



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

5th January 2021,

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you well.

You will know that following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, schools have been instructed to remain shut, most likely until at least February half term for all but vulnerable students and those children whose parents are critical workers. We have been asked to minimise the number of people on site each day to reduce the number of contacts and to run all of our lessons virtually.

I did write to you about our initial plans regarding COVID mass testing. We are awaiting Government approval, but we imagine that we will still be able to offer lateral flow tests to everyone who is on site. It is very unlikely that we will be able to offer flow tests to people who are not scheduled to be onsite.

Teachers will run their lessons according to the normal school timetable so I would be grateful if all students could attend remotely. We will be contacting families if we have concerns over student attendance in lessons.

I know that some families will be very concerned about what is going to happen for GCSE and A Level examinations this year. The PM said that public examinations would not run as usual in the summer, but further details are yet to emerge. Last year, schools were asked to prepare Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for all GCSE and A Level students, so far, we have not yet been asked to do this. We have a robust mechanism for assessment at Plymouth High and use a range of evidence to make informed predictions about likely examination outcomes for our students.

Year 11 and 13 students will receive their reports at the published times and these reports will contain our latest predictions for examination outcome.

We were due to feedback to year 11 following their December Mocks over the next few weeks and we are still keen to do this. Before the year 11 mock results and reports are released on the 21st of January, we will post home all Year 11 mock papers so that students can engage in a review of their papers with their teachers online.

We will delay the Year 13 mock examinations until the week after students are able to return to school as we feel that it is important for them to sit a paper under controlled conditions to add further evidence to our grade prediction process.

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The Key Stage 3 examinations were due to run in school in May. We are very hopeful that students will be back in school well before the May assessments so these should be able to run as planned.

Year 12 internal assessments are scheduled for after Easter and we still plan for these to go ahead in school. Teachers will continue to teach Year 12 classes the content they had already planned to deliver and will help their students to prepare for the post Easter assessments. As Year 12 missed out on the Year 11 GCSE examination period, we are very hopeful of running controlled Year 12 assessments.

Year 10 assessments are scheduled to take place in June, we are very hopeful that these will run as planned in school.

Mrs Banks will be in touch with Year 9 families regarding the options process as we will still be asking Year 9 students to make their GCSE choices for September 2021.

You will remember that we wrote to you last term about our plans for Curriculum Enrichment Week and how it will consist of school based activities alongside work experience. At this time, I am unable to give further updates as to whether CEW will run as planned.

Please be assured that Plymouth High is here for our students and we will continue to offer support and encouragement throughout this difficult time.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience as we work to provide the best possible experience for everyone in our community.

Regards,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.