



24 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Headteacher Update – Week 28B

Welcome back to the summer term - I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable restful Easter break.

The summer term is always an exciting but very busy one! The Year 11 and 13s are now really starting to focus on their final exams. I am proud of their continued commitment to achieving the very best they can. We also look forward to lots of other events this term, including Challenge Week, Work Experience Week, Community Cohesion Week and our annual Festival of Sport.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, we were visited by Ofsted as part of the normal school inspection cycle (our last inspection took place in November 2017). I am limited in what I can share with our school community at this stage, but I am very proud of the way in which our students, staff and parent/carers supported the process. I will share more details in relation to the outcome in a few weeks' time.

The summer term does see some disruption to the normal running of school, including two bank holidays. In addition to these, you may be aware of the news that the recent pay offer to teachers has been rejected by teaching unions. The offer which was presented was unfunded by government, which would result in a significant strain on school budgets, leading to a potentially very detrimental impact on children and young peoples' standard of education. This has led to further teacher strikes on **Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May**.

As mentioned above, our students in Year 11 and Year 13 are in the final stages of important preparations for their external examinations. Because of this, **we are making specific plans to ensure their learning is minimally disrupted** and we expect all students in these year groups to be in school; it is imperative that all students in those year groups attend to maximise their learning at such a crucial time. Therefore, I would like to confirm the arrangements for partial opening on both days:

### Thursday 27 April 2023

- Year 11 and Year 13 are expected to attend school.
- Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 should not attend school but should complete work set on Satchel One from home.

### Tuesday 2 May 2023

- Year 13, Year 12 and Year 11 are expected to attend school.
- Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 should not attend school and should complete work set on Satchel Once from home.

I recognise that this is a significant change to our normal ways of working, and I would again like to thank you for your support and cooperation during this time. We wish to minimise the disruption to learning for our students as much as possible.

### Celebration

Well done to all the students that completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition this weekend. The commitment and dedication demonstrated by these individuals is fantastic and it great to see how their engagement in this programme really helps them develop into exceptional young people. Congratulations



also to Nate M, Isabel C, Rashaud R, Em H and Lucy P who were shortlisted for the Plymstock School Laureate competition, with Nate M being crowned the eventual winner. Well done!

We are very proud of Year 8 students Reuben P and Emily F, who have been successful in passing their initial grade Piano exams. They only started taking lessons at the start of this academic year; a great achievement. Finally, well done to the Year 9 boys football team who secured a place in the Devon Schools County Cup Final by beating Torquay Boys Grammar School on penalties. We wish them the best of luck in the final which takes place in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Looking ahead...**

- W/C Monday 24 April - Year 11 MFL GCSE Speaking Exams
- W/C Monday 24 April – Year 8 NGRT Reading Assessments
- Thursday 27 April - NEU National Strike Day (please see arrangements letter)
- Monday 1 May – National Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 2 May – NEU National Strike Day (please see arrangements letter)
- Friday 5 to Sunday 7 May – Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifier Expedition

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

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell  
Headteacher

