



Dear Parent/Carer,

Headteacher Update – Monday 6 February 2023 (Week 20)

It has certainly been another busy couple of weeks since I last wrote to you with a number of updates. I would like to start by thanking you all for your support during the recent NEU strike action. These days are never easy to plan for and we took everything into consideration to ensure we made an informed decision regarding the steps that we took.

It is now a very busy and important period for our brilliant Year 11s. As every school day passes, we are another day closer to the final exams. I have been impressed by the level of commitment from the large majority of our students who are committing to doing 'extra'. The attendance at our recent English masterclass was over 150 students, which is impressive. There continues to be a timetable of study support sessions throughout the week, along with a more bespoke and targeted programme for identified students. I strongly encourage all students to access these opportunities so they are best prepared to take on the challenge of their exams - the investment now will hopefully lead to every student reaping the rewards in August, when they open their GCSE results! I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Mr Taylor, Mrs Wright and Mr Wookey who are leading on ensuring our Year 11 outcomes are the best they can be. Further information and support is available by visiting our school website at <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/year11information>.

On Friday 27 January, I had the honour and privilege to watch the closing night of this year's school production – We Will Rock You! It was such a special evening - even more so as it was our first school show to be held in the Performing Arts Centre. For those that were able to attend, I hope you enjoyed it, and we were certainly treated to incredible performances by everyone who was part of the show. We are lucky to have such talented individuals, and I hope they continue to invest and commit to developing their talents further. I thank everyone who helped make sure the show was such a success but I must give a special mention to Mr Swabey, Mrs Hawker and Mrs Lowe for going above and beyond. I am already counting the days to next year's show!

Curriculum Experience: The Geography department have been busy bringing their curriculum to life over the past couple of weeks. Our KS3 Geographers have been learning about population, based on a book called 10 Billion by Danny Dorling, which looks at if our world can cope with 10 billion people, as our global population is expected to reach this amount by 2100. Having learnt about Copenhagen as an example of a sustainable city, students were asked to design their own. Congratulations to Jack (Year 7) and Taz (Year 9) who designed an outstanding sustainability city. Our Year 9 students also had the opportunity to meet and engage with the Marine Rangers from Plymouth City Council who ran workshops about plastic pollution in our oceans and taught students ways in which they can help with this increasing issue. We will be running a beach clean in the Summer term and hopefully these workshops have inspired our students to reflect upon their impact on our oceans and environment.

Individual Success: A big well done to James (Year 7) who recently finished 3rd in a Trust wide Gothic writing competition. There were nearly 2,000 entries, so it was an incredible achievement to be judged third overall. Remaining on the theme of literacy, congratulations to Joey (Year 8), who has had his poem shortlisted and published after it was entered into the National Poetry Writing competition.

Sporting Success: Well done to our Year 9 football team who were successful in beating Churston Ferrers Grammar School, 5-1 in the county cup. We wish them the very best of luck in the next round.

PlayStation Schools' Cup FIFA 23 Championship: We recently received the news that we were one of 32 schools that had been chosen out of 100 entries to take part in the PlayStation Schools' Cup FIFA 23 Championship. This was followed by taking delivery of a PlayStation 5, TV screen and promotional materials. Mr Farrant (Head of Year 10) has been busy putting together the logistics and competition format for students to enter. The winners of our school competition will go onto represent the school in Birmingham in the summer term.

Looking ahead...

Thursday 9 February 2023 – Year 9 Option Choices Deadline

Thursday 9 February 2023 – KS4 Geography Iceland Trip Departs

Friday 10 February 2023 – Austria Ski Trip Departs

Friday 10 February 2023 – End of Spring Term 1

Monday 20 February 2023 – WeST Staff Training Day (*closed to students for staff training*)

Tuesday 21 February 2023 – Start of Spring Term 2 (*All students return to School*)

Tuesday 21 February 2023 – Start of Year 11 Mock Examination Programme

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with our increased focus on uniform standards, including jewellery and equipment, that ensures that our students can learn effectively. I am pleased to share that we have seen a real improvement across the school community. Our challenge will be that that we continue to maintain these high standards.

Thank you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

