



20 January 2023

Dear parent/carers,

## Headteacher Update

In an effort to improve our communication between school and home, I will be writing to you all every fortnight to provide you with key updates on what is happening within our school community, including recognising the successes of our students and staff and sharing forthcoming events.

Related to the importance of effective communication, I would like to thank those parents/carers who have contacted the school regarding the purchase of PE kit. We are currently in the final stages of securing a new supplier. I will write to you all with further details in the next couple of weeks but I would like to reassure you that the current PE kit will not need to be replaced. We have looked at securing a new supplier to support our commitment to lower uniform costs and make it easier to order. In the short term, where a replacement kit or item is required but cannot be purchased, plain black alternatives will be permitted (with a note).

We have had a busy start to the Spring term, and I thank everyone who attended our Post 16 evening last week and our Year 9 Options evening last night. Both of these events were very well attended and I thank my colleagues for providing such valuable and helpful information. If you were unable to attend the evenings, or indeed require further information, I signpost you to our school website, where you will find a wealth of information about our Post 16 offer and Year 9 options process.

**Curriculum Experience:** Our Year 11 Travel and Tourism recently enjoyed a trip to Bygones Museum and Kent's Cavern in Torquay, as part of their course where they learnt about the importance of customer service. The Year 9's attended a presentation by David Binns, UK Director of Sanako, who shared his experiences of the importance of learning languages to support career and personal aspirations.

**Celebration:** I would like to congratulate all our students who recently passed their LAMDA exams. All students achieved Merits and Distinctions. Their hard work and dedication has certainly paid off. There has also been sporting success, with our Year 7 girls football team recently returning undefeated from a tournament and are a step closer in reaching the Devon Cup Finals.

**Community:** I would like to raise awareness of the opportunity to support one of our local primary schools. Parents and Friends of Oreston Academy are hosting a Charity Dinner Dance 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023- Crowne Plaza Hotel. Tickets are priced at £45pp including a three course meal and live entertainment. For more information please contact [nriden@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:nriden@plymstockschool.org.uk) or Laura Riden on [pfoavchair@oreston.com](mailto:pfoavchair@oreston.com).

**Careers Information and Guidance:** City College Plymouth are hosting a careers Open Day on Saturday 28 January from 10.00am-1.00pm. To register visit [www.cityplym.ac.uk/event/jan28](http://www.cityplym.ac.uk/event/jan28). Another event that I would like to draw your attention to is 'The Big Parent's Evening', a free Careers information event for parents on Sunday, 22 January at Home Park Stadium in the Mayflower Grandstand. Discovery College, part of YMCA Plymouth, is organising the event. Several sessions are available to access from 2pm – 7.15pm. For further details, please see The Big Parents Evening - YMCA Plymouth.



**Parent Support:** The 'Let's Talk' programme is designed to increase parent and carer knowledge around key risks whilst giving simple tools and techniques to help you support your child through weekly 90-minute online sessions, starting at 7.00pm. The programme, is primarily aimed at families with children aged 9 – 12 years. Visit: [saferdevon.co.uk/lets-talk-teenagers/](https://saferdevon.co.uk/lets-talk-teenagers/) to find out more about the sessions and book your FREE place.

### Looking ahead...

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> & Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - School Production '**WE WILL ROCK YOU**'.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 Progress Checks

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Year 9 Geography Fieldwork

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 – Year 11 Elevate Study Skills Workshop

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Year 7, 8 & 9 Immunisations (Mop Up)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Year 9 Parents' Evening

I close by reminding ourselves that we are on a journey of '**restless excellence**' – better never stops! I have asked colleagues to have an increased focus on uniform standards, including jewellery and equipment that ensures that our students can learn effectively. I am reaching out to ask for your support in these matters.

Finally, I have attached a letter from our Trust that explains the current situation with regards to the planned strike action. I will ensure that we keep you up to date and informed regarding this matter.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell  
Headteacher

