



17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of this extraordinary year, one in which we have all made many changes to the way we work and live our lives, I am writing to congratulate our students with a series of celebrations.

I start with celebrating and honouring the time that both Years 11 and 13 have spent with us. Their final year was interrupted with the partial closing of schools and being at home from 20th March. They have lost both the opportunity to take formal examinations and demonstrate their abilities, as well as the chance to celebrate their time at Plymstock School together. It gives me great pleasure today to be able to announce two new separate web pages, for Year 11 and Year 13, respectively, to mark them formally leaving our school and pay tribute to them. We look forward to celebrating their results in August when I'm sure, given their endeavours, they will be rewarded.

Our second celebration is for our students currently in Years 7 to 10. We have introduced a new, dedicated web page to showcase their achievements throughout the year. Traditionally, we would have held presentations, outside the Galley, for each year group. Instead, each year group has compiled a page of students who have received awards. There are pictures and video messages from the Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and their Tutors. Our students have worked incredibly hard throughout this difficult time. These pages recognise the success of all of them. I am so proud of them all!

I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate and recognise the hard work and dedication of a number of our staff who leave Plymstock School this year. Some of them have dedicated significant parts of their working careers to the children of our community.

I begin with Mr Paul Steward who leaves after 33 years' service as a PE Teacher, Careers Advisor and so much more in terms of support and encouragement he has given to so many students as well as staff.

Ms Lisa Williams, Head of Social Sciences, is leaving after 27 years' service. A dedicated professional with a very caring nature, she has been an inspiration to students past and present.

Mrs Annie Bloomfield, as one of our hard working and dedicated Teaching Assistants who is leaving the school after 26 years' service.

Ms Gail Buckler, who not only attended as a student but was also a parent and who has supported many staff over the last 23 years, is retiring from the position of Headteacher's PA.

Mr Mike Bartlett, of our Premises Team, retired at the beginning of this month after 21 years' service. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him and we hope he is already enjoying a well-earned rest.

Ms Charlie Wakeham, who as a dedicated art teacher, has inspired many students. We're delighted that, after 17 years working at Plymstock School, she is returning to leadership as Head of Department at Hele's School, within our Trust.

Mr Kevin Dyke has recently been appointed Head Teacher of Coombe Dean School, also within our Trust. He leaves after 10 years, the last two of which have seen him take on great responsibility as Acting Principal to support school improvement at both Callington Community College and South Dartmoor Community College.

Mrs Kate Blundy is leaving our Geography Department after six years and is now going to pursue a career within the Primary sector.

Finally, I should like to say thank you and goodbye to Mr Alex Cooper and Mr Danny Damarell from our Maths Department and Mr Richard Holmes who leaves our Science Department.

Between them, this group of staff have committed 168 years of service to this community and taught countless children. I thank them on your behalf for all that they have done; we will miss them and wish them every success in their next journey.

Finally, to you, our Parents and Carers. I thank you once again for your patience and particularly, for the overwhelming messages you have sent in support; it is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to welcoming all students back in September and I wish all families the very best for a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall  
HEADTEACHER