



24 June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I sincerely hope that you and your family are safe and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify arrangements, for students in both Years 11 and 13, to receive their GCSE and A Level Results, which I hope you will find helpful.

You will be aware from my recent letters that in the last week the school has partially re-opened within DfE guidance to allow for a quarter of Year 10 and 12 to be taught, on site face-to-face, at any one time. You will find the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

This partial return is governed by stringent DfE guidance to ensure tracking and traceability are built into the framework of the 5 mini schools we now offer on site within zones, commonly known as 'bubbles'. Alongside this new provision, the school has remained open since 20 March for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children accessing our Edu-care provisions. The education of our students continues to be driven using Distance Learning.

Year 11 and 13 are two, year groups we certainly have not forgotten; they continue to receive an offer of support through our Careers Information and Guidance Team in addition to our Sixth Form Team. Staff remain available to support students and you will find contact details at the end of this letter, should you require any additional help and support.

At this stage, it is our understanding that, in line with current UK Government advice on the **#stay alert** phase of the easing of lockdown, mass gatherings will continue to be prohibited in the months to come.

We have therefore, along with all schools in our Trust, taken the decision, at this stage, to not host the traditional on-site results days this year. Results will go out electronically (or in the post) to students. Where there may be a need to meet with a student/parent/carer this will be done via telephone, video call (e.g. MS Teams) or a scheduled (but socially distanced) face-to-face meeting.

More details will follow on the exact arrangements before the results days and we will support any student/parent/carer who needs additional guidance at that time. You will continue to receive separate letters and updates from both Miss Monelle, Director of Post 16 and Mr Taylor, Director of Learning for Years 10 and 11 with regard to arrangements. We remain committed to ensuring that no student is disadvantaged on results day and that they will have access to their results in a timely and efficient way.



The anxiety of this day is something we are very much aware of in a normal year, let alone one when students have been denied the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have learnt under examination conditions. We very much look forward to celebrating the success of our students' endeavours over the last five years through the new 'centre assessed grading' system that has been implemented to replace this year's examinations process.

Whilst the government has highlighted that scientific data shows the risk of the COVID-19 virus to under 18 children is low, it doesn't mean that these students are immune and wouldn't transmit the virus to a wider group of family or friends if they came into contact with someone who was infected. This risk is very much at the heart of the government's strategy and has been highlighted within the announcements in the last 24 hours.

Our understanding, both as a school and a Trust, is that restrictions in August will still prohibit mass gatherings and a traditional results morning would fall into that category. We have put in place a sensible and practical remote way to ensure that all students can access their results at the same time. No student should have to wait to access their results on those days; this is at the very heart of our planning.

You will be aware Education secretary Gavin Williamson said on 19 June that the government plans for all pupils to return to school in September. Something we, as a school, very much look forward to. We miss our students and the vibrancy and life they bring to our buildings. He mentioned plans to extend 'bubbles' to include the whole class. Further details on how this will work is expected in the next 2 weeks. At this early stage, it is still clear that stringent hygiene systems will be required to allow this to happen, along with new systems to create restrictions on the wider mixing of students. This may allow us to reflect on a way we might enable Year 11 and 13 to collect results in person.

We won't rule out other scenarios, if the guidance allows us to do so, (even as I write this update the government has announced further easing measures) but even with the creation of bubbles to allow students to arrive together, we would need time to clean any inside area that would be used to assemble a limited number of students between arrivals. Even then, other visitors would be prohibited, such as parents watching. Staff working on this day would need to wear PPE as contact would be within one metre. Whilst the 2 metre ruling is being relaxed, it has been stressed if you can maintain 2 metres you should continue do so.

We don't know yet if this advice will continue until September, but the government should be updating its guidance in the coming weeks and we suspect, due to the unpredictable nature of the situation we all find ourselves in, that further updates on advice and guidance on what the educational offer will be, will no doubt be released during the traditional summer holiday.

You may recall that I wrote about Year 11 and 13 in the school blog on Friday 20 March 2020 <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/friday-20-march-2020/>

We are very much aware of the effect the pandemic has had on both Year 11 and 13, on their celebration of their time in education. We continue to be committed to finding a way to celebrate their time in education

when we can. We very much miss the inability to host a lever's assembly, a ball and a traditional results day.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your ongoing support and understanding; your messages of support have really helped our staff this week and are greatly appreciated by all.

Stay safe and healthy.

Best Wishes



Rob Pearsall
HEADTEACHER

Staying in touch

All school communication available through our newsfeed on the schools website:
<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/news/>

What should I do if I have questions?



If your question is about your child's well-being then please continue to contact their Tutor, Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.

Safeguarding issues should be raised with our Designated Safeguarding Lead, **Leeshia Walton, Mobile: 07950336841, email: safeguarding@plymstockschool.org.uk**

If you have subject-specific questions, related to support with Careers, Information and Guidance, please email Careers Advisor, Miss Tiff Linzell at tlinzell@plymstockschool.org.uk

If you have specific questions with regard to your child's learning support arrangements to support Year 11 with the transition from Year 11 to Post 16, please email:

Mr Mark Taylor, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, for Years 10 & 11 mataylor@plymstockschool.org.uk

or

Miss Liz Monelle, DIRECTOR OF POST 16 emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk

If you have other questions, please email using: info@plymstockschool.org.uk and these will be directed to a member of staff to answer.