



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I do hope that you were able to enjoy some downtime in the wonderful weather over the half term break and that you are well.

I am writing to you with an update on how lessons will run for the remainder of the term and how we propose to manage the partial re-opening for year 10 and 12.

## **Lessons for the remainder of the term.**

We have reviewed our online learning and would like to add a more personal touch for our students. I have asked teachers to start experimenting with including short video clips in their posted lessons. The idea here is that the video clip, which may be of some workings out, or perhaps a diagram or picture or artefact will include a voice over to add further explanation. From feedback we have had from students and parents, we know that not all students are able to access the lessons during the timetabled slot, so we need to maintain the 'posted' nature of the lessons enabling students to access them at any time.

## **Years 7, 8 and 9.**

Students in years 7,8 and 9 are currently working on their end of year assessments. To give them time to properly focus and prepare, students will not be given extra work by their teachers for the assessment period. Once teachers have had a chance to analyse how well their classes have managed the assessments, they will plan some review tasks to help fill any knowledge or understanding gaps. Please be assured that the purpose of these assessments is to help teachers judge what they need to do next to best support your child, it is not about making setting decisions for the next academic year. Although lessons for key stage 3 students will not be set during the assessment fortnight; teachers will be happy to answer any questions students ask them during this period.

## **Year 10 and 12.**

Year 10 and 12 will begin their end of year assessment fortnight on Monday, 15th June. You will remember that I wrote to you about the assessment period some time ago. We made the decision about the end of year assessments and communicated it to students and parents long before the Government decided to discuss Year 10 and 12 coming into school and feel it is best if we stick to the plans of students completing their assessments at home. As with key stage 3 students,

teachers will be using the period before the assessments to help their students revise. They will not set any lesson work during the assessment period. Of course, as with the younger students, teachers will be happy to answer any questions students ask them during the assessment fortnight.

### **Year 10 and 12 re-opening.**

From Monday, 29th June, we plan to invite year 10 and 12 students into school for a one-hour academic and welfare meeting. It has been decided that students in Plymouth maintained schools must remain in strict social bubbles if they come into school. The implication of this is that we cannot offer students the chance to see their subject teachers as it is not possible to create groups of students who all attend the same lessons with the same teachers. Our plan is to see small groups of students at a time and to have a discussion about how they are finding home learning, what extra support they might need and to give some tips on how to manage their learning during these difficult times. It is likely that your child would see either their tutor or a member of the senior team, but the number of staff involved will depend on how many students take up the offer. In order for us to plan for this provision, I would be grateful if you would let us know whether you would like your child to have the opportunity to attend one of these meetings. Once we know the degree of interest, I will write to parents with the dates and times of the meetings. Please be assured that we have created a comprehensive risk assessment to limit the potential hazard to all people during the year 10 and 12 re-opening and that this risk assessment will be approved by Plymouth City Council before we re-open. I will share with those students attending and their parents the protocol for how students will arrive, have their session and leave so that everyone is as safe as possible. As advised by the Government, students should not use public transport when attending school. For Year 10, please email Ms Straker at [jstraker@phsg.org](mailto:jstraker@phsg.org) if you would like your child to attend one of these academic mentoring meetings. For Year 12, please email Mrs Mills at [kmills@phsg.org](mailto:kmills@phsg.org) if you would like your child to attend one of these academic mentoring meetings.

I will write again soon with further updates, but for the time being, I wish you well and thank you again for all the kind messages of support and encouragement, it really does mean a lot to us.

Very best wishes,



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