



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Year 12 and 13 back into school this week after their 14-day isolation period. We understand that after the summer lockdown, going into this further isolation was not just disruptive but also distressing for many. However, I am delighted to hear from staff that the students were focussed and worked well, doing their tasks, and communicating with their teachers via Google Classroom. I was impressed with the effort and initiative that the students demonstrated. While challenging, this time is a real chance for them to develop their independence, responsibility and resilience. These are all vital characteristics in the workplace in the long run, as well as important for parents, and the teachers here, at this difficult time.

Teachers have worked very hard to ensure that all exam courses are covered, and assessment tasks prepared for, just as is needed to do well in next summer's exams, so the impact of any disruption should be minimal if students follow what is set out in Google classroom.

I would like to share with you some new arrangements which we have trialled this week in order to reduce the contact between Year 12 and Year 13 students. We have now decided to continue these arrangements as they appear to have worked. The hope is that Public Health England might look on this more favourably, and allow us to isolate a smaller number of students if we are presented with another positive case. We cannot create two entirely separate bubbles as some classes are mixed 12 and 13 but we can help keep them apart as much as possible by giving them separate areas with more space, and allowing them off site, to study at home more often.

Year 12

- Year 12 are to use the main hall and room 5 as their social space at break and lunchtime. They may use the folding chairs. The fabric chairs on the stage must not be used as we cannot sanitise them. This area must be tidied and sanitised when they leave as lessons are taught in there afterwards. Cleaning materials are behind the curtains on the window sills.
- There will be a fridge, kettle and microwave in Room 5; cleaning materials will be there too, so that the classroom can be cleaned by the students ready for the afternoon lesson.
- Toilets for Year 12 during break and lunch are the science toilets.
- Year 12 should study in the library but at separate desks from year 13, and also in any of the free rooms listed on the sixth form office door during

noncontact lessons, but again in separate rooms from year 13. Computers & chrome books in the library can be used but must be sanitised afterwards

- 12MAL will register in the Main hall rather than the common room
- Badges have now been given to year 12 so they can leave site at break/lunch times – always signing out and back in, so we have an accurate fire register.
- Students may also leave at that start of lunch time to study at home if they have no lesson period 5. This will reduce the numbers needing to use social spaces. If they wish to study on site however, they are welcome to stay.
- Study at home will be considered in the future once clear, effective work routines have been established, demonstrating to teachers that students have a good work ethic.

Year 13

- Should come in as usual for registration if they have a lesson period 1, but if they do not, then they come in for their first timetabled lesson and are registered in that
- Year 13 may study at home if they have a non-contact lesson and are encouraged to leave the site at the start of lunch (or earlier if non-contact lessons) if they have no lesson after lunch so reducing the numbers on site especially in social spaces. They must always sign out and back in again, so we have an accurate fire register.
- Year 13 may use the Common Room and the Sixth Form Computer room as their social and study area and the Common Room toilets during break and lunch.
- Year 13 may study in the library but at separate desks from year 12, and also in any of the free rooms listed on the sixth form office door but again keep to separate rooms from year 12.
- Year 13 Tutorial and PSHE lessons continue as normal during this vital time as they prepare for life after PHSG.

Some reminders we have shared with all students:

- On transport into school remember to socially distance and wear masks.
- In school we are asking Year 12 and 13 to keep away from each other as much as possible.
- Staff will continue to put materials on Google classroom if students have to self-isolate for family reasons. Students should continue to keep up with work and assignments if they have to stay at home, if they have problems they simply need to email their teachers or post queries in Classroom online.
- Self-isolate does mean self-isolate, no socialising, nor going out, even with your own peer group.

- Out of school please respect the Government's new rules on a maximum of 6 people gathering and reduce the number of households mixing as much as possible. This applies walking to and from school, and around town, and other social activities too.
- Finally, keep school informed of any tests you may have and the result. If positive, a copy of the positive test should be sent to vbenwell@phsg.org, the Head's PA, and kmills@phsg.org, the Sixth Form administrator.

Finally, our aim at all times is to keep our community safe, and to support our students in their ambitions beyond school. Teachers are working hard to support students in both their learning and their wellbeing during these difficult times. Thank you too for your understanding; we are more than aware that these are challenging times for parents as well, and are very grateful for your support.

Yours sincerely

C Eales-White

Claire Eales-White

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form