



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

December Newsletter

Welcome to the latest addition of our newsletter, it is packed full of interesting stories covering a wide variety of activities and successes. Our students really do throw themselves into school life and get involved in as much as they can.

Thank you to those of you who follow us on Facebook. We share pictures and information each week to give a flavour for what the students are doing and what is happening in and around school. We are very grateful for all the positive comments posted.

Our Christmas activities begin in December and we will be running our usual much loved events. The Carols and Mince Pies Evening starts at 6pm on Wednesday 4th December and the students have the Drama Festival to look forward to.

On the last day, Friday 20th December, we will head over to the Church for a Carol Service and then return to school to dismiss students for the early finish of 1pm. As a reminder, if you would like us to provide a space in school for your daughter between when school closes at 1pm until 3.30pm, please let your daughter's Head of Year know.

On behalf of the staff and students at Plymouth High, I wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Simon Underdown
Headteacher

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Congratulations to Miss Boyle on becoming a United Nations Climate Change teacher by completing a 25-hour course covering: climate change legislation, gender equality, impacts on cities, health and children. She now joins a forum for spreading climate change education to all classrooms across the world.

You can see as a school we are now on the global map - <https://www.educateglobal.org/>

Youth Parliament



Congratulations to Ellie, a member of Youth Parliament who, alongside a fellow member of Youth Parliament received the Police Superintendents certificate for selflessness, on behalf of their work across the City of Plymouth on knife crime.

Devon and Cornwall Police are now using their work to assist them across the force area. Jenny Way, Professional Youth Worker at Plymouth City Council, said: "Youth Parliament will continue to work with Devon and Cornwall Police to ensure campaigns are current, proportionate, relevant and related to young people. This award evidences a significant and consistent dedication to working towards ensuring Plymouth remains a safe place for young people to live and thrive".

Plymouth High has always had an excellent representation at Plymouth Youth Parliament and the school is proud that Ellie's work has been recognised so publically.

Niamh is currently one of two elected Members of Youth Parliament for Plymouth. She and her fellow member of the Youth Parliament recently went to London to take part in a televised Youth Parliament debate in the House of Commons. Niamh was elected following her campaign on suicide prevention. The debate was presided over by the newly elected Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.



Bar Mock



In November our team won the Bar Mock Trial Competition regional heat. Now... on to the Old Bailey for the national final in March next year! Congratulations on an amazing achievement.

National Baton Twirling Association

We were delighted to hear that Amelia came 2nd in the recent Baton Twirling National Championships held in Torquay. During the Nationals week she achieved:

- 1st National Champion Military strut
- 1st National Champion duet
- 2nd Dance solo

Amelia has also been selected to represent England in Eindhoven in April 2020. She trains every other weekend in Taunton and competes all over the country throughout the year.



Hummingbird



Our Team Hummingbird were victorious twice at the Greenpower Formula 24 Electric Car International Finals just before half term.

The judges were not only impressed by the team's performance on the track, but recognised the exceptional Engineering work which had taken place throughout the year, and the team's clear commitment to the STEM subjects beyond the school curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths).

The team were delighted to receive the Portfolio Award for this extensive work. In addition, the judges were further impressed by the Team Spirit, positive approach and the way the team interacted with others at the event. This was recognised by the awarding of the Best Presented Team trophy.

We are all proud of the achievements in this race, which is the icing on the cake of the year-long journey of learning about Engineering applications in this competitive context. There have been about 50 students involved this year, not just those who were able to attend the race, and their dedication, innovation and commitment are hugely commendable.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for investing in the future engineers and leaders: DPD, Anritsu and the National Schools Snow Sports Association. Without their help we would not be able to compete at this level. The PTFA have been very generous in their support too, and we are planning to continue developing and improving ready for the 2020 racing season...

Two Moors Way



Jess in Year 8, recently completed the 102 mile Two Moors Way, from Lynmouth to Ivybridge, crossing both Exmoor and Dartmoor over four weekends. She experienced extremes of weather from the scorching sun to gales, fog and torrential rain. Jess plans to add a final stage from Ivybridge to Wembury, making it an epic Coast to Coast expedition. Well done Jess!

Well done to Lydia in Year 9 who has recently been offered a featured role in Birmingham Royal Ballet's production of "Swan Lake Dreams" which will be at the Theatre Royal next year.



Year 8 Enterprise Day



Year 8 competed in the bin bag ball gown challenge for Enterprise Day. All students worked together in teams to create a red carpet gown made entirely from recycled/scrap materials based on their chosen designer. Students were asked to come up with their own branding, to consider their brand's unique selling point along with a marketing campaign that featured a chosen celebrity endorsement. Special thanks to @plymouthcollegeofart fashion students who volunteered to support students and thank you to the photography students who photographed the event.



Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day Amelie (far right) laid a poppy wreath at the war memorial on Plymouth Hoe as part of the public memorial service. We are very proud of the excellent leadership and standards Amelie is demonstrating in her role as a Leader in the Volunteer Police Cadets, Crownhill Unit.

Photo credits: Jason Kiely, One Plymouth.



Harmani in 8A had the honour of laying a remembrance wreath at the Menin Gate in Belgium on remembrance Sunday, representing the Saltash Fire Cadets.

Rotary Young Writer of the Year 2019

Congratulations to Holly on receiving her District Winner and Highly Commended Prizes for the Rotary Young Writer of the Year Competition 2019 and also to Isabella on receiving her certificate for participation in the Rotary Young Writer of the Year Competition 2019.



MP Luke Pollard Visits PHSG



PHSG was delighted to invite Luke Pollard MP into school on Friday 8th November listen to the Head Girl Team describing what we did in school in September to campaign against climate change. Luke spent an hour with us and gave the students a real understanding of how they can make their voices heard on a national platform.

PHSG Hustings

On Wednesday 27th of November, we invited into school all the candidates hoping for election to the Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport seat for a hustings. Each candidate gave a short address to our students to outline their policies and reasons for standing. There were a number of questions from the floor giving our students the chance to quiz the candidates and to find out a bit more about what drives them and what they really think. The questions covered many of the hot topics of this General Election and gave our students an insight into our democratic process.



Swim 100

Ianthe in Year 10 has achieved something quite amazing. She recently took part in a sponsorship challenge called 'Swim 100' in aid of Guide Dogs.

For the challenge you can choose to swim 100 anything during the month of October (lengths, metres, miles etc.). Ianthe chose to swim 100 swimming buoys in Plymouth Sound. This meant managing the logistics of: the weather, tides, safety issues, being stung by jellyfish and swimming in the sea as it got progressively colder in just a swimming costume. She raised £600 which is an amazing achievement.



Student of the Week Winners

Week ending 11th October

Group: 11CRT "for once again being brilliant and being the only Year 11 tutor group to all get their CVs in." Mrs A Carter

Week ending 18th October

Individual: Nancy 9ROP for "being reliable, enthusiastic and really hard working." Miss Tomalin

Group: Year 10 GCSE Music Group for "some great work creating raps and rhymes to learn about rhythm." Mrs Lemin

Week ending 1st November

Individual: Evelyn 7L for "always being enthusiastic and keen to contribute to lessons. No one puts their hand up more to answer questions!" Mrs Will

Week ending 8th November

Individual: Grace 11BRO for "emptying the recycling bag in the Exams/Finance Office every week and is always happy and smiling." Mrs Hardwick.

Group: 7L for "having a fantastic attitude in tackling some very complicated German grammar." Mrs Gilchrist.

Week Ending 15th November

Individual: Caroline 9T for "making a fantastic effort to improve in maths and doing independent work". Nominated by Mrs Will

Group: Bar Mock Team for "winning the regional final." Nominated by Mrs Findlay

Old Girls

Congratulations to Danielle Penrose who in October qualified as a solicitor after securing and completing her training contract with Wolferstans Solicitors. Danielle undertook an LLB Law Degree at Liverpool John Moores University. She graduated in 2015 having left PHSG in 2012.

She then returned to Plymouth to start working at Wolferstans Solicitors as a Paralegal in the Family Department. Whilst working part-time as a Paralegal, Danielle completed the Legal Practice Course and obtained a Masters in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Law in Exeter.



Danielle Penrose (left) and Rebecca Bawler (right)

Rebecca undertook an LLB Law Degree at the University of the West of England ('UWE', in Bristol) after leaving PHSG in 2010. Rebecca has also recently become a member of Solicitors for the Elderly ('SFE') - a specialist group of solicitors and lawyers whose aim is to make a difference to older and vulnerable people's lives and ensure they receive the best legal service offered. She is now looking to begin working on the Society for Trust and Estate Practitioners ('STEP'), qualification which sets the bar for private client lawyers who practice in this area.

In law, the studying never stops- even once you are qualified!

On Friday 8th November, PHSG were delighted to welcome back old girls and teachers from the 1970s. They had a tour of the school, met current teachers and students and sang the school song in the Main Hall. Although they could see just how much Plymouth High had changed compared to when they attended, they felt that the school still held true to our motto of 'For life not school we learn'. The old girls presented the school with a wooden carving as a memento of their visit.



Old Girls in the News

We are very proud of Poppy and Brodie, for their fantastic achievement in bringing an idea, that started in A level art here at PHSG, to a successful conclusion with these epic murals. To find out more please click on this link:

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/whats-on/epic-mural-plan-eyesore-plymouth-3536769>



Chinese Club

We are delighted to welcome former Chinese Teacher Miss Liu back to PHSG running our Chinese Club for Years 7, 8 and 9 students. They are already corresponding with their Chinese Pen Pal and getting to grips writing Chinese Calligraphy whilst holding the brush upright—not easy by all accounts!

