



Plymstock
School
Sixth Form

BY
O LEARN



SUCCESSING TOGETHER



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Plymstock School.

Plymstock School is a unique community that believes in and actively promotes the traditional values of courtesy, respect and compassion. Teaching and learning is at the heart of what we do at Plymstock. We have a dedicated, enthusiastic and inspiring team of well qualified and highly skilled staff who provide excellent teaching and support. This enables students to become creative and independent thinkers and develop a genuine love of learning, which brings them great success.

We take great pride that over many years every single student who complete their education at Plymstock School has successfully continued into education, employment or training, appropriate to their needs and aspirations. This is also true at the highest academic level and we are delighted to frequently have students gain places at both Oxford and Cambridge University.

Importantly, when students complete their education with us they go on to do great things. Recent leavers have included the Captain of the England Women's Cricket, The Plymouth Laureate of Words and the CEO of one of the world's largest social media marketing companies, Social Chain. Our facilities are of a high standard and, since becoming an academy, the school has benefited from substantial capital funding, enabling amongst other things: the enhancing of our sporting facilities, the development of a state of the art café 'The Galley' and the construction of a new environmentally sustainable Social Sciences Building. Currently a £2.5m investment is seeing the construction of our exciting 350-seater Arts Centre and an extension to our Maths and modern Foreign Language building will see five new classrooms and an ICT suite opening by April 2021.

Relationships between staff and students are exceptionally strong and a real strength of our school. Our pastoral care is also exceptionally strong and we provide a safe learning environment in which students can thrive. Each child is enabled to develop the skills and knowledge required to be a responsible and well-rounded individual that is fully prepared for the demands of our ever-changing multicultural society and is well equipped for life in modern Britain.

We are incredibly proud of our school and we strongly encourage you to visit us during the working day, so you can see for yourself why Plymstock School is a special place to learn.

Please do come and visit – you will be most welcome.

Best wishes

Headteacher

WELCOME FROM THE POST 16 TEAM

Post 16 education at Plymstock School provides excellent opportunities for students to further their studies and development beyond GCSEs. We offer a wide range of Level 3 courses and we are confident that we can provide a dynamic and enjoyable curriculum.

The course guide demonstrates the huge breadth of subjects and opportunities that are on offer in the Sixth Form.

The process for joining the Sixth Form begins early in Year 11 with tutor and career discussions within Plymstock School. Rather than a traditional open evening, we are hoping to post an online presentation taking you through some of our Sixth Form information and application process. This, along with the course guide will go live on our Website in January 2021. During the spring and summer term there are many opportunities for further discussion about choices after GCSEs. Those students applying from outside of Plymstock will also hopefully have an opportunity to come and visit us for more information and a look around the school. Bridging work for certain subjects and useful Sixth Form pre-information is available on the school website from the end of the exam season to help you to prepare for your Level 3 studies. The Sixth Form team are available on GCSE results day for any subject changes or guidance required. From September you will then officially start with us at Sixth Form, with a thorough introduction to ensure you are aware of all the logistical information, as well as being made aware of the skills required to be successful.

In recent years, Plymstock Sixth Form students have continued to achieve well, and many students continue into higher education after their studies with us.

Last year approximately 62% of students continued into higher education at University. A few examples of Universities where students from last year are now studying include Warwick, Exeter, Bristol, Cardiff and The University of London Institute in Paris. Courses range from Medicine, Law, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry Politics ... to name but a few!

22% of our students also went into employment, or have achieved an apprenticeship in various areas including MOD, Forces and finance. We also have a number of students each year who defer their employment or University study to have a gap year. This year we have students undertaking a number of opportunities such as studying in America, a year in industry, or gaining further experience to apply for Medicine, Veterinary medicine, and nursing next year.

If students work hard and take advantage of the opportunities, as well as the careers guidance given throughout their time at Sixth Form, they will have no barriers as to what they can go on to achieve.

Elizabeth Monelle MMath, PGCE
Director of Post 16 Education



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Plymstock Sixth Form gives you the chance to specialise within areas of study that you have chosen to continue the pathway to your future. You will feel valued, challenged and nurtured within the sixth form community.

The adjustment from GCSEs to A Levels can be daunting, but you are always supported. Dedicated sixth form staff members are based within the sixth form block and therefore offer a friendly and recognisable face to help with both personal and academic matters. We have a tutorial system every morning, which allows students to be consistently informed on a variety of opportunities within and outside of the sixth form. Timetabled collapsed days focus on specific guidance for our future and team building. Sixth form is a community of like-minded young people who encourage one another, leading to us becoming successful and well-rounded adults.

We are responsible for our learning with the support and guidance of our dedicated tutors and curriculum teachers, who provide extra revision and study classes. This enhances our independence and prepares us for our future, whether it be a university place, apprenticeships or into employment. We have the choice of studying in school or at home during our study periods which gives us full control over our own learning. We benefit from exceptional facilities to aid our study, including two well-equipped computer suites, quiet study rooms and a common room. This variety of choice means that you can learn in an environment that suits you best, whether independently or as part of a group.

Being in the sixth form gives you the chance to express yourself, providing you with opportunities to learn and gain life experiences. You are able to volunteer with the lower years in your chosen subject area or to assist in mentoring or sports clubs, creating relationships which are valuable for both the lower and upper school. We believe that a varied use of our time enhances our studies and creates an enjoyable and thriving sixth form experience.

You are able to join our Sixth Form Senate giving you the opportunity to express your opinion and take on the responsibility to further improve our sixth form. It enables us to develop our organisation and communication skills and allows us to 'give back' to the school and the local community. As a senate, we actively strive to create a relationship between the Year 12s and Year 13s to establish an inclusive sixth form. We have a great time organising and participating in our charity week, which leads to a tremendous atmosphere around the whole school.

We believe that the incredible support of staff, our new friends and the opportunities that we have had during our sixth form experience have enabled us to achieve and feel prepared for any pathway we chose to follow. Plymstock School's teachers and staff go above and beyond the expected to challenge you and enable you to achieve your best. The sixth form has allowed us, and will allow you to grow significantly as a person, gaining the confidence and skills needed for adult life.





OUR FACILITIES



Within our dedicated Sixth Form building, a wide range of facilities are offered to enable you to achieve your potential and make your time in Post 16 study really enjoyable. The Lower Common Room forms both a social hub and a place to exchange ideas – the perfect atmosphere to build up new friendships. Comfy seating and kitchen facilities are provided, with a vending machine and tea and coffee making facilities, making this a great place to relax in-between study periods. Upstairs you will find our Upper Common Room, equipped with computers and work stations; a calm and focused setting is created to aid you in your studies. Our Lower Computer suite exclusive to Post 16 Students also ensures that you will always have access to computerised resources.



Through our tutor programme there are extensive opportunities for you to research your future career ambitions. Whether you want to find out more about a career you are interested in or set up a work placement to further your experience, each student is offered the best chance to find a pathway especially suited to them.

OPPORTUNITIES

Plymstock Sixth Form is not just a place to work. Throughout your two years here, you will find plenty of roles, clubs and extra-curricular events to involve yourself with. As a member of Plymstock School, you will have access to our extensive sports facilities onsite. From the fitness suite to our two all-weather pitches, sporting interests are readily catered for. Furthermore, several sporting leadership schemes are available, allowing you to share your passion with students lower down the school, and in the local community.

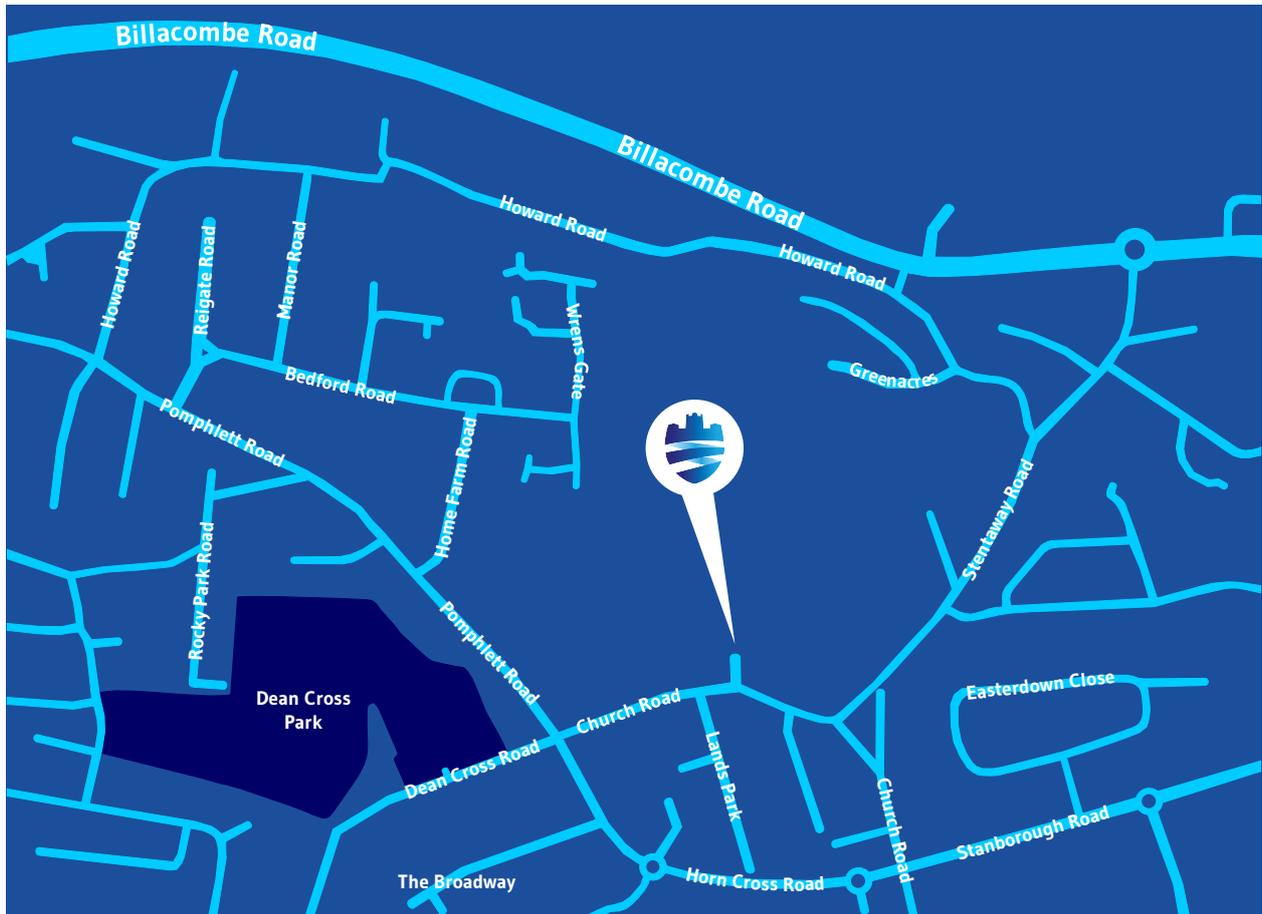
Opportunities are not just limited to the sporty. Whatever your interests, there is something for you to get involved in. Through our many volunteering opportunities, every member has the chance to share their talents and develop their abilities beyond academia. Through our Sixth Form Senate, new ideas are put into action - weekly meetings mean students can share their views and impact the running of the Sixth Form directly. One particularly enjoyable event is our dedicated annual charity week which brings the Sixth Form together for worthwhile causes. From themed fancy dress days to quiz nights to fashion shows, every person is able to put their talents to good use, have lots of fun and help people in the process.

Trips such as The 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme have allowed students to experience what they have learnt on a more personal level. Our successful connections with the 'Oxford UNIQ Summer School' and 'Sutton Trust Summer School' at various UK Universities also allow students to experience university life first-hand and get a taster of higher education. Finally, our work experience week at the end of Year 12 enables us to develop key employability and life skills before entering the world of work or university. The reputation of Plymstock School Sixth Form means that opportunities are virtually endless, and therefore we are able to focus on the line of work which we are most interested in.

‘Our decision to pursue Post-16 Studies at Plymstock Sixth Form has left us with no regrets. Having developed our confidence, academic ability and personal skills, our experience of the Sixth Form has been extremely enjoyable and worthwhile. The combination of excellent teaching, pastoral support and enthusiastic students makes this a great place to study and we have no doubt that you too would have an unforgettable experience here at Plymstock.’

The Senate





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