



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and that your family has settled into the new routines of working from home. Our students are doing so well with their virtual lessons, although some are still a little reluctant to turn on their cameras. We encourage students to turn their cameras on for part of the live lessons. Cameras on helps with keeping people connected and often improves teacher to student communication as facial expression and other nuances can help teachers to provide better support. We understand that this can be difficult for many young people, but we do encourage students to turn the camera on for some of the lesson.

## School re-opening

You may have heard that the Prime Minister announced yesterday that schools will not open until at least the 8<sup>th</sup> March and that any reopening will depend upon certain national conditions being met. In previous communications, the Government had said that Years 11 and 13 would be the first to return and that parents would be given notice two weeks ahead of any re-opening. I will keep you updated as the Government releases more information. Please be assured that Plymouth High stands ready to receive students as soon as the Government gives the all clear.

## Thinking Schools Academy Trust

You will know that we have been in the process of joining the Thinking Schools Academy Trust. We have just received confirmation from the Secretary of State for Education that Plymouth High School for Girls will become part of the Trust on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

We have already enjoyed considerable financial investment from the Trust to enable us to make significant improvements to our IT infrastructure and we are in talks about how we can make improvements to the interior quality of the Annex and Main Hall.

Next week, our Earth Alliance student leaders ([link to Earth Alliance page on our website](#)) will join me in a Trust meeting to investigate ways in which our students can work with student leaders from other Trust schools to bring about change. Very shortly, our Head Student Team ([link to HST page on our website](#)) will be working with student leaders from other Trust schools on the issues that are most pressing for them. The Head Students will be showcasing their 'Hear Me Out' magazine Trust wide ([link to the 'Hear Me Out' magazine](#)), so that students across the Trust have a vehicle for sharing their voice and our newly formed Diversity and inclusion group will work with other students across the Trust to continue their important work.

Headteacher: Mr Simon Underdown  
St Lawrence Road, Plymouth PL4 6HT  
Tel: 01752 208308 Email: [phs@phsg.org](mailto:phs@phsg.org)  
Website: [www.phsg.org](http://www.phsg.org)



## Summer assessments Year 11 and 13

We remain convinced that the examination boards will release papers for schools to use to help them arrive at secure Centre Assessed Grades for GCSE and A level. As previously mentioned, Plymouth High will be using these assessments in the CAG process and we will help our Year 11 and 13 students to be as well prepared for them as possible.

We encourage GCSE students to continue to work hard on their mock reviews during the virtual lessons. They should also think about what extra study may be necessary between now and the summer to achieve the grades they are hoping for.

A Level students should continue to work hard on the course content being delivered during the virtual lessons and have one eye on the mocks. Year 13 mocks will run **1 week after** Year 13 students return to school. The results of the year 13 mocks may well contribute to the CAG grade, so it is important that students prepare carefully for these.

## Assessments for other years

At this time, we are planning to run all of our scheduled assessments, but the final decision around how this will work is dependent on Government legislation. We will keep you posted.

## Thank you

We continue to receive many messages of thanks from parents for the way our virtual lessons are running. Staff at the school have very much enjoyed seeing these messages and I thank you for taking the time to write in.

Very best wishes,



**Mr Simon Underdown**  
Headteacher

