

Dear Parent/Carer

9th May 2022

As we start the Summer term I would like to take the opportunity to send out a few key messages for the weeks ahead. As I mentioned in my previous communication, our pastoral structure for the year group has recently changed due to the successful promotion of Miss Worth to Designated Safeguarding Lead. As such, please can you direct any pastoral queries to our new Pastoral Mentor, Miss Ellen Hooper, on hoopere@plympton.academy. Miss Hooper has had a comprehensive handover from Miss Worth and is really looking forward to working with you in the coming years. In addition to the change in Pastoral Mentor, students in 9DKE also have a new tutor, Mr Joseph Wellerd, due to Mr Kennedy moving onto pastures new. Mr Wellerd's email address is wellerdj@plympton.academy for reference.

This term, the students in Year 9 have been challenged to think beyond life at Plympton Academy. It was noted by our Senior Leadership Team during the options interviews that we have a really driven group of students in Year 9, with high aspirations for the careers that they wish to undertake. Our first assembly after Easter focused on having a vision for success and the importance of starting to work towards this now. This, teamed with the amazing opportunity to visit Marjon University, will allow students to really start critically exploring their options beyond their time here with us.

As ever, the students in Year 9 have also been challenged this term to maintain their superb work ethic and the top spot for Class Charts points in comparison to the other year groups at the Academy. I make sure that I say this loudly and often to the students, but I cannot stress enough how much the staff here at Plympton Academy really enjoy teaching and working closely with the students in Year 9. Their enthusiasm and passion for the subjects that they have chosen for GCSE is prominent in every lesson. The students are really making me proud by living up to our motto for the year: Year 9 - time to shine! Well done, Year 9!

Uniform in Year 9 is something which I am really proud of as a Head of Year. Very rarely do we have students arriving at the Academy wearing incorrect uniform or practical kit, however towards the end of last term we noticed a spike in the number of students wearing practical kit on days in which they did not have PE or Dance. Please can you support the Academy by checking your child's timetable each morning to ensure that they are in the correct uniform for the day?

Below are a few reminders of the Academy's expectations around additional items:

- Whilst mobile phones may be brought onto school site, they are only allowed to be seen or used before the first bell of the school day, break time and lunchtime. This excludes the time between lessons. Phones will be confiscated if seen out at any other time, unless directed by a member of staff. The same ruling applies to Air Pods and any other earbuds.
- No jewellery is to be worn other than 2 studs in each ear, and a wrist watch. No nose studs are permitted, including the clear ones.

- Whilst we permit students in Key Stage 4 to wear make-up to school, we ask that this make-up is subtle and discreet. For anything more than this, students will be asked to remove it.

Key dates

Date	Event
12/5/22	Year 9 Parents Evening (virtual)
30/5 - 3/6/22	May Half Term
6/6/22	Term 6 begins
27/6 - 1/7/22	Challenge Week
6/7/22	Sports Day
8/7/22	Reserve Sports Day
15/7/22	Plymfest
18/7/22	Awards Evening
19/7/22	Last day of Summer term - students finish at 1.00pm

Without doubt, your support plays a huge role in the success that your child has whilst with us at Plympton Academy and I'd just like to thank you all for continuing to work alongside us.

I hope this information has been useful: as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or myself through the usual channels.

Best Wishes,

Miss Kneebone

Miss Kneebone
Head of Year 9