



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have settled into our new term. Our students have made a great start to the year having reacted very positively to important messages about attendance and working hard to be their best selves. It is such a delight to see the pride students take in their class work and how determined they are to get to grips with all the material they are being taught. My thanks to our parent body for the work you do at home to echo these values, it makes a significant difference.

It was wonderful to meet with the parents, carers and students in Year 12 at our Year 12 expectations event this week. The Sixth Form team shared crucial information about how to get the most out of post-16 study and gave important dates between now and the final examinations in the summer of 2028. My thanks to the parents and carers who were able to attend, your support and encouragement are essential elements to helping our young people to be successful. The presentation used at the main talk has been emailed to parents for future reference.

Free school meals (FSM)

Following on from information previously shared with parents and carers about FSM, if parents/carers think their child(ren) may be eligible for FSM, please apply online at:

[Free school meals | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://plymouth.gov.uk/free-school-meals)



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Headteacher: Mr Simon Underdown BSc (Hons) NPQH

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Mr L Miller MBE BSc (Hons) FCCA PGCE

St Lawrence Road,
Plymouth, PL4 6HT

T: 0333 360 2230

E: office@plymouthhighschoolforgirls.org.uk

Plymouth High School for Girls is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755

Open evening

We have our **open evening** on Thursday 17th September and are busy recruiting students to act as ambassadors at the event. There are letters available in Reception for students to take home to you. The letters give details about what will happen and the timings. There is a consent slip at the bottom of the letter for parents/carers to complete and return to school. Our ambassadors are always the highlight of open evenings for our visitors; you may remember the ambassadors when you toured the school, so please do encourage your child to take part.

Reading and Literacy

Here is Miss Roughton's regular literacy update:

Extreme Reading competition

Do you recall that we asked students to take part in our extreme reading competition? There is still plenty of time to enter, with the deadline being the end of September!

We would love to see even more entries come in over the next few weeks. Every entry will receive House points, and there is a prize draw for a selection of goodies for the most extreme entry.

To help jog your memory and provide some inspiration, you can find examples on our website: [Extreme Reading competition 2026](#)

We look forward to receiving your entries and wish everyone the best of luck!



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My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Miss Noble, Office Manager

“I have a very small physical bookshelf with only a handful of books at home, however I have a vast array of audiobooks. The love of audiobooks started when my children were small, if we had a long journey, we would borrow an audiobook from the library to play in the car en-route; it would often be Doctor Who stories.

I now regularly listen to books when out walking the dog or doing the house work. I enjoy a great mix of books including futuristic sci-fi, detective novels, spy thrillers, romantic 'summer reading', and biographies. My favourite author is Jasper Fforde and the *Thursday Next* series. If a book grips me, I've been known to listen to the whole book in a day!”



Sustainability update

We have introduced reusable trays for students to use for any meals purchased in school that they wish to eat outside. This was in response to students saying that they would appreciate more sustainable 'takeaway' containers. Sadly, some of these returnable trays have already gone missing, so I would be grateful if parents and carers would support us in our message to have 100% of these trays returned before the end of lunch.



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Trust news

Our CEO left the Trust at the end of last academic year after many years dedicated and successful service. Mr Miller, the previous Deputy CEO, is the interim CEO whilst the Trustees conduct the substantive selection process for the permanent position. I will keep parents and carers informed once the process has concluded.

Best wishes,



Mr Simon Underdown
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Whole school

16 th October	Non-pupil day
19 th – 30 th October	Autumn half-term

2 nd November	Non-pupil day
3 rd November	All Years back to school

Year 10

23 rd September	Expectations evening
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Year 11

8th & 15th October

Year 11 parents' evening

Year 13

23rd September

Expectations evening



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