



# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Year 11,

Happy New Year!

I am sure that with the start of this New Year you are all beginning to think about life after GCSEs. Whatever happens with the summer assessment I know that you are all ambitious, responsible and resourceful students who want to go on to have enjoyable and fulfilling careers, even if you don't quite know exactly what that will be yet. You should pursue the subjects in which you have most interest, gain most enjoyment from, and in which you clearly have a greater talent i.e. subjects which come naturally to you rather than those you feel you "ought" to do but which perhaps with which you don't personally feel much affinity. Choosing subjects because you "ought to", or because of others, can cause you problems, as current year 12 and 13 will tell you. If you don't particularly like something or you already find bits hard at GCSE, you will find it very hard to motivate yourself through the difficult times at A Level and are very likely to do much worse as a result.

I will be discussing your choices with you, alongside your predicted grades, during Feb/March in order to help guide you into making sensible options which give you the greatest chance of high grades and set you on a path which will help in future career choices. This might mean a few changes are suggested to you when we have these discussions. However we have to begin writing our timetable from February, and plan for the correct number of staff to fulfil your choices, as well as managing class size, so while we can allow a few changes, we can't have large numbers changing options, that is why it is important to think carefully about what you really want to do now.

Below I will outline in more detail what is on offer to help you with hyperlinks, and how to complete your application, please read this whole email carefully

## Key dates are

- as of now: website live with courses booklet, video presentations by all departments and students, application form (Virtual Sixth form open evening & Sixth Form pages)
- **13th January - Taster Day for new subjects online zoom sessions (emailed out 13.1.21) No year 11 lessons that day.**
- 26th-29th January - online option choices go live (instructions emailed out 26.1.21)
- 29th January - deadline for BOTH 1. online options completed and 2. form [here](#) emailed or posted to Mrs Mills

## Information & Taster sessions and guidance on completing your application for PHSG Sixth Form A Level Choices

### Information about AL subjects which are taught at GCSE

To help students make their choices for their next stage of education, Year 11 students have already received a **booklet** outlining the range of A Level courses on offer at PHSG.

Alongside this, we recommend you watch the **video presentations by the Heads of Department** of the subjects which you are interested in studying at A Level.

There are also **videos by students** about life in the Sixth Form, and one by the Head of Sixth Form about our aims and aspirations for our students.

These videos can all be found if you scroll down on the Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening website page [here](#).

During the next couple of weeks staff will find a time during the “live” sessions of their online lessons to talk about their subject at A level, and will encourage students to ask questions about the A Level courses. Students are also welcome to email staff with any A Level related queries.

### **Taster sessions for new subjects, not taught at GCSE**

For those subjects which are not currently taught at GCSE specific zoom sessions on **13th January** will be emailed out to all Year 11 students so that you have an opportunity to hear directly from the subject staff about what the subject involves at A Level. These subjects also have video presentations by the teachers on the school website page [here](#). You can choose which sessions you wish to participate in. There will be NO normal lessons for Year 11 for the whole of Wednesday 13th January so you can take part in the zoom sessions and also spend time researching what A levels are needed for whatever course or future career you wish to pursue. Use the day to think carefully about your choices, and when decided, follow the instructions below to complete your application.

### **Completing your application and choices**

The deadline for submitting applications to PHSG Sixth form with your A Level choices is **January 29<sup>th</sup>**, by which time you will have received your reports and mock results.

You will need to submit your applications for the A levels subjects in **TWO** ways:

1. emailing/posting the completed application form to Mrs Mills, [kmills@phsg.org](mailto:kmills@phsg.org) (click [here](#) for the form) by 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021
2. completing the online options form. A link and instructions will be sent out to students in the **week of January 25<sup>th</sup>, to be completed by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Don't forget, the booklet, application form and anything else you need is also on our website, see the Sixth Form section and the Virtual Sixth Form open evening pages

I am here for advice so please don't hesitate to email me if you have any queries.

Kind Regards

*Claire Eales-White*

Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form  
Plymouth High School for Girls  
Tel: 01752208308