

Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

11 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 12 Students

Sixth Form Update

This has been a challenging term for all, whether that be the distressing disruption from COVID or completing UCAS applications and preparing for mocks, everyone has had a tough time and I have been impressed with the way in which students have coped, particularly with the transition to online learning when necessary. Even when times are hard they have supported each other, and in school been cheerful.

Next week Monday 14th Dec- Thursday 17th Dec

Lessons run as normal. Students are expected to be in school, however we are asking everyone to be even more vigilant about monitoring whether they have symptoms of COVID and if they do, that they stay off school, and get a test immediately as Mr Underdown requested in his letter to parents yesterday. This is in order to protect our whole community as there are many who have long awaited visits from grandparents which would be very disrupted by any request to self-isolate over the holidays. Staff have completed lesson seating plans as we have to request self-isolation of those in close contact with a positive case from 48 hours before their symptoms start, or if they have no symptoms, from 48 hours before the test was taken. We are obliged to continue our track and trace for the first weekend of the holiday which is why we would like you to take a test immediately this week if you think you have symptoms so that we can inform people as quickly as possible, which could mean the period of isolation does not hit the entire Christmas holiday.

Friday 18th Dec

The only Sixth Form who need to be in are those who have lessons periods 1 and 2. It is a half day, and the other lessons before lunch are given over to a virtual assembly. Sadly, there is no Drama Festival, nor Carol Service this year, to the House Captains great disappointment. The handover of the Head Student Team and House Captain teams will take place during the virtual assembly as will the announcement of the winning House.

COVID Positive test reporting "button" for Saturday/Sunday 19-20th Dec only

From Friday Dec. 18th there will be a dedicated COVID reporting "button" on the website, please use this rather than emailing any staff if you receive a positive test over the weekend. If you receive a positive test result after this, please use the NHS track and trace service.

End of term gathering

Sadly, we can't allow any form of Sixth Form get together or end of term celebration. We must uphold the intent and spirit of the current regulations and do our best to keep students socially distanced as often, and as much as possible. Therefore, we cannot allow any special, nor larger than normal gathering, than is usual according to the timetable. This is, sadly, an unusual year. Next year we look forward to good times and hopefully can plan something then.

Food from outside

While the canteen has to prepare individual bags of food and deliver them to students we have allowed Sixth Formers to bring food from outside providers on site in order to reduce the pressure on the canteen. This is a new privilege. However, once the lockdown/Covid restrictions on the canteen are reduced we will return to our usual rule of not allowing food e.g. KFC, Dominos to be brought on site.

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Common room

From January 18th, when Year 13 complete their mocks, there will be a swap of common rooms. All personal possessions including cups need to be removed on Friday 15th January when each room will be thoroughly cleaned. **Year 13** will move into the Sixth Form Common Room and continue to use the computer room. **Year 12** will move into the staff room as their Common Room and also have the use of room 5 for break and lunch, and free rooms and the library for study. I hope the Sixth Form have appreciated the fact that they have been given the Staff room as an extra common room during the COVID period, and that we have provided an extra fridge, microwave and kettle in Room 5 on top of those in both the common rooms.

Next steps

We are delighted to have bought into a new programme "Unifrog" which will provide lots of information for our students on their next steps, what careers there are and what they need as well as detailed information about universities and apprenticeships, and other opportunities to enrich their learning such as online courses (MOOCs), or even studying abroad. Parents will have their own access to the UNIFROG site. We will be sending you a personal log in next term.

University Virtual Open day

Exeter University is running a virtual open day on Wednesday December 16, 11-2pm. As it is online students may use a chrome book and their own headphones to log in if they have a free lesson that day. They need to register their interest as soon as possible on www.exeter.ac.uk/SWATConference
Here is a link to the programme <https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU02d0q68KfKUG>

Virtual University & Apprenticeship Event and Meet the Russell Group - Jan 27th, Feb 10th

A national UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair is open to students, and parents on 27th January, featuring a vast array of exhibitors and 10 vital webinars. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and [sign up here](#).

A second virtual event is on February 10th - a 'Meet the Russell Group' virtual event. This will feature all 24 universities and essential webinars for students considering applications to these institutions. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and [sign up here](#).

Careers/ Apprenticeships

Careers interviews are available for all students, please do email Ms Longford to request one hlongford@phsg.org

Please check your emails regularly as Ms Longford shares lots of opportunities which come our way. Here is a slightly more alternative and seasonal careers inspiration for you to watch, how Christmas affects these jobs: Nick is a magician and DJ on the side, Adiel is a Deputy Sargent Footman at the Royal Household and Anna is a Buyer for John Lewis!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rras1MYysKw&feature=youtu.be>

Enrichment: The Nuffield Research Placement Programme.

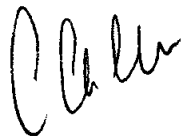
This highly prestigious programme offers the opportunity for year 12 STEM (science, maths, statistics, engineering, computer science, engineering, economics, geography, geology, psychology) students to engage in research-based work experience during the summer holidays in 2021. The NRP programme has run across the UK for the last 24 years, and each summer around 1,000 students are successfully placed to work alongside a professional researcher in a university, industry or government organisation. Students are supported to carry out their own mini research project and to write up a report and design a poster about their findings. Students are prepared for the experience by preplacement training in professional behaviour while at work, and research and data handling skills. Click [here](#) for further information about the [Nuffield Research Placements Programme](#) for this academic year 2020-21 and discuss with your teachers next term.

We will gradually begin talking about paths beyond school over the next two terms in tutorial sessions, but mainly in the summer term after mocks (the first two weeks of the summer term).

Thank you for all your hard work this term and for being such a positive year group in the face of many problems thrown at us. A reminder that term starts on 4th January, which is an A week.

We wish you and your families a safe, happy and restful Christmas holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C Eales-White
Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form