



18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope this finds you well.

You will know from the letter Mr Willis sent you on 15<sup>th</sup> February ([click here for a reminder](#)) that we have been introducing Thinking Strategies to our teaching and learning at Plymouth High. Thinking Strategies are based around the research conducted at the University of Exeter and we are working toward achieving Thinking Schools status. By [clicking here](#) you can see details of the schools that have already achieved Thinking Accreditation, some of which are Grammars. For a summary of Thinking Strategies, please visit [The University of Exeter](#) and to find out more about our Trust, please visit [our website here](#). We are in the early stages of our journey to Thinking Accreditation and are looking forward to seeing how it develops and enhances our provision at Plymouth High.

Last year's Head Student Team began work on a wellbeing wall in school where students and staff were invited to paint a brick with their wellbeing message. Unfortunately, we had to stop given the poor weather, but now we are able to re-start. Students and staff have been given information about how to get involved and bricks can be painted by individuals or as a group. Look out for pictures on our website as the wall develops. Indeed, to find out more about what goes on in school, our [latest news](#) page is a great place to start. It is updated regularly and celebrates the achievements of our students.

Charity work is really important to us at Plymouth High and we will be taking part in Red Nose Day as usual. There are lots of activities planned to help us have fun whilst raising money. Look out for pictures on our website next week.

Students have already started submitting their video entries for 'PHSG got talent' entries. The idea is that students submit a video of their talent introducing it with their name and school. The talent part of the video should be 2 minutes and can be a solo or group performance. Video entries should be sent to Miss Benwell at [v.benwell@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:v.benwell@tsatrust.org.uk). The quality of the videoing is not part of the judging and we will submit our PHSG entries to the Trust wide competition. Having seen some of the entries that have been submitted so far, I would think we were in with a good chance of being placed in the competition.



I am pleased to announce that we continue to upgrade our services in school and we have just ordered 60 new laptops to replace the library and science chromebooks. These new devices should arrive very soon and will provide those using them with a much improved experience.

Students have started thinking about initial planning for the end of term festival which will be the first whole school live festival since restrictions began. Covid restrictions meant that we were not able to run our festivals in the usual format so the festival at the end of term is likely to be extra special for all involved.

Very best wishes and many thanks for your ongoing support.

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