



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

1st May 2020

Dear parents and students,

I do hope that you are all well and managing to stay happy and healthy during these strange times. I know that coping with lockdown isn't easy but I am equally sure that our young people are doing their very best to make the most of the situation. We certainly miss having our wonderful students in school.

A number of our parents have contacted us to say how much they appreciate teachers using the structure of the school timetable for setting and supporting their child's study time. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement and support, it really does mean a lot to us. We have also heard that on occasion the work set has been a bit too much. Teachers are doing their best to judge how much work should be set and are working on the principle that each lesson should take no more than the usual lesson time. Teachers will continue to refine their lessons as they get feedback from their classes.

Keeping to daily routines can really help students through the pressures of lockdown. Click [here](#) to watch a short piece on how to make the days more manageable and productive. Click [here](#) to get the daily routines record sheet. It might help families make sense of the days at home.

I hope that you have found the recent letters from school helpful. We are mindful not to over burden you, but we are also aware that you appreciate being kept informed. As you know, Friday the 8th of May is the early May bank holiday. Teachers will not be setting school work for their classes on the 8th of May. Hopefully, families will be able to enjoy some downtime together.

The upcoming assessments for years 7 to 10 and year 12 will be carried out at home. Please be assured that our reason for setting these is to help us see how students are getting on with their learning and if there are any gaps in knowledge and skills that we need to address. Teachers will be thinking about the most appropriate way to set an assessment for home completion and we will be mindful about setting an appropriate amount. We will not expect students to complete classwork and assessments at the same time and we will be clear about what is to be assessed. Miss Roughton will send students and parents a timetable for their assessments; you

should receive the timetable before the bank holiday weekend. The timetable will incorporate some 'free' lessons to give students some recovery or preparation time.

At Plymouth High, we have taken the opportunity of lockdown to review some of the things that go on in school to see if we can do them any better. The first thing to report to you is that when students return to school, they'll notice a change in the dining room.

At lunchtime there will be three serving stations, each with its own queue and till. The first will serve the main meal option with a meat and vegetarian choice, the second will serve a high quality and varied salad with either potatoes or pasta and the third will offer jacket potatoes, a selection of fillings with a side salad.

At each serving point students will be able to select a pudding and drink if they wish. There will be no single use plastic on the dining side of the kitchen and queue time will be dramatically reduced. All of our meals are produced in house from fresh ingredients by committed and highly trained chefs. We are hopeful that with these upgrades, many more students will enjoy a school lunch.

I will write to you all again soon, but for now I wish you all health and happiness.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Underdown'.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.