



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a change we are making for September 2022 and the reasons for the change.

Our sixth form is growing and is becoming more and more popular with students from other schools as well as our own year 11 students. We were delighted to welcome over 40 students from other schools into our year 12 this year. There are many benefits to having a larger sixth form and welcoming students from other schools; we can offer more courses at A level, we enjoy greater student diversity and there is the chance for people to make new friends and develop as individuals.

For September 2022, the interest from students from other schools, as well as from our own year 11, has been strong. We are anticipating that year 12 in September 2022 will be a similar size to the existing year 12. These numbers mean that we can keep offering a wide and interesting range of A level subjects to our sixth formers. I am delighted to report that alongside our established subjects, our new courses, Environmental Science, Media and Economics have drawn a lot of interest from students.

For many, sixth form is the transition from year 11 to further study and we are determined to provide the kind of environment that makes that transition as easy as possible. Part of making the environment right for independent study in the sixth form is to provide a bespoke quiet study space that students can use during those periods where they do not have a lesson. To cater for our increasing numbers in the sixth form, we have decided to change the use of two of our areas in school.

From September 2022, the space that is currently used as the sixth form common room will become the school library. The common room has become too small to accommodate our growing sixth form and is unlikely to be able to provide the right kind of environment that is essential for effective and purposeful independent study. The existing library will become the sixth form study space. We plan to make this space more akin to a University library with spaces for students to really focus on their work during lesson times and then for it to be an area where sixth formers can relax and enjoy social time with each other at break and lunchtime.

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We are putting together plans for the refurbishment of the existing common room so that we have an interesting and vibrant library that everyone will enjoy using. The first phase of this development will be complete by September 2022.

Alongside the changes detailed above, we are planning for the refurbishment of our History suite, starting the refurbishment of the student toilets and upgrading a significant section of our electrical network, all in time for September 2022.

I am confident that students and staff will welcome these changes and enjoy the improved environment.

I will keep you posted on these developments.

Very best wishes,

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.

