



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

16th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are all well. I am writing to you with an update on what has been going on in school recently.

Head Student Team.

Last week we selected our new Head Student team for 2021. The process was a gruelling one and each candidate performed magnificently. After much deliberation, we were able to appoint the new four strong Head Student Team. Jess Towers will be our Head Student with Deputies; Naomi Agbobli, Dominique Farauanu and Maisy Staples. Our existing Head Student Team was a core part of the selection committee and provided invaluable insight throughout the process.

Network update

Work is soon to start on improvements to our network infrastructure which should improve our connectivity within school making connections faster and more reliable. The enhanced network will support the roll out of our 1:1 devices. By the end of the week we hope to have supplied all of year 8 with a personal device allowing us to then extend this to year 12. Other year groups will follow, but we want to do this in a measured way. As you know, it is our intention to create a truly blended learning approach in school and at home where students learn to seamlessly integrate digital and physical learning. Teachers are experimenting with how best to incorporate online learning into their lessons to create the best possible learning experience.

Consultation.

The consultation process for PHSG to join the Thinking Schools Academy Trust will end this week. We will respond to consultation comments on the website rather like we did for the mid process review. Due to capacity issues at the Regional Schools Commissioners office, the proposed date for conversion is now the 1st of February 2021.

Year 11

Although we were unable to run a conventional year 11 parents evening this year, we will still be communicating with parents. Teachers have reviewed the progress made by students and each family will be contacted by phone to discuss their child's progress. The sixth form virtual open evening will be available on our website in early December along with detailed sixth form course information and the new prospectus. Year 11 will also benefit from an extensive information, advice and guidance program to help them make the best decisions

for year 12. The year 11 mocks will commence at the end of November and year 11 have been working very hard in preparation.

Lunches

We have been experimenting with how best to offer hot and cold lunches in school. I am pleased to announce that from this week there will be a hot and cold lunch offer every day. Whilst this offer is not as comprehensive as it would have been under non COVID times, it is proving very popular with students, particularly as the weather is tuning.

Children in Need mufti day

On Friday the 13th of November we held our Children in Need mufti day. My thanks to everyone who took part. Please visit our website news feed later on this week to see how much we have raised.

PE after school clubs

The advice from the Department for Education in early November seemed to suggest that we should not run after school PE clubs if the primary reason was for something other than 'wrap around care'. However, recent advice from Youth Sport England, which has been endorsed by the Department for Education, has now made it clear that after school PE clubs can run without any reference to wrap around care. As a result, some of our after school PE clubs will restart. Of course, we will be adhering to all the COVID related safety measures we have put in place. Although we are unlikely to be able to run all of our usual club, I am delighted that we are able to restart extracurricular PE.

We have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the sixth form. However, due to the measures in place in school and the particular circumstances surrounding this case, we were able to quickly track those who needed to isolate. Any students that needed to isolate as a result of this case were notified last week.

I will write to you again soon with further updates.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.