



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

September Newsletter

September 2019

I do hope your summer was enjoyable and that settling back into the school routine has gone well. We have had a really successful start to the year, lots of smiling faces and great focus in classrooms. The students are responding so positively to activities in school, and with their usual dedication, I am sure they will enjoy all that's on offer this year.

As always, the staff are working really hard to ensure that our students have the best possible experience and this newsletter showcases some of those things. My thanks to our parents for their ongoing support and to our students for trying their best.

Simon Underdown

Headteacher

Inside this issue:

Student Achievements

Learn to Ring Church Bells!

This Month's Hot Jobs

Notices

Term Dates

Dates for your Diary

At the end of every summer term we inevitably find ourselves saying some goodbyes and this year was no exception. This summer we said farewell to: Mrs Hughes from Languages, Mrs Randell from Maths, Miss Paviour from Science and Miss Bloomfield, Mrs Jagger Rowden and Mrs Ganea from the support staff. Good luck to each one of you and thank you for your contribution to PHSG.

This term we are delighted to welcome: Mr Underdown our new Headteacher, Mrs Will maths teacher, Miss Taylor English teacher, Ms Hicks science teacher, Mrs Gilchrist German teacher, Mr Davies science teacher, Miss Puddeford science teacher, Mrs Lee, Learning Mentor and Mr Stokesbury our new peripatetic music teacher. We also welcome our new parent Governor—Mr Beavan.

Student Achievements

Jenny Way from Youth Parliament has written in to acknowledge the work Ellie L and Niamh M undertook on behalf of Youth Parliament last term. Both attended London on Friday 12th July to give evidence in the youth select inquiry into knife crime on behalf of Plymouth Young People. The girls represented Youth Parliament really well and worked hard, preparing in advance for the conference. They both did the school proud at the event. Both girls will now be working with the police and other agencies locally to address concerns raised by young people.

Ellie's contribution is to be acknowledged by the Police Commissioner.

Congratulations to Madeleine in Year 13 who has been selected to become Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for the forthcoming year. Madeleine has been involved in the cadets for many years and has steadily risen through the ranks. There are only a handful of Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets throughout our region which makes her appointment even more special.



When asked about the position Madeleine said, "I have been in the RAF Air Cadets coming up to five years now and can honestly say it's the best decision I've ever made to join.

I have gained the rank of Flight Sergeant alongside gaining other qualifications and skills such as a BTEC in Aviation Studies, Leadership and First Aid.

Being nominated and then selected for Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet was such an honour and is something I never would have imagined doing when I was in Year 8. Cadets has given me so much confidence and experience - it is something I would recommend to everyone if they are looking for a club to join!"



Madeleine
reading a prayer
at the Battle of
Britain parade

Team Hummingbird recently raced at Dunsfold Park; practicing and trialling both the car and the teamwork in preparation for the finals of the Greenpower F24 race at Silverstone next month. They came in second place in the second race and won the portfolio award for the 9th time in a row! A fantastic weekend was had by all and we look forward to the final.



Church Bell Ringing Opportunity

We have been contacted by a local Church Bell Ringing club to see if students, parents or staff might be interested in getting involved. The club is not an official PHSG club and will not be run by PHSG, although the person who runs the club is a colleague at PHSG. The activities take place outside of school time at a local Church. If you are interested please contact Elena Brake at ebrake@phsg.org



This Month's Hot Job

Make-up Artist. They apply make-up and style hair for people appearing on camera or in front of a live audience. This job is predicted to grow 1% nationally by 2023. If this is something your son or daughter might be interested in, you can find more information at careerpilot.org.uk and see [local job market information](#).

Careerpilot has information on over 800 jobs. Each job profile explains entry requirements and regional employment. It's a one stop website explaining all the choices, qualifications, and courses available to 13-19 year olds. There's also a [Parent Zone](#), with information to help parents and carers support young people in making the right decisions about study and work.

Notices

Plymouth City Council Attendance and Code of Conduct Survey

Plymouth City Council are consulting with parents on school attendance and code of conduct. Should you wish to take part in the consultation, please email IAWS@plymouth.gov.uk for the full consultation.

If you would prefer a hard copy, please contact the Attendance and Welfare Team on 01752 307405.

Home School Communication

Students may contact staff if they have queries, firstly by visiting them in their department area, and only contacting them using school email system if they really can't see them in person.

Parents may wish to contact staff. The following outlines what the Headteacher regards as important considerations regarding home/school communication, particularly by email:

- ♦ All communication must respect the dignity of the recipient.
- ♦ Within 48 hours: receipt of an email will be acknowledged by school either by the person contacted, or the most appropriate person able to deal with the issue (term time only, not after 5pm nor over a weekend).
- ♦ Within 5 working days: school will provide a response to the email by telephone or in writing, or e-mail. This may include informing the sender that more time is required to provide a full response. If this is the case, staff should indicate a time frame for a response.
- ♦ Staff will not be expected to monitor or respond to e-mails outside their normal working hours (nor at weekends and published school holidays).

Whilst this is extremely rare, if a member of staff receives an e-mail or call which is of an aggressive tone, sets unreasonable demands or could otherwise be interpreted as harassing, they will refer this to a senior line manager in the school, who will decide if consideration needs to be given to dealing with further communication under our Complaints Policy.

Is Your Child Eligible For Free School Meals?

The school also benefits if your child is eligible for free school meals so please check the criteria below – if you meet any of these you can register by going online at: www.democracy.plymouth.gov.uk or call into the school if you are unsure.

- ♦ Income Support
- ♦ Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- ♦ Income-related Employment and Support Alliance
- ♦ Guaranteed element of pension credit
- ♦ Child Tax Credit, (most recent award notice—with no Working Tax Credit **AND** annual income that does not exceed £16,190)
- ♦ Universal Credit—from 1st April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

Please Note: Eligibility for Free School Meals cannot be determined until you have received your first Universal Credit statement or entitlement letter. We have been Informed by DWP that they may take up to 6 weeks to process your first/new claim

- ♦ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

Notices

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

For safety reasons if your daughter has to leave school during the school day, and you are unable to collect her, she must have a note in her planner with clear instructions that you give permission for her to leave unaccompanied. Without your express instructions to this effect we will not allow any students to leave school unless they are collected by an adult from reception.

PARKING

Out of respect for our neighbours and for health and safety reasons there is NO PARKING on the school site or for collecting/dropping off students on the double yellow lines outside our school gates.



NUT ALLERGY

Please be aware that we have students who are severely allergic to nuts and we would, therefore, appreciate where possible that you try to avoid putting nuts into packed lunches.

Although we are not going completely nut free, we have stopped selling packets of nuts as snacks in the canteen to try to reduce the risk to them and appreciate your support.

Many thanks.



SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN

Don't forget for our students there is a drop in clinic to see a School Nurse; this is held at lunchtime on alternate Fridays in the counselling room.

YikYak



Ask.fm



Kik Messenger



Whisper



Omega



After School



Tik Tok



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Children are spending more and more time on their mobile phones. Making them aware of the dangers of social media, and protecting them from these dangers can be very challenging. These are some of the better known sites that pose risks to children—are they on your child's phone home screen?

To help safeguard your child please regularly take the time to talk to them about the way they use their social media apps:

Do they always know who they are engaging with?

Do they share their passwords?

Do they feel comfortable with what they are seeing and doing?

Do they feel pressure from "friends" to do/say things they don't want to?

Term Dates

TERM DATES 2019-2020

Autumn Term:

Monday 2nd September 2019 – Friday 20th December 2019

Wednesday 4th September - Years 7/12 return

Thursday 5th September—Whole School return

Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October 2019

Spring Term:

Monday 6th January 2020 – Friday 27th March 2020

Students return 7th January 2020

Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020

Summer Term:

Tuesday 14th April 2020 – Tuesday 21st July 2020

May Day: Updated to Friday 8th May

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 6th July—10th July 2020

The five non-pupil days are:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Friday 18th October 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Thursday 11th June 2020

Dates for your Diary

Year 7 Camping Trip	Monday 23rd —Friday 27th September 2019
Year 8 HPV 1 immunisation	Tuesday 24th September 2019
Non-pupil Day	Friday 18th October 2019
Half Term	Monday 21st—Friday 25th October 2019