



19 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Headteacher Update – Autumn Term 2

As the second part of the Autumn term closes and we head towards a well-deserved Christmas break, I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the many highlights we have witnessed from members of our school community.

Every day I have the pleasure of seeing so many positives within our school community, however, the biggest highlight of the year so far was watching this year's school production, *Elf*. If you had the opportunity to attend, I am sure you will agree that we witnessed some incredibly talented individuals, who performed with such enthusiasm, energy and joy. The level of dedication and commitment the students and staff have shown throughout the past few weeks is beyond brilliant and we would like to congratulate every member of the cast – we are very proud of them all!

One of our school values is 'Aim High', where we encourage all students to have high ambitions and expectations of themselves and others. Our recent careers event provided the opportunity for Year 8-13 students to engage and interact with over fifty external organisations from a wide range of sectors, including colleges and universities. It was fantastic to see how engaging and inspired the students were and it was lovely to hear the amazing comments that were shared about how polite and respectful the students were.

At Plymstock we place a great emphasis on ensuring our students are provided with as many opportunities as possible to develop strong characters to allow them to make good choices, both now and in their futures. Our extra-curricular and enrichment programme continues to provide every student with the opportunity to flourish and develop character, at the same time as achieving academically. I am very proud of the of high attendance and levels of engagement of our students who attend and we look forward to sharing the programme of activities that will be on offer for the Spring Term when we return in January.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in our school community who has contributed towards the Food Bank collection. We have been overwhelmed with the volume of items that have been donated to allow us to play our part in supporting those who may struggle financially at this time of year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to provide you with a couple of updates:

We continue to have restless focus on fully implementing our CORE expectations within our school community. This allows us to be in a position where every student at our school is able to learn in disruption-free classrooms and our staff are able to teach without distractions. Alongside my letter, you will find a letter from Miss Martin, Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Offer, Deputy Headteacher, providing you with an update on some changes to our approach as of January.

A reminder that students return to school to start **Spring Term 1 on Wednesday 3rd January**. We look forward to welcoming all our students back on this date.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff who have worked tirelessly and continue to go above and beyond during what has been a busy and at times challenging term. It continues to be honour and privilege to lead such a committed, hard working and ambitious school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Plymstock School and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Yendell', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mr Alan Yendell
Headteacher

