



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope this finds you well.

## Successful Open Day

The year 5/6 Open Day on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September was a real hit. As usual, our students were magnificent. The tour guides were amazing and the room ambassadors were fantastic. The students who spoke at the main presentation were excellent and the sixth formers really helped families consider the whole seven year journey at PHSG. Everyone enjoyed the freshly baked cookies made by year 11 and so many of our visitors commented on just how wonderful our students are and how proudly they spoke about their school. Thank you for your help in enabling us to have such large numbers of student ambassadors for our open events.

## Non-pupil day

As a reminder, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September is a non-pupil day. This is to allow staff to take part in some essential training. There is also a non-pupil day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, again for essential training.

## Library opening

I am delighted to announce that our newly renovated library is opening on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

At PHSG we are passionate about books and recognise the importance of reading for pleasure and the positive impact it has on our mental health. The library team have worked really hard to create a calm and welcoming space for our students.

The Year 7 tutor groups have begun their library inductions where they will learn how and when they can use the library. We are hoping that they will be eager to participate in our achievement in reading scheme and earn house points and other rewards.

## Independent work

This week, I have shared with students the power and benefit of independent work. We know that there is a correlation between the extent to which students engage in independent

learning and their progress and academic success. Using a self-testing approach to learn key facts and concepts is essential if students are to commit ideas to their long-term memory. Other useful activities include students doing their corrections until they get it right and also rewriting information without looking at a resource and checking on their success rate. As you might imagine, students who work effectively on their independent study are usually successful in their examinations.

### **Year 11 Mocks**

Year 11 are beginning to think about their mocks which begin in late November. Department areas are uploading resource materials to Teams to support our year 11 students in their independent study. Thank you to our year 11 parents, we know that the support and encouragement you give at home makes a huge difference. You may remember that I reported that our 2022 GCSE results were the best the school has ever had. Current year 11 are a very able group and have every chance of doing equally well. Maybe with honed independent study skills, they may even do a bit better.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Underdown  
Headteacher