

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman

Telephone: (01752) 338373

Email: enquiries@plympton.academy

www.plympton.academy



Dear Parents/Carers

September 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all the students to Plympton Academy after the sunny summer holiday. I hope you all had a wonderful time and managed to enjoy the sunshine and find time to catch up with family and friends.

It was lovely to see the students returning looking so smart in their school uniforms ready for the start of a new school year. With the Year 7 students quickly settling in and the Year 11 and Year 13 students already looking ahead to their pathways beyond their exams, we have all got into a good learning routine, ready to make excellent progress.

There have been a lot of building developments over the summer with great progress being made on our £2 million, DfE funded, new specialist Performing Arts block. This will provide a fantastic venue for our Performing Arts department with a purpose built, performance space with seating for over 180 people; a dance studio with a sprung floor, for all those who love both contemporary and street dance; a music recording studio and sound proofed, practice rooms. After seeing the fantastic performance from our Sixth form band at the open evening last week, I am really looking forward to our students, confidently perform in front of parents, visitors and students. This project is due to finish early February 2017 and will also be available for the community to use.

In addition we have been granted planning permission from the local council for our 3G pitch and refurbishment of our MUGA area, both that will boost the options available for local clubs. The work on these is due to start in October and more news about this will follow. We are fortunate to have the newly refurbished sports hall and fitness suite that the students will be able to utilise whilst the work is being undertaken, so no learning is interrupted. Completion on this project is expected at the start of January 2017.

All of these projects are helping us build a campus for the future where the students will have inspiring, state of the art, classroom spaces that promote engagement and an enthusiasm for learning. Over the past year we have been undertaking work on Growth Mindset and the impact this has on children's learning. Mindset is a simple idea discovered by Stanford University's psychologist Carol Dweck whereby teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education and sports. Carol Dweck has discovered that there are two types of mindset - fixed mindset and growth mindset. The differences between them are subtle yet the effects on children's long term learning are profound.



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An exempt charity.

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A simple example is: a person with a fixed mindset would say I can't do this, I'm rubbish at this or I don't want to do this because it's hard and I don't want to fail, it shouldn't be this hard. Whereas a child with a growth mindset would say I can't do this yet - I need more practice and then I will be able to do it. This is how we are approaching our learning at Plympton Academy where we encourage leadership, organisation, resilience, independence and communication.

I am pleased to direct you to our new website at www.plympton.academy where you will find all the news of events that are coming up and also events that have just happened. We are looking to improve our communication and the newly re-designed student planner, which has a communication page, is a key part of this, where letters home are recorded and need signing for. These letters are also found on the website. However, in order to support a green agenda, and cut down on wasted paper use, we would also like to email the information home, so please ensure you have provided us with your up to date email address. Either pass this to reception or let your child's tutor know and the information can be passed on. Do let us know if we can improve our communication home, as we always appreciate feedback our parents and carers provide.

Letters will be coming home soon about the Plympton Academy Friends group, run by parents who are always looking for new members. If you wish to get involved and support this fundraising group please contact them with the details you will find on the letter.

Please also see the attached note regarding the new £5 notes and Parent Pay.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or come and speak to a member of the staff. Our contact details can be found on the website.

Lisa Boorman
Principal

Where to find us:

www.plympton.academy

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and don't forget facebook!



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Revaluer in The PAD

The new £5 polymer note will not be recognised in our revaluer, the machine will still take £10 & £20 notes until they change to polymer.

We are aiming to make the school a cash-free environment and to achieve this we have introduced two payment systems:-

- ParentPay our on-line payment system
- Impact Cashless Catering.

ParentPay

Using the ParentPay website www.parentpay.com you will be able to pay for school meals, trips, music lessons, D of E and most other items you might be asked to pay for whilst your child is at Ridgeway School, all from the comfort of home and at a time that suits you without having to send cash or cheques into school.

The School Finance Team input the trip or item details onto the ParentPay site and using your username and password you are then able to pay for them securely from home using your debit or credit card.

If you prefer not to pay on-line by debit or credit card barcoded letters can be requested from the school Finance Team which can be scanned at any store where you see the PayPoint sign. The nearest PayPoint stores to the school are Co-Op, Ridgeway and Chaddlewood; Colebrook Stores; BP Station, 251 Ridgeway; and Bargain Booze, 9 Underwood Road.

Please notify the Finance Office if you wish to use the PayPoint facility. finance@plympton.academy or tel: 01752 338373 ext.155, 122 or 162.

How do I get started?

The School Finance Team will send you an activation letter containing your activation username and password to enable you to setup your ParentPay account. During the activation process you will be guided through changing your username and password to something more memorable; if you have more than one child at a ParentPay school/s you can also add children to a single account providing one login for all children at ParentPay schools.

ParentPay will NEVER contact you by phone, email or mail and ask you to divulge confidential information like passwords or card numbers. If you are ever contacted by someone claiming to be from ParentPay, please contact ParentPay immediately on 0845 257 5540.



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