



THINKING  
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THINKING  
SCHOOL

# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well.

This week marks a key moment in our calendar; it is when Year 11 and Year 13 have their celebration day to mark the transition to the public examinations. Teachers are running structured and essential revision in their usual timetabled lessons and students not sitting a public examination at the time of the lesson will find these sessions super helpful. I wholeheartedly encourage all students to make use of their timetabled lessons; our teachers are experts at helping students to prepare for their examinations, at answering queries, and explaining examined concepts. Teachers are looking forward to giving this last bit of extra support to help all our Year 11 and 13 students maximise their outcomes.

Ms Freeman-Alford commented yesterday how amazing her Year 11 mathematics group were when they came to class ready for independent revision. The students were armed with resources and a clear plan for what they would be revising. The students had a brief chat with one another before swiftly moving to silent study without prompting.

This is a great example of our school motto in action – *"For Life, Not School, We Learn"*. The independence, organisation, and self-discipline demonstrated by these students shows a mature work ethic that will extend well beyond the classroom; a clear indication that our students are developing the skills and mindset for lifelong success, not just academic achievement.

Great nutrition is a big part of being ready for the examinations and there are some helpful resources available on our website [here](#) to support students and families.



You may like to see the Year 11 leavers celebration day photos [here](#), they had a great time. Year 13 have their celebration day today; photos will follow next week!

My thanks to the parents and carers who joined us yesterday for the Year 10 revision evening. Parents, carers and students discussed with subject specialist teachers how students should go about revising for their upcoming Year 10 papers and the mock examinations they will sit in Year 11. Thinking explicitly about how best we revise and making conscious decisions about what to do and when makes revision more impactful and is a cornerstone of our 'Thinking' philosophy. Year 10 students, parents and carers are encouraged to reach out to teachers if further help and support is needed.

### 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: **Martha K, 7L** for "consistently bringing such a positive presence to the library. Every time she comes in, she greets me with a smile, always says hello, and is unfailingly polite. Her positive attitude genuinely brightens my day and helps create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone". Nominated by Mrs Heard.

And once again, we had such strong nominations this week that we have multiple winning groups:

- Group of the week: **Erin W, Lily B, Rosie L, Year 11, and Maggie D, Year 13**  
This wonderful group of students welcomed ACC Leaper into school on Monday. They asked her questions about Policing, her experience as the most senior Police officer in Devon and Cornwall and about the challenges and rewards of her role. The students were engaging, thoughtful and fabulous ambassadors for our school. True PHSG spirit, well done. Nominated by Mr Underdown.

- **Clara M, Harriet P, Jess W and Olivia W, Year11** for outstanding work around Hummingbird and Xanthus, giving up their Saturday's and lunchtimes to help the team improve and prepare for Chivenor, and sharing their wisdom with younger students. Nominated by Mr Goodchild.
- **Annelise D, Tabitha R, Eva T, Emily-Rose T, Eva P, Edlyn H-T, Erin S, Laila W and Isla D, Year 8B/Mu** for choreographing, rehearsing and performing the most exceptional quality piece of musical theatre. The piece was so good I have asked them to perform it in a concert at the end of term. This was no better example of a group of students working together to produce work of exceptional quality. Nominated by Miss Marcer-Griffiths.

### Breakfast club

A reminder that our catering team are running a breakfast club during the examination period. The breakfast club runs until 29<sup>th</sup> June; items are priced from £1.55.



**Newman Hall**  
5th May - 29<sup>th</sup> June

*Breakfast Club*

**Choice of:**  
Cereals with milk, bacon or sausage baps,  
vegan sausage baps, egg muffin,  
toast & jam, or a free porridge

**Served daily**  
08:00 until 08:30

### Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Sir David Attenborough

This week, we have been celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough. You can read a piece written by Mrs Nicol-Boyle [here](#) on our website!

## PHSG Year 7 and 8 Science revision site

The Science department are pleased to announce they have now launched a Year 7 and 8 section to our Science revision page. The site contains knowledge organisers for each topic covered in the Key Stage 3 course, as well as quality assured links to useful revision sites to aid students in finding revision materials.

We have also uploaded a copy of the revision lists for the upcoming end of year examinations. Students will need to login using their school details to access the site [here](#).



## Year 11 Prom

Year 11 will be getting excited about their upcoming prom on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets are still available to purchase on Arbor.



## Celebrating the National Year of Reading: Discover 'ReadingZone for Teenagers'

This year's National Year of Reading is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of books and stories in shaping young people's futures. Reading not only supports academic success, but also builds empathy, imagination and confidence – qualities we value deeply in our school community.

To support both our students and families, we are pleased to highlight [ReadingZone for Teenagers](#)

### What is ReadingZone?

ReadingZone is a free, trusted online resource created specifically for children and teenagers. It offers a rich mix of fresh reading content, including:

- Short stories and book extracts
- Author interviews and writing tips
- Articles linked to current events and real-world topics
- Engaging features designed to spark curiosity and discussion

Crucially, the teenage section is carefully curated to challenge and inspire confident readers while also supporting those who are still developing their reading habits.

### Why it's ideal for grammar school students

For our students, ReadingZone provides:

- Stretch and challenge through high-quality texts

- Exposure to a wide range of genres beyond the curriculum
- Opportunities to build reading stamina in manageable, enjoyable ways
- Material that supports vocabulary development and critical thinking

Whether students are passionate readers or simply looking for something new, the site is an excellent way to read widely without pressure.

## Support for parents

For parents, ReadingZone can be a helpful tool to:

- Encourage independent reading at home
- Discover age-appropriate and engaging content
- Have meaningful conversations about what your child is reading
- Support literacy without it feeling like extra “school work”

All content on the site is free to access, making it an inclusive and practical resource for families.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we encourage students to explore ReadingZone regularly – even just 10-15 minutes at a time can make a real difference. Reading for pleasure remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success, and resources like ReadingZone help make reading relevant, enjoyable and accessible.

Visit today: [www.readingzone.com/teenagers](http://www.readingzone.com/teenagers)

Let's work together to make reading a daily habit and a lifelong pleasure.

## My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Ellen S (12K), Head Student

"I would never part with some of the books on my shelf that I read when I was younger – I adored Enid Blyton and absolutely devoured the boxset of Malory Towers I received one Christmas. History has always been one of my favourite subjects and my bookshelf reflects this with my all-time favourites allowing me to delve into the past: *Hetty Feather* by Jacqueline Wilson, *Anne of Green Gables* by LM Montgomery and *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton. All of these still sit on my bookshelf, definitely well-loved!

Nowadays, my bookshelf is split into roughly three categories: old/contemporary classics (at the moment, I am reading *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald), mysteries like *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, and dystopia. I was so invested in Suzanne Collins' new Hunger Games novel, *Sunrise on the Reaping*, that I read it in two days!

I think it is wonderful how a person's bookshelf can reflect the trajectory of their taste and hold memories so well. I love taking book recommendations from my friends too. The next book I am planning to read – *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini – was recommended to me by Zara, Head of Diversity and Inclusivity!"



## PSHE Curriculum Resources

Following on from our parental consultation last term regarding PSHE curriculum content, we are now looking for a small group of parent volunteers to share their views

on the appropriateness of the PSHE curriculum materials used here at PHSG. A small selection of resources will be shared electronically with this group, alongside an opportunity to provide online feedback regarding the suitability of the materials. These views, alongside those of students and staff, will help us shape our updated PSHE curriculum which will be introduced in September 2026.

This consultation process will take place during the week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Parental input is essential in helping us create a PSHE curriculum that reflects the needs of our students and community, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

If you are interested in taking part, please email the curriculum lead for PSHE, [Mrs Lee](#), by 3.00pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown**  
**Headteacher**

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

### Dates for your diary:

#### All Years

11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness week
11 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	GCSE and A level examinations
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of school before the May holiday
1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day back after the May holiday