



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

3rd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Christmas plans.

Our preparations for the last week of term are now in place, and whilst we are restricted in terms of what we can do, I am confident that the students will enjoy what we have planned.

Christmas jumper/mufti day on Friday the 11th of December is in aid of Save The Children. The Head Student Team is organising this event and there is further information about this event on our latest [news page](#) on the website and Facebook page.

Although our Christmas lunch is unable to run in the usual way, there will be Christmas themed meals available from the kitchen throughout the last week.

Our final assembly and student leadership handover will run remotely on the last day and students will be able to enjoy this in a COVID safe way in their form rooms. There will be normal lessons during periods 1 and 2 on the last day with students returning to their form rooms after break. As you know, school will finish early on the last day of term as is usual. School will finish at 12.30pm on Friday the 18th of December.

COVID-19 information

Although discussions are ongoing at Westminster about COVID Tier decisions, we still expect the whole of Devon to remain in Tier 2. For your convenience, you will find [here](#) a summary poster from the Government outlining the rules that we must all follow.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, we are required to run a track and trace process and inform families of those children who have been in close contact with the confirmed case. We will continue to communicate with parents at the earliest opportunity whenever this happens. Thank you for understanding that every positive case takes us a considerable amount of time to investigate and resolve. We respond to each case and communicate with our community as quickly as possible.

Please remember to keep your child at home if you suspect they have COVID-19 symptoms. The latest advice from the Government is [here](#).

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 over the Christmas period, please liaise with the NHS for track and trace. You do not need to consider contacts in school if your child did not have symptoms whilst in school and their test is 48 hours after school has finished. If your

child needs to isolate over the Christmas period and this extends to the Spring term, please let us know on the first day back in school, Monday the 4th of January, that your child is absent.

New term.

Monday the 4th of January is a normal school day for everyone and the Year 13 mocks begin that week.

Year 11 will start to receive their mocks papers back when we return after Christmas, and they will find out their grades at the mock results event in school on Thursday the 21st January. Parents will receive an email from school with their child's results after school has finished on the 21st.

2021 GCSE and A level results.

You may have seen on the news that the Government has announced plans to help compensate for GCSE and A level students being away from school during the pandemic. There are to be a number of concessions and a slightly more generous approach to marking and grade assessment than is usually the case. We have already taken this into account so that the post mock information we provide to students reflects how we imagine the grades for both GCSE and A level will be distributed in 2021. We analyse very carefully the grade distribution for each subject so that we can provide information to our students that is as accurate as possible.

PHSG UCAS predicted grades reflect what teachers feel their students are likely to be able to achieve in their examinations. We work on the principle that the predicted grade must be realistically optimistic without being overly cautious. The announcement today will not result in a school-wide change in predicted grades, but will mean that teachers can have even greater confidence that not being too cautious was the right decision.

Latest news.

Please do keep an eye on our [website](#) and Facebook page for our latest updates and look out for our end of term newsletter.

Best wishes,



Mr Simon Underdown
Headteacher