



3 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

Industrial action

In common with a significant number of schools across the country, many Plymouth High colleagues took the difficult decision to take industrial action on Wednesday 1st February. Whilst we were able to safely supervise the students that came into school on Wednesday, our staffing ratios were very tight. If the remaining strike days scheduled for 2nd, 15th and 16th March do go ahead, we may need to review how many students we can have on site in school.

In the event of further strike days, we will still offer places to our vulnerable children and the children of key workers, but we may be in a position where the only full year group we can invite onto school would be year 7. I will write to you nearer the date with our final plans.

LGBTQ History month

As a reminder, February is LGBTQ History month and we have a number of extra-curricular activities planned which students may well find good fun and interesting. There is a mufti day on Friday 10th February and students may wish to dress in colourful clothes in response to LGBTQ month. Students have been reminded that the usual rules around jewellery, hair colour and nails still apply on mufti day. We will be fundraising for the [JustLikeUs](https://www.justlikeus.org.uk/) charity with many of our activities being run by our excellent student leaders.

Sparx for all

Parents of students in year 11 will be familiar with the maths online learning platform, [Sparx](https://www.sparxmaths.com/). Students in year 11 have been very complimentary about the platform in terms of how easy it is to use, how it has helped them to make accelerated progress in maths and the fact that it provides a degree of personalisation in the question's students are set. Following the success we have had with Sparx maths in year 11, we are going to roll it out to years 7 to 10 in

March 2023. Sparx will replace mathswatch for the regular weekly homework. Students will receive training on how to use the platform before homework tasks are set. Ms Freeman (Head of Maths) will write to all parents to give further details about the Sparx programme before students switch to the new package.

***Six-TeenEdition* production**

Rehearsals are progressing well for 'Six-Teen Edition'. We have a cast of over 50 performers and 25 technical and behind the scenes crew involved and it is shaping up to be a spectacular night's entertainment. *Six* brings together the six wives of Henry VIII in a fictional competition to discover "*who had to put up with the most trouble from the man who put a ring on it*".

Tickets are still available for the first two performances, 28th February & 1st March (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Thursday and Friday night has sold out already. Tickets can be purchased on Parentpay priced at £7.

Performances run 7pm-8.30pm. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Thinking, teaching and learning bulletin issue 3

In order to help parents and carers have a clearer idea of how we use thinking in lessons and how we encourage students to use thinking for their independent study, we have posted on our website our second thinking bulletin for parents and carers. Please [click here and scroll down](#) for our thinking bulletins. This issue looks at The Habits of Mind and Revision. We hope you find them interesting and insightful.

The last day for students is Friday 10th February and students return to school on Tuesday 21st February as Monday 20th February is a staff training day.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.