28th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are all well.

As you know, student leadership is an integral part of life at Plymouth High and in my message to students last week I reminded everyone of the names and school email addresses of both our Head Student Team and also our Earth Alliance Team. You can find out more information about the teams here (HST) and here (EA). Both teams are really eager to involve students from all year groups and would very much welcome people getting in touch with them.

February is national LGBTQ+ month. Lauren, one of our student leaders in year 13, is managing the activities and events that will happen at school during February to raise awareness of the importance of tolerance and personal choice. On the 11th February, there will be a Mufti Day with the theme *True Colours*, which is celebrating all the colours on the pride flag. To get involved, students can come dressed in the colour of their choice (red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for art, indigo for harmony, and purple for the soul), or they can dress as they would for a regular mufti day. However, Lauren and her team would be delighted if students embraced the *True Colours* idea.

Donations will be made in the typical way, of £1+ donated on the morning of the Mufti Day during form time. All donations will be sent to the charity 'Just Like Us.' You can find out more about the charity Just Like Us here.

On Tuesday 25th January, year 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT25 Junior Maths Challenge. All classes were involved in the individual online problem solving quiz. As is usual, our students approached the opportunity with enthusiasm and determination and we are very much looking forward to finding out how well they did. We are excited to see how many students win a bronze, silver or gold certificate in the national competition as well as being able to reward the class in each year group with the highest average score.

Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain the highest standards of uniform, punctuality and homework completion. Teachers are posting lesson material, including homework information, on their class Microsoft Teams account and many departments are making increasing use of online learning packages. The information posted on Teams is designed to assist students in their day to day learning and in support of their long term memory and assessment preparation. Your child can show you what has been posted for each of their subjects, I think you may find it really interesting.

We have been running parents evenings virtually during the pandemic and whilst it took us all a while to get used to it, we have noticed that many more parents have been able to make a virtual booking than were able to physically come into school. We are eager to maintain

the very high booking rate that we are currently enjoying and are looking at ways of helping everyone who would like an appointment with a particular teacher to be able to get one. At the moment, it is our intention to continue with online parents evenings.

Parents of year 11 and 13 students will soon receive further information from us regarding the in-school assessments that we will be using to prepare for the summer examinations. The spring and summer terms are when those students who really apply themselves often make big gains in their grades. Whilst we closely analyse school assessment data to enable us to track every student and the progress they are making, please do contact your child's teacher if you feel that extra support in a particular subject is necessary.

Very best wishes,

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.

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