



Dear Parent/Carer,

## Headteacher Update – Week 32B Thursday 25 May 2023

As we head into a well-deserved May half term break, it is fair to say that it has been a very busy first part of the summer term. It started on the first day of the new term, when we received the notification that Ofsted would be visiting us for a two-day inspection. I am awaiting the final report and look forward to sharing this with our school community. This was followed by a series of bank holidays and strike actions, which created some disruption to the normal flow of a school term. I would like to thank everyone for their support during this period.

As we move towards the final term of the academic year, we are looking forward to the many opportunities that our children and young people will have, including the Year 10 Geography fieldtrip to Dawlish, Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, the Art Show, Year 13 Leavers Prom, Year 11 Leavers assembly and celebration festival, Year 7 to 10 celebration evenings, Year 10 and 12 work experience, Challenge Week, Year 7 Community Week, Festival of Sports Day and the Religious Studies India Experience Trip.

We have seen our Year 11's and 13's make an impressive start to the examination season. This is a challenging and stressful time for any young person to have to navigate but the students deserve credit for the manner in which they are preparing for and approaching their exams. We should be really proud of how they continue to commit to all the opportunities during school, after school and at weekends to best prepare. I am confident that come the time of results day, there will be lots to celebrate! I would also like to recognise the commitment of the current Year 10 cohort, who are also preparing for their upcoming mocks. There has been an impressive turnout at after school revision sessions and it is clear that our students have an appetite for wanting to be the best they can.

## Celebration

A big well done to all our students who recently achieved their DofE Silver Award. They have spent the last year completing different aspects of the award which concluded with a 10-mile expedition on Dartmoor. I would like to thank Mrs De Mora and her team for all their efforts and support for the students to achieve this nationally recognised award.

Congratulations to Year 7 girls Evie, Poppy, Bella and Bella who recently played for Plymouth Argyle U12s versus Aston Villa, where they came away with a 2-0 victory. Our very own Evie scored one of the goals, along with Poppy being named player of the match and Bella keeping a clean sheet. Staying on the theme of sport, I would like to thank our PE staff who continue to provide wonderful sporting opportunities, whether as part of lunchtime activities, after school clubs or fixtures and competitions.

We have recently seen students from a variety of year groups enjoying the opportunity to engage with organisations and people from the world of work. Our Year 11s had the opportunity to hear from Mr Fowler about what life is like working on cruise ships, our Year 12 Computer Science students were involved in a Cyber Detective workshop which was delivered by The Royal Signals and our Year 12 Geography students visited Plymouth University for the launch of their NEA with a focus on how to conduct a fieldwork investigation.



## **Termly Safeguarding and Welfare Newsletter**

I am happy to share that we will be sharing a termly Safeguarding and Welfare newsletter with our parents/carers and wider community, with the aim of sharing information as well as signposting people to organisations that are able to provide further guidance and advice. This is an important piece of work as we continue to ensure that all our children and young people can navigate their way through some of the current issues within society safely and responsibly. The first newsletter will be shared the week commencing Monday 5 June.

## **Class Charts – Communication Improvements**

In our efforts to continue to improve our communication with our parents/carers, I am pleased to share that we will be launching a web-based program called Class Charts to share much more timely information with you from September 2023. This platform will enable you to see daily how your child is doing in their lessons – in terms of whether their behaviours have enabled and facilitated learning or disrupted it. This will be seen through the awarding of positive and negative points. We will also see Satchel One phased out, with home learning set through Class Charts. You will receive further information about the Class Charts App and how you will be able to access and use it after half term. Your child will also receive information to facilitate the introduction of Class Charts.

## **Looking ahead...**

Friday 26 May 2023 – End of Term 5

Monday 5 June 2023 – Start of Term 6

I thank you again for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell  
Headteacher