



20 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Headteacher Update – Week 7A

As we head into a well-deserved break after finishing the first term, I would like to share with our parents/carers some of our good news stories, along with some important updates that will be our priority focus when we return for the second part of the Autumn term.

I start by sharing that we have seen our students' hard work and kindness recognised daily by our staff with over 19,000 positive points awarded on Class Charts in the past six weeks. This is a reflection of the manner in which our students and staff have embraced our CORE expectations, as we continue to focus on establishing a culture of high expectations, strong attendance and disruption free learning, leading to all our students being given the best opportunity to achieve their ambitions.

However, we remain committed and focused in ensuring that we continue to work hard with our students and parent/carers in ensuring we are clearly communicating our expectations and working in partnership to address matters when these are not met. I would like to share some reminders and information that will support in further establishing the standards I have already mentioned.

CORE Expectations - Morning Threshold

This term we have seen a greater presence of senior and pastoral leaders at the entrances of the school during the morning. We believe that this approach supports our students have a positive start to the day, where they are welcomed into school, where uniform issues can be corrected and if needed, where individual students can be spoken to about the day ahead. Initial feedback from our students is that they value and appreciate this approach and feel they are supported better.

I would like to share that when we return after the half term break, we will be moving from a three-point entry into school, to a two-point entry. We will be closing the ECO entrance and redirecting students to the main school entrance. Only students that travel to school using their bikes, will be required to enter the school via the ECO gate, where a member of staff will support.

CORE Expectations – Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in raising the standards of our uniform. It has been pleasing to see that the large majority of students do take pride in wearing their uniform correctly. As per our Dress Code guidance, we do expect our students to wear the correct uniform and if any parent/carers is purchasing school uniform items over the October half term, I kindly ask that you follow the guidance that the school has provided, in particular ensuring footwear, trousers and skirts guidance is followed. This will ensure that students are meeting our expectations at the same time as taking personal responsibility and pride in their appearance. You can find further information on the guidance [here](#).

Culture of Excellence – Celebration

There has been an incredible amount of things to celebrate within our school community over the past six weeks, both in and out of the classroom. Our PE department have again offered a wide range of engaging activities and sports as part of our extra-curricular programme and we have seen some fantastic results in competitive fixtures. Our Under 13 and 14 girls football teams have progressed through to the 3rd round of the English Schools FA National Cup and our Under 15 boys are through to the next round after a closely fought 1-0 victory over Devonport High School for Boys. We have also seen an unbeaten start for our Year 8 netball team, who recently took part in the central venue tournament, overcoming Plymouth High and Devonport High School for Girls.

Congratulations to Carys in Year 8 who has been crowned joint winner in Plymstock School's National Poetry competition. We would also like to acknowledge all of our students that took part in the competition.

Some of our Sixth Form students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge and secured a number of top awards. Jakub, Lachlan, Dominick, Ben and Emilia achieved a bronze certificate and Feisal achieved a silver certificate. Congratulations to all of the students as this is an incredibly difficult challenge and a great accomplishment!

Our most recent Careers Insight visit provided the opportunity for our Sixth Form and Year 10 Business, Health and Social Care and Travel and Tourism students to meet Brandie Deignan, the Chief Executive Officer at Pier Health Group (NHS) and who is also the former Managing Director at Marco Pierre White Restaurants. This was a truly amazing presentation that highlighted with hard work and ambition, anyone can achieve their dreams.

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our well established and popular Duke of Edinburgh programme that has been running for a number of years. Two weeks ago, we saw eleven Sixth Form students complete their Gold Award qualifying expedition, this is a wonderful achievement, and we would like to congratulate all of the students on their success.

Looking ahead...

Monday 30 October 2023 – Staff Training Day – school closed to students.

Tuesday 31 October 2023 – Start of Autumn Term 2 – all students return to school.

I would like to close by acknowledging and recognising the incredible hard work of all our staff within our school community. We do say a fond farewell to two colleagues who between them have dedicated and given over 60 years of service to Plymstock School. Pat, who is one of our cleaners and Sue, one of our teaching assistants, are both retiring. We thank them for their incredible service and wish them the very best in their retirement.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term and thank you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

