



# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you were able to enjoy a relaxing half term holiday and that you are finding a way to deal with the latest lockdown. As you will know, there are implications for schools during the lockdown. In this letter, I set out the actions we are required to take. There is also an update on other matters, so I hope you find it useful.

## **COVID-19 measures.**

In light of the second lockdown, we have had to review our measures in school to keep everyone safe. From Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November the following measures will be in place.

All rooms will be well ventilated with the doors and/or windows open. We will keep the heating on, but the rooms may be colder than usual given the turn in the weather. Students are welcome to wear their coats (not hoodies or sweatshirts) in class if they feel cold. Like you, we are conscious that having the heating on and windows open is counter intuitive, but, along with good hand hygiene, ventilation is seen as one of the most effective measures against people contracting COVID-19.

As per the Government guidance issued yesterday, from Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, it will be mandatory for students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas and whilst moving about in school. Students and staff will be asked to wear face coverings or shields as they move about the school, or are in communal areas, at all times unless they are outside in areas that are not crowded. This includes break and lunch time. Face coverings are not required in class, but students may wear them if they wish. We do have some members of our community who do not wear a face covering because of their particular circumstances and we ask that everyone respects this. I ask all those families who feel that their child should not wear a face covering following this new Government requirement to please contact Mrs Payne as soon as possible.

Here is the guidance as issued by the Government yesterday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. You will see that there is a link for people to review the details for exemption from wearing face coverings.

## ***Government Guidance***

*In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated and further education colleges, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary schools or on public transport to college.*

Some individuals are [exempt from wearing face coverings](#) and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Students are still expected to arrive and leave the site by their designated gate. Students must wear face coverings as they leave the site and whilst on public transport. Coverings should only be removed once a student is outside and able to socially distance from others.

Students are reminded of the need for regular handwashing and to make use of the hand sanitisers at each classroom door. We will continue to sanitise the desks after each lesson.

We had started some of our PE clubs this half term, but the latest guidance forbids us from doing so. Unfortunately, after school PE clubs will be cancelled until further notice.

### **Consultation responses.**

Many thanks to those parents and carers who have responded to our recent consultation on whether PHSG should join the Thinking Schools Academy Trust. As we are part way through the process, I thought you would appreciate some interim feedback. Please look at the consultation pages on our website if you would like to see our interim feedback that covers the points and questions raised.

### **Shoe box appeal.**

I am delighted to announce that we will, once again, be supporting the shoe box appeal. This is an appeal that is designed specifically to support homeless people over the Christmas period. The charity has asked that this year we try and support male homeless people as there are many more males than females who are homeless and often fewer boxes are donated that are designed for males than females. Please see the attached flier for more information. I thank you in advance for your kind support.

### **Children in Need, 13th November.**

We will be supporting Children in Need this year with a mufti day. Heads of Year will be coordinating themes for their year groups and all money raised will go to children in need. The mufti day will be on Friday the 13th November. We suggest a donation of £1 for the mufti day, but families are very welcome to contribute more if they wish. Of course, students do not need to take part and are welcome to attend school in their uniform. We will collect the money in tutor groups in the usual way, put it in an envelope then leave it in a secure locked space for 72 hours before handling it. This way, we can be sure that people are protected.

## **Remembrance.**

Our virtual assembly this week has been on Remembrance and we will be holding a 2 min silence at 11am on the 11th of November. Poppies are available for students to purchase in school.

## **Virtual Open Day for the Sixth Form.**

We are in the process of creating our Virtual Open Day. There will be a video presentation from Senior Leaders and Heads of Department, detailed course outlines and an online prospectus. We hope to have the course outlines and online prospectus on our website by mid-November and the video presentation by early December.

## **Holiday meals programme from Plymouth City Council.**

The City Council has been offering holiday meals to support families who need extra help. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more.

## **PTFA.**

The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association do sterling work to support our school. They have a Facebook page and are keen for students and parents to see what they are up to. Please do visit their page.

I thank you for your ongoing understanding and support as we continue to do our best to provide a good quality education in difficult times.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**