



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

December Newsletter

Head's Update

5th December 2018

After a busy term I am going to keep my update brief and restrict it to simply thanking parents and staff for the support they give our school; students perform so much better with strong guidance from home and school, and we feel very proud of the students we have here at Plymouth High.

I wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas break and good luck to all our students who will be coming back in January to sit their mock examinations!

Inside this issue:

- Student Achievements
- Bar Mock
- Departmental News
- Important Notices
- Notices
- Term Dates
- Dates for your Diary

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr S Willis
Interim Headteacher



Student Achievements

Head Girls Team 2019

After a rigorous selection process, we are delighted to introduce our new Head Girls Team who performed brilliantly against tough competition! We look forward to seeing what they can bring to Plymouth High in the coming months.

Head Girl: Saja Altamimi

Deputies: Stella Cangelosi, Harriet Gill and Tess Harland

Student of the Week Winners

Winner for week ending: 9th November 2018

Individual: Emily Dinham 13GDC for "*a fantastic Biology test*". Dr Doddrell

Group: 9RFD for "*productive use of registration time. They are always willing to enter into discussion, provide much helpful feedback about their learning and the school, and support each other extremely effectively with homework.*"

Mr Rutherford

Winner for week ending: 16th November 2018

Individual: Molly Lord 9KMA for "*for always, without asking, taking charge of clearing up after orchestra practice which invariably overruns! She is doing a great job as a lead player in the orchestra as well.*" Mrs Lemin

Group: Bar Mock Team for "*becoming regional champions*". Mr Graves and Miss Findlay

Winner for week ending: 23rd November 2018

Individual: Ailish Field 9WAN for "*her dancing and singing contribution representing Stage Stars, which she performed for the Plymouth switching on of Christmas lights*". Mr Watson

Group: ESSA girls for "*being fantastic ambassadors for the school and representing us nationally with excellent manners and thoughtfulness.*" Mrs Goolden

Winner for week ending: 30th November 2018

Individual: Erin Auld 10CRO for "*Leading a cover lesson in RS and working well with the class*". Mrs Payne

Student Achievements

Young Arts Competition 2018

Some of our artists had work selected by The Rotary Club to be included in the Young Arts Competition 2018 exhibition at Plymouth College of Art. This is a city-wide competition which received submissions from 12 local schools across Plymouth. Approximately 50 works were selected to be displayed, and we are extremely proud that 12 of the selected works were from Plymouth High!



Year 11 Mock Interviews

Every year we organise mock interviews for our Year 11 students providing our students with an invaluable opportunity to get to grips with their CV writing and to practise their interview technique. 125 interviews took place in the school library on Thursday 15th November.

We are immensely grateful to members of our local community and to local businesses for giving up their time to come in and help our students prepare for future interviews.

These included staff from: The Army, Babcock, Anritsu, MOD, Wolferstans, Peninsula Dentistry & Medical School, Plymouth Marjon University, Royal Marines, The Navy, The Police and The RAF.



Bar Mock Trials

In November, a team of our students travelled to Southampton to compete at the regional Bar Mock Trial Competition. The competition immerses students in all aspects of a criminal trial, as they take on the roles of barristers, witnesses and various court staff to present cases to a jury sitting with a real judge.



Although there were far too many outstanding performances to note, Madeleine, Maddyson and Emma impressed as they made their debut as barristers, persuading the jury that the evidence was in their favour and exposing weaknesses in the other teams' arguments. Court Clerk Emmie played her role so convincingly that she was approached for assistance by another school who believed she was one of the official court staff.

Despite the high calibre of the competing schools, our students maintained their resolve to make it through the early heats of the day to the regional final. Witness Abigail, for example, held her nerve in a particularly brutal cross-examination. The judge singled Saja out for her emotional performance and said that, if she does not choose a career in law, he expects to see her acting in the West End!

In the regional final, Plymouth High School for Girls beat John Hampden Grammar School by a substantial seven points. Preparations are now underway for the national final of the Bar Mock Trial Competition in Edinburgh early next year.



Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Huge congratulations to Amy in Year 12 who, on 29th October, was presented with a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship in London.



Amy being presented

Departmental News

Design Technology

Our Year 12 Product Design Students have had a fascinating trip to the Magma Moulding factory in Plymouth where Trunki is made. As well as finding out all about the injection moulding process, they also learned about iterative designing for manufacture, environmental impact of plastics and how to operate a cost effective business. Thanks to Tony Newbold, Technical Manager at Magma, for giving us such a valuable insight into the designed world we live in.



Food & Nutrition

Year 8's recently completed their final food and nutrition project – the brief was to make their own choice of multi-cultural meal using the cooking techniques they have been learning this term. We were very impressed with the standard of work produced and the level of independent learning was brilliant.



Departmental News

PE

Team Successes

Cross Country Our students did us proud at the West Devon Schools Cross Country event. A special mention to Verity Tank in Year 7 who came second in her race! Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the next round of the schools competition in January: Verity Tank Year 7, Mia Vitkovic Year 7, Martha Wilson Year 8, Mali Heard Year 8, Maddie Skentelbery Year 13 and Jack Boltwood Year 13.

Swimming Our intermediate relay team qualified for the ESSA National finals this year and travelled up to the London Aquatic Centre to compete against the best teams in the country. They swam really well in both the medley and freestyle relays and beat their qualifying times, placing 26th and 28th out of 30 teams.



Netball The U16 netball team qualified to represent the area at the Devon finals this month, competing in Exeter against the other top teams in the region. They had some very competitive matches, losing to eventual semi finalists Teign and St Peters. It was a fantastic experience for the girls to be playing at this high level and we hope to get to the finals next year.



Individual Successes

Athletics Emily Bee Year 12 claimed the individual silver medal and team gold medal in Glasgow at the (Schools International Athletics Competition) combined events international and Mali Heard Year 8, who competed in the under 15 girls' 200m at the Welsh Athletics Junior Open and Regional Championships coming 1st in South West England and 2nd overall.

Karate Megan Tanner Year 8 competed in the Basildon SRK Winter Open Championships (Karate). She achieved 3 bronze medals, one for her individual event, one for synchronised pairs and one for Kumite.

Swimming Niamh Hutchinson Year 9 competed at a recent PL Winter National Qualifier meet, winning gold in the 1500m free and regaining her top spot in the South West Rankings.

Dressage Scarlett John is now competing two ponies, and has qualified for the regionals. She recently won at Duchy College and again at Bicton Arena. Huge congratulations are in order as she also rode the FEI test (this is the test used when riding internationally) and has been asked to join the Great Britain training team in December.



Trampolining Good luck to Casey Hill Year 8 who will be representing her trampoline club, City of Plymouth Trampolining and Gymnastics Club at the Southwest qualifiers in December in Bath. She has also qualified for the regional finals in March.

Indoor Rowing Good luck to the following girls who are travelling up to London to compete in the British Rowing Indoor Championships on the 7th December: Jenna Kempster Taylor, Lucy Hall, Maisy Staples, Ella Sice and Millie Clench.

Important 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.

2019 Service Pupil Premium

Service parents with children in state maintained schools, free schools and Academies in England are encouraged to ensure that the Headteacher of their children's school is made aware of their service status ahead of the spring school census deadline of 17th January 2019.

The Service Pupil Premium is provided by the Department for Education to state maintained schools, free schools and Academies in England who have children of regular armed forces personnel among their pupil population, to provide additional (mainly pastoral) support. Pupils with parents on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service are classed as service children.

Service Pupil Premium is currently £300 per service pupil and is paid directly to schools.

Schools with Service Children in Reception to Year 11 classes are eligible to receive the funding, but only if the children's name appears on the schools roll as being a Service child.

The information recorded by schools regarding Service status is protected and data regarding individual children is not shared outside the school.

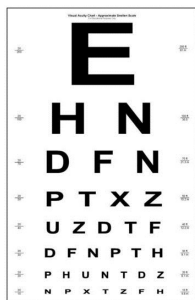
For more information on eligibility please visit:
www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools

Notices

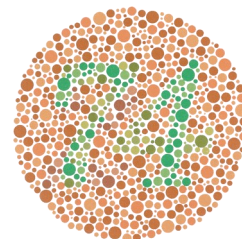
Does Your Child Need an Eye Test?

Healthy eyes help children to succeed in school. 80% of what children are expected to learn both in and outside the classroom requires good vision and this is only going to increase with students spending more and more time exposed to computer/tablet and mobile phone screens. Having annual eye tests will ensure your child is seeing clearly and comfortably and therefore be in the best position to learn.

Did you know Myopia (short sightedness) is increasing amongst children? This is a concern because if left untreated it can put your child at a significantly greater risk of sight threatening conditions later in life.



The NHS recommend that children have an eye test once every two years – is it time to book your child an appointment?



Arts and Crafts Request

Over the festive period - lots of you might be doing a bit of an end of year "tidy". Please can I ask that if you have any of the following, you allow your daughter to bring them in so that we can use them for Arts and Crafts in Curriculum Enrichment week? Many thanks, Miss Donna Roughton

- ◆ Wrapping paper - left over bits not used
- ◆ Christmas cards - old and new welcome
- ◆ Ribbons
- ◆ Buttons and sequins
- ◆ Scraps of material
- ◆ Glass jars - clear jars for jam or coffee are ideal



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.

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.



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.



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will take place on **Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th December**. Morning break will be at the usual time but with a reduced selection. Students who do not wish to partake of Christmas dinner are requested to purchase an alternative during morning break or to provide their own packed lunch. Lunch will be traditional Christmas Fare (including a Vegetarian option). Students will not be required to purchase a ticket ahead of time but will pay as per normal through our ParentPay and Cashless Catering systems. Students will be welcome on either or both days and members of staff including the Senior Leadership team will be helping to serve the meals.

Menu

Roast Turkey and Pigs in Blankets or Mixed Veg Puff and Stuffing,
Roast Potatoes, Sprouts, Carrots, Peas, Gravy
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce or Chocolate Roulade
Fruit juice / Milk
And a Christmas Cracker
Cost: £3.00

End of Term Arrangements

Students will be dismissed between 1.00pm and 1.30pm after our Carol Service on the last day of the Autumn Term, Wednesday 19th December. For those who have Free School Meals, they will have plenty of time during break to use the canteen.

The Contract Buses will run at their normal time. We will of course make arrangements for any girls who cannot get home at 1.00pm and are staying behind in school, by providing work and supervision for them.



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

8th—12th July 2019

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

Carols and Mince Pie Evening	Wednesday 12th December 2018
Year 11/13 Presentation Evening	Tuesday 18th December 2018
End of Term 1pm Students Dismissed	Wednesday 19th December 2018
Term Starts	Monday 7th January 2019 (Week B)
Year 11 Options Forms to be Returned	Wednesday 9th January 2019
Year 11 Mock Examinations Commence	Monday 14th January 2019
Year 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 30th January 2019
Year 7 Enterprise Day	Wednesday 6th February 2019
Year 10 Parents Evening	Thursday 7th February 2019
Year 9 Options Forms to be Returned	Friday 8th February 2019
School Show "Little Shop of Horrors"	Tuesday 12th—Friday 15th February 2019
Half Term	Monday 18th—Friday 22nd February 2019

**Merry Christmas from all at
Plymouth High School for Girls**

