



# Plymouth High School for Girls

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

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well and that you are finding a workable solution to lockdown in your household. I am writing to you with some recent updates and information.

## **Continued school closure**

On Sunday evening you will have heard the Prime Minister set out how the next phase of our national battle against COVID-19 will play out. It seems from his announcement that it is unlikely secondary schools will return to classes for all students this side of the summer holiday. However, there appears to be the chance that Year 10 and 12 students may be able to return to school in some form before the summer. I will write to you again when we have more information from Government around Year 10s and 12s returning and what form this might take. As yet, we have no details beyond what the Prime Minister released in his address on Sunday.

## **End of year assessments.**

You will recall from an earlier letter that students in Year 7 to 10 and year 12 will be set end of year assessments to be completed at home. Information about these assessments will be sent to students and their teachers will give them revision and preparation guidance.

## **Well being.**

If you have any concerns about how your child is coping with lockdown or the school work that is being provided, please do get in touch. It is probably best to contact the Head of Year in the first instance as they will be best placed to decide how to provide support. Teachers are trying to ensure that the work they set is manageable within the hour lesson so that students are not overwhelmed. I would encourage students to try and stick to a schedule each day which includes time for; study, family contact, exercise, relaxation and remaining in touch with friends. We know that having structure to their day helps young people with their mental health and sense of accomplishment.

## Laptop scheme. Purchase opportunity. £210.

I wrote to families before Easter setting out our laptop initiative and promised to write to you again with more details. Since announcing the laptop scheme a number of parents have asked if they can buy from PHSG a device for their child. We are very happy to sell the devices to families for their PHSG child. We have sourced high quality, solid state 13" notebooks from a company called Trekstor. By clicking on this [link](#) you will be able to see the product we selected, it's called A13 surfbook.

Parents can purchase a device from school for £210 which will include a protective case. The device will come loaded with the latest windows operating system and office software. We anticipated the potential of World supply issues when China declared the outbreak of COVID-19 and placed our order early. We hope to be able to get the next batch of devices for a similar price, but in these uncertain times future supply costs are variable. If you are interested in purchasing a device for your child at £210, please email Mr Paul Renyard at [prenyard@phsg.org](mailto:prenyard@phsg.org) (We are only able to sell these devices at such a low price if they are for a PHSG student and cannot extend it to other people.)

It is our intention to provide devices for Year 8 in September and Year 12 in November. The devices will be used in lessons as well as for homework and will be part of the daily kit requirement. Our plan is to roll out the supply of devices to other year groups as quickly as our finances permit. We know that many parents would rather purchase a device for their child rather than use a loaned one and we will always make this available to parents. Loaned devices will remain the property of the school and must be returned undamaged. We must have measures in place to protect school property, so we may ask for loaned devices to be returned to school for safe keeping over holiday periods. Of course, purchased devices are for children to keep at all times.

## Sport England Project

We are excited to announce that Plymouth High is taking part in Sport England's Secondary Teacher Training Programme. As part of the project, we need to determine needs within the school and appropriately allocate funding to physical activity, physical education and school sport. The aim of the project is to improve student's physical, social and emotional well-being. In order to get a true picture of student's perception and experiences, and help us to target the funding appropriately, **ALL** students are asked to complete a short survey.

All students will be emailed by Miss Luscombe next week and they will be asked to click on the link sent to them. It will take between 10-15 minutes to complete. All results are anonymous, but **if you do not want** your son or daughter to take part then please email Miss Luscombe at [kluscombe@phsg.org](mailto:kluscombe@phsg.org) to have your child removed.

### **Curriculum enrichment week.**

It is now almost certain that curriculum enrichment week and work experience week will not go ahead. We are in negotiation with trip providers and insurance companies to map out a way forward. We are looking at whether refunds are possible or whether we will be able to defer booking to 2021. As soon as we have an outcome I will write to you with full details and how we will make refunds to you. Please do not make any further payments at this time. Thank you for your patience as we try and resolve what is a very complicated and uncertain situation.

Very best wishes,



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