



Plymstock
School



Achieving Excellence through Curriculum and Culture

OUR VISION

Our objective is simply to be a world-class learning community that enables all young people to succeed both now and later in life.



OUR CORE AIMS

We are preparing our young people for a world which is significantly different to that of twenty years ago. Young people need to succeed in a diverse global economy which is typified by technological innovation, creativity, is highly competitive and where entrepreneurship is celebrated.

A world-class learning community is one where students are equipped with knowledge, skills and the confidence to thrive in a challenging international environment where those who succeed take risks and continually pursue improvement. A world-class learning community is one where we develop students to be active and effective citizens who have a broad range of qualifications which gives them genuine choices, and the competencies to choose well. They have developed a level of emotional and intellectual literacy which enables them to navigate a world of opportunities and achieve success and contentment for themselves.

We will become a world-class learning community by achieving our core aims.

Our core aims are:

- 1 To provide a safe and caring school community that promotes the positive mental health and well-being of everyone.
- 2 To foster a love of learning for its own sake by providing a rich curriculum that enables every young person to discover their strengths, and to make the most of their talents within Plymstock School and beyond.
- 3 To raise the academic achievement and personal development of every single young person and eliminate performance gaps, through a highly effective co-operative approach to teaching and learning that is challenging, exciting, inspiring and engaging.
- 4 To engender respect for individuality, difference, the importance of teamwork and the contribution that every student can make to the life of the school, the local community and the wider world.
- 5 To create an enthusiasm for the world beyond the classroom – particularly through the arts, sport, literature and other opportunities to facilitate creativity.
- 6 To enable all staff to thrive both personally and professionally, by providing a mutually supportive environment that facilitates opportunities to develop professionally and encourages genuine creativity.
- 7 To work in partnership with all stakeholders and other educational institutions to provide better transition, recruitment, support services and professional development opportunities, at improved value for money.



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

A very warm welcome to Plymstock School.

No two schools are ever the same, but we believe that Plymstock School is a truly unique and special place. Our objective is simple – we strive to be a world-class learning community that enables all young people to succeed.

We are very successful, with our progress being in the top 13% of schools nationally, and we are the highest performing non-selective school in the city of Plymouth.

We are a very popular choice with parents and are significantly oversubscribed. Consequently, as of September 2018, we expanded our Year 7 school intake from 260 to 300 students. This expansion has brought substantial investment and in July 2019 construction of our exciting 450-seater Arts Centre began.

Teaching and learning is at the heart of what we do at Plymstock. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and provides students with the opportunity to discover their hidden talents. Our standards of discipline are very high and consequently students are free to learn without disruption. We are a school that still subscribes to traditional expectations for behaviour, and you will find many things that you won't see elsewhere, such as all students standing when an adult enters a classroom. Relationships between staff and students are exceptionally strong and a real strength of our school. We balance these high expectations with very strong pastoral care for our students and were awarded the ACSEED accreditation for our commitment towards promoting positive mental health and well-being. Additionally, our staff are happy, morale is good and staff turnover is low – people really want to work here.

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 and the CEO of one of the world's largest social media marketing companies, Social Chain.

We have received much recognition for our work. We are the only school in Plymouth to be featured in the national Good Schools Guide.

We strongly encourage you to visit us, so you can see for yourself why Plymstock School is a special place to learn.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION

The move to Plymstock School starts well before the summer when our staff visit every primary school to talk to staff and get to know each student as an individual. We hold a variety of transition events, including opportunities for every new Year 7 student to spend at least one whole day in school during July, to meet key staff and other students. Some of our most vulnerable students are also invited to join an Enhanced Induction Programme during the summer term.

The morning of the first day in September is just for Year 7, so they feel confident before the rest of the school joins them. All of our Year 7 tutor groups have two dedicated Peer Mentors from Year 11 assigned to them to work with and support the new students. Additionally, we operate a separate lunch queue for the duration of Year 7.

During the first fortnight of Year 7, every student has the opportunity to attend an overnight camp at Fox Cove with their tutor and tutor group. The students undertake team work activities and learn bushcraft skills. It provides a fantastic opportunity to build lasting friendships with new students. There are also a wide variety of clubs and activities for Year 7 students to engage in throughout their first year.

It is important to us that your child feels safe and secure all day long, so our pastoral teams are highly visible and proactive, resulting in consistently calm and positive behaviour for learning.



OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

We believe in providing all students with a challenging curriculum that offers opportunities for intellectual extension and personal growth beyond the confines of statutory requirements. We value every individual, with emphasis on personal achievement, and strive to equip all students with the life skills necessary to succeed as healthy, responsible citizens in the modern world of work. We are very proud to offer a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that keeps future choices open for our students.

All students are given challenging targets and their progress towards these is measured regularly through a range of assessments. We have very high expectations of our students and strive to ensure that everyone succeeds. The curriculum is designed as a five year learning journey, which introduces students to a wide range of subjects and is narrowed at the end of Year 9. Students are guided carefully to enable them to make informed choices at both GCSE and A Level.

The quality of our curriculum has been verified by Ofsted as outstanding in our last three inspections.





OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Plymstock School is a vibrant community of learners where individuality and creativity is truly valued and celebrated. We provide all students not just with excellent academic teaching, but with a well-rounded educational experience filled with memorable extra-curricular experiences which give our students a chance to shine.

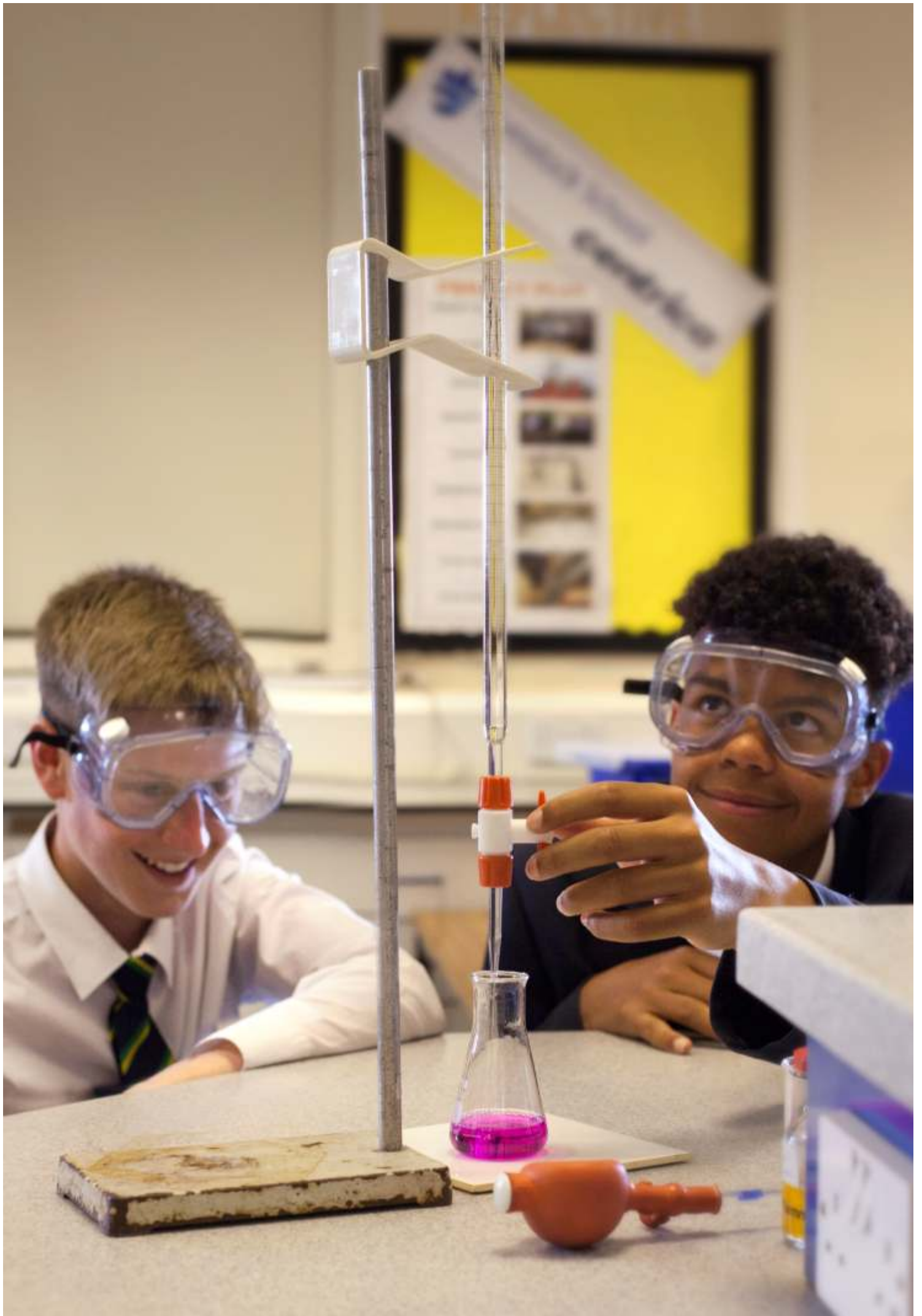
We actively seek to generate a real enthusiasm for the world beyond the classroom through the arts, sport and literature. We have a long history of outstanding school shows and art exhibitions and our sporting facilities are some of the best in the south west.

We offer a wide range of school trips, off-timetable activities and school clubs which seek to engage, encourage and motivate our students. Recent trips include curriculum-based local visits as well as more adventurous expeditions to France, Poland, Italy, Switzerland and Peru.

Of course, for Key Stage 4 and 5 students, school holidays and evenings are also crucial for extra revision and the school holds a wide range of extra classes at these times throughout the year

Inclusion Opportunities

At Plymstock we welcome all children. Where a child has a recognised disability we will make all reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs in school. This will include the availability of resources and accessibility of the school building and site. We will make every effort to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs maintain their entitlement when they enter the school.





OUR SIXTH FORM

To enable our Sixth Form students to reach their full potential, we offer a wide range of Level 3 courses, including A Levels, BTEC Diplomas and Technical Awards. The breadth of subjects is further expanded through collaboration with the other Plym schools (Coombe Dean, Hele's School and the Plympton Academy). Teaching at post-16 is a real strength and subjects are well resourced. Naturally this leads to great results and high aspirations for our students.

There is a wide range of enrichment opportunities in which our students are encouraged to participate, such as mentoring younger students, work experience and taking on volunteering roles within the local community.

Our advice and guidance, coupled with excellent links to employers and universities, ensures that our Sixth Form leavers have the best possible futures ahead of them, regardless of whether their next steps are into the work place or into higher education. Plymstock Sixth Form has a fine record of Oxbridge, Russell Group and Higher Education entry. For those that choose to go into the world of work, students have recently gained advanced apprenticeships at local firms such as Babcock Marine and Princess Yachts and pursuing careers in the services, as well as numerous national companies.

Students benefit from excellent personal support, not only from their tutor, who they see every day, but also from the Head and Assistant Head of Sixth Form. We have a continuous open door policy so that students can talk to a member of the Sixth Form team at any time. Help is always available - no problem is too big or small!

EQUALITY

Equality Statement

This school affirms its opposition to unfair discrimination and commits itself to a comprehensive policy of equal opportunity. At Plymstock School we regard all members of our school as being of equal value and that each person has the right to equality of opportunity.

We aim to create an atmosphere, which actively explores and counters myths, fears and prejudices that can work against equality of opportunity. No individual or group should be discriminated against on the grounds of their racial group, religion, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, gender identity or political affiliation. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.

Sexual and Racial harassment, including persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation (i.e. homophobic bullying) are disciplinary offences and relevant policies will be followed in such circumstances.

Equality and safeguarding

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances.

We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

- have special educational needs or disabilities;
- are young carers;
- may experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality;
- have English as an additional language;
- are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence;
- are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation;
- are asylum seekers.

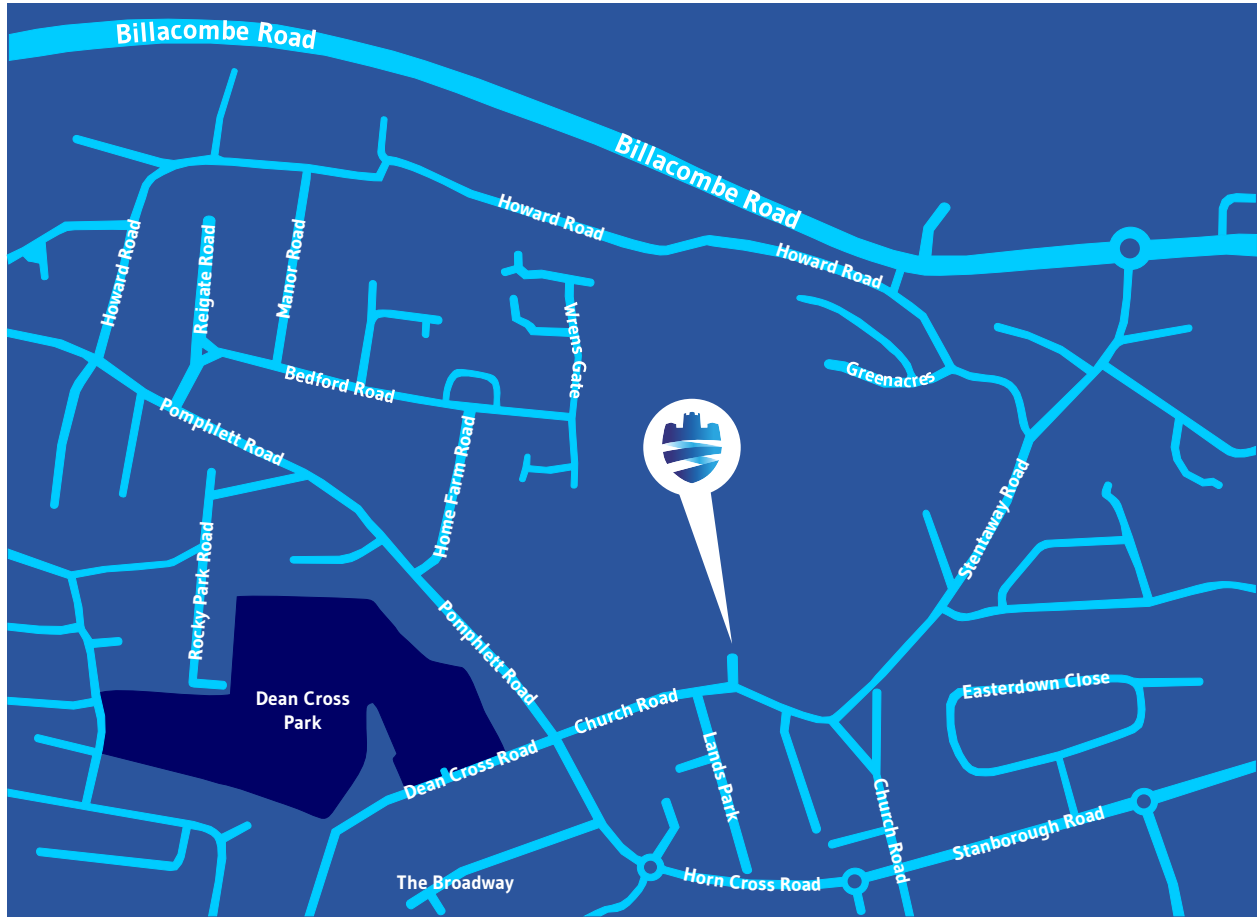
ADMISSIONS



The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for admissions to Plymstock School. We welcome, however, initial enquiries from parents who may wish to have an informed look around or discussion with the Headteacher or senior member of staff. Please call the school to make an appointment.

Admission criteria

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order after the 2002 Adoption Act came into force on 31 December 2005.
2. Children with exceptional medical or social grounds.
3. Children with a sibling who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
4. Children attending a feeder primary school.
5. Children whose parent is a member of staff employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
6. Other children.



Plymstock
School

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