



14th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are all well.

There are a few things for me to update you on as the term is now underway.

Immunisations and COVID-19 measures

Year 7 to 11 will get their flu vaccinations (Not COVID-19 vaccinations) on Friday 24th September. This will involve a nasal spray dosing method, so students should not find it too uncomfortable. If parents and Carers had any questions about the vaccine, they should contact Virgin Care on: **0300 247 0082** or vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

You will have heard that the Government is planning to roll out COVID-19 vaccinations to secondary school children. Schools have not yet been given further details of this, but I will keep you posted as these emerge.

Public Health England have asked that students and adults wear face coverings inside (excluding classrooms) when social distancing is not possible. We have reminded students of this request from PHE and I ask that your child(ren) continue to come to school with their face covering to use as requested. Face coverings are not required outside or in classrooms for lessons.

Learning

We have high expectations of your child(ren) and know that they want to do really well. Our curriculum is planned and delivered to enable our students to make the best possible progress. Students can help themselves by ensuring that they are punctual, have great attendance, come to class with the correct equipment, meet deadlines and always try their best. I thank you in advance for supporting us in helping your child to be their best self.

Open evening

Our open evening this year is on 21st September and classes will finish at 1.30pm to give us the chance to set up and to show prospective parents around in smaller than usual, COVID-19, secure groups. Thank you for your understanding and your support as we showcase all that Plymouth High has to offer.

Buses

We are aware that both Stagecoach and Plymouth Citybus are experiencing driver shortage problems. We understand that although both companies have been recruiting, there appears to be a delay with licences being produced at the DVLA. The driver shortage has led to some services not running, but we are hopeful that the cancelled services will be back soon. In the meantime, if your child's bus service is effected, please remember that students can use the library after school as a secure place to wait for a later bus and perhaps complete homework tasks. Please be mindful that requests to leave school earlier than the 3.30pm finish time can only be granted for medical or other pre-arranged appointments and not to catch a bus. We appreciate that the current bus situation is frustrating for some families, but hopefully it will be a short term problem.

Year 7 & 12 Expectations Event

It is really important for us to have the opportunity to meet the parents of our new Year 7 students. However, the current restrictions make that difficult for us to do this term. The Year 7 expectation event will run in school in the Spring Term where parents will have the opportunity to meet the Tutor, Head of Year and myself.

I am delighted to announce that we have welcomed more students into year 12 from other schools than is usual for us. I am delighted to welcome our new students to the Plymouth High family and am certain that they will soon feel happy and at home with us. The year 12 expectations evening will be virtual this year. Parents, Carers and students will hear from myself, the Head of Sixth Form, the Head Student Team and a member of the Sixth Form tutoring team.

Website

Please do take a moment to visit our website to catch up on what has been going on in school since the start of term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement, it really does make a big difference to us all.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.