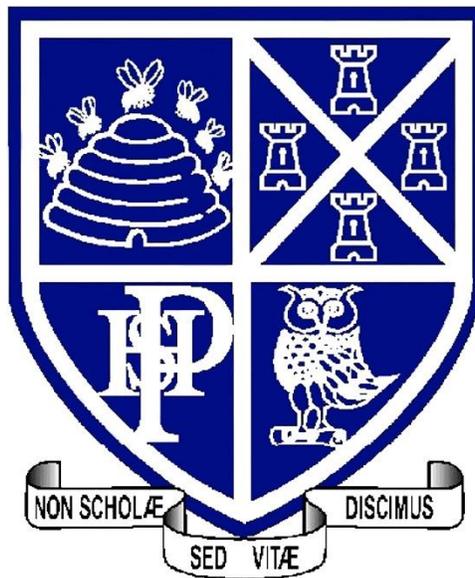


Plymouth High School

Year 12 Expectations Evening



“For life not school we learn”

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Aims of the Sixth Form

We aim to provide opportunities, conditions and experiences so that our students leave:

responsible

independent

ambitious

well qualified

well organized

confident

articulate

caring

and resilient;

able to make their own way as 21st Century citizens, successful in the much less supportive environment of work, Further or Higher Education.

“For Life Not School We Learn”

Studying for A Levels

Studying for A Levels is particularly demanding and it is vital that students become responsible for a much greater percentage of their own learning during Sixth Form. This means that they will be encouraged to think for themselves. They must take the opportunity to undertake independent study wherever possible during their study periods in school but also at home.

A level courses are studied over two years and measurement of progress will be by internal assessments throughout the course. This will usually include formal examinations at the end of Year 12 which helps ensure students are on track, and also provides valuable information for predicting grades for university applications and writing accurate and informative references.

At A Level, we expect students to be studying for around 4 hours per week per subject outside lesson time. If they do not, they are probably not working hard enough.

Studying for A levels is very demanding on time, and energy, and the time is very short

- Good attendance and punctuality are fundamental to success
- Research suggests that just a 10% drop in attendance equates to a student dropping a whole A Level grade
- We do not frown on part-time paid employment in principle but students ought not to:
 - a) take mid-week jobs
 - b) take on too much work and at inappropriate times (i.e. very early morning or till late in the evening. Weekend work is most appropriate).

Students **must not** take jobs between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm Monday to Friday in term time.

As always both prospective employers and University admissions tutors will ask for the number of unauthorised absences a student has had. Holidays during term time will **not** be authorised.

Summary of Expectations

All students will be expected to adhere to the following standards, set out in more detail in the **Sixth Form Student Handbook** given out at the start of term:

- Be Responsible, Independent and Ambitious
- Attend full-time
- Take responsibility for their learning and engage fully in lessons
- Meet all work deadlines
- Use independent learning time effectively – attend all supervised study sessions with appropriate work
- Respect staff and other students
- Set a good example
- Wear an ID badge as provided by the school (it must be visible at all times)
- Dress in a way appropriate for a place of work – the dress code is in the student handbook
- Make sensible use of school facilities
- Follow the attendance procedure
- Follow the signing out procedure if leaving the premises during the school day

If students do not develop good working habits particularly regarding homework and good use of study time, teachers will discuss the situation with the student and their parents as it may be an indication that an A Level course is not suitable.

We want our students to succeed academically but we also hope that they will develop into responsible young adults. There are many opportunities in school to develop communication, leadership and team-working skills and we encourage them to take up these opportunities wherever possible.

Attendance

- If a student's attendance is above 97%, then you may self-certify absence via email to kmills@phsg.org or ring school phone Ext 223, or text sixth form mobile 07808768016.
- If their attendance is below 97%, then all absences will need to be authorised by a parent/carer, and documentation may be required e.g. proof of appointments, and the student will be expected to meet regularly with their tutor.
- If attendance falls below 90% students will be called to a meeting with the Head of Sixth Form and with their parents to discuss a way forward

Morning Registration

Year 12 Students are expected to attend registration even if they have no lesson period 1 or 2. They should be in school every morning. This is to develop good work habits and work routines as well as to ensure the Tutor can pass on important messages and keep an eye on their progress and wellbeing.

Communication

It is vital that subject staff and tutors are able to contact students on a regular basis. Details of events and other important issues are communicated to students via the school e-mail system.

All students should **check their school e-mail account on a regular basis.**

We also ask all Sixth Form students to send a text with their full name to the **Sixth Form mobile phone 07808768016** in this way we can also send them urgent reminders or messages.

If students or parents have any concerns then please contact the personal tutor in the first instance, or the Head of Sixth Form. It is essential that the student, parents and staff at school work together to achieve the very best outcome possible.

Please update parental contact details with the Sixth Form Administrator if they change at any time.

Study time at home

Students **may** be allowed to study at home if they have non-contact lessons periods 3-5 from the Spring term if the students have demonstrated these good habits. The Sixth Form team will review the work of the year group at the end of the Autumn term to decide if the entire year group deserves this privilege or only certain students.

The Home study privilege may be removed for those who do not demonstrate the self-discipline and study habits needed to ensure good A Level grades.

Study Lessons

Students are expected to be spending approximately four hours per week on homework/lesson preparation for each A Level subject. They should be using their non-contact periods and time at home to do this.

Supervised study periods are built into student timetables to develop this self-discipline of studying in school in non-contact time. At other times, the library is the perfect place to find a quiet study area. There are some study facilities available in the Common Room but this is not necessarily a quiet study area and can be distracting. There is also a list of free rooms posted on a notice board in the Common Room. **Year 12 should be in school at all times unless given specific permission not to be, and the expectation is that they are working, not socializing in the common room.**

Monitoring of progress

Tutors and the Head of Sixth keep a regular check on achievements, academic progress and issues and interventions which teachers might have or be making with students who are under performing. Parents will be contacted if these concerns are not resolved quickly by the student and teacher. We would like to work together, parents and teachers, to support our students in developing good study habits so they achieve their full potential.

If however, it is clear that the A Level path is not working out, then our Careers Coordinator will support parents and students in finding suitable alternative paths.

Reporting and Assessment years 12 & 13: A level

Target grades are NOT shared with student in order to encourage them to aim as high as possible. Predicted grades for university are discussed with students towards the end of Year 12 but are not finalized until the Autumn Term of Year 13 when university choices are being made.

Students will be given the following information about their assessed work:

- A grade ranging from A* - U relating to their A Level performance or a band which relates to the A Level criteria.
- www/ ebi ('what went well' and 'even better if') comments.
- Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT) in lessons to act on targets set which will help them to improve.

We will report information in the following way:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>ATL</i>	<i>Predicted</i>
<i>Art</i>	2	<i>A*</i>
<i>History</i>	3	<i>A</i>
<i>Science</i>	4	<i>C+</i>

A + = A grade but could achieve an A*

A = A grade

A - = A grade, very likely to slip to B grade

Reporting: Attitude to learning

Students are awarded a grade on a 1 to 4 scale, with 1 being the highest, covering a variety of categories that describe their:

- Attitude, and ambition;
- Motivation, and enthusiasm;
- Resilience, and confidence in dealing with challenge
- Behaviour, and respect for the learning community in lessons.

Remote learning

All students enroll in a Google classroom online for each of their subjects.

Teachers will upload materials and set assignments in this classroom and it is

expected that students are logging in at their usual timetable time to these lessons if COVID has caused us to isolate groups or return to lockdown.

Examinations

Examinations take place at the end of the two year course. It is vital that regular revision takes place throughout the duration of the course and that the value of Mock examinations is respected as an indicator of future grades.

All students will receive copies of examination regulations and guidelines when timetables are issued. If they are entered for an exam and fail to attend they will be charged the full exam fee and penalties unless a doctor's note is produced. Exam timetables should be checked carefully and Mrs Hardwick informed of any errors.

Tutorial Programme and the Personal, Social, Health Education Programme

A structured series of topics is delivered either by the Head of Sixth, or the Head of PSHE once a fortnight. Students are expected to attend these lessons as they have been specifically designed to prepare them for their studies, and life beyond school.

Tutorial topics include: study skills, what makes an effective sixth former, resilience and mind set, taking better notes, career choices, as well as an opportunity for mentoring and progress tracking by the tutor

PSHE topics include: Healthy relationships, "sexting" and the law, employment rights, Digital life, alcohol and drugs misuse, self-harm and wellbeing, finance workshop, Citizenship, Parliament, the law and you.

Voluntary work or work shadowing

Voluntary work or work shadowing may take place during the school day if a student has a block of non-contact time but a letter from the organisation to prove attendance is required.

Higher Education and Careers

At PHSG we have a full programme of support for students as they consider their futures. Appropriate information and guidance is available which draws upon the expertise of experienced staff.

Entry standards to Higher Education are rising all the time, the situation is very competitive and great commitment is needed throughout the two years.

Universities now have access to much greater information about students; they will know the results of all past examinations taken by the candidate, their background, and the context of the school. With this information they will be able to discriminate between University applicants.

University & UCAS

Year 12 students begin their UCAS induction during the Spring term and may start their applications in the Summer term, although normally Year 13 starts with students focussing on their applications in the first half of the Autumn term. A useful library of books about courses and careers is available in the Sixth Form computer room along with material sent to us by universities.

Dr Van Es, who runs the UCAS preparation in Personal Social and Health Education lessons, regularly sends out information to the Sixth Form via their group email.

Oxford and Cambridge

Students are identified early as to their ambition and suitability for choosing these courses or places of study and advice is tailored to them individually. The Head of Sixth Form oversees and mentors those applying for Oxbridge and devises a series of support workshops and mock interviews to give them the confidence they need to shine.

Medicine, law, dentistry and other specialist degrees

Specialist staff in the Science Department advise on the specific needs of medical related degrees and the specialist entry tests BMAT, UKCAT, while the Law Department guides on LNAT.

It is the responsibility of the students to enter themselves for these tests.

Mock Interviews for university

Volunteers to conduct mock university interview are always appreciated if they have the relevant experience. Please contact us.

Study abroad

An increasing number of students are considering Higher Education abroad. We do have some knowledge of these opportunities but not the in depth knowledge and understanding that we possess about the UK system. Therefore, students wishing to explore opportunities abroad may have to rely on their own research with some support from staff.

Other opportunities beyond school – apprenticeships etc

A careers programme is built into our Tutorial and Personal, Social and Health Education lessons. This careers programme, run by Ms Longford, will inform students of alternatives to university.

Careers advice

Students are welcome to make an appointment with Ms Longford to discuss their career plans and opportunities beyond school. Ms Longford also regularly sends out relevant information to the Sixth form via their year group email.

hlongford@phsg.org

Enriching the learning and character building

Guided by our motto “For Life, not school we learn”, the school strongly supports and encourages a very wide range of activities to develop well rounded active citizens, with a love for learning.

Students are inspired to look beyond school, and to participate in activities which develop their confidence, resilience and leadership skills, as well as widening their horizons. Growth mind set principles are also incorporated into assemblies and tutor time activities. Local, national and international trips and activities, including exchanges with our twin school in Ghana, exchanges to a link school in Germany, or arduous adventure treks in Morocco or Ethiopia are all encouraged.

Leadership roles

The two years in the Sixth Form, particularly Year 12 is a time when students can develop their confidence and leadership skills, encouraging resilience in themselves and younger students as they organize House events or present on public occasions.

In the Autumn term the process begins for Year 12, of nominating, interviewing and selecting, firstly our Head Student Team, and then the House Captain teams, including Sports Captains. These are high profile posts which many of the younger years look up to and aspire to.

As well as these Year 12 students can volunteer to be a Subject Captain. Each subject may select students to organise a club, trip or activity to support their subject. Many also mentor younger students in that subject.

Alongside these opportunities, are other such as becoming a representative for their form on the Student Council or a Director of Young Enterprise team.

Enrichment opportunities **(Covid restrictions may sadly restrict much this year)**

There is a wide range of opportunities across the school and Sixth Formers are welcome to join in with these, not just for enjoyment but also to develop their skills and possibly career choices. They may also undertake voluntary work or work experience but they need to organize this themselves.

- the highly successful Bar Mock team (*careers in law*)
- the Greenpower team with their electric car, Hummingbird (*linked to careers in the sciences, maths, design, as well as marketing and sponsorship/business*)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Model United Nations debating world issues as the United Nations would, alongside 500 other students over a long weekend in Bath.
- Public speaking competitions, helping organize and train lower school students
- SWAT (South West Academic Trust) SWAT Ambassadors from the Sixth Form held lead competitions against the other 12 grammar schools in the South West
- UK MT – Maths Challenges at all levels, individual and team
- work with Dartmoor Zoo including opportunity to witness an animal dissection; visits to local laboratories etc. National Science competitions
- School Council, Youth Parliament & Mock elections
- Enterprise events including “You’re Hired” city wide enterprise competition
- School Magazine: Hear Me Out! Student led, student written, student focused
- Library - student librarians to help organize events e.g. the Harry Potter quiz
- Events: Student organized campaigns – usually coordinated by eager Sixth Formers
 - Climate Change protest (involving academics from Plymouth University as speakers,
 - Charity Fund raising e.g Children in Need day or the Year 12 £20 challenge events
- School concerts and plays e.g. Carols and Mince pies, Spring Concert, Grease, Matilda,

Trips for Sixth Formers may include

- Houses of Parliament
- London/Bristol art galleries
- Wembury Marine Centre
- Nettlecome study centre (Geography)
- Maths master classes
- CERN, Geneva or Paris, Institute of Physics
- Derriford Hospital
- Dartmoor Zoological Park
- German/French exchange
- Stratford, Royal Shakespeare plays

Outside school – celebrating a culture of success

Many of our students do activities outside school. We encourage them to continue these and celebrate their success, as long as their academic work does not suffer. Please do inform us of their achievements

16-19 Access Bursary Fund

What is the bursary for?

The fund provides help to students needing support to help them to stay in full-time education. The Bursary can be used for costs such as:

- Books and Equipment
- Course Costs such as Field Trips
- Accommodation and Meals
- Transport
- Clothing and Uniforms

Who can get a bursary?

In Plymouth all schools/ academies run a joint scheme. This is made up of two parts:

(a) Guaranteed Bursaries

Those most in need will be **eligible for a bursary of £1,200 a year**. This is for:

- young people in care,
- care leavers,
- young people receiving income support or Universal Credit in their own name, and
- disabled young people receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own name

(b) Discretionary Bursaries

Other students who need support to help them to stay in education or training may also be able to receive funds. This year bursaries are awarded to students in the following groups:

- Students claiming Free School meals
- Students receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own name
- Students living in Households with income below **£25,000**

How and when are payments made?

A simple application form and further guidance can be downloaded from the school website or obtained from Sixth Form Student Services. Bursaries are paid directly in to your bank account over the school year depending on continued attendance and behaviour. If you do not attend or your behaviour is poor, you may not receive all or some of that month's bursary.

Full details of this scheme are on the Plymouth City Council website.

The Sixth Form Team

Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Head Teacher: Ms C Eales-White
cealeswhite@phsg.org

Assistant to Head of Sixth Form & Administrator: Mrs K Mills
kmills@phsg.org

Careers and Work Experience Coordinator: Mrs H Longford
hlongford@phsg.org

UCAS: Dr van Es
rvanes@phsg.org

Year 12 Tutors – Zone: Science/Common Room/ Main Hall/Rm 5

BLU (Rm8)	Ms Blunden-Currie	sblundencurrie@phsg.org
LWN (Rm11)	Mrs Lewin	clewin@phsg.org
MAL (CommRm)	Mr Mallard	rmallard@phsg.org
MCA (Library)	Miss McAuliffe	tmcauliffe@phsg.org

Year 13 Tutors- Zone: Science/Common Room/Main Hall/Rm 5

BNS (Rm12)	Mr Baines	ebaines@phsg.org
FIN (Rm10)	Mrs Finlay	lfinlay@phsg.org
GRA (Rm7)	Mr Graves	lgraves@phsg.org
VAN (Rm9)	Dr van Es	rvanes@phsg.org

Important Dates

All events are subject to the most up to date COVID restrictions so arrangements will be communicated to parents nearer the time. It is likely that the tutor or Head of Year will contact parents of students about whom we are concerned rather than have face to face parents' evenings.

Expectations Evening (Y12) – now virtual via website/email link

16^h September (*information booklet & letter emailed to parents*)

Reports sent home

November, March and June for **Y12**

November, February, March for **Y13**

Mock Exams

19th -30th April for Year 12

4th -15th January for Year 13

Parent's Evening for Y13 and invited Year 12

3rd December

Parent's Evening for Y12 and invited Year 13

11th March

Curriculum Enrichment Week - week commencing 12th July 2021

During this week, **all** year 12 are expected take part in an activity, or work experience, which they have arranged themselves. Details of school run activities will be given out later in the year, and some will incur a charge. This activity is dependent on the COVID situation and will be confirmed nearer the time.

"My time in the Sixth Form at PHS was incredibly rewarding - Sixth Form is a period of huge change, where you'll really start to become much more independent in your learning and in your direction. The school gave me the resources to help me map my own pathway and the support network that PHS provided was invaluable in giving me confidence in the decisions that I made. Sixth Form is all about figuring out not only what you enjoy learning, but also how you learn best, and the chance to explore this is a key part of what makes PHS such a rewarding environment. The opportunities for extra-curricular development are also a unique part of what the school offers; the role of subject captain allows you to share your passion for a particular area of study with younger students, House Team roles are vital to the school's strong sense of community, and the Head Student Team, in my experience, gives you the chance to really make a difference to the school and wider community. PHS is a school that encourages and fosters independence, but also the ability to ask for help. Sixth Form is like a school within a school: it is not only where you will learn integral parts of the curriculum and prepare for the future, but it is also a community of people who are so passionate and dedicated."

**Reflection by
Harriet Gill
Head Girl 2019-20**

