



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

February Newsletter

Head's Update

7th February 2019

This month I'd like to introduce our new Head Girl's team...

Saja Altamimi - Head Girl

"2019 at Plymouth High School is going to be an exceptionally fulfilling year for me, as I have taken up the role of Head Student. After only being in office for a month, Tess, Harriet, Stella and I have shared our distinctive plans for the school's future, ensuring that we keep Plymouth High's ethos in all that we do. Environmental issues and mental health are very current topics which apply to the students' lives; as a team we are focused on making the school aware of these topics and how to successfully overcome issues surrounding them."

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Stella Cangelosi - Deputy Head Girl

Getting accepted to be a part of the Head Girl Team was a dream come true for me

Last year, the Head Girl Team inaugurated the Student Council which replaced the Student Voice and this year we have decided to follow in their footsteps to keep up this successful movement. I will be running the Student Council this year and was delighted by the students involvement in the application process. My vision for this years Student Council is to delve into relevant issues and topics across the school and outreach to as many students as possible and then take action on their feedback. Topics will be decided later on by the students but some ideas are to: improve the schools mental health services; expand leadership roles within the school, and renew the schools' rewards system. We are all excited for the year ahead and we hope to keep you updated throughout our journey, as we work towards making a significant difference within the school.

Tess Harland - Deputy Head Girl

I am really enjoying my position as Deputy Head Girl and I am very excited to be working together with Saja, Harriet and Stella, the staff, and the students of Plymouth High School for Girls to help make the school even better than it already is.

Within our team we have all taken up different roles and one of my roles is running the charity aspect. I am always trying to make a positive impact in the world which is why I am excited to be organising and getting involved in charity events in 2019. We will be fundraising for a local charity and a national/international charity which are currently being voted for by the students at Plymouth High School for Girls. As Saja has previously mentioned we are focusing on environmental issues and mental health and our chosen charities will link to these topics. I am happy to have opened up applications for pupils of all ages to have a chance to be a charity ambassador and in a few weeks we will be deciding on a charity team to help organise and run events and together we will make a tangible difference to others who are less fortunate than us.

Harriet Gill - Deputy Head Girl

"We are incredibly honoured to have been given the chance to make a tangible difference to the school environment. We all want to give back to the school, and to ensure the continuation of the philosophy that has made our time at PHSG so unique and encouraging for the last five years.

My focus this year will be on placing more emphasis on the environment, and creating a positive space to learn in through involving all aspects of the curriculum and beyond. We are all passionate about creating a greener school and so we will hopefully be working really hard in our charity and outdoor work to make a difference. We want to link the pre-existing movement in the school to departments; such as art and science, to increase student autonomy and control over the environment that they are learning in, something that we all strongly believe could have an immensely positive impact on the overall wellbeing of our school."

Appointment of Headteacher

In January, following a rigorous two days of interviews the governors were pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Simon Underdown as PHSG's next Headteacher. His appointment commences in September 2019.

Mr Underdown is currently Deputy Headteacher at Churston Ferrers Grammar School in Brixham. He studied in Plymouth before gaining his BSc (Ed) Hons from Exeter University. More recently he gained the recognised NPQH.

Mr Underdown has taught at a number of schools including two Grammar Schools, and been a senior leader in two outstanding schools.

We look forward to welcoming Mr Underdown to PHSG and starting the next chapter in Plymouth High's history.



Student Achievements



Old Girl Anna Gee is currently in her second year at Oxford studying Biological Sciences.

Anna has recently been awarded the Thatcher Scholarship which is only given to 10 people every year.

As well as studying she is an active member of the Climate Justice Campaign in Oxford and volunteered during her city council's Green Week to support local environmental projects. She also volunteered over the summer for a conservation project on the Caribbean island of Bonaire, which involved assisting in conservation as well as community outreach.

Student Achievements

Student of the Week Winners

Week ending: 7th December 2018

Individual: Maddy Herd 8T for "a fantastic presentation on the Sea Cadets for 8T during tutor time. Maddy spoke with confidence and humour and provided a power point to enhance her presentation." Mrs Straker

Group: Winning Team of the STEM Sub Sea UK Challenge at the National Marine Aquarium - **Abigail Finnie, Ellie Kittle, Isabella Cox, Fatemeh Ahmadi, Ingrid Zamfir, and Hannah Frankow.** "Teams had to compete against other schools from across the city, performing a number of set tasks; this included building a robotic buggy from Lego pieces. This buggy had to be programmed by our girls to perform a number of set obstacle challenges leading to the robotic buggy following a windy path route, mirroring the multi direction an underwater submersible robotic would do in the marine environment. The submersible was controlled using a number of electronic sensors. Each team was also assessed on their team working skills and delivery of a detailed presentation at the end. Our winning team will be heading up to Aberdeen in March for the UK final, competing against schools from other regions in the country.

I have to mention our other team of girls who were just pipped at the post for second place: Heloise Coleman, Alice Mitchell, Ianthe Hamilton Wynne, Christina Huang, Holly Beckman and Dominika Krug. This team also performed incredibly well on the day, showing determination and professionalism throughout the day". Mr Watson

Week ending 14th December 2018

Individual: Talitha Kelly 11WES for "performing a Beatles song with musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as part of the GCSE Music trip last week. She gave a controlled and confident performance before a large audience of staff and students from various schools." Mrs Lemin

Group: Joint winners:

All students who took part in the Carols and Mince Pies evening, "whether playing, singing, soloist or ensemble player .. they all did really well and made for a great show. The Head Girl Team elect were the comperes and were simply brilliant". Mrs Lemin

Mr Mallard's tutor group for "organising a fun teacher talent show for their £20 challenge and raising £206.90 for charity". Mrs Mills

Tutor Group: 7K for "being very generous and making 10 charity Christmas boxes." Miss Paviour

Week ending 18th/25th January 2019

Individual: Katy Johnson 12LWN for "entering the Rotary photography competition and being awarded 3rd place". Judges' comments "The greens in your hedge were vibrant, but the intent and subject of the photo were missing. The composition of your swing photograph was excellent. Your spoke and curve effect introduces a dizziness that complements the subject well, but using a slower shutter speed might have added a further sense of movement. The bright sun and telephone wires detract from your third photo, but the leaves set against the cloudy sky do indeed portray a feeling of wellbeing." Miss Roper

Group: All of the students who helped with the headteacher interviews by being on the Student Panel, Tour Guides or Runners. As follows: Saja Altamimi, Naomi Agbobli, Alice Mitchell, Rhiannon Cooper, Kitty Harland, Harriett Gill, Nancy Hartill, Mali Heard, Caris Goode, Katie Cumberland, Freya Jagger-Thomas, Madison Green, Rosie Allen. Mrs Straker

Careers

Plymouth High School for Girls has held the prestigious Investor in Careers award since 2002. This is a great achievement which we are proud of and we value the support that has been given from the CSW Group to maintain this exceptionally high standard.

Our school motto 'For Life, Not School, We Learn' is the backbone of all that we strive towards. No more so than with our careers education programme where we aim to give students the skills to manage their careers throughout their lifetime.

We believe that the framework provided by the Investors in Careers Award ensures a quality of provision which takes us step by step through the Gatsby Career Benchmarks and it is therefore very important for us to achieve re-assessment in December 2019.

We have 5 strategic objectives for our careers education and guidance programme, helping pupils to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of themselves as individuals – their strengths, skills, personal qualities, interests, attainments and capabilities
- Awareness and understanding of the world of work and of the career and learning opportunities available to them in terms of further/higher education, training and employment
- Career planning and decision making skills in order to manage transition from school to university/workplace
- The skills and personal qualities necessary to gain admission onto higher education courses and employment
- Confidence and independence in terms of managing their career

If you or your employer are able to offer valuable work experience placements for our students or if you have any feedback on the careers provision at Plymouth High please contact our Careers Coordinator; Heather Longford hlongford@phsg.org



Departmental News

Design Technology

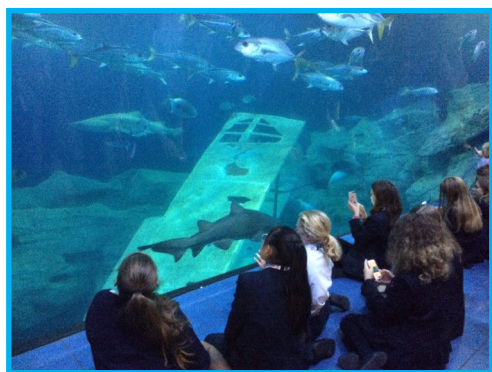
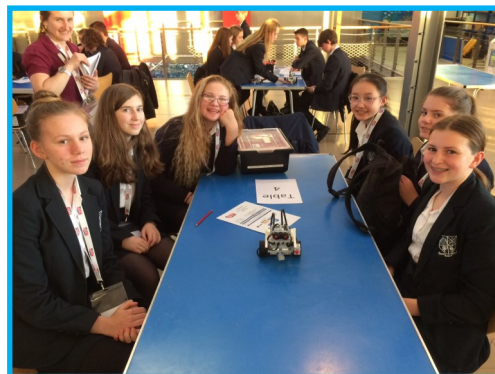
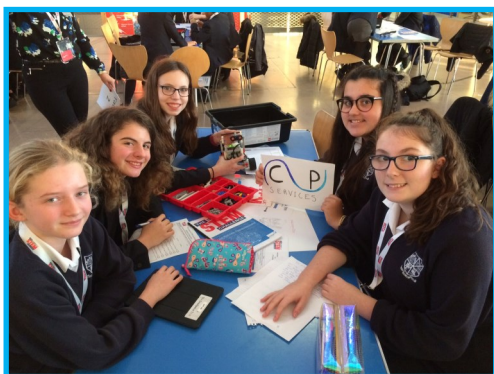
Subsea UK STEM Challenge

Two teams of Year 9 PHSG students recently competed at the Subsea UK STEM Challenge at the National Marine Aquarium. Competing against other schools from across the city, they performed a number of set tasks; this included having to design and build a Lego Mindstorm Remotely Operated Vehicle incorporating different sensors to aid it to follow a route along the sea floor, avoiding obstacles and spotting plastic pollutants.

This buggy had to be programmed by our girls to perform a number of set obstacle challenges, mirroring the multi direction an underwater submersible robotic would do in the marine environment.

The teams had to come up with and design a company name and brand, as well as deliver a pitch to the judges which explained how their ROV works and the benefits to the environment. They also had to produce a storyboard for an advertisement.

It was a long day of hard work and all the schools attending presented excellent pitches. The judges said it was a very close decision, but PHSG scooped first and second place! Fabulous news for the winning team who will now go on to the national finals in Aberdeen next March. Both teams showed brilliant team working, design and presentation skills and were excellent ambassadors for PHSG.



The winning team

Departmental News

PE

Sports Council Update — by Bella Foale Year 8

So far this year the Sports Council been busy supporting PE. We have already hosted the inter house dodgeball which was great fun and everyone was able to get involved, even the teachers! All the houses did really well and everyone showed the house spirit with the winners overall being Latimer.



Staying on the topic of dodgeball we have been running a weekly club since September and it has been great to see so many people coming and getting tokens for their house. We will be running a benchball club in the new year. The Sports Council have also been trying to raise money for new PE equipment by selling hot chocolates and cakes at break times.

We recently held a Paralympic Event where we taught Seated Volleyball and Goalball. All of Year 7 had a taster of these sports in their PE lessons and lots of people took part in the lunchtime sessions. Everyone who came enjoyed themselves and were able to learn a new skill and appreciation for these sports specifically designed for disabled athletes. These are the main things that the Sports Council have done so far this year and we plan to organise some more fundraising and inter house events in 2019.

Cross Country

The Devon Schools Cross Country Championships took place on the 19th January, with 4 of our students representing the Plymouth and West Devon area. It was a lovely bright day and the girls ran well with Verity Tank of Year 7 achieving 3rd place in her age group.

Mia Vitkovic Year 7 – 43rd, Martha Wilson Year 8 – 20th,
Maddie Skentelbery Year 13 – 17th

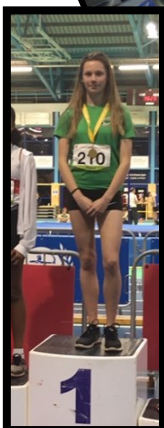


Indoor Rowing Competition



Congratulations to the following girls who travelled up to London on the 7th and 8th December to compete in the British Indoor Rowing Championships. They each rowed their age group race (5/6mins) and some also competed in a 500m race. The results are below. Congratulations also to Jenna who has been offered a place at Hartpury College for September on the strength of her rowing.

Millie Clench 1268m in 5 mins (28th), 5th in the 500m
Lucy Hall 1160m in 5 mins (36th), Ella Sice 1250m in 5 mins (32nd)
Maisy Staples 1277m in 5 mins (22nd), 15th in the 500m
Jenna Kempster Taylor 1598m in 6 mins (6th)



Summer Radcliffe in Year 10 achieved a silver synchro medal at a national diving competition before Christmas in Edinburgh along with 4th place on the 1 metre board. Well done Summer.

Huge congratulations to Mali Heard (Year 8) who competed in the under 15 girls' 200m in the Welsh Athletics Junior Open and Regional Championships at the beginning of December. She came 1st in South West England and 2nd overall, out of the 67 girls that entered from Wales and the South West.

Notices

Attendance

We would be grateful if parents could encourage their students to arrive at school promptly for the beginning of registration. It is our legal requirement to record attendance marks by 8.50am and 2.30pm. Registration is also a time when vital information is given to the students, with the exam season approaching this is even more critical.

Some students are arriving late and going straight to their first lesson. This causes confusion and can result in us making unnecessary phone calls home simply because they have not registered correctly or signed in at reception. Thank you.

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

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.

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.



Uniform

Shoes

We wish particularly to clarify our policy regarding shoes: canvas shoes are not allowed on health and safety grounds so students should be wearing black leather shoes NOT trainers and not trainer style shoes.

Please be aware that some manufacturers label such shoes as "school shoes" but if they look like trainers they are not part of acceptable PHSG school uniform.

Coats

Coats must be plain—no denim jackets or hoodies.



Term Dates

TERM DATES 2018-2019

Autumn Term:

Tuesday 4th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018

Thursday 6th September - Years 7/12 return

Friday 7th September—Whole School return

Half term: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October 2018

Spring Term:

Monday 7th January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019

Half term: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019

Summer Term:

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Wednesday 24th July 2019

May Day: Monday 6th May

Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July 2019

The five non-pupil days are:

Tuesday 4th September 2018

Wednesday 5th September 2018

Friday 19th October 2018

Fourth and Fifth day (20th & 21st December) to be commuted to twilight sessions

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

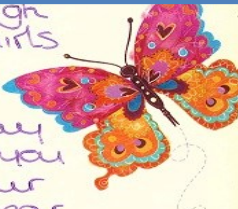
Dates for your Diary

Year 7 Enterprise Day	Thursday 7th February 2019
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 7th February 2019
Year 9 Options Forms to be Returned	Friday 8th February 2019
Year 9 HPV	Wednesday 13th February 2019
School Show "Little Shop of Horrors"	Tuesday 12th—Friday 15th February 2019
Half Term	Monday 18th—Friday 22nd February 2019
Wine Tasting	Friday 1st March 2019

**Thank you
letter from
the Christmas
Shoe Box
Appeal
Organisers**

To Plymouth High
School for Girls

Just a quick
message to say
a big thank you
for all of your
support this year.



Can't thank you enough

Your collection of shoe
boxes + donations are
fantastic + will really
help the less fortunate
at this time of year.

Thank you so much
Keira + Shaun
Plymstock United
Church Soup Run