

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

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Ref: LBO/TOV

15th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well during these difficult times: the continued support you give us here at the Academy is, as always, much appreciated.

Our attendance figures, despite students having to self-isolate, show a marked improvement from last year with all year groups showing better attendance and a larger proportion of students achieving that 100% attendance figure! Well done to all who have done this.

Christmas will be a bit different this year with none of the usual Carols On Tour productions or the carol service at St Mary's church. However, there will be a virtual carol service recorded so please keep an eye on our website for more information.

We have seen a lot of new technology come into effect in the Academy, not least our use of School Cloud for virtual parent/tutor evenings. These evenings have proved to be very successful and I do hope you are all able to access this to further support your son or daughter at the Academy.

There are, sadly, some goodbyes that we need to say at the end of this term:

- Miss Follet (Y9 Pastoral Mentor) has made the difficult decision to move away from being part of the pastoral team and is looking forward to a new career challenge. She has been part of the Academy for a significant number of years and we will all miss her very much.
- Mrs Hughes (Teacher of RS) will be leaving at the end of the term to pursue a career with the Land Registry department. She has made great contributions to the RS department, and the wider Humanities department, and we wish her luck in her new career pathway.
- Mr Price (Teacher of PE/Community Lead) is also leaving the profession to continue to develop his own, family run, business, making and selling ice-cream and other products. Mr Price has been instrumental in building excellence within the PE department, introducing the successful Level 2 and Level 3 BTEC courses, and inspiring so many students to progress onto a Sport pathway at university and further afield. Since joining us in June 2015, Mr Price has increased the participation in clubs so that we are now regular competitors - and winners - across the city in football, rugby,

table tennis, netball and many more sports. He leaves a great legacy and we wish him luck with his new full time venture.

- Mrs McGill (Teacher of MFL), after leaving once already, has decided that her retirement is now calling. She has supported the languages learning of many students in the past three years and many more in the twenty three years she has been at the Academy in total. She has organised many trips and visits, enrichment clubs and supported the language assistants. Mrs McGill will be missed by many past and present students and staff and we wish her well in her retirement.

We will also be saying a temporary goodbye and goodluck to Miss Needham, in mid-January, as she goes off on maternity leave with her second child. To cover this role, we are delighted to confirm that Mr Payne, currently with us on a temporary basis in the RS department, will be part of the Sociology and Psychology team that will continue to provide quality first teaching to our sixth formers in these subjects. Mr Payne will also continue his teaching in the RS department.

We also have a further member of staff, Dr Jamison, joining the RS team in January 2021, on a permanent basis, and we will ask him to introduce himself once he has settled in.

Covid-19 update

In light of the recent government update - lifting the national lockdown but keeping areas in tiers - there will be no change to the way the Academy operates until the Christmas break and into the new year. I will review the guidance over the Christmas period to identify any further practice that can be put in place to support our students and staff.

We are allowing essential visitors onto site: please ensure that you make an appointment to see a member of the staff team as they are not always available to come to reception for an unannounced visit.

Track and trace over the Christmas period

If your child develops symptoms and returns a positive Covid-19 test, within 48 hours of school ending, (Friday/Saturday 18/19th December) please contact the Academy on enquiries@plympton.academy in order to support an accurate track and trace process. This email will be monitored for a period of six days from the end of school (up to Wednesday 23rd December). Please do not phone the Academy: the phone lines are not being manned and your call will not be returned until the start of the new term. If your child develops symptoms and returns a positive test later than 48 hours after the end of school, the Academy should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Start of Term

Students return to the Academy on Tuesday 5th January 2021 and it will be a Week A. Period 1 all students will be with their tutor to complete a full equipment and uniform check. Please support your child and the Academy in ensuring that they have all they need to make a positive start to the new year and new term.

This is my final letter for 2020 and what a year it has been. Through this whole event our students have demonstrated resilience and a “get on and do it” attitude that they should be proud of. We certainly are!

We have seen some great achievements throughout the year in extremely difficult circumstances and our students will undoubtedly continue to go on and achieve great things. Please rest up and take some time over the break to be kind to yourselves and others, and I look forward to welcoming all the students back in the new year.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boorman".

**Ms L Boorman
Principal**