



29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are all well.

I write to you with an update on what is happening in school over the next few weeks and over the holidays and for the start of the new term.

## Prom for Year 11 and Year 13

I am delighted that we have been able to reschedule both the Year 11 and 13 Proms following the delay to restrictions being lifted. Luckily, both venues were able to accommodate our re-booking and the Year 11 Prom will now run on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at the Eldfordleigh Country Club and the Year 13 Prom on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at The Loft. I am sure that everyone will have a wonderful time enjoying a well-deserved celebration after a challenging examination year.

## IT training for staff

When Plymouth High joined Thinking Schools Academy Trust we enjoyed a substantial IT infrastructure upgrade along with new devices and a switch to MS Teams from Google. Staff have been working hard to learn the new systems, but now need an opportunity to develop their understanding and get ready for the new term.

You may remember that when I wrote to you before half term, I mentioned that we would have an afternoon of training for staff and that the students would finish early on that day. The day scheduled for training is **13<sup>th</sup> July and the school day will end at 12.30 for students**. If you would like us to supervise your child between 12.30 and 3.30, please contact your child's Head of Year so that arrangements can be put in place.

## COVID update

You will have seen the letter from Public Health England sent out last week. We must all remain vigilant and maintain social distancing, handwashing and lateral flow testing. Students should take a lateral flow test twice a week and record the result on the NHS website. Please remember that should your child have COVID symptoms they should isolate and you will need to arrange for a confirmatory PCR

test to be taken. Delta variant cases are rising in the South West and we are eager to avoid an outbreak at school.

### **Site improvements**

We have arranged for a large amount of improvement work to take place over the summer break including; Security alarm upgrades, fire alarm upgrades, roof repairs to the Annex and Main building, electrical re-wiring, internal decorating of the Annex and Main Building, further IT infrastructure upgrades and also re-flooring in large parts of the school. Whilst we plan for the majority of all improvement works to take place when students are off site, some of the preparation work needs to happen prior to the holidays. The roof repairs require scaffolding to be erected ready for the start of the holidays so there will be some minor disruption as the scaffolding goes up in the last two weeks of term.

### **Lost property**

We have quite a collection of lost property in school at the moment. All lost property items will be on display in the Newman Hall this week for students to claim. Any items that remained unclaimed by the end of the day on Friday will be donated to the PTFA.

### **GCSE and A Level results**

Miss Roughton has written to the parents of Year 11 and 13 recently to outline the arrangements for collecting examination results in August as well as the appeals process. Please do keep that information handy for the summer.

### **Sports day and 11+ Practice**

We have re-scheduled PHSG school Sports Day and the 11+ Practice paper (for year 5 students) to run on the 20<sup>th</sup> July in the hope that restrictions are lifted on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. We will keep parents updated if there are changes following future announcements from the Government.

### **September 2021 return to school plans**

As restrictions were not lifted as expected on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, the decision was made across the City to cancel physical induction for new Year 7 students. Whilst we have been running virtual sessions for our new intake to help them feel part of the

Plymouth High family, we would like to give them an extended physical induction in September.

The first day of school in September is currently set as Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September for all students, but we are thinking of making this a day for Year 7 and 12 only, meaning that the first day for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 would be **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. I will write to you again before the end of term to confirm these arrangements, but wanted to keep you abreast of our thinking as early as possible.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**