



28 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

February update (2) for Year 11

Unfortunately, the weather has now settled back to the winter norm but in school it has been business as usual. Many thanks for supporting your son/daughter during the half term break. I know many of my colleagues sent work home via SMHW and it is essential all work is completed to prevent any gaps in your son/daughter's subject knowledge. The additional support programme is continuing at pace and is well attended. As always, attendance at these sessions supports the learning occurring in the classroom, but also allows for any problems to be rectified. Please can you keep encouraging your son/daughter to keep attending, it will be worthwhile in the end.

Next week your son/daughter will enter another period of formative assessments completing papers which were not covered in the December examinations. Some parents and students have asked why this did not take place during the mock examination. The simple answer is, due to the nature and content of the courses and to make the mock as meaningful and as realistic as possible, a greater amount of subject material still needed to be covered. If this had been organised for January, it would not have been beneficial. Once the papers have been marked, appropriate feedback will be given to your son/daughter to act upon in preparation for their final exams.

In the next two weeks all students in Year 11 will be given a memory stick containing all the revision materials from their subjects to support them in the learning process at home for the final run up to the May examinations. This has proved incredibly beneficial in previous years; however, it must be used regularly to gain the full benefit. I will send a MyEd message when they have been issued to the year group.

As we approach the examination season some subject areas are now preparing for moderation or oral examinations. If this affects your son/daughter, it is imperative they follow all the advice given by their subject teachers. Additional sessions will be on offer to support them through this process. I can totally appreciate stress levels could be on the increase at home. Too much stress can overwhelm a child and can be incredibly harmful. Like adults, your son/daughter can also struggle with stress. Too many commitments, conflict in their families and problems with peers are all stressors that overwhelm children. You then throw in exams and adolescence, and it is a combustible mix. Here is a link which covers some 'stress busters' that may help.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/teen-angst/201411/top-10-stress-busters-teens>

As always, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mark Taylor

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Director of Learning, Attainment and Progress for Years 10 & 11

MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk



Calendared events:

2.03 – 6.03	March Examinations
30.03 – 3.04	First Week of Easter Provision
6.04 – 9.04	Second week of Easter School
21.04 – 24.04	GCSE MFL Speaking exams
11.05 onwards	GCSE Exams commence