



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Spring End of Term Newsletter

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. Over the next few pages you will see that our students continue to impress, having been involved in a wide variety of interesting and fulfilling activities. It is remarkable that they find the time to fit it all in.

Our students excel in sporting, cultural and academic fields and always represent our school so well. I am delighted to be able to share with you what has been going on this term and hope that you enjoy reading all about it.

You may recall that I wrote to you recently outlining some of our plans for the future and to invite you to a parent information evening on Wednesday, 18th March. If you would like to attend, please let us know by Monday 16th March.

As Easter quickly approaches, I wish you all a happy and restful holiday.

Simon Underdown

Headteacher

Inside this issue:

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- Notices
- Term Dates
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Student Achievements

On Wednesday 5th February the Year 7 students took part in a Mayflower 400 themed Enterprise Day aimed at giving the students an opportunity to explore aspects of marketing and entrepreneurship whilst learning about and incorporating the Mayflower story.

The 120 students were split into 24 teams giving them the opportunity to work with students from other tutor groups. The students were tasked with designing a Mayflower 400 inspired hat that might be worn by ambassadors welcoming visitors to events. They had the additional challenge of designing a commemorative bag which followed a similar theme to their hat design. Examining the use of branding was a key part of the delivery and the teams were asked to find innovative ways to incorporate the Santander logo into both their designs. They were supported by Beth Edwards from Santander.

During the day they made a mock-up of the hat and the bag and delivered a presentation explaining their proposals to Beth who was one of the judges. Beth commented that she was very impressed with the high standard of the presentations and the creativity of the designs. It was a very difficult decision to choose the winning group.

Congratulations to the winning team; Ellie 7GDN, Tia 7GDN, Lily 7WAL, Amira 7WES and Irem 7GDC who were presented with a gift bag from Santander and a winning team certificate.



Clean Our Patch

An enthusiastic group of Year 7 students recently braved the wind and rain to help clean up Mutley Plain as part of Year 7's Community Project. They joined Mutley's 'Clean Our Patch' community group and collected 6 bags of litter from around the local area. Well done to these girls for supporting their wider community.



Rotary Youth Speaks

Congratulations to our three Rotary Debate teams who represented Plymouth High in the District Final on Saturday 29th February.

Particular praise to Lauren, Ciara and Emma who won the Senior Section of the competition and go on to represent Rotary District 1175 in the South West Regional Final.



Last month Amelie was nominated to be the High Sheriff's Cadet but was unfortunately pipped to the post by an older cadet. She has also recently been presented with her Police Cadet Grade 3, Leader of the Best Team (group award) and also individually for the Most Improved Cadet. Congratulations Amelie

Congratulations to Isobel and Erin in Year 8 who won their duet class at this years Saltash Music Festival.



Congratulations to Scarlett and her pony BKS Grand Design (Ted) for coming second at their second Concours de Dressage International event representing Great Britain

Scarlett and her other pony Grayswood Orlando also won the Petplan Second Round putting her through to the finals this April.



Student of the Week Winners

Week ending 31st January 2020

Individual Winner: Milly 11MCA for "being such a supportive friend and for being very helpful." Nominated by Mrs Earnshaw

Group Winner: GCSE Year 11 Drama Group for "all their hard work and commitment in the build up to their exam." Nominated by Miss Crouch

Week ending 7th February 2020

Individual: Lauren 11ROU for "consistent engagement with core RS, including recommending a documentary, which is proving really useful". Nominated by Mrs Brownbridge

Group: UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Team in Years 9 & 10. Nancy, Sarah, Penny, Ellie, Dionne, Elise, Molly, Ruby, Bel, Aleena, Lara and Holly. Nominated by Mrs Will

Week ending 14th February 2020

Individual: Molly Yr 10 for "her help and support at The Printery this week. She was fantastic at supporting other students." Nominated by Miss Westaway.

Group: Chinese Group for "working very hard to organise our Lantern Festival fundraising celebration on 5th February. It was successful with £70.50 donated to the Butterfly Children's Hospice in China." Nominated by Miss Liu

Art News

The sun shone for us all day when our Year 10 artists took a trip to the Eden Project to gather source photographs and sketches. They produced some stunning results which will be used as inspiration for their GCSE 'Human Nature' project. Well done everyone!



Drama News



On Tuesday 3rd February some Year 10, 11 and 13 students had the pleasure and the privilege to take part in a workshop with The Royal Shakespeare Company.

They spent the whole day exploring the text, "The Taming of the Shrew." Sophie Hobson, the RSC practitioner, led them on a journey that delved into the themes, characters and the language making them question who in fact holds all of the power.

Library News

We have hosted several fun events in the Library this term. In February we held the annual Harry Potter Quiz. 8 teams faced 3 rounds of challenging questions. Would you know the name of the company Vernon Dursley works for? Or perhaps you know the number of staircases Hogwarts has? We were impressed with the students' knowledge! The quiz ended with a tie breaker and 'The Prisoners of Azkaban' were crowned winners. The best costume prize was awarded to Grace in Year 7 aka, Dolores Umbridge.



On 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day. We saw lots of amazing and creative book character costumes, from The Hungry Caterpillar to Arthur Dent from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Mr Britz-Colwill should get a special mention for his spider costume (Charlotte's Web). Book tokens were awarded to the winners in each year group. Well done to Jenny-Lee Year 7, Kerry B Year 8, Bea B Year 9, Charis E Year 10 and Caitlin B Year 11.

Students enjoyed guessing the identities of staff from pictures of them partially hidden by their reading books. The entries are still being marked as we go to press!



Competition time... Get Creative, Win Books!

Design a National Book Token Competition

Students could win book tokens for themselves and for school. Templates on which to design the book token are available from the Library. One lucky winner's design will be made into a National Book Tokens gift card! Entries must be returned to the Library by Thursday 2nd April 2020. Good luck and get designing! More details can be found at worldbookday.com.

PE News

Climbing

Over the last few weeks Megan in Year 7 has taken part in the first two regional rounds of the BMC's annual youth climbing competition placing fourth both times. In these competitions the children compete in groups banded in to a two year age range and she is currently the younger of the two years, so super pleased with her result.

During the half term holiday she took part in the Plymouth Climbing Hangar Bouldering winter competition 2nd round placing joint first at the end of the time, just missing out in the super final so placing second in an age range from 11 to 14.

She is currently looking forward to the last two regional rounds coming up along with the 3rd round at The Hangar.



Diving

Summer in Year 11 competed in the Armada Cup Diving competition at the Life Centre over February half term. This was another qualifying competition for the National squad and she achieved 2 gold medals.

Abby in Year 12 also competed in Plymouth Diving's Armada Cup competition. She came first in the 3m preliminary round to secure a place in the final and went on to win a silver medal. Well done Abby!



Indoor Rowing

A group of rowers from PHSG travelled up to London at the end of February to participate in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at the Copperbox.

They competed in both individual and team events against students from all over the country with great success:

Millie 4th, Maisy 10th, Ella 14th, Lucy 21st, Tori 26th
And Megan 81st.

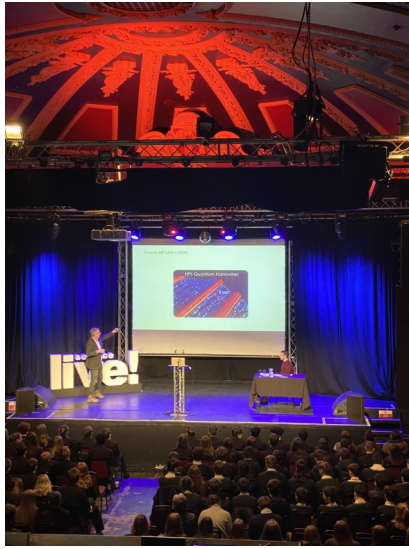
Particular mention to Millie who achieved 4th in her Year 11 individual race, missing out on a medal by one stroke and to the boat race team, Millie, Maisy, Ella and Lucy (pictured) who won their race by 181m which is an incredible achievement and makes them National Champions!



Science News

Year 10 recently attended the GCSE Science Live in Bath event where they heard talks from leading scientists: Dr Simon Singh, Professor Dave Cliff, Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor Alice Roberts and Dr Helen Czerski. They heard about diverse topics from the fact that the computers of the future are likely to be squishy to why it is important to study bubbles in the Antarctic.

Mrs Staddon and Miss Puddeford were thrilled to meet Professor Lord Robert Winston!



Technology



Year 10 have been out working on their new project with @nhbyhand. They visited @theprinterystudio on Mutley Plain to sample print their silk screen designs. We can't wait to see the end results.

4 of our Year 9 students entered the Dior Fashion Icon Competition this term. There were 57 entries across the country, so we were delighted that one of our students was highly commended for a fantastic mood board whilst one student was put through to the Final which will take place on the 20th March. We cannot wait to see the dress made and on the catwalk in the final!

Sixth Form

30 girls from Years 10-12 were lucky enough to attend a recent talk by Downing College, Cambridge Outreach about applying to study at Cambridge or Oxford.

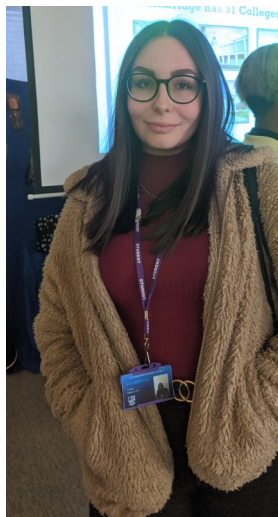
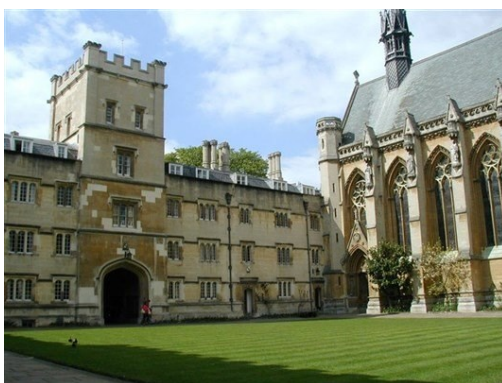
You're Hired



Well done to our You're Hired finalists, Nicki, Sophie, Madeline, Achala and Frances who are through to the next round of this citywide competition.

You're Hired! endeavours to cover all of the secondary schools in Plymouth each year in a bid to find "Plymouth's Most Employable 17 Year Old" along with many other awards.

Exeter College Oxford have invited 28 students for a 2 day residential visit to learn about life at Oxford University. Students from Years 10-12 will be going in the last week of term for this wonderful visit.



Congratulations to Abigail who has gained a place on the Oxford university UNIQ summer school to study law. Congratulations also to Aimee who has gained a place on the Oxford university UNIQ summer school to study chemistry.



Chinese Club

Chinese Club would like to say a huge thank you for supporting our Lantern Festival fundraising celebration on 5th February. We raised £65.50 by the end of lunch time. Chinese Club members did absolutely amazing work to prepare, organise and contribute delicious food.

Thank you also to all the tutors who sent their groups to participate and all the girls for cooking such beautiful Chinese food. We're grateful for your kindness and generous support. All the money collected will be sent to The Butterfly Chinese Children's Hospice for purchasing disposable masks for children and staff there. Wishing you all the best in the year of Rat!



WEB DEVELOPER

Web developers design, build & maintain websites & website applications.



Salary*

£22,000
to £50,000



Subjects

A great job if you
love computing.



Jobs

3% more jobs
nationally by 2023



Skills

- ability to use your initiative
- flexible and open to change
- be thorough, with attention to detail
- analytical thinking

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

Coronavirus Government Advice

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

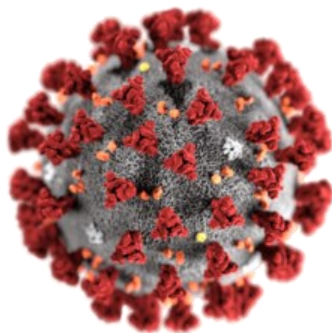
We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

What action you can take

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.



Don't forget our Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 18th March at 5:30pm in the Newman Hall

During the evening you will have the opportunity to learn more about the exciting plans the school has with regard to:

- ◇ 1:1 devices for the students
- ◇ a change to the way we report your child's progress at PHSG
- ◇ developing our site to accommodate an outside teaching/recreation space.

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 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

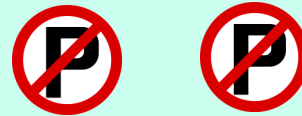
Notices

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?

Term Dates

TERM DATES 2019-2020

Spring Term:

Monday 6th January 2020 – Friday 27th March 2020

Students return 7th January 2020

Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020

Summer Term:

Tuesday 14th April 2020 – Friday 17th July 2020

May Day: Updated to Friday 8th May

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 6th July—10th July 2020

The non-pupil days are:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Friday 18th October 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

TERM DATES 2020-2021

Autumn Term:

Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Friday 18th December 2020

Half term: Monday 26th October – Monday 2nd November 2020

Spring Term:

Monday 4th January 2021 – Thursday 1st April 2021

Half term: Friday 12th February – Friday 19th February 2021

Summer Term:

Monday 19th April 2021 – Friday 23rd July 2021

May Day: Monday 3rd May 2021

Half term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 5th July—9th July 2021

The non-pupil days are:

Tuesday 1st September 2020 (staff inset)

Wednesday 2nd September 2020 (staff inset)

Friday 25th September 2020 (staff inset)

Friday 23rd October 2020 (staff inset)

Monday 2nd November 2020 (commuted holiday)

Friday 12th February 2021(commuted holiday)

Date in June tbc 2021 (staff inset)

TERM DATES 2021-2022

Autumn Term:

Tuesday 7th September 2021 – Friday 17th December 2021

Half term: Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021

Spring Term:

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – Friday 8th April 2022

Half term: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2022

Summer Term:

Monday 25th April 2022 – Friday 22nd July 2022

May Day: Monday 2nd May 2022

Half term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 4th July—8th July 2022

The non-pupil days are:

Monday 6th September 2021 (staff inset)

Friday 22nd October 2019 (staff inset)

Date in June tbc 2022 (staff inset)

Monday 25th July 2022 (staff inset – commuted to twilight sessions)

Tuesday 26th July 2022 (staff inset – commuted to twilight sessions)

Dates for your Diary

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
Wednesday 15th April	Higher Education Evening
Friday 17th April	Year 9 DTP&M immunisation
Thursday 7th May	Year 11 Study Leave Starts
Friday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 14th May	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 18th May — Friday 22nd May	Key Stage 3 Exams
Monday 25th May	Half Term