



Dear Parent/Carer,

Headteacher Update – Thursday 6 July 2023

It is a pleasure to be able to write to you to share some updates on what have been a very busy couple of weeks. I would firstly like to congratulate the Year 11 and 13's in successfully completing their formal exams. The manner in which they have conducted and applied themselves during what is often a challenging and stressful period has been nothing short of brilliant. I would like to thank the teachers, support staff and parents/carers for their support throughout this period. We are confident that the students will be recognised for their efforts and endeavours when their results day arrives in August.

In the meantime, our Year 13s celebrated the end of their Sixth Form studies at their Summer Ball, which was held at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. It was certainly a fun night, with lots of dancing, laughter and enjoyment. Thank you to the Sixth Form team that organised the event. Many of our Sixth Form students will now enjoy a well-earned rest before heading off on their next adventure, whether it's university, employment or travelling. Whatever their destination, we would like to thank the students for the positive contribution they have made to our school community and wish them the very best in their futures!

It was the turn of the Year 11s the following week and what a party it was! This year, the decision was made to host the leavers event at school and with the hard work of the Year 11 team, the school was transformed into a festival venue. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of the students; they all made such an incredible effort and looked amazing! The students certainly had a great time, with lots of dancing, fun on the inflatable machines and the queue for the photo booth was long, as students (and staff) took the opportunity to capture memories of the last five years with their friends. We would like to thank parents/carers for their support - we made the decision to break from tradition and try something different, and it was certainly a positive choice. Thank you also to our brilliant staff who went above and beyond in making sure all the Year 11 students had a party to remember.

Celebration

There have been a number of celebrations happening throughout the school community and beyond, which again highlights what wonderful children and young people we have. Well done to Elsie in Year 8, who is playing football for Marjons Under 14s. The team were successful in winning the league and runners up in the cup. In more sporting success, we are proud of Will in Year 11, who has been travelling the country in the past year competing in national sailing events as part of the British Youth Sailing performance programme.

Finally, we are incredibly proud to hear that Year 9 students Rosie and Imogen have been selected to represent Devon Under 15s Girls Cricket in an upcoming tour to Sri Lanka - what an incredible achievement by both girls! The students are able to fundraise by selling advertising space (invoiced by Devon Cricket) in a tour brochure, a thousand copies of which will be distributed around cricket clubs in Devon. Please see the attached flyer for more information if you would like to take up this opportunity (artwork deadline is 1 August 2023).

It was fantastic to see so many parents/carers and students attend the recent Art Show. This was a celebration of our students' creative work from Year 7 through to Year 13. We certainly



have some very talented individuals within our school community. Our Year 9 students recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition along with our Year 10 and 11 students being presented with their Silver awards. Under the leadership of Mrs de Mora, we continue to see large number of students engage in this amazing programme, that allows our students to develop skills and experiences beyond the classroom. Well done to everyone.

We continue to prioritise a culture of literacy at Plymstock School. A group of Year 8 students recently took part in the Plymouth Schools Carnegie Challenge, where they competed against eight other schools. They performed brilliantly in their dramatic interpretation of *I Must Betray You*, a book written by Ruta Sepetys. We also saw a number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoy a day of celebration in the Hogwards 2023 book awards. The students have read an amazing 29 books within the last year and spent the day discussing and debating the books with the aim of selecting their top 3 books. We would like to thank the Library team for all they do in creating numerous opportunities for all our students to engage in reading.

Finally, we would like to share our congratulations to James in Year 9 who was directly involved in the Armed Forces Week raising of the flag ceremony. This was a really proud moment for James and his family.

Looking ahead...

Friday 7th July – National Strike Day (open to Year 10 and 12)

Monday 10th to Friday 14th July – Challenge Week

Monday 10th to Friday 14th July – Year 7 Community Cohesion Week

Monday 10th to Friday 14th July – Year 10 and 12 Work Experience Week

Friday 21st July 2021 – End of Summer Term (School finishes at 3.10pm)

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

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher