



Friday 9 February 2024

Headteacher Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this update finds you well. As we reach the end of the first term of Spring and into a well-deserved break, there is a great deal to share with you about the all the positive things our school community have been engaging in. In particular, I have seen first-hand over the past few weeks the manner in which our students and staff have lived out one of our school values: Work Hard.

At every opportunity, we share our definition of this value within our school community. This encourages everyone to demonstrate a commitment to our school and wider community, making the most of opportunities available and that we are all dedicated and willing to apply great effort to achieve our very best.

This has certainly been the case for our Year 11 and 13 cohort, who since the start of term have fully committed to the opportunities that have been afforded to them as they continue to invest time and efforts into preparing for their upcoming mock examinations and final examinations in May. We are very proud of everything they are doing to secure the strongest possible outcomes to allow them to move onto their next steps.

Our Under 13 Girls football team continue to achieve their very best by successfully overcoming Downend School from Bristol last week by winning 5-2. They have made history by being the first Plymstock School team to reach the quarter finals (the last 8 in the country)! It was wonderful to welcome the girls and the parents/carers to watch the 'live' draw on Monday and the girls will now travel to South Croydon to play Riddlesdown Collegiate, in the hope of reaching the semi-finals. Regardless of the outcome, we are incredible proud of everything these talented girls have achieved so far. We are all behind you!

On Thursday we saw just under fifty students and six members of staff head off to Iceland. This cultural experience is organised and led by the brilliant Geography department where students get to experience the Blue Lagoon, Glacier Walk, Hot Springs and visits to a number of cities and towns. I am sure lots of memories will be created and you can keep up to date with their adventures by visiting our school Facebook page.

Our library team have been working hard to put in place a number of activities to celebrate reading as part of our annual 'Reading Festival', which takes place from Monday 4 March to Tuesday 12 March. We take great pride in prioritising reading within our school and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you as parent/carers for supporting our ambition to ensure every student develops a passion for reading. On Thursday 7 March, we are inviting students within Year 7-10 to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book; this could be anything from a favourite childhood story to a work of classic fiction! We will be sharing further details with students and parent/carers during the first week back from half term.

Finally, we are all aware of the positive difference teachers can make and I would like to thank our Sixth Form leadership team who have demonstrated a true act of kindness by recently

launching the Teacher of the Week award. In recent weeks our students have presented the award to Mr Taylor, Miss Smith, Miss Stevenson, Mr Luscombe, Miss Harvey and Mr Williams.

Looking ahead...

Monday 19 February 2024 – Staff Training Day (**School closed to students**)

Tuesday 20 February 2024 – Start of Term 4 – Spring 2

Tuesday 20 February to Friday 1 March 2024 – Year 11 & 13 Mock Examinations

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

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

