



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half term holiday, I thought I would update you on a few things.

## **Re-opening for Year 10 and 12.**

We have yet to make a decision on the best way forward for Year 10 and 12 next half term. We are considering a number of options and are in the process of working through a comprehensive risk assessment. However, I can tell you that Year 10 and 12 will remain studying at home for the first four weeks after half term. This will allow students to work on their revision and then complete the end of year assessments as planned. Teachers will support their classes during the revision stage as they have been since lock down. During the assessment fortnight, teachers will be on hand to resolve problems, but will not be setting extra work. We want our students to be able to focus entirely on their assessments. I will write to you again after half term to go through our plans.

## **Communication with teachers.**

Our teachers are doing their best to ensure that students are on track and completing their study. In the rare cases where students fall behind, we are communicating with students and families and we thank you for replying quickly so that we can work together to support our young people.

We have also been engaging students in a well-being survey from Heads of Year to find out how they are coping with home study. It's really important that students respond to this survey, so a quick check that it has been completed would be much appreciated.

## **Head of Year transfer.**

After half term is the point where we make our year group transfers with some years moving onto a new Head of Year. Current year 7 will have Ms Straker until the end of Year 9. Year 8 will stay with Mrs Banks until the end of Year 9. Year 9 will move to Mr Law and stay with him until the end of year 11 and Year 10 will stay with Miss Boyle. We have created specialist teams to support the development of our young people as they move through school. Miss Joynes leads the Year 6 to 7 transition and is always the Head of Year 7. Ms Straker and Mrs Banks are our Key Stage 3 specialist team with Mr Law and Miss Boyle our specialist Key Stage 4 team. Our Heads of Year work closely together to ensure that continuity of care and support is maintained through transition from one to another. Students will hear more from their new Heads of Year after the half term holiday.

### **Well done to our students.**

I would like to pass on my congratulations to our students. We know that it's more difficult for them to maintain motivation and enthusiasm for school work without the usual contact with their teachers and friends. I would encourage students to have some down time over the half term holiday and to take a rest from study. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will need to be refreshed and ready for their assessments after half term and Year 10 and 12 would benefit from a break before revising for their end of year assessments. We should all be kind to ourselves during these challenging times and be mindful about keeping a healthy balance between work and rest.

### **Laptop scheme.**

Since I last wrote to you a significant number of families have taken up our offer of purchasing a laptop for their child. There is still time to order a device should you wish to do so. Although there has been a Worldwide delay in deliveries, we are hopeful that our devices will arrive next half term. If you would like to enquire about ordering a device, please email Mr Paul Renyard at [prenyard@phsg.org](mailto:prenyard@phsg.org) We are anticipating continuing demand for these devices from our parents, particularly given the current and near future uncertainty about schools being able to fully re-open. We would like to be able to meet demand for these devices and would encourage parents to let us know as soon as they can if they would like to purchase one.

### **Key worker places.**

We continue to support our key worker families and have been open every day during term time to provide in-school places as required. Since there has been no demand for places over the half term holiday, we will be shutting the school next week. However, from the 1st of June, we will continue to provide places for key worker and vulnerable children as necessary. Please contact us on [keyworkers@phsg.org](mailto:keyworkers@phsg.org) if you have not already returned the booking form and you require a place in June.

Finally, I would again like to thank you for all the supportive messages and thanks that we have received from parents. It has made such a difference to everyone at Plymouth High.

On behalf of us all, I wish you a relaxing and restful half term break.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.  
Headteacher.

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