



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that this update finds you well and that your preparations for Christmas are going as well. We have very nearly reached the end of what has been quite a challenging term for everyone. The students have coped wonderfully with the restrictions in place and have done so with their usual good cheer and positivity.

This letter contains a number of updates that I thought you would find helpful.

Devon is to be a Tier 2 region

You may have seen on the news that we are due to enter tier 2 after the current lockdown. I thought that you would find it useful to have a summary here of the socialising rules as published on the Government website. I have also included a link for you giving the full tier guidance.

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the 'rule of 6'

[Tier guidance](#)

Christmas plans.

As with many events that normally happen in school, we have had to adapt our end of term activities to meet current restrictions. The end of term assembly will run virtually in school as will the Head Student Team handover. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a way to offer the usual Christmas lunch in school, although the existing hot and cold options will continue until the end of term. Sadly, the Carol service cannot go ahead since we are not permitted to allow bubbles to mix.

The last day of term is Friday the 18th December and we return to school on Monday the 4th January 2021. We will finish at 12.30pm on the last day to bring us in line with the other two Grammar schools in the City.

Since school will be shut for the Christmas break, we will not be able to run any track and trace activities following any positive cases for COVID19 during the holidays. If your child tests positive for COVID19 between the end of the last day of term and Sunday 3rd January, we would ask that you follow the advice provided by the NHS. If your child is unable to return to school on the 4th January, please contact school on the 4th January to let us know their likely return date.

As a reminder, please do not send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

You will have seen on the news that there is to be a relaxation of the social mixing rules for the Christmas period from the 23rd and 27th of December. For your convenience, I have included below the information published by the Government to help families decide on how they will manage their Christmas bubble.

You can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households

- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to [the rules in the tier where you are staying](#)
- you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble

Mock examinations

As you know, year 11 will begin their mock examinations from Monday the 30th November and Year 13 mocks will run from the first day back after the Christmas

holidays. We will be expecting all students to be thoughtful and quiet near the examination venues.

Latest news

There are a number of fundraising activates happening between now and the end of term. All the details, along with our other latest news items can be found on our website [here](#) .

The consultation for Plymouth High to join the Thinking Schools Academy Trust has now ended. You will remember that a few weeks ago we posted the interim feedback on the consultation pages. We have now posted a final comment in response to the latest questions. The consultation pages can be found [here](#) on our website.

There will be a newsletter published before the end of term which will be full of the exciting things our students have been getting up to. I do hope you enjoy it.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown
Headteacher