook.com/petsreunited](https://facebook.com/petsreunited) [twitter.com/petsreunited](https://twitter.com/petsreunited)



FOR MORE DETAILS SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR VISIT:

www.petsreunited.com



Rosie has been missing since last summer, last seen near Stoke. She is a small, brown Burmese cat; she is microchipped. Children and families out and about locally often spot things adults miss, so we are sharing this within our community at the request of Rosie's owner, Mark. Please contact him on 07523102760 with any information you may have. There is a reward offered for Rosie's safe return.

## HPV vaccinations – Years 8, 9, 10 and 11

A reminder that vaccinations will be taking place in school on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 for those students with completed consent forms. Students will be informed by tutors on Monday of their allocated time slot.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement, it makes such a difference.

