

# PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## April Newsletter

**2nd April 2019**

### Inside this issue:

Student Achievements  
Reporting and Feedback  
SubSea Challenge  
School Events  
Department News  
Revision Aid  
Hot Jobs  
Notices  
Term Dates  
Dates for your Diary

We hope you enjoy reading though our latest newsletter. As you will see we have had a busy half term, with lots of exciting learning opportunities for our students.

The exam season is nearly upon us, and we would like to wish all our students the very best of luck as they prepare for their forthcoming exams.

So, at the end of successful term, it just remains for us to thank all the staff for their dedication and hard work and also to wish them, students and parents a happy and peaceful Easter holiday.

## Student Achievements

Following her studies in Anthropology and Archaeology at Exeter University, Old Girl Amira Conley-Conversi is currently on a gap year living in Mongolia. Here are some extracts taken from an email received from Amira detailing some of her experiences living in such a remote part of the world.....

I am living in the far east of Mongolia in a province called Dornod near the border with both Russia and China. Life here is so interesting!

I live in a wooden house in the centre of my village. It is a house that is cut in two and shared with another family. I live alone in one half, and a family of 7 (5 of which are adults) manage to squish together in the same size space in the other half of the house. There is no running water, and no central heating. Every week and a half I need to drag a 10 litre container in a cartwheel to a well and fill it up with water, and then push the now ridiculously heavy load back to my house.



Winter gets pretty cold. It can go down to -40 degrees (although we were lucky enough this year to have a warm winter, it only went down to -30!). Through all of this I need to make my own fires. In the midst of winter, I had to do 3 to 4 big fires a day to keep my house warm. As there are no trees in my part of Mongolia (I live on the Mongolian steppe, a completely flat grassland which expands as far as the eye can see), I need to make fires with cow dung and coal. The dung is kind of fun, but the coal is a nightmare! Coal dust gets everywhere so my house is constantly dirty, and I'm pretty sure it ends up in my food and in my lungs. I can't wait until summer comes so I will no longer have to mop my floor four times a day.

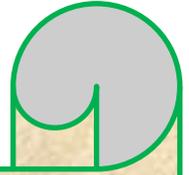
Having said all this, there is electricity in my house, and even more surprising, there is village-wide wifi! Even though nobody in my soum (village) has running water, and showers for me consist of filling up a bucket with water and dunking my head, I, in the remoteness and isolation of Mongolia can watch Netflix whenever I like. Isn't that bizarre?

Best wishes, Amira

"Live a good life, and in the end it is not the years in the life, but the life in the years."  
Abraham Lincoln



# Student Achievements



## Student of the Week Winners

### Week ending 1st February

**Individual: Aimee Zessimedes 9HAT** for "her excellent coaching of the other students during her trampolining lessons. She's a little star, helpful and motivating. Well done and thankyou." Mrs Alford

**Group: 8L** "who have been doing the Children's Book Award for Libby Allman. They have submitted 54 book reviews over the past month." Mr Osborne

### Week ending 8th February

**Individual: Katy Johnson 12LWN** - for "taking some fantastic and very professional looking photos of the Harry Potter Quiz event. Thank you" Miss Harris

**Group: Poppy Edwards and Ava Allchurch 10CRT** - for "planning and preparing our tutor group assembly and for getting the whole tutor group involved in the delivery." Mrs Carter

**Success of the Week: Zoe Christie 11WES, Grace Dobbie 11RIC, Millie Clench 10BRO and Lara Brinsden 10BRO** (the Student Librarians) for "hosting and marking the Harry Potter quiz. They all did a brilliant job! thank you." Miss Harris

### Week ending 15th February

**Individual: Alice Langley 8T** for "presenting an outstanding presentation on minority groups to the whole of 8T as part of their tutor time". Mrs Lawrence Felton/ Mr Payne

**Group: Year 10 PE group** for "challenging themselves to achieve complex skills and overcoming fears (somersaulting) with great success. They were supportive of each other and really positive, which was brilliant to see - Jade Wenham, Sophie Luscombe, Georgia-Mae Williams-Sims, Maya-Rae Robinson, Katie Gilmour and Lilly Ferris. It was a pleasure to teach them." Mrs Goolden

### Week ending 1st March

**Individual: Abigail Finnie 9WAN** For "being an efficient and innovative journalist. One week in and she has already submitted two excellent articles and a selection of photography for Hear Me Out." Mrs Finlay

**Group: Year 10 Maths Feast Team** "Although we didn't win overall, the two teams came 5th and 9th, one team won one of the rounds of the competition and the other team was awarded the certificate for working best as a team ". Mrs Randell

### Week ending 8th March

**Individual: Sofia Elliot 8OSB** For "assisting another student with work she had missed, sharing her exercise book, sitting with the student and helping her make notes. A true friend indeed!" Mrs Straker

**Group: Subsea Stem Challenge Team** For "taking part in the Subsea Stem Challenge in Aberdeen. They came first in the regional final and second in the national finals. The students are Fatemeh Ahmadi, Isabella Cox, Ellie Kittle, Abigail Finnie, Hannah Frankow and Ingrid Zamfir". Miss Westaway

# Student Achievements

Week ending 15th March

**Individual: Tilly Cameron 9ALF** for "*showing an excellent level of skill when making her end of project practical dish of lemon meringue pie*". Mrs Brown

**Group: Ina Marcus and Eleanor Nicholson 8OSB** "*As part of our preparation for the National Final of Bar Mock we held a full dress rehearsal last Thursday. Two Year 8's volunteered for one of the most demanding roles - advocates -- and took on the full senior team! They performed at a standard far above their age; they were quite simply tremendous. It was lovely to see some parents there to watch them.*" Mr Curson and Mr Graves

Week ending 22nd March

**Individual: Libby Cuthbert 13GDC** for "*effort in class is always great, but on Wednesday she was fabulous at helping her peers by explaining on the board.*" Miss Roughton

**Group: Year 11 Core PE:** "*Their enthusiasm and motivation is outstanding, They developed their own game of 'Rocket' (a combination of rounders and cricket) and played with good humour and huge enthusiasm, restoring my faith in overworked and stressed out year 11's, realising the benefit of physical activity.*" Mrs Goolden

Week ending 29th March

**Individual: Casey Hill 8ROP** for "*representing her club in trampolining. Casey won a gold medal in her DMT competition and will now be representing the South West in the regional finals in Birmingham.*" Miss Roper

**Group: Bar Mock Team** for "*an amazing effort at the National finals in Edinburgh, but also being wonderful company throughout the 4 day trip.*" Nominated four times - Mr Graves, Mr Curson, Miss Findlay and Mr Goodchild.

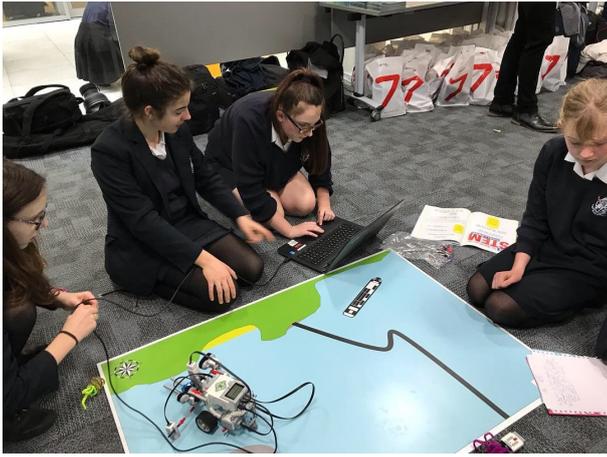
## Reporting and Feedback

### **Ambition, Confidence, Enthusiasm: Student Progress**

Over the last two years we have been looking at what we think would further improve performance and confidence amongst our students, and you will have noticed some changes, in particular our focus on the students adopting a growth mind set to improve their resilience. In this academic year, we are focussing on the way we assess and report on their progress and attainment. You will find attached to this newsletter a letter setting out some of our research and the actions we are taking as a result to support and guide student progress.

# SubSea Challenge

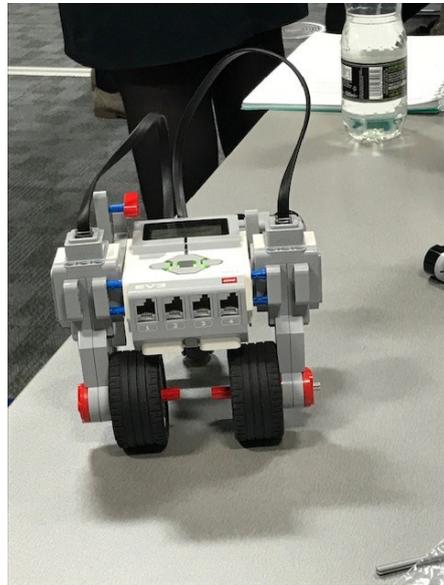
On Wednesday 6th March, 6 students from PHSG took part in the Subsea7 STEM national finals in Aberdeen, competing alongside 4 other schools from around the UK. Subsea7 is a business leading in the delivery of offshore projects and services for the evolving energy industry. They support the growth of STEM subjects and work in developing new industry talent. The event was held alongside several representatives from the industry including; Opito, Saab, SMD, WEIR and Fugro.



The students were set the task to build a ROV model from Lego, working together as a team to programme the robotic model to collect lost barrels of waste from the sea. This type of work replicates the work done by Subsea7. The model included the use of a robotic arm along with light, colour, infra-red and ultra-sonic sensors that would support the protection of the sea and its habitats. Students then presented their design alongside ideas they had for the ROV's use in other industries. Throughout the day they were able to visit the company's ideas lab where they took part in a virtual reality experience, viewing the Subsea7 developments deep into sea.



The judges were exceptionally impressed by the group and with a close result, left with second place making them fantastic ambassadors for PHSG.



## Year 7 Enterprise Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February the Year 7 students took part in a Mayflower 400 themed Enterprise Day. This was aimed at giving the students an opportunity to explore aspects of marketing and entrepreneurship whilst learning about and incorporating the Mayflower story.

The 120 students were split into 24 teams giving them the opportunity to work with students from other tutor groups. The students were tasked with designing the best Mayflower 400 inspired hat that might be worn by ambassadors welcoming visitors to events. During the day they made a mock-up of the hat and delivered a presentation explaining their proposals to the Deputy Lord Mayor who was one of the judges. The Deputy Lord Mayor commented that he was, "very impressed with the high standard of every aspect of the presentations and the way each and every student presented themselves. The students were a credit to their teachers and to their school."



## World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day with various events around the school.....



Captivated ... during Share a Story



Staff dressing up for World Book



Share a Story

## Ghana visit 2019

Our partnership with Ahantaman Senior High School for Girls in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana has been one lasting almost 16 years, and so we were, once again, delighted to welcome 4 members of staff and 4 students for a short visit this March.

Their first day being Sunday, most of the group attended morning service at the All Nations Church in Plymouth. This was followed by an afternoon with their host families and a blustery walk to Jennycliff followed by a cream tea.

Mr Willis and the leadership team welcomed our guests on the Monday and after an introduction to the school they joined some lessons, followed by an afternoon at Laira Green Primary School for some drumming and dancing sessions.



Tuesday was double PE with some traditional dancing, there was lots of smiles and laughter throughout, which showed how much everyone enjoyed the experience. A formal afternoon followed, visiting the Deputy Lord Mayor in the Lord Mayor's Parlour and on to the Council Chambers.

On Wednesday the Ghanaian staff and students sat in with a year 8 geography class where the PHSG students could ask them questions about Ghana. It was a great opportunity for them to hear at first hand what it is like to live in Ghana. A brief visit to graphics was very interesting as it showed our visitors an aspect of education unfamiliar to them. The group then went off for a fabulous tour of TR2. This fitted in nicely with our watching the evening performance of Club Tropicana at the Theatre Royal in the evening.

Our last day was spent at the SCOMIS Live event held at Exeter Racecourse. In the past SCOMIS have sponsored resources and equipment for use in Ghana and they invited our guests to open their afternoon session with some drumming and dancing. They were then able to walk around the stalls in the afternoon, experiencing visual reality glasses and 3D printers, amongst others things, before closing the event with more drumming and dancing.



Prior to catching their coach back to London we held a farewell party consisting of a meal and some more drumming and dancing. The Ghanaians were then able to spend a few days in London sightseeing and meeting with the Ghanaian High Commission.

A huge thank you must be given to the families who hosted. They opened their doors to complete strangers, making their visit a true experience of British life. Without their generosity we would struggle to keep our partnership going.

In July we have our reciprocal visit when we have 7 of our students visiting Ghana to experience the life and culture this country has to offer.

# Department News

## PE

The end of season netball tournaments were held at the Life Centre. The Year 10/11 team came 2nd overall which was a great result. The Year 8 A and B teams came 4th and 7th respectively and finally, the Year 7 A and B teams competed with the B team coming 3rd in their pool and the A team progressed through and came 3rd overall. So very well done to all our teams.

PE would like to say a big thank you to all our netball players for their time and commitment to training. It's been great to see the progress they have made over the year. We look forward to seeing this continue in the next season.



Following the success of our team at the Level 3 U13 Indoor Athletics, the team qualified for the Level 3 competition on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February. They combined with 6 boys from St Boniface to make up the team. They were now competing against schools from all over Devon. The girls performed really well in their events and gave 100%. After the final results the team came 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the county which is fantastic. Well done girls.

A team of rowers from the South West travelled up to London in March to compete at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships. Huge congratulations to Jenna KT of Year 11 who won her individual race and is now National Champion! Millie C of Year 10 came 5th overall and the other girls rowed really well, most achieving personal bests (Ella S and Lucy H).



In the team races, the girls boat race team won gold by 100m (including Millie C, Jenna KT and Maisy S) and the mixed team racing the boys race came 4th (including Ella S and Lucy H). A superb set of results for all involved.

Double Mini Trampoline—Libby Weddle Year 9 competed in Bath at the NDP Regional DMT & Trampoline competition and won gold in the 15/16 Years.

Fencing—Steven McPherson of Year 13 competed in the SW Qualifiers for the National Championships on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February and placed 1<sup>st</sup>.

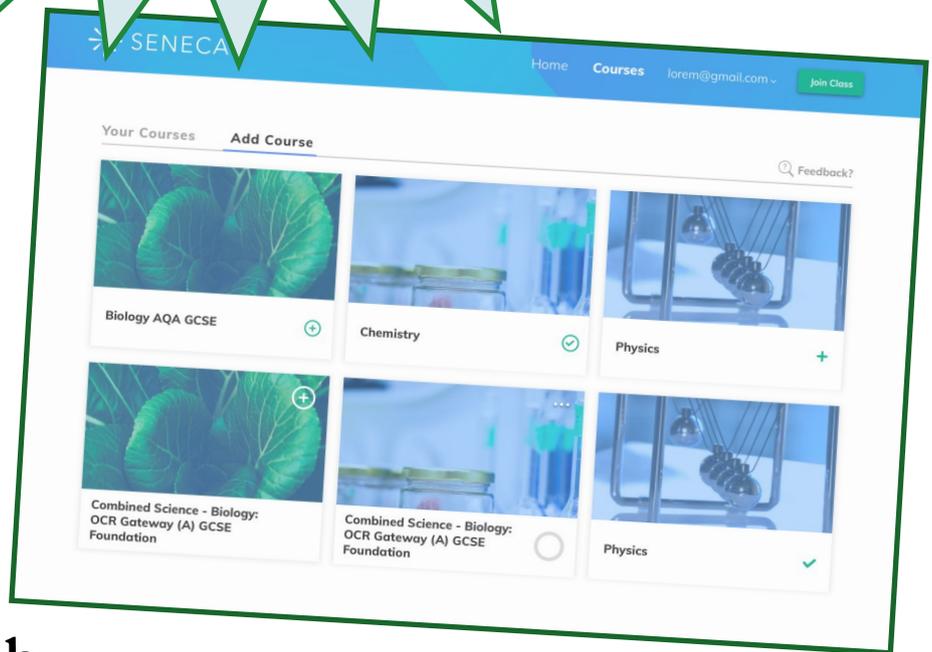
Swimming—Cara McVeigh Year 9 took part in the Devon County Swimming Championships, winning 3 bronze medals in the 14 age group finals for 50 fly, 100 fly and 50 free. She also made it to the age group finals in 50 back and 100 free and now has South West Regional qualifying times for all 6 of her events.

The final weekend of the Devon Counties is complete. Swimmers from PHSG who took part are: Cara McVeigh (for Tavistock swimming club), Amy Will (for Devonport) and Klara Evans, Niamh Hutchinson, Martha Wilson, Erin Powell, Verity Braine and Blythe Kinsman (all who competed for Plymouth Leander).

## Revision Aid

All students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun. Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams. The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster. Seneca is totally free for students, teachers and parents.

You can sign up via [senecalearning.com](https://senecalearning.com)



## Today's Hot Job

**Paralegal.** They carry out research, prepare legal documents and give legal advice to clients. This job is predicted to grow 5% nationally by 2023. If this is something your son or daughter might be interested in, you can find more information at [careerpilot.org.uk](https://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

## 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](http://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 a student who is 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 her and appreciate your support.

Many thanks.



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

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### TERM DATES 2018-2019

#### **Spring Term:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

*Half term: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019*

#### **Summer Term:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

*May Day: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May*

*Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019*

#### **Curriculum Enrichment Week**

*Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019*

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### 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

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

#### **Summer Term:**

Tuesday 14th April 2020 – Thursday 23rd July 2020

*May Day: Monday 4th 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**

**22nd July 2020 commuted to twilight sessions**

**23rd July 2020 Occasional Day**

## Dates for your Diary

Term Starts	Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2019
Year 7 Parents Evening	Thursday 9th May 2019
Year 11 Study Leave	Friday 10th May 2019
Year 12 Parents Evening	Thursday 16th May 2019
Year 13 Study Leave	Friday 17th May 2019
Half Term	Monday 27th—Friday 31st May 2019

