

July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the Headteacher Designate of Plymstock School and to welcome you to what I am sure will be a very busy and exciting year ahead. I am absolutely delighted to be taking on this role from September, having spent over 10 years successfully working as both an Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher within the school. I am determined to secure an outstanding future for our school community, building upon the exceptional leadership provided by David Farmer over the last 9 years. I am sure you will all join me in wishing David a long and happy retirement.

I have the very highest expectations of all the staff, students and parents. It is my intention, by working together, to further raise standards in every area of the school, provide a world-class education and ensure that every student achieves their full potential.

As part of our collaborative drive to further raise standards, I would like to request your full support in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for the day ahead. In particular, I would ask that students wear their Plymstock School uniform with the utmost pride at all times, both in school and on the journey to and from school. I have attached an up-to-date list of our non-negotiable uniform expectations. Could I please request that all parents and carers read this carefully, particularly if you are purchasing new uniform over the summer break. I am aware that everyone has a personal opinion on uniform but I would ask all parents to support us in ensuring those expectations are always met.

In addition to smart uniform it is essential that students are fully prepared for their learning each day, by checking their planners every evening to ensure that they have all the necessary books and equipment for the following day. As parents you are encouraged to check and sign your child's planner each week to maintain communication between home and school. Again, a list of the equipment each student is expected to bring to school each day is also attached.

I strongly believe in the power of collaboration and fully recognise that student success, both academic and personal, is most effectively achieved when the school and home work together. I am very keen to further develop parental engagement at Plymstock School and know that many of you have skills and experience that would really benefit our students. From September we will be looking at new ways to meaningfully engage with parents to move the school forward positively. One example of this will be a new online homework system called 'Show My Homework'. This will enable you as parents to check and monitor the homework being set for your child. More information on this will be sent out in September.

I look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve the very best for our students. Have a peaceful and restful summer.

Yours sincerely



Robert Diment
HEADTEACHER DESIGNATE

Uniform standards from 5th September 2016

The following expectations apply to all students in Years 7 – 11:

- Navy Blazer with school logo
- White shirt
- Clip-on school tie
- Trousers must be plain grey (not black) tailored school or suit style trousers. There should be no tapering (getting thinner) or flaring (widening) towards the ankle. Trousers that are skinny fit/skin-tight, denim, made of heavy cotton material, contain Lycra, or similar stretchy / elastic fabric that would cause them when worn to look skin tight/tapered are not permitted.
- School skirts should be plain grey and knee-length. Jersey or Lycra material is not permitted.
- Tights – navy blue or black.
- Socks – grey or black.
- An optional navy blue V-neck jumper with school logo can be worn.
- Coats should be plain navy blue or black. Leather jackets, denim coats, cardigans or hoodies are not permitted.
- If scarves are worn they should be plain navy blue or black.
- General jewellery and rings must NOT be worn. Watches are permitted but the school accepts no responsibility in the event of loss or damage. The ONLY types of earrings permitted are a pair of plain sleepers or studs worn in the lower earlobe. Ear stretchers, spikes, transparent studs or plugs are not permitted under any circumstances, including if a student has just had their ear pierced.
- Hair – no extreme fashion (e.g. no beads, un-natural colours, partially or fully shaved heads).
- Very light make-up is permitted in Years 10 and 11. This should be subtle and not readily visible. Nail varnish is not permitted.
- Shoes plain black school type shoes only. Trainers, canvas shoes, flip-flops, sandals, “dolly” shoes or shoes with coloured borders are not allowed.

If you are unsure of any item of uniform, please keep your receipts and tags and we will be happy to check it is suitable.

Equipment expectations

The following equipment is expected to be brought daily to school by every student:

- 2 black or blue pens
- 1 green pen (for making corrections to work)
- 2 HB pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Scientific calculator
- Colouring pencils
- Pair of compasses
- Protractor
- Glue stick

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not to be used during the school day. If a student brings a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and kept in their bag all day. The school accepts no liability for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. If a student needs to contact home during the day, the call can be made at the Student Support Hub.