



14th July 2022

Dear Parents and Careers,

I hope this finds you well.

Curriculum enrichment week was a real success, not least because our young people have been simply amazing. They have thrown themselves into the wide range of interesting and challenging experiences that have been on offer, displaying true PHSG spirit. The staff have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with our students in a different setting and are already thinking about what they might like to offer for next year.

Sports day was a real success. The competitors gave of their very best and were so well supported by the spectators. The whole school picnic at the end of the day was a super way to round off such a wonderfully positive event.

Our music festival will take place on the last day of term and is something the whole school is looking forward to. As a reminder, the last day is Friday 22nd July and we will finish at 1.30pm for students. The food offer for the day will be at breaktime. Mrs Straker will be in touch with students who are in receipt of free school meals so that they can order a takeaway lunch should they wish. The DHSB buses will be running to take account of our 1.30pm finish time, but we are unable to influence Plymouth City Bus, Stagecoach or the train times. If you would like for us to supervise your child between 1.30pm and 3.30pm, please contact their Head of Year and we will arrange this.

Like all schools, we have some staffing changes for September. On behalf of the students, staff, Governors and parents, I would like to thank those colleagues who are leaving us for their dedication and service.

Miss Brown is off to All Saints Academy Plymouth in September to teach languages. Miss Brown started her teaching career with us, successfully completed her newly qualified teacher training and served as Deputy Duke of Edinburgh Manager in her second year.

Dr Van Es is leaving teaching after a long career to pursue his many and varied other interests. Dr van Es started teaching at PHSG in 2004 and has been an inspirational Physics teacher and the lead for our Hummingbird racing team. He has made a difference to so many young lives.

Mrs Alford is leaving PHSG after 22 years of service. Mrs Alford has been a key figure in the PE team throughout her time at PHSG, sharing her boundless energy and enthusiasm with students and staff alike. She has a number of interests that she is keen to pursue, but I suspect sport is likely to remain high on her list.



Mr Willis is moving to Plympton Academy to become their Deputy Headteacher. Mr Willis started at PHSG in 2016 and has made a very significant contribution during that time.

We have 5 colleagues joining us in September 2022

Mrs Luscombe returns from maternity leave to teach PE part time. (Mrs Pickles is now our permanent Head of PE.)

Miss Jones will be starting her PE teaching career at PHSG.

Miss Wakeling will be starting her maths teaching career at PHSG

Mrs Illott, an experienced teacher of English, will be joining us from the Isle of Wight to teach English.

Mr Langmead will be joining us from Plympton Academy as our Deputy Headteacher. Mr Langmead is an experienced Deputy Headteacher having served at this level in 2 schools. Mr Langmead is really looking forward to starting at PHSG and will get his first taste of our school in action at the music festival on the last day.

We return to school on Friday 2nd September for year 7 and 12 only, the rest of the school return on Monday 5th September. The timings and uniform expectations for Monday 5th September are what students would expect on a normal school day. Students should go to their tutor rooms for the usual 8.40am start.

I wish you all a very happy and restful holiday and thank you for your ongoing support and kindness.

Very best wishes,

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.