



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

15th February 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

For a while now, we have been working on ways in which we can best equip our students to improve their learning, thinking and progress. Our focus in relation to Thinking, Teaching and Learning has been on the following:

Retrieval: lessons begin with an opportunity for students to retrieve information they have previously learned. This is always 'low stakes' but allows students to identify where their gaps in learning may be.

Salient information: this is the part of the lesson where students are given the key learning. The idea is that students should check whether they have understood the key points of learning as this may form part of retrieval in a future lesson.

Thinking Maps: these are some of the thinking processes we are encouraging students to use to help see links across their subjects and understand how to begin a task.

Thinking Hats: this identifies different types of thinking and allows students to compartmentalise their thought process.

We are currently in the process of gaining accreditation with Exeter University to become a 'thinking school'. The above strategies are proven to help students progress in their learning and are concepts we are introducing in lessons when we feel that it is most appropriate for learning. These strategies can also be used in home learning or revision to help structure their thoughts. Please find the attached leaflet which gives more details.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Shaun Willis
Deputy Headteacher



Thinking
Approaches for parents

