



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter yesterday, I am writing to you to outline our plans for the last two weeks of term and to let you know the latest advice from the Government.

We are a busy school, with lots of events and activities organised throughout the calendar. Given the current climate, we have had to take the decision to cancel or postpone a number of events. It is unlikely that we will be able to reschedule everything into an already hectic year. Below I outline our decisions about what we plan to reschedule and what will be cancelled. The situation for the summer term is still emerging and I will write to you again after the Easter break to give you an update.

- 18th March: Parents' Information Evening - cancelled. We will write to you at a later date, detailing our recent initiatives and how parents can get involved.
- 18th March: Year 12 UCAS Fair - cancelled.
- 23rd March: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh meeting - postponed. We have a provisional date of Friday, 17th April from 5.15 - 5.45pm for the rescheduled meeting, however, Mr Payne will keep parents updated should we need to make another change.
- 25th and 26th March: School Play, Matilda. The school play will not run in March. We will do what we can to try and find another time to put on the play, but we should also be prepared for the possibility of it having to be cancelled rather than postponed.
- 26th March: Year 8 Parents' Evening - cancelled. We will ask teachers to contact parents if they have particular concerns. If possible, we will reschedule the parents' evening for later in the year.
- 26th March: CEW Scuba Diving meeting - cancelled. Mrs Carter will reschedule this information evening for after the Easter break.
- 27th March: Gym and Dance Festival - cancelled. (This was not something parents were invited to, but we wanted to include it here so that you had the full picture.)

At the time of writing, we still expect the final day of school to be Friday, 28th March as originally planned. Students from Year 7 to 13 will attend lessons as normal on this day.

As a temporary measure, we are going to permit students to eat their packed lunches outside to reduce the number of people who use the canteen at any one time. We will be asking students to tidy up their packed lunch rubbish so that the courts are clear for PE lessons, and to be mindful of the seagulls.

I know that the students are going to be very disappointed to learn of these cancellations, but we feel we have no choice other than to take appropriate precautions at this very difficult time.

Government Advice

Below is the latest advice from the Department for Education. In addition, if you are worried or concerned about yourself or your child, you could call 111 at any time or the DfE helpline 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home.

Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products.

Supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we try to maintain a safe and happy school environment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Simon Underdown
Headteacher