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SCHOOL

# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and that you were able to enjoy some time with your family and friends over the half term break.

Our Year 11 and 13 students are nearing the end of their public examinations and have approached them with maturity and diligence. My thanks to parents and carers for your support and encouragement at home, it certainly helps our young people to be ready for their assessments. Teachers remain on hand to support students with those remaining examinations, so please do encourage your Year 11 and/or Year 13 child to make use of teacher time in the run up to those last few papers.

We often have colleagues from other Trust schools visiting PHSG and this week and next are no exception. This week, the Trust lead for inclusion visited and commented specifically on the way our students support each other in lessons and how safe they feel in school. I am delighted that this came across so strongly, it is testament to the kindness shown by our community every day. Next week, we will welcome more Trust colleagues who will be visiting lessons and meeting with teachers to help us review the quality of our provision. It is something we look forward to and is a chance for us to showcase the work we do at our school.

## Uniform

I thought I would take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that the jumper is not a compulsory uniform item. As the weather is due to warm up, my recommendation would be that students leave their jumpers at home and consider wearing a white T shirt under their shirt if they are worried about being cold. The blazer is a compulsory item and is required every day. Thank you for supporting us



with the other uniform rules we have around jewellery, makeup, hair and shoes. So many of our students follow the rules all the time and look smart in their uniforms.

### 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: **Isabelle M, 8L** “She always works so hard in French and wrote an extra-long, excellent sentence before half-term, as well as joining in and contributing enthusiastically, as always”. Nominated by Miss Carter.
- Class of the week: **10h English 1, Year 10** “They produced and performed outstanding speeches to the class. The best set of speeches yet.” Nominated by Miss Taylor.

### Breakfast club

A reminder that our catering team are running a breakfast club during the examination period. Breakfast is available daily between 8:00am-8:30am until 29<sup>th</sup> June and with fluffy pancakes, crispy waffles, and delicious bacon or sausage baguettes on offer (items priced from £1.55), it’s a great way to start the day – don’t forget there is also *free* porridge!



## Ofqual warns against cheating

Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) is the official, independent government department that regulates qualifications, examinations, and assessments in England. Ofqual do not permit smart devices in examinations, and we specifically share this information with our students. The BBC have recently published an article on smart device cheating, and I thought you would find it a helpful read. The link is below:

[Ofqual warns over smart device cheating in GCSE and A-level exams - BBC News](#)

## Children's Commissioners survey request

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza, is eager to collect the thoughts of young people from across the country in her 'The Big Future' survey. You'll remember that I shared the details of her previous surveys with you and your child(ren). Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been doing this latest survey in school and I am hopeful that students in Years 10 to 13 will complete the survey in their own time.

Under the Children Act 2004, it is the Commissioner's role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and she has done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: *The Big Ask* and *The Big Ambition*.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why the Commissioner is launching her final survey, *The Big Future*. The link to the survey is here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>

The survey focuses on the changes young people want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, the

Commissioner wants to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I will share the survey link in my letter to students today so that Years 9 to 13 can complete it. The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. Thank you for your support with this, I know the Commissioner will be grateful.

## Helping an ADHD child with homework

FACE (Family Advice Communication Education) are offering a *free* one-hour online advice session on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.00pm. If you would like to book this, please click on the link below:

[Book your place HERE](#)

### Helping an ADHD Child with Homework



**FREE** one hour online session for parents  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7pm - 8pm**

Join us online to get some advice on how to help your  
ADHD child start and complete their homework.

Book on the PARENTS - Live Talks page  
[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

## Summer Concert – Save the date: 16<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Roughton is delighted to share news of our upcoming Summer Concert on 16<sup>th</sup> July, an evening of music and song with a Disney theme and a relaxed cream tea atmosphere run by our fabulous PTFA.

To help make the evening extra special, we would be very grateful for any donations of scones. We completely understand that it is still a little early, so we will send a reminder closer to the time, but we wanted to share this date with you now. Details on how to book and donate will be sent out in due course.

As it is the National Year of Reading, Miss Roughton has included a poem to get us in the mood for the concert:

*There once was a concert so grand,  
With Disney and songs close at hand,  
With scones piled up high,  
'Neath a midsummer eve sky,  
A magical evening well planned!*

### **Author events at Waterstones**

We are delighted to encourage our students and families to take advantage of the fantastic author events taking place at our local branches of Waterstones.

- [Plymouth store](#)
- [Exeter store](#)
- [Truro store](#)

These events offer a wonderful opportunity for children and young people to meet real-life authors, hear them speak about their books, and gain insight into the creative writing process. Experiences like these can spark imagination, build enthusiasm for reading, and even inspire future writers.

Meeting an author brings books to life in a unique way. Students often find that hearing directly from the person behind the story deepens their connection to reading and boosts their confidence in exploring new texts.

Events are suitable for a range of ages, and many include book signings and interactive elements, making them both engaging and memorable. We strongly encourage parents and carers to consider attending with their children where possible.

### 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.

**“Jump into June with powerful words!”**

Explore authors who challenged ideas and inspired change. Reading together can open doors to big conversations!

Author	Birthdate	Birthplace	Famous Works
Thomas Hardy	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1840	England	Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Far from the Madding Crowd, The Mayor of Casterbridge
George Orwell	25 <sup>th</sup> June 1903	Bengal, India	1984, Animal Farm
Yan Martell	25 <sup>th</sup> June 1963	Spain	Life of Pi

## My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Catarina (12K), Deputy Head Student

“I have always been someone who looks for a reflection of the real world in the pages of a story - not just the world we see, but the people who live in it. This is why I find the work of Taylor Jenkins Reid so incredibly powerful, her writing is all about the human heart and the masks we wear.

*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* is, without a doubt, my favourite of her novels. It follows an aging Hollywood icon recounting her life’s secrets, but at its core, it is a masterclass in representation. Seeing a bisexual woman of colour navigate the golden age of Hollywood resonated with me deeply. It highlights why diverse voices in media are so vital; they don’t just tell a story, they validate the experiences of people who have historically been pushed to the side lines. There is something profoundly moving about seeing a character fight for their truth in a world that wasn’t built for them.

What makes Taylor Jenkins Reid’s work even more addictive are the ‘Easter eggs’ hidden throughout. I realized quite early on that her books – like *Daisy Jones & The Six* and *Malibu Rising* – actually all take place within the same fictional universe. Finding a character from one book mentioned in a news clipping or a party scene in another feels like catching up with an old friend. It creates a rich, interconnected world that makes the reading experience feel much more immersive.

On the days when I want something more contemporary, I’ll pick up a book by Kathleen Glasgow. *Girl in Pieces* is a difficult but essential read. It tackles the heavy reality of mental health with such honesty that it can be a lot to process, but that’s exactly why it matters. Just like the representation in Reid’s books, seeing the ‘unfiltered’ parts of the human experience in *Girl in Pieces* makes readers feel less alone.”



## PSHE Curriculum Resources, we need your help

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 limited 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 16<sup>th</sup> June.

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 Curriculum Leader for PSHE [Sophie.Lee@phsg.tsat.uk](mailto:Sophie.Lee@phsg.tsat.uk) by 3.00pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, working in partnership with our parents and carers helps us to provide the best environment for our young people.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown**  
**Headteacher**

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

## Dates for your diary:

### Year 7

11<sup>th</sup> June Year 7 parents' evening (online – appointment only)

### Year 11

30<sup>th</sup> June Year 11 Prom

### Year 13

19<sup>th</sup> June Year 13 Prom

### All Years

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July Curriculum enrichment week

14<sup>th</sup> July Sports Day (reserve date: 16<sup>th</sup> July)

17<sup>th</sup> July Music Festival

Last day of term (students finish at 1.30pm, the DHSB buses will run their pick up at this time rather than 3.30pm)