



11 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to thank you for your support in ensuring that our children are making a positive start to the academic year. Our staff have a strong sense of commitment to supporting the ambition that we hold for every child that attends our school community. It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back, and we are enjoying getting to know our new Year 7 and 12 students.

Already, members of our school community have been positively speaking about how focused the return to school feels and how excited they are about the opportunities that the year ahead presents all of us.

Our immediate and restless focus is to establish our vision of achieving excellence through curriculum and culture by:

- Insisting on uniform standards and expectations being consistently met and being worn correctly.
- Establishing disruption-free learning through our CORE expectations.
- Maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality to maximise learning.
- Communicating effectively with parents/carers to secure commitment and support in establishing the best possible learning community for our students.

Your child's tutor will support at the start of the day, in ensuring that they are ready for their learning. To facilitate the removal of disruption and distractions we are asking for your commitment in ensuring that all students are dressed correctly, as per our uniform policy. Our [Dress Code Booklet is on the website](#) and provides clarity around our expectations.

We acknowledge the financial pressures that some families within our school community may be experiencing. In cases where financial barriers may exist, we will continue to do all we can to assist all children to wear the required uniform with pride. Our dedicated Pastoral, Inclusion and Safeguarding Team are always available to support, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We expect all students to conduct themselves appropriately in order to ensure that we create a calm, safe and purposeful school environment. We refuse to allow your child's education and future life choices to be limited by unacceptable behaviour and we will ensure that all measures afforded to us are employed to give all students the opportunity to engage fully.

It was a pleasure to be able to support Plymouth City Council's campaign and appear on ITV Westcountry news on Friday of last week. The purpose of this was to promote the importance of excellent attendance at school; there is clear evidence linked to academic achievement and high levels of attendance. In addition to strong attendance, we expect students to arrive to lessons promptly.

We have introduced additional bells to support calm and purposeful transitions between lessons. School leaders will be visible and purposeful in their facilitation of student movements around the school through the day. Our Attendance Team will be actively



responding to cases of absence and will offer interventions of support accordingly so that all children can progress both academically and socially. Please refer to our Attendance Policy on our website.

Last week myself, senior leaders, Heads of Year and Tutors have shared our CORE expectations and supporting routines with all staff and students as part of our comprehensive Assembly and Tutor programme. I would like to praise our students for the positive manner in which they engaged in listening and taking on board the key information – despite the heat!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the overwhelming number of emails, calls and messages that we have received from you. We value your feedback and securing your support is critical to achieving our ambition, so that our children can fulfil their potential.

We look forward to working with you this year and thank you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

