New build finally underway
Students enjoy use of new Food Technology room
YEARS 4 & 5
OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 27th JUNE
(tours from 5pm)
PRESENTATION at 5.45pm
(repeated at 6.30pm)

OPEN DAY
FRIDAY 28th JUNE
Call to book a tour:
01752 338373

Plympton Academy
Inspiring Success

Students and Parents
Enquiries: 01752 338373 / www.plympton.academy
What a start to the New Year! At long last our major re-build is underway with contractors busy across the site making changes to our utility connections and separating the area to be demolished from our busy, working school. This work was due to have been completed by the end of half term but unfortunately continued into March. I have been hugely impressed with how responsibly the students have acted throughout this quite difficult phase of the scheme. Preparatory work out of the way we are now starting to work with the contractor and architects on the final design detail for our exciting new block.

In February we enjoyed our fantastic Renegades in the Ring production - with over 90 students from all year groups involved. I hope that you managed to come along and watch.

Our Year 13 and Year 11 students have just completed their mock exam programme in early preparation for the summer exam season. Congratulations to all of the students for the hard work they have put in.

Our students have, as ever, been involved in a wide range of activity over the last few months and the following pages will highlight some of those and give you an insight into Academy life.

I wish all of our students a fun packed Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 23rd April.

Lisa Boorman, Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Since the start of the academic year, an amazing 164,122 positive reward points have been awarded on ClassCharts, with 45,325 points being spent on the ClassCharts rewards store (the most popular item at the moment are Frog and Panda erasers).

84% of students have now achieved their ClassCharts Bronze Award which means they have been awarded 100 positive points on ClassCharts. We are very proud of the 181 students who have been presented with the Silver award, as this means that they have been given 250 positive points, with special recognition to Lewis White in BASU who was the first student to achieve this milestone.

Over 25% of both Year 7 and Year 9 students have now acquired the Silver award and I am looking forward to present our first wave of Gold certificates in recognition of a student being awarded 500 positive points. Not only will these students be presented with a special certificate, but their names will also go onto the Class Charts Gold Award Honours Noticeboard. With several students already in the 400s, I am sure that it will not be long.

Mr Ian Hartley

ClassCharts Rewards

Performing Arts

A Level & BTEC courses still available

Music

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS
BTEC LEVEL 3 PERFORMING ARTS
DOUBLE BTEC

We have a flourishing Performing Arts department that is based in the new state-of-the-art Morpurgo Studios.

This facility offers music classrooms, practice rooms, recording studios, drama studio, dance studio and a new performance space.

01752 338373 · www.plympton.academy
Contact crookj@plympton.academy for more details

Plympton Academy Review | 3
January 3rd 2019 saw the long awaited start of our exciting 18 month new build project.

The Academy has been very busy with preparatory work underway in a range of locations on site to enable us to relocate from the section of the school to be demolished to the areas remaining long term.

This work has certainly proved challenging and got underway in earnest during the February half term. Work is now being completed to move our core electricity, data, gas and water supplies and this will then enable demolition to commence of the front section of the old school.

One area of temporary accommodation we needed provided to enable the project is a new food technology room. On the front cover you can see some of our students enjoying the use of this lovely new teaching space. All other teaching is being accommodated completely in the remaining buildings - with only office/management staff being accommodated in temporary huts.

Whilst this phase of the project has been a little noisy the Academy life has continued around it and as we reach the stage where the remaining Academy estate is fully segregated from the demolition and rebuild we can start to focus on planning with the contractor the lovely new teaching spaces our students will be able to enjoy from September 2020.
TOP LEFT: Temporary huts for office and management staff
MIDDLE LEFT: New temporary Food Technology room
TOP RIGHT: Other site works in progress
BOTTOM RIGHT: Relocated site for Academy’s main reception
The Performing Arts Faculty have enjoyed hosting a series of Music, Dance and Drama workshops for students from Yealmstone Farm, Boringdon, Plympton St Maurice and Glen Park. A selected group of students from each school were given the opportunity to spend the morning with the cast of the recent production ‘Renegades in the Ring’. They participated in a series of activities including a tour of the set, a dance workshop, a backstage tour and were allowed to try on a variety of costumes!

The whole event was organised and led by our fantastic Year 12 Btec Performing Arts students who then performed in a full run of the show to the rest of the primary school students. ‘The whole event was organised and led by our fantastic Year 12 Btec Performing Arts students who then performed in a full run of the show to the rest of the primary school students’

EXPLORING INDIA...
We had the pleasure of working with Plympton St Maurice over the course of 3 weeks exploring the topic of India which is a part of their current curriculum. The primary students were given the chance to create work that explored the stories about Indian gods, bhangra dance and music. The students developed some fantastic performance work in such a short time - we were all so impressed with their level of creativity!

COME AND JOIN US!
The Performing Arts Faculty are launching a brand new musical theatre company (name to be confirmed shortly)! This is open to students from all of our feeder schools in Year 5 and Year 6! If you love performing and would like to come and work with students from Plympton Academy who also like performing then please come along! It is free to attend and takes place on a Wednesday after school from 3.15 to 4.30pm in the Morpurgo Studios at Plympton Academy. We will be working on musical theatre numbers from all sorts of shows and will perform in a cabaret at the end of the year! We would love to see you there! For more information please contact Jo Crook Director of Performing Arts on crookj@plympton.academy
RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

Staff, students and parents at Plympton Academy have taken part in the RSPB’s Big Garden Bird Watch.

The Academy invited students and their families to take part in the survey and submit their results through the school.

Josh Tucker and Phoebe Hall, both aged 12, helped organise the school’s survey and collated the results. Josh said, “I didn’t know that there were so many different types of birds in our local area.” Phoebe added, “It was really interesting to see the types of birds that visit people’s gardens.”

In 2018, Plympton Academy was awarded the Green Tree Award from the Woodland Trust in recognition of the conservation work undertaken by students.

Teacher Martin Edmonds said, “The RSPB Birdwatch has grown in popularity over the years and is now the world’s largest wildlife survey, regularly taking part. It is one of the biggest citizen science events in the world and we are very pleased to have taken part.”

In November we were given the fantastic news that our Year 7 students had won the Plymouth Walk to the Moon challenge which took place in October 2018. This was run by Plymouth Council to encourage students across the City to walk (or bike / scoot) to school instead of travelling by bus or car. If a student was unable to walk to school, then they were encouraged to go for an evening walk instead, possibly accompanied by their family. Our Year 7 students entered the competition with great enthusiasm and were the Secondary winners for Plymouth.

Their prize was a visit from the Space Odyssey planetarium which took place on Friday 1st March. Year 7 students were given the opportunity to explore the Solar System and take a detailed tour of the Moon during their presentation inside the inflatable planetarium. The council’s Plymotion team visited one of the sessions to congratulate the students for winning the competition and to encourage them to continue their healthy habit of walking instead of using a car for journeys.
Katharine Way was nominated for the Da Vinci award last semester. She wrote a compelling and thought-provoking piece of work in her own time and shared it with members of the English department. Katharine’s efforts are commendable and she is a credit to the school, herself and a role model to others.

Well done Katharine!

The sun was a lustrous, all-watching eye, its hues of yellows and oranges swept out towards every corner, smothering the fields with a friendly glow. For as far as the eye could see, there were hills after hills, practically mountains, rolling across the Earth until a thin line of emerald, greys and browns had scythed the horizon. Tall, twisted trees, all bunched together like little soldiers sat upon a majority of these fields, their crowns painting invisible swirls in the morning sky.

The farm emerged up, out of the subtle green hills, as if it had always been a part of the scenery. The main house itself held mixtures of reds, rustic browns, greys and a few dark, mossy greens, all splattered across the bricks like a child’s canvas. Windows were as dusty, dark and unkempt as they had been ten years before. In fact, the only sign that this building was inhabited was the modern, if muddy, truck just outside, or that there were two, perfectly content horses grazing on one of the back fields.

Connected to that field was a lane, barely wide enough to fit two cows in at once. At the end of the lane, was an orchard. It wasn’t untidy like the house, even the apples that hung from the trees glowed a pinkish colour in the light. This was Iris’s favourite place, quiet and isolated, the only entrance being that lane. The dampness of winter had brought mildew to the trees, decorating their old trunks. To the artistic eye, it could be beautiful, alluring even, but to the normal eye, it was just another boring old tree, forever standing against whatever was thrown at it. To Iris, it was almost exactly like makeup. It hid the tree’s true self, its age, even its pain. She could feel that pain. They were getting too old now, even though each year’s harvest never failed to impress. “Iris!” she closed her eyes, letting out a small groan of annoyance, brushing her hand against the old bark.

She had gotten used to the peace, so every time she was disturbed, it felt like someone was ripping away half of her soul. Or maybe she was too dramatic. Turning to the person who had called her name, she opened her eyes, putting on a fake smile.

“Iris, have you finished up here?!” her aunt hurried up, her ridiculous run almost made Iris want to smile for real.

She shook her head, gesturing to the half empty baskets. True, she had been distracted by the trees’ calls, but how could she explain that to her rather nice, but sceptical, aunt? Iris had no care for chores. Truthfully, she’d rather be exploring the forest just beyond the fields that ran on for endless miles but according to her uncle, it was a dangerous place, and that she could get lost easily.

“Oh. That’s okay dear, just come in when you’re done,” and with that, her aunt hobbled off, the greasy apron flapping at her sides.

Just go on, it’s right there, she thought to herself, turning her back to the lane, so that she faced the tall, pine trees that loomed above their little orchard. The forest was ancient. The trees thicker and older than those in the orchard, and yet they seemed so much more alive. The canopy looked so dense, with only the occasional streak of sunlight that barely even touched the ground.
Staff Book Group

‘A book is a dream that you hold in your hand’ - Neil Gaiman

We all need time to sit, relax and unwind with this in mind we decided to set up a staff ‘Book Group’, we held our first meeting during September 2018 and decided on the name ‘ Plympton Academy Pageturners’.

Every five to six weeks we are loaned a set of books from Plympton Library, once read we meet up to discuss our chosen book. So far we have read the following titles -

‘Longbourn’ by Jo Baker, ‘When I was Invisible’ by Dorothy Koomson, ‘Camera Girl’ by Doreen Spencer, ‘The Kind Worth Killing’ by Peter Swanson and ‘Miss You’ by Kate Ebelern.

It’s Alive!

Miss Glover’s Year 7 English class have been combining English with Science as they study a modern play adaptation of the classic novel Frankenstein. Mary Shelley wrote the famous Gothic story when she was just 20 years old and it remains a famous and terrifying tale to this day.

As part of their lessons, the students have also learned about the early science of electrostatics and used a Wimshurt Electrostatic Generator.

The Wimshurt Machine was invented in 1880 by the British inventor James Wimshurt. The two glass discs can be turned by a handle to generate and store a static charge. Of course, Frankenstein used static electricity for far stranger activities…

Was Victor Frankenstein a romantic dreamer or a dangerous schemer? What do you think?

DA VINCI AWARDS

Students from across the academy continue to be nominated for our Da Vinci Awards which recognise excellence and achievement across all subject areas. Since we returned in January, eleven students have been nominated by their teacher, in recognition of the academic achievement in their subject area. Jessica Bean in 7SCL has been nominated by two different subjects, for her poetry in English and her outstanding independent research task in History. Three other Year 7 students - Georgina Lazarus; Amber Home and Janek Slevz have also been recognised for their work in History, as has Eloise Trevor in Year 8. Hayden Norman has been nominated by his Computer Science teacher for his academic achievement in this subject, whilst Chloe-Keeley Andrews in Year 9 was recognised by Miss Hawkshaw for her ‘Pop-Art’ inspired piece of work which was produced to a very high standard. In Year 10, Katharine Way’s piece of independent writing in English was nominated by Miss Caylor in recognition of her ‘passion which definitely shines through in this piece of writing’ whilst Mrs Pitcher put forward Amy Blackford for recognition due to her completing her Maths homework at a higher standard than any other student.

Alongside Hayden, Mr Quieterio also nominated Jonathan Watson in Year 12 for his work in producing a solution to a coding and programming task in Computer Science.

All of these students have been presented with a certificate in school during the Semester celebration assemblies and their names are in the process of being added to the Da Vinci Honours board within school.

It is always a pleasure to see student work from across the academy and to read the nominations from subject teachers. I am looking forward to announcing the next round of nominations at the end of Semester Three.

Mr Ian Hartley
O ur students have been busy reading poetry and writing their own. They were asked to read Charles Causley’s famous poem ‘Devonport’ and then to imagine how the story might continue.

Lieutenant Commander Simon Boon, the Base Executive Officer of HMS Drake in Devonport, visited us to present the four winning students with engraved medals as their prizes. Lieutenant Commander Boon said: “I was delighted to be asked to award the prizes for this competition based on Causley’s poem. As Charles Causley lived in Cornwall and served aboard both HMS Eclipse and HMS Glory, his poem made a marvellous focus for the competition.”

**THE ROYAL NAVY**

Into the ranks we go
In the ranks we follow
In the ranks we fight
Let there be no sorrow

Wave, after wave
Storm, after storm
Crash and plunder,
Wind and thunder
The Royal Navy goes
Were the world can only Wonder

Year after year
The slave trade grows
But the British put a stop to that
As the story goes

The navy
The navy
Across the seven seas
Abolishing slavery
Bringing slavers to their knees

Salvo after salvo
Into the pirates ship
Bring down criminals
In their sinking crypt

Our heroes return victorious
Our heroes return glorious
May there glory never fade
The Royal Navy rules the waves

By Shah Ismaeel Ali
NEVER FORGET

“Never forget”, the other repeated
“The things we’ve done and the challenges we’ve passed.”
The sailors smiled and laughed
Before raising a rum-filled glass
Ching-ching “Cheers” ran through the suddenly chilled air
As the raging sea ran across the bottom of the ship
The two fell
And with a rather happy tip
The ship sailed closer to shore bobbing up and down
The sailors stood and swung around
There was a loud roar piercing the chilly air
The two stood still without another sound
“What was that roar?” a sailor asked
The other smiled
He knew it was his last
I once saw two sailors in Devonport City
Their bones were of shell and their eyes were marine
“Never forget” said one to the other.

By Hannah Evans

DEVONPORT CITY

I saw two sailors in Devonport City
Their bones were of shell and their eyes were marine
“Never forget” said the one to the other
“The deeds we have done and the sights we have seen.”
A broken smile spread across his face
But quickly vanished without a trace.
They looked as if they were about to cry
And silently stared across the sky.
They quietly whispered their goodbyes
And sadly spun a web of lies
The enemy town began to stare
And really looked as if they’d care
“We are really sorry – we’ve done nothing wrong
But been on a journey for so very long
We really hope that we can stay
And if not we will be gone by day.
There’s not much room I have to admit
But do not lose hope – do not quit
Do not fear, there is room for one”
“You go”, the father said to his son
He jumped off the boat and into the crowd
And simply said “I love you” aloud.
He watched his father sail out to sea
And wondered what his life would be.

By Jessica Bean

REMEMBER THE PIRATES

Remember the pirates
From moons ago
With guys on the rigging and girls on the hull
And think of the way as we head to the shore
We heard the laughter of people and the cry of a gull

Think of the mermaids, dancing away
With hair of gold, they splash in the waves
Still fresh in my mind, the glitter of jewels
Glimpses of gems as we walked through the caves
Most of all, forever remember
The shimmering blue, the white frothy foam
Forever and always until all time ends
The sapphire sea will ever be our home

By Elizabeth-Iris Richards
In Semester 1, a small group of students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to Devonport dockyard to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event run by the national Big Bang initiative. Students worked with members of the Royal Navy and Babcock on a number of activities designed to inspire curiosity and how their subjects are applied in a working environment. All students fully engaged with the activities and it was great to see such a level of involvement even from some of the more reserved students.

Students worked in teams to build bridges, efficient propellers and Formula One cars. It was a really competitive atmosphere. In particular, the students really seemed to enjoy an introduction to computer programming where they got the opportunity to programme a spherical robot and navigate through a course.

James Ferrier, a Year 7 student, gave the following account of the day, “I really enjoyed the STEM trip. It was such great fun! We did a technology-based activity, a science-based one and we were even allowed inside a real Navy hovercraft!”

Jame Ferrier, Year 7

It was such great fun! We did a technology-based activity, a science-based one and we were even allowed inside a real Navy hovercraft!

“Thanks goes to Mr Palmer who was on hand to help out for the day. It was a fantastic day which provided a great insight into how maths and science are applied in the real world. All students who attended took full advantage of the opportunity. They were a credit to the Academy and there are definitely some future engineers in our midst!”

The Big Bang Initiative

Students work with members from the Royal Navy and Babcock at STEM event

Maths and Science
Year 9 BTEC Engineering students have throughout Semester 2 had the opportunity to produce a hidden compartment in a book, through the development and creation of hand drawn engineering drawings and the practice of their fabrication skills. The Sneaky book project involved students producing accurate hand drawn engineering drawings to an international standard and then fabricating a scale model from the drawing, with the tools and facilities available in the workshop. The outcome has been very successful with all students producing a number of drawings, and models. Students also undertook an analysis of the effectiveness of the tools and their uses, as well as an evaluation of the project and the progress of their skills so far.

When asked what the students had enjoyed about the project, Honi said, “I enjoy the practical because it is hands on, and we get to make stuff. It’s different from other subjects because there is a lot more freedom to get tools and use them.” Honi also commented how she was happy to have an outcome that she would actually be pleased about owning.

Charlie said he enjoyed the variety of projects we have worked on so far this year, saying, “We have had the chance to use lots of different materials and although it takes a long time to make something, it looks good in the end.”

The students have had a good start to their BTEC in Engineering that will involve them building on the skills that they have developed so far this year, with fabrication of engineered components from created computer aided design drawings.
STUDENTS TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE AMAZON RAINFOREST
The Geography Team decided to treat Year 8 students at the Academy to a trip to the Amazon Rainforest using the latest virtual reality technology.

Students were treated to a snakes and bugs experience that involved a Reticulated Python, a Rhino Beetle and a Praying Mantis. Students were then whisked off to the deep caves of the Amazon and the Jungle floor of the Bornean Rainforest to explore the many plant and animal species found there.

This was a part of the work the students have been completing during Semester 2 on environments and animal adaptations. It was great to see the student’s reactions and we can’t wait for our next adventure.

Jim Strachan, Geography Department

Histories of the Unexpected
Year 12 History students had the pleasure of attending Plymouth University for a lecture with a difference! This talk centred upon Histories of the Unexpected - a project led by Professor James Daybell and the BBC presenter Sam Willis, who are on a mission to show how everything has a History.

Through the interactive, witty, and educational show students found out interesting trivia such as the smells of the Tudor Age, the artefacts stored in chimneys, and all that can be discovered from gloves. Katie Kerr, Head of History said, “The trip allowed our students to experience a dimension to the study of History which allowed them to engross themselves into the sights, sounds, and smells of the past.”

Katie Kerr, History Department
What happened to the Endurance

Well done to those Year 7 historians who took on the challenge of completing a totally independently researched project. This semester their challenge was to investigate what happened to the Endurance. Our winner this semester was Amber Horne, below you can see a full copy of her investigation. Special mention also goes to Georgina Lazarus, Janek Slys and Jessica Bean who also submitted fantastic essays.

ERNEST SHACKELTON - THE SECRETS OF THE ENDURANCE POLAR EXPLORER
Ernest Shackleton led three different expeditions to the Antarctic and was a Principal figure of ‘The Heroic Age of the Antarctic Exploration’. Endurance: The main focus of this text was uncovering the secrets of the Endurance and the South Pole/polar explorer. The ship was abandoned in consequence of being crushed by pressure of the ice; how the ship came to be contained is mostly unknown other than by the temperatures and situations of being in such waters near South Georgia Island. Even though The Endurance was meant to be the strongest ship at the time it couldn’t take the ice as it became less cooperative causing Mr Shackleton and his crew to become lost in Antarctica, the world’s southernmost continent. They were all stranded on sheets of ice that were floating for months, until they reached ‘Elephant Island’. The crew survived after their heroic leader, Ernest, saved them by leading them away from the crushed Endurance (Originally Shackleton had aimed to complete the trans-Antarctic crossing of the Antarctic Ocean).

In conclusion to this historical exhibition, people have remembered it and the man himself Ernest Shackleton because of his exhibitions and bravery. His dreams of reaching the South Pole inspired many of the explorers we know today! It shows and tells you to never give up on your dreams.

Amber Horne, Year 7
Students from Plympton Academy wowed packed out audiences recently with their stunning performance of Renegades in the Ring.

With complex song and dance routines, as well as aerial acrobatics, the cast were challenged in every aspect of performance and dared to try things that they had never experienced before.

Jo Crook, Director of Performing Arts at Plympton Academy said, “I couldn’t be prouder of the students. They have risen to the challenge and in doing so have created something that they should be very proud of. This level of performance tradition is still in its very early stages at Plympton Academy, but the students have demonstrated a hunger, drive and passion towards the process that has set some very high standards for the future.”

The students, from Year 7 to Year 12, demonstrated incredible team work and camaraderie as they worked together tirelessly to create an amazing show. The live band was led by Plympton Academy’s Head of Music, Nicky Clapson and created an exciting and foot tapping soundtrack throughout the performances.

“I am very lucky to have such a fantastic team to work with,” said Jo Crook. “We share a vision for our students and they have put in many hours to facilitate such high quality performances from every one of our students who took part in the production.”
On 27th November 2018 students from Plympton Academy took part in a fantastic workshop and attended a brilliant performance by Rambert Dance Company at the Theatre Royal.

Rambert is one of the world’s leading dance companies who explore diversity and produce outstanding contemporary work. The students took part in a contemporary workshop led by Effy, one of Rambert’s educational practitioners. She has worked with Rambert performing repertoire and is part of other well-known dance companies. The workshop taught the students technical dance skills. They also learnt a series of phrases from Rambert’s works such as ‘A Linha Curva’ and ‘Life is a Dream’ and created choreography of their own linking to the phrases taught. The students were challenged and were hugely inspired.

At the end of the workshops the students were able to question the professional artist and it was clear that they wanted to ask about how they might pursue such a career.

In the same evening the students attended a production called ‘Life is a Dream’ performed by Rambert at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. The show was both engaging and challenging to watch and the Plympton Academy students experienced something unforgettable.

Students from Plympton Academy had the opportunity to go and see the wonderful production of Matilda the Musical at the Theatre Royal Plymouth on Thursday the 24th of January 2019. Students from Year 7, 8 and 11 were taken to see the exciting production full of fantastic set designs, wonderful musical numbers and inspiring acting. The musical inspired by the much loved book written by Roald Dahl was both hilarious and gave a good message.

Jack Harper and Bradley Hummerstone both agreed, “It was brightly coloured and exciting. We liked it when it skipped to the next scene and left on a cliffhanger. I wanted to see more!”

Abbie Joyce, Drama Teacher at Plympton Academy added, “The production of Matilda was inspiring for the students and full of excitement. It was an excellent and fun experience.”

The students at Plympton Academy left the production beaming with excitement and truly inspired by the work and talent they had seen.
As part of the Philosophy and Ethics and History A Level courses, students were given the opportunity to be part of the national Lessons from Auschwitz programme. This involved two workshops in Exeter working with representatives from the Holocaust Educational Trust and a one day visit to Auschwitz in Poland. This year, Rachel Wren and Lauren Hampson were chosen to be Plympton Academy’s representatives.

Recently, we had the opportunity to work with the Holocaust Educational Trust to become ambassadors of the programme. The programme itself involves A Level students from all around the UK to educate themselves and others on the Holocaust. Our first step in the course was a seminar where we met a Holocaust survivor, Hannah Lewis and discussed the concept and definition of the Holocaust. This allowed us to prepare for the upcoming trip and to gain a deeper and more personal understanding of the Holocaust. The one day trip involved us visiting three significant locations in Poland. The first was a small town, Oświęcim, a prominent Polish area in which Jews and Christians lived harmoniously before the war. Next, we travelled to Auschwitz I. At Auschwitz, we visited gas chambers, looked at personal items from the prisoners, and observed hidden artefacts. After Auschwitz, we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here, we looked at how the prisoners would have lived and attended a ceremony hosted by a Rabbi. After the trip to Auschwitz, we attended another seminar where we reflected on the trip and discussed our plans on educating others about our experience.

Lauren Hampson and Rachel Wren, Year 12
Celebrating Excellent Results
Academy host a celebration for Year 12 and 13 Btech exam students

The academy was proud to host a celebration for Year 12 and 13 students who had complete exams in their Btech subjects in January. With the results eagerly awaited, many students arrived early to the academy to pick up their results and were welcomed by staff from a range of subjects. Ms Johns, who delivers Health and Social Care, was particularly proud of her students, many of whom achieved the Merit grade. She commented that, “The students walked into their exam results this morning and were slightly nervous, which shows how much they care and the effort they put in! The results from both Year 12 and Year 13, have secured a great foundation for them to continuing with the course, knowing exactly what they need to do to achieve their goals.”

‘I was so pleased to be able to witness the success of these students. They have worked incredibly hard to achieve their results’

Similar successes were seen in Sport and Business with several students achieving Merit grades and above, with students like Daniel Lewis achieving a distinction in his the Business exam. Katie Kerr, the Assistant Principal with Responsibility for the Sixth Form commented, ‘I was so pleased to be able to witness the success of these students. They have worked incredibly hard to achieve their results and I look forward to seeing how they continue to be successful in any up and coming exams.’

Students at Plympton Academy have been supporting the Campaign for Rural England’s light pollution survey. Dark, starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. But light pollution means many of us can’t see the stars. The CPRE want to reconnect people with the wonder of our glorious night skies.

Students Stephen Heighway, (12), Lewis White (13) and Ben Bacon (13) took part in the survey and their results were submitted to the CPRE and the British Astronomical Association.

Lewis said, “It was a very clear night when I took part but I could only see the three belt stars and three others.” Stephen commented, “It is really shocking how much light pollution there is around Plymouth and how few stars we can see.” Ben added, “It took me a while to find the constellation due to light pollution but when I did I was surprised how many stars I could see.”

Mr Strachan, who runs the Academy Astronomy Club said, “I am so proud of these students for taking part in the survey. It was great to talk through with them about their results. I look forward to taking the astronomy club to Dartmoor for our next star party to show Orion in all its glory.”
Careers Update

Careers service continues to gain momentum

Our Careers service has continued to gain momentum during Semester 2 of 18/19. Following on from the work that Years 8 and 11 did in Semester 1, they were all invited to attend option interviews with a member of SLT, Head of Year or the Careers Lead. The Year 11 student interviews took place in January and the Year 8 interviews are on-going. This provides the opportunity for students to discuss their career aspirations and possible pathways before making their options choices.

In November, a group of Year 9 students took part in Articulacy. During this 5 day course, they not only worked towards an English Speaking Board qualification, but they all increased their confidence in speaking and grew in self-esteem and self-awareness. We were really pleased with the results and qualifications they all achieved; particular mention must go to Tommy Nettleship who achieved a Distinction.

Week 10 of Semester 2 was a busy week for careers. We started with a trip for 29 students in Years 10 - 12 to visit Oxford University in a mission to discover what it is like to study at a world class university. Students participated in careers talks, question and answer sessions with current Oxford students and had a tour of the city. Year 12 students commented that it was really useful to find out about how to apply to the top universities, particularly at the point when they are on the verge of looking themselves. Students also took part in a myth busting exercise, where the myth of Oxford being more expensive, or only for wealthy families was dispelled. Mrs Kerr, Head of Sixth Form said, “I am pleased with the effect the trip has had on our students, already there is a renewed vigour and enthusiasm surrounding university applications, I look forward to working with the Year 12s as they proceed with this.”

The next day Year 10 students watched a production by the Barbican Theatre in The Morpurgo Studios entitled, ‘Why Would You?’ The production tells the story of three very different young people who are trying to decide what to do next. The students all enjoyed the production which encouraged them to think carefully about their own current situation and how choosing their future options is an important topic to consider. This was also followed by a workshop for 30 Year 10 students where they were able to discuss this topic further.

Finally, the Tenner Challenge was launched to Year 9. This challenge starts on the 4th March for four weeks and encourages the students to use £10 to get a business idea off the ground and make as much profit as they can. We all look forward to seeing their business ideas in Semester 3.
Plympton Academy REVIEW | 21

JOSH TUCKWELL

I am in my first year at Sheffield Hallam University, studying International Events Management. I am really enjoying the course although it is different to how I thought it would be. The course itself is diverse and currently I am doing a business module, which covers finance and marketing, so I am finding it a challenge but an enjoyable one! In December I took and passed an extra qualification on top of my Degree which allows me to apply for a premises licence in the future if I want to. I have just handed in an EPortfolio on the sustainability of host destinations - comparing a festival with the Tour de France. So far the modules I have handed in have gained a First or 2:1 grade, so I am very happy with that!

The course I am doing can get me into working for festivals, in accounting, security or travel aspects within the events sector.

Next year I have chosen to do events management with tourism, and in my 3rd year I will have a placement year, which I am hoping to do abroad.

I am really enjoying the independence and excitement of living away from home, exploring a new city, making new friends, and the challenges of having to stick to a budget.

KIRSTIE-LOUISE LEE

University is a massive learning curve and has given me amazing experiences. I currently attend Keele University, Staffordshire, studying Criminology. However, I have been given the opportunity to work with the Criminal Justice System in Indiana, America, and visited a Maximum Security Prison. Furthermore, by achieving high grades I have been chosen to represent the University in Tennessee for a year working with the world famous forensics department. Even though I have been working hard I am still partaking in musical theatre which has helped in the transition from Secondary to University.
Year 7 and 8 students compete in Plymouth’s first table tennis league

TABLE TENNIS
This year has seen some exciting developments for table tennis at Plympton Academy. The Year 7 and 8 students competed in Plymouth’s first table tennis Schools League where they played against a number of schools from across the city. All students won many matches against different schools and finished just 5 points off third place. The Year 7 and 8 table tennis team also competed in the Devon School’s Table Tennis Championships, which saw some of the county’s top table tennis players compete for the national qualifiers. The Plympton Academy Students were great representatives of the school and showed excellent determination. Well done to all involved.

GIRLS FOOTBALL
The Year 7 girls’ football team had a challenging opening to the season playing matches at Plymstock School against a number of experienced Year 8 teams. The team showed great strength of character and perseverance producing performances that will stand them in good stead for their forthcoming fixtures.

YEAR 9 BASKETBALL TEAM WIN AT THE LIFE CENTRE
Congratulations to the Boys Year 9 Basketball team who have won 7 of their 9 matches in this year’s Plymputh school central venue competition hosted at the Life centre.

Outstanding performances by Jacob Laniewski, Jacob Burns and Toby Morgan ensured every team we played were put under pressure. It was also great to see Year 8 students Jake Bettey, Leo Johnson and Lennon Nichols play ‘up’ a year brilliant news for future Basketball competitions at Plympton Academy.

TEAM - Louis Batten, Jacob Laniewski, Toby Morgan, Jacob Burns, Callum Page, Bailey Hulcoop, Dan Greaves, Harvey Hansford - Year 8’s - Jake Bettey, Lennon Nichols, Leo Johnson

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TEAM BLAST INTO SEMI-FINALS AFTER RECORD WIN
We are very much looking forward to the semi-finals of the Plymouth school cup after the Year 9 team had a record breaking 5-1 win over Marine Academy on Plympton Academy’s amazing 3G pitch. Goals from Jacob Watson, David Jeal, Toby Morgan and Jack Willis sealed the fixture for the home side. Despite outstanding performances from Kiel Hilton, Toby Morgan and Callum Page - it was Captain Charlie West who was deemed man of the match for his outstanding link play and skill shown from his central midfield position - well done boys!

TEAM - Kiel Hilton, Marcus Clinnick, Bailey Hulcoop, Charlie West (C), Jack Willis, Toby Morgan, David Jeal, Jacob Watson, Luke Witts, Callum Page

NETBALL SUCCESS
There has been huge progress for Year 7 Netball team - their hard work and determination has paid off and they ended the league on a hat-trick; winning all 3 matches, 6-1 Stoke Damerel, 10-3 Plymouth High School and 11-3 Sir John Hunt.

Our Year 10 and 11 Netball team have finished in 3rd place at the End of Season Netball Tournament at the Life Centre.
SWIMMING SUCCESS
Youngsters from the Plympton Academy swim academy are celebrating after winning two events at the recent Plymouth Schools Gala.

The event, organised by Devonport Royal Swimming Association, saw more than 300 students from Plymouth primary and secondary schools compete in relay races.

Swimmers from the Plympton Academy swim academy won the 11-14 year olds mixed relay and 15-18 year olds relay. It is the second year running the 15-18 year olds have won.


The swim academy train once a week at the Plympton pool and comprises of competitive swimmers and triathletes.

Coach, Jason Quitero said, “The energy from all the teams was amazing. A special mention should also go to Janek Slysz who helped manage the team and Daniel Skinner who helped organise the event.”
Summer Plym Fest Fayre

Friday 19th July 12.30 PM - 2.30 PM
On the School Field
Parents Welcome

- Inflatable Assault course
- Fun, games & prizes
- BBQ
- Ice cream van
- Food & Drink stalls
- Raffle & Tombola

Live Music & Karaoke!

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A celebration of Music and Performing Arts with performance from school bands, Music BTEC classes and Performing Arts BTEC classes!

28th June at 6:30 - 9:30 in the Morpurgo Studio
Tickets available from Main Reception:

Refreshments provided
£3 Adults
£2 Concessions