



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 measures and Sixth Form arrangements

As you are aware we are constantly reviewing the arrangements in school to comply with the Government's objective of reducing the risks of Covid transmission. In light of the second lockdown, we have had to review our measures in school to keep everyone safe. In this letter, I will set out the actions we will be taking with the Sixth Form.

From Monday the 9th of November the following measures will be in place alongside those outlined in Mr Underdown's letter, emailed to parents on November 5th, and on our website News & Events- Letters page:

To reduce the number of sixth form students on site, and any anxiety about students crowding into communal or study areas, we have decided to allow students from both Years 12 and 13 to study at home whenever they have "frees" i.e. no timetabled lessons. They are still expected to attend timetabled Tutorial and PSHE lessons unless the teacher has told them otherwise; and this will be confirmed weekly with them. Students are still very welcome to study on site if they wish and to attend registration if they wish. We are not saying that students must stay at home if they have free lessons.

Those who have no lessons at the start of the day may therefore choose to miss registration and come in for the first lesson they have timetabled each day. They should ensure they arrive promptly. Students **must** sign in (and out) so we have an accurate fire record of those on and off site each day, as well as for any track and trace we might be required to do for Public Health England.

However, if a teacher considers that a student is producing inadequate work, is underperforming or is not completing any extra work such as homework then this privilege will be withdrawn. The student will be expected to stay on site each day, and we will make arrangements for them to study in a safe area such as the library. This study session may be monitored by staff to ensure attendance and focus is maintained.

We have now separated the social spaces for Years 12 and 13. As I am sure you have seen in Mr Underdown's recent letter we have been directed by government to ask that all students and staff wear a face covering in crowded communal areas unless eating or in a lesson. Therefore this includes the common room, main hall and other social spaces such as room 5 during free lessons, break and lunch time.

This half term Year 12 have use of the large common room, library and free rooms around school. Year 13 have use of the main hall, Room 5 (break and lunch), the library, free rooms, the sixth form computer room. However, as the main hall will soon be used for mock exams we have decided that the staff room will be given to Year 13 from Monday. They are still

welcome to use the main hall until exams begin. The staff room has a microwave, fridge and hot water dispenser and is a comfortable place for them to be. This is a great privilege for them to have such a nice space and we do request that they respect the room, and also request that they are relatively quiet there as it is next to areas where staff and students are working. We also ask that they keep it clean and tidy. Sanitising materials will also be provided for them to use.

We are constantly listening to the students, and following the Government guidance in order to keep everyone as safe, happy and secure as we can. Sadly, with limited space we cannot manage to find two common rooms but I hope that these arrangements go some way to supporting the students' wellbeing and academic success.

Yours sincerely

Claire Eales-White
Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form