

A Message from your HoAP

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to Plympton Academy. It was lovely to see our new year 7 students on their first day greeting old friends and making new ones. Keeping you in touch with what is going on at Plympton Academy is very important. I hope you find this newsletter informative. I will be sending one out every term. I would love to hear your feedback about the newsletter and look forward to your suggestions for improvement.

We have a busy term this year. Please take a look at the important dates below and put them in your diary. It is important to us that we work in partnership so that together we can ensure that your child achieves the best possible outcome from their time here at Plympton Academy and thank parents in advance for their support of the various initiatives and activities that students will be encouraged to join. Your child's tutor is your first point of contact. I have included their email addresses in this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Sarah Puleston, our Year 7 pastoral mentor, if you have any worries or concerns.

Diary Dates

- Thursday 6 October – Year 7 tutor evening
- Friday 14 October - School photos
- Friday 21 October - Non Pupil Day
- Monday 31 October – Term 2 begins
- Wednesday 2 – Friday 4 November – Year 7 residential
- Week commencing 7 November – first progress reports sent home
- Monday 19 December - Tuesday 3 January Christmas break
- Wednesday 4 January - Term 3 begins

Upcoming Events

Year 7 homework club - this is held every Wednesday from 3 – 4pm in the LRC. Please encourage your child to attend. Teachers and teaching assistants will be on hand to help with any worries or concerns.

Year 7 tutor evening— you are warmly invited to a Tutor Evening on Thursday 6th October 2016 to meet your child's Form Tutor. This meeting essentially provides an opportunity for you to be reassured that all is well and/or to share confidential information with the Form Tutor about your child. Please refer to the letter given out last week for more details. If you have misplaced your letter please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Communication

Tutors are the first point of contact for parents and students. The school planner should be used to write messages for teachers and your child's tutor. Please ensure that you regularly check the 'Communication Log' section in your child's planner to acknowledge that you have received important documents.

Texting and Emails:

The school has a text notification system. It's used to contact you for various reasons. Please ensure the school has your up-to-date mobile number and email address. In your child's planner you will find a sticker with their tutor's email address. This can be a quick and easy way to communicate with your child's tutor.

Contacts

Mrs Pengelly (HoAP) – pengellyj@plympton.academy
 Mrs Puleston (Pastoral Mentor) – pulestons@plympton.academy
 Miss Ludlow (7CLU) – ludlowc@plympton.academy
 Miss Finch (7CFI) - finchc@plympton.academy
 Miss Skinner (7CSK) - skinnerc@plympton.academy
 Mr Harvey (7RHA) - harveyr@plympton.academy
 Mr Thompson (7RTH) - thompsonr@plympton.academy

Cognitive Ability Tests

On Monday 10th October and Wednesday 12th October all year 7 students will take part in a cognitive ability test. It is a series of short tests which last for approximately one hour on each of the days. The tests are absolutely nothing for the students to worry about and they assess a pupil's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material through a series of Verbal, Non-Verbal, Quantitative and Spatial Ability tasks. Together, these four very short tests provide teachers with a comprehensive profile of a pupil's reasoning abilities, and as such the core abilities related to learning.

Attendance

Are your children at school every day? If not, are you aware of the following statistics? If your child's attendance is 90% that equals 4 weeks of lessons missed! Attendance of 90% over 5 years equals half a school year missed!