



Monday 9 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Headteacher Update SPRING TERM

I would like to take the opportunity in wishing you all a Happy New Year - I do hope you have all managed to prioritise your families and friends during the Christmas break. During the festive period, I was reminded of the wonderful period I was fortunate enough to have been afforded growing up in a different country. As a young boy, I spent six years in Spain, where I had the opportunity to be part of a different culture, master a different language and make lifelong memories.

I recognise that not everyone will have the same opportunity as I did, however I start my spring term update with a message around the importance and value of encouraging all of our children and young people to seriously consider remaining committed to learning a modern foreign language. The positive impact of being able to master a different language really does allow our children to have greater choice and opportunity in the future, as they prepare themselves to be positive members of a multi-cultural and diverse society.

As an avid football fan myself, it was inspiring to read an interview with the Manchester City and Belgium footballer, Kevin de Bruyne, who shared: *"I come from a country where by 13 you are studying Dutch, French and English"*. The interviewer commented: *"With languages, perhaps comes wisdom and humility – an ability to put yourself in the shoes of others, a knowledge that your way is not the only way."*

At Plymstock School, we are really proud of the opportunities that are provided for students to engage in learning languages. On Thursday 12 January, our Year 7 to Year 10 students will be watching a French play and in addition we are delighted that on Tuesday 17 January, we are hosting a guest speaker David Binns, the UK director of Sanako, a Finnish Education Technology company who will be speaking to our Year 9's about the importance of Modern Foreign Languages within the UK workplace.

It was fantastic to welcome back our students last week. I took the opportunity during my Headteacher assemblies to remind and reinforce the high standards and expectations that we place on every member who is part of our school community. Staff continue to work hard in ensuring that individuals clearly understand the part they play in taking responsibility in creating a positive culture which is the platform to achieving excellence.

I continue to ask for your support in ensuring that your child has high attendance levels and is punctual, consistently adheres to our uniform expectations and positively contributes to our school and wider community in making the right choices around their behaviour, attitude and work ethic.

Attendance Matters Expectations - <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/absence-procedures/>

Uniform Standards - <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/uniform/>

Supporting Learning at Home - <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/support-learning/>



I am pleased to share with you that we have launched our new Breakfast Club as of Monday 9 January. The opening times are 7.40am until 8.40am Monday to Friday and the club is supervised by three members of staff. This provides an opportunity for any student to arrive at school early, have a safe and welcoming space and access breakfast. There will be hot drinks (hot chocolate, tea, coffee), cold drinks, pastries (pan au chocolate, croissants, cinnamon whirl), toast (butter, jam, marmalade) and cereals.

We have a number of key events during the first part of the Spring term, I have highlighted these below and further key information will be shared with you through the MyEd application. Additionally, we will communicate key information via our school website and social media platforms.

Thursday 12th January 2023 – Post 16 Choices Evening 6.30pm-8.30pm

Thursday 19th January 2023 – Year 9 KS4 GCSE Options Evening 6.15pm-8.30pm

Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th, Thursday 26th & Friday 27th January 2023

School Production **WE WILL ROCK YOU** – tickets available from:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/devon/the-performing-arts-centre-at-plymstock-school>

I close by reminding ourselves that we are on a journey of '**restless excellence**' – better never stops! Securing the highest possible outcomes for ALL our children must remain our highest priority – this unlocks doors to a brighter future.

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

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

