



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your feedback counts, Trust values

You may know that PHSG is part of a family of 26 schools within Thinking Schools Academy Trust which stretches across the south of England from Colchester to Plymouth. PHSG is one of 4 grammar schools in the Trust, and we work in partnership with them to learn from each other to help every child have the best possible experience. Whilst we work closely with all schools in the Trust, we have a particularly strong relationship with Plympton Academy and our 6 schools in Torbay.

As a family of Trust schools, we have decided to take a fresh look at our values, and this is where we need your thoughts. Our values are arranged in four areas, Think, Support, Aspire and Team and we are in the process of gathering views on which statement best reflects what we are trying to do under each of these headings.

I am asking that parents and carers review the values statements we have put forward and then rank them in order of preference (highest at the top). Your views, along with students and staff, will enable us to select the best fit for our Trust-wide refreshed values. You can find the form here: [TSAT values statements consultation – Share your views!](#)

I would be grateful if you could register your thoughts via the form before Monday 12th October. Many thanks in advance for taking time to share your views, it will be very helpful.



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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

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Microsoft Teams, our go to

Parents and carers will know that we are a Teams school and make use of Teams to post information about, amongst other things, lesson presentations, assessments, and homework. Teams is a great place for us to post information and a powerful 'go to' online location. I encourage parents and carers to discuss with their child(ren) the importance of regularly checking Teams. Students can usually find what they need by looking in Teams, but if you or they find that learning information is missing, please do contact the curriculum or subject leader for that subject, they will be able to help. If you are unsure who the curriculum or subject leader is, please either visit the website [here](#) and scroll down to curriculum and subject leaders or call the school office.

Student achievement

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

- Student of the Week: **Lud Y, 10T** "Lud has shown a great attitude towards her learning in Art so far this year. Her first artist study in GCSE Art is looking great!" - Nominated by Miss Walsh.
- Group of the Week: **Belle B, Evie O and Mimi S, 8T** "These students were exceptional on their tour during our recent open evening. They managed their group of 12 visitors smoothly, working well together as a team, and communicating with each other and the families to make sure we moved around the school together. They were happy to share their own experiences of being PHSG students and answered all questions confidently and knowledgeably. Wonderful ambassadors - well done!" - Nominated by Miss Redmond.



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Black History Month

Our wonderful Head Student Team delivered powerful assemblies to all year groups this week on the theme of Black History Month. They wanted to share with our community what they have posted [on our website here](#).

Pre-loved uniform shop

Our pre-loved uniform shop is proving very popular with families from both a sustainability and cost-effective perspective. We are delighted to announce more dates for when the shop is open:

Dates: Friday 9th October and Friday 4th December

Time: 1:30-2:30pm

Where: The old drama room/new examination room

- £5 for jumpers / blazers
- £3 for PE uniform
- Free swaps! And 3 for 2 discounts!

Cash or Arbor payments accepted (items are free for pupil premium students).

Reading & Literacy

Student librarian role

A reminder that the closing date for the 2026 Student librarian vacancy is Wednesday 7th October. This role is open to Years 8-13 and students can apply [here](#).



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It would be a real help if parents and carers would be kind enough to remind their child(ren) of this opportunity and how to apply.

Extreme Reading competition

The Extreme Reading Competition attracted entries from every year group, as well as a number of staff. From Australia to Austria, and from the ski slope in Plymouth to on the water in Plymouth Sound, our students and teachers found some truly imaginative locations in which to enjoy a good book.

It was fantastic to see so many members of the school community embracing reading and sharing their adventures from around the world. The creativity, enthusiasm, and love of reading on display made the competition a great success. It was difficult to decide on the winner.

A huge congratulations then to **Eva P (7L)** whose entries were selected as the winning submission. Eva will receive a bag of goodies along with a book voucher. Well done, Eva – that really was *extreme reading* at its finest (and most courageous). You can view the full gallery of entries on our Reading & Literacy page here: [Extreme Reading competition](#)

My Bookshelf – Spotlight on Mrs Claire Cross, School Governor

“I am an avid reader and it really helps to focus me and switch off a very active brain! I love factual and real-life stories. Some of my top reads ever are:

- *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts
- *Papillion* by Henri Charriere
- *Just one thing* by Dr Michael Moseley



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My current reads are *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle and *What's Your Dream?* by Simon Squibb (I nearly always have two on the go!)."



Paris 2027



The MFL team are excited to announce that we will be going to Paris during CEW 2027. The trip will be a residential for Years 8 and 9 only. Students should look out for a letter from their MFL teacher soon.

School orchestra

Ms Marcer-Griffiths would like to invite all students in Years 7 to 13 who play an orchestral instrument to join the school orchestra. The group meets at lunchtime on Thursdays in Room A24 and will be looking at a range of Christmas music in preparation for our annual Carols and Mince Pies event in December.



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Students of all abilities are welcome, and musical arrangements will reflect this. You will need your own instrument (which may be left in A24 safely for the day).

The first rehearsal will be at lunchtime on Thursday 15th October, and it would be lovely to see some new faces. The following instruments would be most welcome:

Bassoon	Double Bass	Oboe	Tuba
Cello	Flute	Saxophone	Viola
Clarinet	French Horn	Trombone	Violin
Cornet	Harp	Trumpet	

Ms Marcer-Griffiths would also like to invite any post-16 students who are interested in helping to run this ensemble to come and have a chat with her. What a great thing to add to a UCAS statement.

Flu vaccinations – Reminder

A reminder that Kernow Health CIC's School Age Immunisation Service will be delivering annual nasal flu vaccinations to PHSG students in Years 7 – 11 on Thursday 26th November 2026. You can find more information about the flu vaccination programme in this letter [here](#).

How to Consent

To provide consent, please use [this link](#) by 9.00am on 25th November 2026.

Best wishes,



Mr Simon Underdown

Headteacher



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

[Lunch menus for Term 1](#)

Dates for your diary:

Whole school

13 th October	PTFA AGM
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 11

8 th & 15 th October	Year 11 parents' evening
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