



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

16th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you about an exciting development which we think will help to secure the future of Plymouth High and enable us to keep providing quality education within a framework of effective and caring pastoral support.

We have been in discussions with the Thinking Schools Academy Trust to investigate whether joining the Trust would be in the best interests of our students and community.

Plymouth High is all about promoting an inclusive culture of high aspiration to enable our students to make strong academic progress within a friendly and encouraging environment. We want our young people to develop as confident and independent learners. To form healthy partnerships with other schools, we have all been very clear that our values must align. Our motto, "for life not school we learn" underpins all that we do and is the measure by which we judge what is right for Plymouth High. Thinking Schools Academy Trust is all about transforming life chances and I am certain that they are a great fit for us.

Staff and Governors at the school have been through a very extensive consultation and due diligence process with Thinking Schools Academy Trust. No stone was left unturned and all colleagues have had the opportunity to raise questions and engage in dialogue with the Trust.

Following the extensive consultation period, Governors decided to approach the Regional Schools Commissioner to request that Plymouth High be considered as a potential new member of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust.

Part of the process of conversion is a consultation with parents and the wider community. It is usual for this to be conducted at the school looking to convert, but with COVID19 restrictions in place, we are unable to have a physical consultation. However, the consultation will go ahead virtually, and we anticipate this will happen in October. More details will follow on how you can take part in the consultation.

Our admission arrangements will not change if we become part of the Trust, nor will our motto, our values or what we stand for. However, we will have access to a very

comprehensive suite of tools for developing teaching and learning and considerable support for our back office function. I am convinced that joining the Trust will have a very significant positive impact on the work of our school and that it is the right thing for Plymouth High and our community.

I include here for you a [link](#) to the Thinking Schools Academy Trust for your information. The Trust already has two other Grammar schools as part of the family, Rochester Girls and Holcombe. You can access their websites [here](#) and [here](#).

If Plymouth High joins the Trust, we would become the first school in the Thinking Schools Academy Trust South West hub. As the hub grows, we would benefit from strong partnerships and shared expertise to ensure that our students get the best possible school experience.

I will write to you again with details of the parent and wider community consultation process.

Best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.