



25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are well.

Yet again, I find myself writing to you celebrating the approach our students take to school life. Year 11 are in mock season and they have been fantastic. We usually enjoy superb behaviour and cooperation from our students, but year 11 have surpassed our expectations during their examinations. They have taken every aspect of the mocks seriously and conducted themselves marvellously, we could not have wished for more. When students work hard for their mocks they benefit more from the whole process and learn valuable lessons about what works for them with regards to academic revision and personal resilience, skills which will serve them well in the future. I am grateful for the support we enjoy from our parents as we strive to help our young people be their best selves.

Year 13 have their mocks after Christmas, and although examinations can be stressful, I am convinced that year 13 will learn much about what has worked for them and what they might need to develop ahead of the final examinations in the summer.

There will be a series of smaller assessments for both year 11 and 13 during lessons in the time between the end of mocks and the public examinations. These assessments will help students prepare for the summer session as we know that practising, checking and practising again is a successful strategy for helping learners commit ideas, facts and concepts to their long term memory.

The CAP (Child Assault Prevention) team will be working in school in December with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils. Their whole morning workshops with each tutor group focus on keeping safe around peers, strangers (both online and offline) and in relationships. The sessions are empowering, non-threatening and enjoyable for the students and held in class groups, with a member of school staff present. CAP uses a variety of activities and films as a stimulus for discussion. To find out more click [here](#)

Following a rigorous selection process last week, we were able to appoint our new Head Student Team, you can find out more about them [here](#). The panel consisted of the [current Head Student Team](#), myself, our Head of Sixth Form Mr Jenkins and

Mrs Johns, one of our Staff Governors. It was quite a challenge making the final decision as all the candidates performed wonderfully well, but in the end, we managed to arrive at our new team of four. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them every success in their new role.

At Plymouth High, we are on a continual journey to ensure that the quality and development of teaching and learning is as at the forefront of our thinking. Teachers reflect on the activities they select for lessons and how best to academically challenge students to help them make the best possible progress. Next week, Mr Willis (Deputy Headteacher and our school lead for Thinking, Teaching and Learning) will send you details of the thinking strategies we are working on in school. As we move forward, we will support our young people to learn how to use these strategies so that they become ever more efficient and effective learners. Equipping students with skills that will enable them to be successful in the future fits so well with our motto 'For life not school we learn'. I hope you will find the information interesting.

We are planning to run Carols and Mince Pies (CAMP) this year on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December after having to cancel it last year. You will receive a letter from Miss Roughton (Assistant Headteacher) with details of the event and how to book.

The last day of term will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we plan to take the students to St Matthias for the annual carol service and then to have an early finish. School will close at 12.45pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December in time for students to catch their contract buses (we have been in touch with DHSB so that students can catch their usual contract bus service). As usual, if you would like us to supervise your child until 3.30pm on the last day, please contact your child's Head of Year and a suitable space will be found for them. If we do not hear from parents regarding supervision until 3.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December, we will assume that none is required. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support in this matter.

Very best wishes,



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