



# PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## Spring Half Term Newsletter 2020

A warm welcome to this edition of the newsletter. As usual, our talented students have been involved in a range of exciting activities and this newsletter celebrates their participation and successes. We are so proud of our students and their achievements and hope that you will enjoy finding out what they have been up to.

We were delighted to be awarded the Quality in Careers Standard in January. It is a national award, highlighting the high standard of careers education at the school. More about this in the newsletter.

You will see on the front cover of this edition a picture of the new Head Student Team. Elections were held before Christmas and we were overwhelmed by the quality of the applications. Our students really are very special. Following a rigorous process, we appointed: Georgia, Ymma, Madeleine and Zoe to the office of Head Student Team with Georgia as the Head Student. They have made a wonderful start to their new roles and have lots of exciting plans for the future.

With half term fast approaching, I wish all students, parents and staff a happy holiday.

### Inside this issue:

- Student Achievements
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- Careers/This Month's Hot Jobs
- Magazine Family First
- Notices
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In the second half of this term Mr Underdown will be holding an information evening to share with parents some forthcoming initiatives. Further details will follow shortly via Parentpay.

# Student Achievements



There was a fantastic effort by students and staff with a total donation of 52 plus Christmas boxes for the local homeless last term



Well done to Mia in 7 Latimer she received a distinction in her Grade 3 Speech exam.

We are delighted that Lucy (ex Year 12) has been accepted as an Arkwright Engineering Scholar and recently took part in the awards ceremony in Edinburgh



Congratulations to Isabella for achieving her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 visited MVV Environment to help them to understand how Plymouth disposes of waste and generates it into enough electricity to power 37,000 homes!





## Student of the Week Winners

### Week ending 22nd November 2019

**Individual: Bonnie 9ROP:** for "always working hard in maths. She is cheerful and makes a great contribution to the lessons." Nominated by Mrs Will

**Group: Isabelle and Emma Year 10:** for "writing, filming and editing a chemistry music video on metal reactivity. This was not an assignment—they just chose to revise the topic in this creative way. It has had many views on YouTube and has been recognised as an amazing science resource and shared on the internet by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Fantastic effort!" Nominated by Miss Joynes

### Week ending 6th December 2019

**Individual: Mali 9CLW** for "consistent effort and contribution to lessons". Nominated by Mrs Will

**Group: Year 11 GCSE PE** for "their resilience and positive attitudes during trampolining today - they ALL completed supported somersaults despite not believing they could. This will help their GCSE grades. They were brilliant." Nominated by Mrs Goolden

### Week ending 13th December 2019

**Individual: Josephine 10WAN** for "taking responsibility for her own learning in Maths". Nominated by Mr Underdown

**Group: 10Y2 English Literature group** for "all their hard work". Nominated by Miss Taylor

### Week ending 17th January 2020

**Individual: Ophelia 10RFD** for "excellent participation in French." Nominated by Mrs A Carter

**Group: The Microsoft Maker Champion Workshop Group Year 7** for "being excellent ambassadors for the school. Eager to ask and answer questions and present their ideas." Nominated by Mrs Leppard

### Week ending 24th January 2020

**Individual: Jasmine 8T** for "great improvement in focus across all her subjects". Nominated by Mrs Gilchrist

**Group: Year 11** for "sitting mock GCSE in the Main Hall. They had to deal with trying temperatures, let alone the stress of the exams, and they all behaved admirably." Nominated by Mr Pearce



Huge congratulations to Lily (Year 7) and Jasmine (Year 8) both in Temple. The sisters recently performed in the Camborne solo and quartet brass contest. They both played solos in the 12 and under slow melody class. Jasmine achieved second place and Lily third. They then went on to perform a duet together in the Under 18 duet class and came 3rd. They also competed with their fellow youth band members in the quartet and ensemble classes.

# PE News

Congratulations to Summer who competed in the Scottish National Diving Championship in Edinburgh. She made both her finals in the 14-15 age category and came 4th in the 3 metre and 3rd in the 1 metre. She also competed in the open women's category against Olympians and achieved 9th place! What a star!

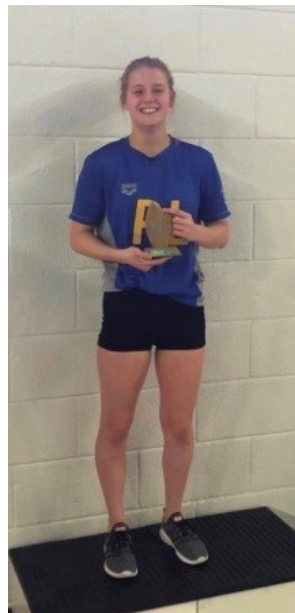
Well done to the students who attended the British Indoor Rowing Championship in London - Millie, Maisy, Ella, Lucy, Tori, Ellie and Megan. Congratulations to Millie who came third in the 500m race and Maisy and Millie who achieved 2nd place in the team race.

Abby in Year 12 competed in the English Schools Swimming Association Diving Championships in London and achieved 3rd place in the Year 12-13 category. Well done Abby!



Aimee recently competed in the swimming regional championships at Millfield School. She won silver medals for both her events in the junior categories, ensuring qualification for the British Championships.

She has now been selected for the SW Swim England team travelling to Portugal in February to compete internationally in the 50, 100 and 200m fly. We wish her every success!

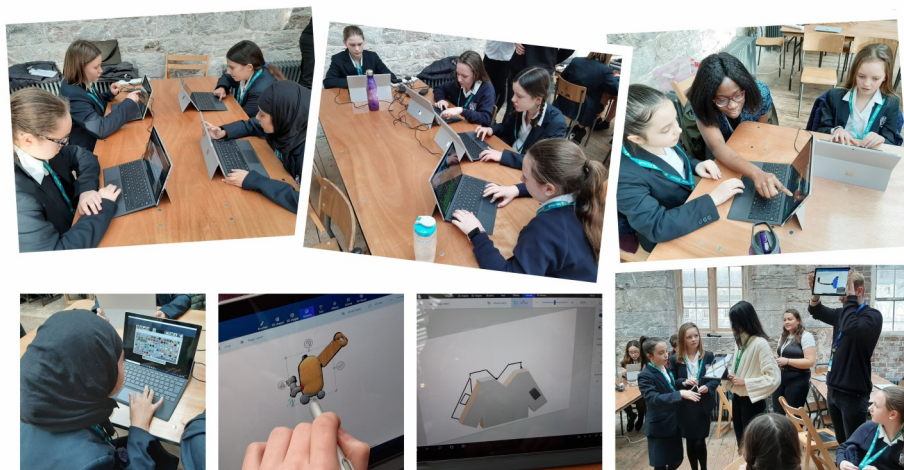


Congratulations to Issy in Year 7 and Verity in Year 8 who both competed at the Devon Cross Country Championships on Saturday at Stover School. They both came 6th in their age groups and have qualified for the South West round to be held in Bournemouth.

# Technology



The library has been hosting a fabulous display of the stunning lampshades made by Year 10 Design and Technology Textiles students in conjunction with Plymouth College of Art. There have been many compliments, and suggestions they should be making and selling them!



A group of Year 7 students recently attended the Microsoft Maker Champion Workshop at Ocean Studios for an introduction to coding, programming and modelling ideas which could future proof our world. The girls displayed some very creative digital STEM skills which hopefully sparked their curiosity for possible careers in the technology industry.

## Magazine Family First

We attach here a link to a magazine Family First which has some interesting articles, activities and even recipes, in which you might be interested. It is free and clearly paid for by the advertising in it; we do not specifically endorse any of the companies who may advertise but do think the content of the magazine might be of interest to parents which is why we are providing the link in this newsletter.

**Here is your free e-copy of Family First, the UK's largest family title - Enjoy**  
[https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff-issue\\_5\\_digital130120](https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff-issue_5_digital130120)



Like & follow us on





# Nancy Astor Statue Unveiling

'It was a pleasure to be part of the 100 year celebration to honour Nancy Astor the first woman to stand in parliament. PHSG marched through Plymouth City Centre onto the Hoe campaigning for equality in our 21st century parliament - as with equal seats, there is equal say!' *Saja Head Student 2019*

'It was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the past, but also highlighted the need for further change. We were representing the 50:50, and [#AskHerToStand](#) campaign, fighting for greater representation and equal opportunity in parliament today.' *Harriet Deputy Head Student 2019*



## Careers

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the Quality Standard Careers Award.

The award, which shows we are meeting high standards in our careers provision, reflects the importance we place on providing guidance and support to our students.

It was confirmed following a rigorous external assessment by CSW Investor in Careers in January.

They said the degree in which the careers is embedded across the curriculum in every subject is "exemplary - a model of good, and possibly best practice."

They were particularly impressed with how students were able to give examples of how their teachers related their learning to the world of work and careers.

Mr Underdown said: "Being awarded the Quality Standard Careers Award is a real achievement. By fully meeting the accreditation criteria, incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks, we are encompassing our school motto 'for life, not school, we learn'. We are committed to continue to develop our careers provision to ensure that our students have the skills to enable them to make career decisions both now and in the future."



# THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW

As part of our Careers and Guidance Programme this term, we attended The National Apprenticeship Show, at Westpoint Arena on the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

The show brought students together with employers and training providers offering all levels of Apprenticeships from intermediate, advanced, higher and degree. The students were particularly interested to explore the growing opportunities for the higher and degree Apprenticeships.

During National Apprenticeship week, beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> February, students will be expanding their knowledge on the wide variety of apprenticeship on offer both locally and nationally. If you would like to find out more details about apprenticeships, please refer to our website by clicking on the link below:

<https://phsg.org/careers-education-guidance>

There will be another opportunity for parents and students to explore careers and apprenticeships at Skills Southwest, Plymouth Pavillions – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 4:30pm – 7pm; the South West's largest careers, jobs, skills and apprenticeship event.

For more information, visit: [www.skillsengland.co.uk](http://www.skillsengland.co.uk)



Young Women into STEM is a unique careers fair - it is for young people (and their family) to come along and learn about the endless possibilities of a career or job in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths. Over 30 companies from the Plymouth area will be attending the event, so whatever you want to do - there will be a company to answer your questions! CSW group will also be giving a talk to provide impartial careers advice.

There will also be torchlight zoo tours from DZP staff - to find out what the animals get up to after dark and what sort of careers contribute to their welfare. To book your place please visit the website <https://winstemplymouth.org/>

Date: 10th February 2020 Time: 17:45 – 20:00

Venue: Dartmoor Zoo, Sparkwell, Plymouth, PL7 5DG

## Introducing Elaine Bleazard, PHSG Enterprise Advisor

Elaine has recently taken on the role of Plymouth High School for Girls Enterprise Advisor. She has worked in banking since leaving school at 18. Alongside her role as Community Hub Director, Elaine looks after all the branches of Santander in Plymouth. Elaine loves her job as she, "gets to meet so many interesting people." Her husband also works for Santander and they have a 4 year old daughter called Charlotte.

In addition to her day job Elaine is a Director for 2 organisations - Plymouth City Centre Company and Plymouth Against Retail Crime. Elaine enjoys being an active member of the community and volunteers as a Trustee for Plymouth Drake Foundation and Plymouth College of Art Charitable Trust.

As Enterprise Advisor, Elaine will be working with Mrs Longford to support and develop the careers programme.

Elaine is really keen to meet with as many PHSG students as possible. "If there is anything you feel I can help you with, (interview skills, CV writing, business contacts, mentoring) then please feel free to contact me on: [elaine.bleazard@santander.co.uk](mailto:elaine.bleazard@santander.co.uk)



### VET

Vets diagnose and treat sick or injured animals.



**Salary**  
£30,000  
to £50,000



**Subjects**  
A great job if you  
love science &  
animals.



**Jobs**  
5% more jobs  
nationally by 2023



#### Skills

- customer service skills
- patience & ability to remain calm
- use judgement & make decisions
- excellent verbal communication

#### Interested?

Find out more about this job & lots more at:

**CAREERPILOT.ORG.UK**



\* In 2018 the national average salary was £29,000. Remember, this figure will go up or down, depending on where you live.



# Notices

## Chinese Club

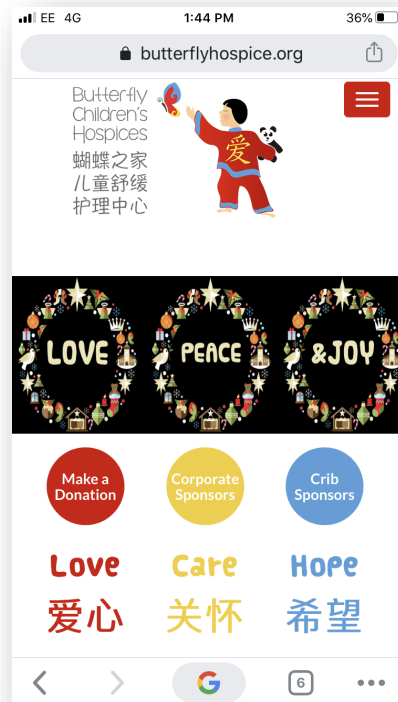
This year, our Chinese Club will continue to celebrate Chinese New Year/Lantern Festival (open to the whole school) on Wednesday 5th February. This exciting event is also held in aid of Chinese Children's Hospice.

More details to follow.

### A Plea for Year 7 Enterprise Day

Please save any Christmas/Store gift bags. We need 24 size A4—A3 bags. If you have any please deliver them to reception or the sixth form office.

Many thanks



## HPV Immunisations

First dose for year 8s and second dose for year 9s will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Any parents of year 8 students who would like their daughter to receive the vaccination but who **haven't already completed the online consent form** can use the link :

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/hpv/2019/devon> which will be open until midnight on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020. All enquiries should be made to Virgin Care on 0333 321 9884 or email [vcl.immunisationphnsecondary@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.immunisationphnsecondary@nhs.net).

### Illness during school day

Reminder that students should not be contacting parents/carers if they feel unwell. Students need to go to AO1 where a member of staff will assess if they need to go home and will contact parents/carers accordingly.

Time to Vaccinate



# Year 11 Last Day

The last official day for Year 11 will be Thursday 7th May 2020. From Monday 11th May, subject teachers will be in their usual teaching rooms at the usual lesson time to support students with their revision and preparation. Teachers will provide this support until the last examination in their subject. Year 11 students are encouraged to make use of the support on offer and attend whenever their examination timetable permits.

## Home School Communication

**Students** may contact staff if they have queries, firstly by visiting them in their department area, and only contacting them using school email system if they really can't see them in person.

**Parents** may wish to contact staff. The following outlines what the Headteacher regards as important considerations regarding home/school communication, particularly by email:

- ◆ All communication must respect the dignity of the recipient.
- ◆ Within 48 hours: receipt of an email will be acknowledged by school either by the person contacted, or the most appropriate person able to deal with the issue (term time only, not after 5pm nor over a weekend).
- ◆ Within 5 working days: school will provide a response to the email by telephone or in writing, or e-mail. This may include informing the sender that more time is required to provide a full response. If this is the case, staff should indicate a time frame for a response.
- ◆ Staff will not be expected to monitor or respond to emails outside their normal working hours (nor at weekends and published school holidays).

Whilst this is extremely rare, if a member of staff receives an e-mail or call which is of an aggressive tone, sets unreasonable demands or could otherwise be interpreted as harassing, they will refer this to a senior line manager in the school, who will decide if consideration needs to be given to dealing with further communication under our Complaints Policy.

## Is Your Child Eligible For Free School Meals?

The school also benefits if your child is eligible for free school meals so please check the criteria below – if you meet any of these you can register by going online at:

[www.democracy.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.democracy.plymouth.gov.uk) or call into the school if you are unsure.

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- ◆ Income-related Employment and Support Alliance
- ◆ Guaranteed element of pension credit
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, (most recent award notice—with no Working Tax Credit **AND** annual income that does not exceed £16,190)
- ◆ Universal Credit—from 1st April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

**Please Note:** Eligibility for Free School Meals cannot be determined until you have received your first Universal Credit statement or entitlement letter. We have been Informed by DWP that they may take up to 6 weeks to process your first/new claim

- ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act



# Notices

## STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

For safety reasons if your daughter has to leave school during the school day, and you are unable to collect her, she must have a note in her planner with clear instructions that you give permission for her to leave unaccompanied. Without your express instructions to this effect we will not allow any students to leave school unless they are collected by an adult from reception.

## PARKING

Out of respect for our neighbours and for health and safety reasons there is NO PARKING on the school site or for collecting/dropping off students on the double yellow lines outside our school gates.



## NUT ALLERGY

Please be aware that we have students who are severely allergic to nuts and we would, therefore, appreciate where possible that you try to avoid putting nuts into packed lunches.

Although we are not going completely nut free, we have stopped selling packets of nuts as snacks in the canteen to try to reduce the risk to them and appreciate your support.



Many thanks.

## SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN

Don't forget for our students, the School Nurse visits school to provide a "drop in" clinic on Friday Week A at lunchtime. Just pop along to the Counselling Room.

YikYak



Ask.fm



Kik Messenger



Whisper



Omega



After School



Tik Tok



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Children are spending more and more time on their mobile phones. Making them aware of the dangers of social media, and protecting them from these dangers can be very challenging. These are some of the better known sites that pose risks to children—are they on your child's phone home screen?

To help safeguard your child please regularly take the time to talk to them about the way they use their social media apps:

**Do they always know who they are engaging with?**

**Do they share their passwords?**

**Do they feel comfortable with what they are seeing and doing?**

**Do they feel pressure from "friends" to do/say things they don't want to?**

## Smart Device Acceptable Use Policy

### Smart Device Acceptable Use Policy

Students may bring a mobile smart device into school should they wish, but it is not something the school requires for students to access their learning.

In response to our consultation, we have placed some restrictions on the use of smartphones/devices to help students maintain a healthy balance between digital communication and face to face communication.

### Sixth Form Students and Staff

Sixth form students and staff are trusted to make appropriate decisions with regards to smartphone/device use, but we do have certain expectations. Phones should be switched to silent and kept out of sight during lessons and formal occasions unless they are being used for the learning process. We insist that sixth form students do not use their phones/devices whilst walking around the school site for health and safety reasons. Staff are expected to set an example and follow the same principles as those which apply to sixth form students.

### Year 7 Students

Year 7 students will be expected to hand in their phones at the start of each day should they choose to bring a phone to school. Year 7 students will not have any access to their phones throughout the school day, the phones will be returned to the students at the end of period 5

### For Year 8 To 11 Students

**8.45am to 11.05am.** Any privately owned smart device must be either switched off or placed in airplane/aeroplane/offline/standalone mode **and set to silent and placed in the school bag.** (This mode inhibits all WiFi and internet access capabilities) **The device must stay in this state and in bags during all lessons and tutorial periods and when students are moving between lessons. Additionally, in and between lessons, students must not listen to music or wear earphones/airpods or similar unless given permission to do so by a member of staff.**

**At break time and at lunch time, students are permitted to use their smart devices when** sitting in a classroom, in the dining room or outside, but not in the corridors (for health and safety reasons), the library or LRC areas as these are study spaces. (Phones can be used in the LRC or library if the use is to support the learning process.)

**11.30 am to 1.30pm.** Any privately owned smart device must be either switched off or placed in airplane/aeroplane/offline/standalone mode **and set to silent and placed in the school bag.** (This mode inhibits all WiFi and internet access capabilities) **The device must stay in this state and in bags during all lessons and tutorial periods and when students are moving between lessons. Additionally, in and between lessons, students must not listen to music or wear earphones/airpods or similar unless given permission to do so by a member of staff.**

**2.30pm to 3.30pm.** Any privately owned smart device must be either switched off or placed in airplane/aeroplane/offline/standalone mode **and set to silent and placed in the school bag.** (This mode inhibits all WiFi and internet access capabilities) **The device must stay in this state and in bags during all lessons and tutorial periods and when students are moving between lessons. Additionally, in and between lessons, students must not listen to music or wear earphones/airpods or similar unless given permission to do so by a member of staff.**

**3.30pm.** Students can use their phones/devices as they wish as soon as they have exited the school site and it is safe to do so.

Students are reminded that all smartphones/devices should be kept out of sight, set to silent and in 'airplane' mode except during the acceptable use periods and locations.

The school may need to temporarily confiscate (until 3.30pm that day) a phone/device if a student chooses not to follow the procedure as set out above.

### Outside of School Use

PHSG endorses and supports the Chief Medical Officer's guidance on screen use. In particular, we encourage parents to ensure smart devices are placed outside their children's bedrooms at night. Having a period of time at home where smart devices are put away is a good strategy for inhibiting the semi-dependence that some young people have on their smart devices.

Parents should continue to be mindful about the amount of time their children spend accessing social media and keep communicating with them about the need to maintain a healthy balance of offline as well as online activity.



# Term Dates

## TERM DATES 2019-2020

### **Spring Term:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Students return 7th January 2020**

*Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020*

### **Summer Term:**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*May Day: Updated to Friday 8th May*

*Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020*

### **Curriculum Enrichment Week**

*Monday 6th July—10<sup>th</sup> July 2020*

### **The non-pupil days are:**

**Monday 2nd September 2019**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

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## TERM DATES 2020-2021

### **Autumn Term:**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020*

### **Spring Term:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

*Half term: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021*

### **Summer Term:**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

*May Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021*

*Half term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021*

### **Curriculum Enrichment Week**

*Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July—9<sup>th</sup> July 2021*

### **The non-pupil days are:**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 (staff inset)**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 (staff inset)**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (staff inset)**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 (staff inset)**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 (commuted holiday)**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021(commuted holiday)**

**Date in June tbc 2021 (staff inset)**

## TERM DATES 2021-2022

### Autumn Term:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

### Spring Term:

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

*Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

### Summer Term:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

*May Day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022*

*Half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022*

### Curriculum Enrichment Week

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July—8<sup>th</sup> July 2022*

### The non-pupil days are:

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (staff inset)**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 (staff inset)**

**Date in June tbc 2022 (staff inset)**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (staff inset – commuted to twilight sessions)**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (staff inset – commuted to twilight sessions)**

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5th February	Year 7 Enterprise Day
Thursday 6th February	Library Harry Potter Quiz
Friday 14th February	Year 9 Options Form submission deadline
Monday 10th February	GCSE Food Technology Practical Examination
Wednesday 12th February	GCSE Food Technology Practical Examination
Wednesday 12th February	Year 12 "Your Hired"
Thursday 13th February	Year 10 Parents Evening
Monday 17th—Friday 21st February	Half Term
Monday 24th February—Friday 6th March	Year 13 Mock Examinations
Friday 28th February	Year 9 HPV Dose 2 Year 8 Dose 1 mop up
Wednesday 18th March	Year 12 UCAS Day
Wednesday 25th—Thursday 26th March	School Play—Matilda
Thursday 26th March	Year 8 Parents Evening
Friday 27th March	End of Term
Monday 30th March—Monday 13th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 14th April	Term Starts