



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

November Newsletter

Head's Update

5th November 2018

As you will know from last month's newsletter, we are focusing on the key themes of: 'Ambition', 'Confidence', 'Enthusiasm' and 'Community'. It has been a real pleasure to see all of these in evidence this month in the many different events that have taken place. We have hosted a Halloween Disco, World Mental Health Day, Year 8 Enterprise Day, Macmillan Coffee morning and Poetry Day – all of which demonstrate how strong our community is.

As highlighted by Anthony House in their e-safety assembly, our community is incredibly large with one of their Facebook posts reaching over 70,000 people in three days! With this in mind, I have a plea; we want to celebrate the history and legacy of the school and the impact it has had in the city and beyond. If you are, or know of, a former student who has any artefacts from the past, please bring them into reception so we can use them in school. We want to celebrate our history and would love to see the different items you may have.

Further strengthening our community and links with parents, our annual Year 11 revision evening took place this month and was a real success. We encourage all of our students to be 'ambitious'; we want them to aim high and be the best they can be. Revision is a key part of learning and there will be times when learning becomes overwhelming or difficult but we never want our students to give up. They may not be able to do it **yet** but they will be able to eventually if they keep trying. Please continue to work with us and your daughter/ son in ensuring they are resilient and never give up – it really does make all the difference. This community of everyone working together is how we will ensure our students achieve success!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr S Willis
Interim Headteacher

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Important Notices

Appointment of New Headteacher

We are pleased to advise you that the Governors have begun the process of recruiting our new Headteacher. Mr Braide, our Chair of Governors, has placed an advertisement online in TES and an advert will go onto our website. The deadline for applicants is 7th December with a view to interviewing in early January.

Changes to Staff

This term we would like to welcome Mrs Anita Ganea as our new Receptionist, Mrs Alderson will be moving across to cover the Headteacher's PA role.

After many years service we also say goodbye to Mrs Fell our medical administrator, and thank her for all she has done for Plymouth High.

SEN/Medical

If you have any SEN or medical concerns please email Mrs Earnshaw on hearnshaw@phsg.org

Student Sickness

Recently some girls have contacted their parents directly if they are unwell. Could you please remind your daughter that she should **not** be phoning home during the school day if she is feeling unwell. Instead, she should go to the Learner Support Centre (AO1) where a member of staff, after talking to her, will decide the best course of action. If your child does call you during the day please do not make private arrangements to come and collect them as this causes confusion, please ask her to go to the Learning Support Centre to be assessed by our medical administrator in the first instance.

The School Nurse, Elspeth Caldwell, holds a lunchtime drop-in session once a fortnight. Dates and venue to follow. If you need urgent help or advice she can be contacted on 01752 434119 where you can leave a message with your name and contact number.

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.

Student Achievements

Student of the Week

Winner for week ending 28th September:

Individual: Ciana 7GDN for completing and achieving 100% on all her set mymaths tasks for this term." *Mrs Randell*

Winners for week ending 5th October:

Individual: Poppy 10CRT for "again helping out with the 11+ which she has done every year since Year 7. You are a credit to the school Poppy". *Mrs Fell and Mrs Carter*

Group: All Year 8 students who helped with 11+. *Mrs Fell*

Winner for week ending 19th October:

Individual: Ciana 7GDN "for being the first to achieve a library reading award and also for writing an article for the newsletter about the Year 7 Camping Trip for Mrs Goolden." *Miss Joynes*

Group: 7T "for fantastic exam etiquette during a timed essay in their RS lesson". *Mrs Hore*

Winner for week ending 2nd November:

Individual: Isobel 9KMA for "representing the UK in Irish Dancing". *Miss Boyle*

Group: Student Panel for new receptionist interviews - Naomi , Maisy , Alice , May and Jess. *Mrs Straker*

Well done to Ciana from 7L for winning the competition to design an E-Safety poster, (which you can see at the end of this newsletter), following our assembly before half term.

Homeless Shoebox Appeal

We are supporting the Homeless Shoebox Appeal for Plymouth again this year and students can bring their completed boxes in during November. Please see the flyer attached for all the details. Let's see if we can beat last year's total!!

– Mrs Hore

Homeless Christmas
Shoebox Appeal



Staff Training Day

For our training day at the end of last half term 52 members of Plymouth Design and Technology staff gathered to take part in training on Fusion 360 and 3D printing, fish preparation and cooking skills, Google assessment and stretch and challenge. Visitors from local designer makers, Makers HQ and Claybot Demonstrations helped to inspire and enthuse all. - *Miss Westaway*
Joint Head of Design and Technology



Year 7 Sconner Down Trip

"Being in the first year ever to go to Sconner Down Campsite was an awesome experience. We have many memorable moments that will stay with us for a lifetime. Moreover, the activities were excitingly challenging and the team building games enabled us to build our communication and leadership skills. My favourite part obviously was the food; it gave an authentic sensation of the outdoors. I also really enjoyed watching the stars emerging from behind the clouds in the darkening sky, whilst sipping hot chocolate in the gentle breeze. I really hope this happens in the future again especially for year 7s so they can build their skills and understand their friends and teachers more!!"

Ciana Year 7

Year 8 Enterprise Day

The red carpet was rolled out for our Year 8 students with a "Ball Gown Challenge" themed Enterprise Day. Students were tasked with designing an outfit, made out of recyclable material, for a film premiere.

Working in teams they designed stunning outfits using materials such as: bin liners, newspapers, magazines, cardboard and string. In a climatic finale, the teams displayed their creations on the catwalk and presented their brand identity. Representatives of the PHSG Business Department and Fashion Lecturers from Plymouth College of Art had the difficult task of judging the competition. After much debate, it was agreed that Team 14 were the overall winners as they had met all of the objectives in both the business element and the fashion design.

Mrs Straker, Head of Year 8, who was also one of the judges, commented that "Our Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed the Enterprise Day and certainly rose to the challenge put before them. The girls worked well in groups, possibly with students they had not worked with previously, pushing the limit of teamwork, creativity and comfort zones. The models looked fabulous - some were a dab hand at posing and working the catwalk. I think they had done it before! "



GHANA 2019

Our link with Ahantaman Senior High School for Girls in Ghana is moving into its 16th successful year. The link has played an important role in developing our school curriculum and enriching students and the wider community over the years. The link is very highly regarded in Sekondi-Takoradi in Ghana and is one of the most successful and long-standing partnerships in the UK.

Next year we will once again see an exchange of staff and students between our schools. In March 2019, we will have the first part of our next exchange where the Ghanaian group will be visiting Plymouth.

As has been the case in the past, we hope that there will be families who would be willing to host either a member of staff or a student for the time they are in Plymouth. Currently, details are not completely finalised but we are looking for hosts possibly between Friday 15th March and Friday 22nd March 2019. There are 3 members of staff and 4 female students aged 15 and 16 years old. Those who have hosted in the past have all commented on how much they enjoyed having guests stay with them, sharing differences in culture, learning from each other and the great friendships that have been made.

We are starting the process of looking for host families for the March 2019 visit. If you think, you and your family would enjoy hosting one of our guests please contact me at jrandell@phsq.org so I can give you more details and information regarding what hosting involves.

Mrs Randell



Departmental News

PE

A small team from PHSG took part in the 5k Schools Challenge in October, and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of completing the course. We are aiming to enter a much bigger team next year, so if your son/daughter is keen to get involved then they can come along to our running club on a Thursday lunchtime.



Individual Successes

We were delighted to hear that Nikki, Lily and Izzie from Year 11 ran the Plymouth 10k run in October to raise funds for the CLIC Sargent Charity. They completed their run in 1 hour 13 minutes despite never having taken part in anything like this before; and managed to raise over £800 for the charity. Well done girls!

Irish Dancing

Izzy from 9KMA participated in the Irish Dancing World Championship in Ireland on the 19th and 20th October. She danced really well, came 2nd and 3rd in two of her categories and placed in the top 10 for the other 4. Huge congratulations Izzy!

If your son/daughter competes outside of school we would like to hear how they are getting on, and celebrate their success, so please email Mrs Goolden egoolden@phsg.org and let her know.



Plea From The PE Department

We have a huge amount of lost property both in Reception and in the PE Department. If you have lost an item this half term, come and check in Reception, or the box at the top of the stairs and see if your item is there. Also could you please check to make sure that all of your kit is named so that we can make sure it gets back to you when it goes missing.

Thank you.

Notices

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.



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.

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

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 – Wednesday 23rd July 2020

May Day: Monday 4th May

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

Curriculum Enrichment Week

TBC

The five non-pupil days are:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Friday 18th October 2019

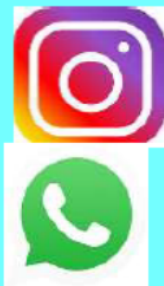
Monday 6th January 2020

22nd July 2020 commuted to twilight sessions

23rd July 2020 Occasional Day

Dates for your Diary

Year 11 Parents Evening	Thursday 15th November 2018
Sixth Form Open Evening	Wednesday 21st November 2018
Year 13 Parents Evening	Thursday 29th November 2018
Year 11/13 Presentation Evening	Tuesday 18th December 2018
End of Term	Wednesday 19th December 2018



Staying Safe Online !

- 1) Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.
- 2) Think carefully when posting pics if you don't want someone to see it don't post it!
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible
- 4) Never give out your passwords
- 5) Don't befriend people you don't know
- 6) Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do
- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online
- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude
- 10) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, leave the website, and tell a trusted adult immediately.

