



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you well.

We are immensely proud of the commitment being shown by Year 11 and 13 students since we have entered this most recent lockdown, they are a credit to themselves, you and the school.

We are keen to ensure that we make use of the time students have both at home, and in school when this lockdown ends, to increase their understanding within each subject area. We want to work towards full coverage of the courses being studied so that the step up to the next level in their education journey is as smooth as possible.

You will have seen that teachers are running their lessons according to the normal school timetable so we would be grateful if all students could attend remotely. We will be contacting families if we have concerns over student attendance in lessons.

We know that some families will be very concerned about what is going to happen with GCSE and A Level grades this year. The PM said that public examinations would not run as usual in the summer, and further details are still emerging. Last year, schools were asked to prepare Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for all GCSE and A Level students. 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. We will continue to rely on our assessment process to help us gather evidence to enable us to arrive at our Centre Assessed Grades for the summer 2021 GCSE and A Levels.

Mr Underdown in last week's communication with you (letter sent out on the 5<sup>th</sup> January), confirmed that we plan to run the **Year 13 Mock examinations** under controlled conditions, using external invigilators and examination style marking and grading as normal **one week after the students return to school**. So if the students return to school after half term on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, then the mocks will take place from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February.

Mock examinations provide the school with a very accurate picture of where individual students are at in their journey towards achieving their potential. This year will be all the more important given their absence from school during the many lockdowns that we have had, the need to know where gaps in knowledge and skills are and how we can best use the time between now and the summer of 2021.

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.

Year 11 and 13 students will receive their reports at the published times and these reports will contain our latest predictions for examination outcome. Please can I ask that you do not contact individual teachers or heads of department at this stage, about predicted grades. Once we have heard from the department for Education, and we have the guidance about the grading for both GCSE and A Level qualifications, I will be in touch. Staff are working tirelessly to continue to deliver quality lessons and provide feedback to the students about the work being undertaken in lockdown – this is their focus at this time.

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



**Miss Donna Roughton**  
**Assistant Headteacher**