



14 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope this finds you well.

This will be my last regular letter to you of this academic year. I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement over the last 12 months. Colleagues very much appreciate the kind words and sense of working together that we enjoy with our parent body, it is one of the things that makes Plymouth High such a wonderful school. Staff work extremely hard all year to help our students have the best possible experience and your kind and supportive comments go a long way, thank you.

Curriculum enrichment week

Curriculum enrichment week, work experience week and Duke of Edinburgh was a huge success, our students and staff had an amazing time having fun and making great memories. Thank you for your kind and supportive comments regarding staff not taking industrial action so that our young people could enjoy the week. Colleagues really appreciated your understanding and empathy. We are in the process of collating the pictures that were taken across the activities and will be posting on our website soon. Thank you for your patience whilst we get this ready.

Dispute. Teaching unions and the Government

You will have seen that the Government has made an offer to teaching unions regarding the current dispute. Whilst we need to wait and see if it is formally accepted by the unions, it does look like we will be in a better place going forward than we have been this year.



Student leadership

Yet again, our student leaders have been having a positive impact on our school. They supported various curriculum enrichment week activities which the younger student thoroughly enjoyed. The Head Student Team presented at the new year 7 induction evening and the Junior House Captains supported the year 6 students throughout their induction day in school. Sports Captains made sure that sports day was superbly supported and were on hand to rally their houses. Our open day was a huge success but would not have been as successful without the help of our amazing student ambassadors and tour guides. Our sixth form student leaders have been an integral part of the new year 12 induction day and our debate team led the first ever Trust wide debate. Plymouth High narrowly won the first debate with students from both sides having a wonderful time. Our Earth Alliance student leaders will be running our third annual Earth Alliance conference next week and our Diversity student leaders have planned our first ever cultural day. Of course, our term finishes on Friday 21st July with our music festival which the House Captains and Junior House Captains plan and deliver. Plymouth High really is the place for student leadership and we are so proud of all our student leaders. My thanks to you all for supporting our events by encouraging your child to take part, it makes a big difference.

Last day, first day back, public examination results

Our summer term will finish slightly earlier than advertised in my last letter. Students finish the summer term at **12.30pm on Friday 21st July**. The times of the DHSE buses have been amended to take account of our earlier finish, however we are unable to do anything about the service buses and train timetables. If you would like us to provide a safe place for your child until 3.30pm on 21st July, please contact your child's Head of Year. The summer is a great time to replace uniform items and replenish equipment for learning. Our website gives full details of the uniform expectations [here](#)

New year 7 and new year 12 will have their first day in school on Monday 4th September. All other year groups will return to school on Tuesday 5th September. Both days are normal uniform days and will run to the normal timings.

A level results day is on Thursday 17th August 2023. Students can collect their results in school from 8.30am. Please see the separate letter from school regarding the arrangements for A level results collection.

GCSE results day is on Thursday 24th August 2023. Students can collect their results in school from 8.30am. Please see the separate letter from school regarding the arrangements for GCSE results collection.

Courts

You will know that we have suffered some subsidence on our outdoor courts. We have been conducting extensive investigations into the cause of the subsidence and the necessary repair measures. We have taken safety precautions to keep our students safe and this has meant closing large parts of the courts. Luckily, we have been able to keep Bertha's open. We are hoping to have an indication over the summer of the required works so that we can plan for the contractors to be on site. Once the contractors start, the courts will be closed and some extra PE classes will be run off site. When the courts are closed, we will remove the cars that park inside the enclosed part of the site to allow sufficient space for our young people. This is a complex and tricky process and I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

I wish you a happy and restful summer break and look forward to another successful year in 2023/24.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.