

Dear Parent/Carer

4th May 2022

As we start the Summer term I would like to send out a few helpful reminders as we enter a crucial part of the academic year. Year 10 will soon be taking their GCSE exams and become one of the most senior year groups in the Academy, as the current Year 11 cohort soon leave us for study leave and exams. With this in mind, it is essential that Year 10 students are ready to take on the responsibility of being role models to students lower down the school and that they are doing everything they can to be best prepared for the challenges ahead.

Academy Expectations

Uniform in Year 10 is something that I am really proud of: rarely do we have uniform issues with students. However, a reminder that students should only wear their PE kit if they have a practical lesson that day. I would recommend having students owning two PE tops - especially with the warmer weather this term - as non-uniform PE tops are not permitted. Furthermore, no false eyelashes or nails are permitted; make-up should be subtle; and students are only permitted to wear two studs in each ear.

We, as a school, acknowledge that mobile phones are a part of life for us all. Students are allowed to use them before school, break, lunch and after school: they are not allowed to be used in lessons or whilst students are moving between lessons. The use of air pods and other similar devices are also only permitted at these times. If students are found to be using these items at inappropriate times they will be confiscated.

Work Experience

As you will be aware, Work Experience for all Year 10 students is the week commencing Monday 27th June. Whilst many of the students have secured some exciting placements, there are still a few students who've yet to arrange something. This is not something students can opt out of and is a vital part of our curriculum, as it allows students to develop essential transferable skills and also have a clearer understanding of the working world. It enables students to potentially make more informed choices about future pathways, whilst also discovering new passions and interests. If you want to discuss difficulties finding a placement please either contact myself (yatesj@plympton.academy) or Mrs Arkell (arkellm@plympton.academy) who is the Careers lead at the Academy.

RS Exams

The majority of students in Year 10 are taking the RS GCSE imminently. You will be aware students have undertaken 3 sets of mocks in the build up to this, with some students really excelling and demonstrating their huge potential. In the key dates section of the letter below, you will see the dates of these exams. In the build up to the exams we will be offering more revision opportunities after school. More details of this will follow from Miss Gent, Head of RS. Furthermore, additional homework - in the form of revision (up to 4 hours) - will be set in this subject to support students' preparation

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Mock Exams

At the end of Year 10 we always look to assess students using mock examinations. This gives both teachers and students a strong understanding of the progress they are making after two years of studying at Key Stage 4. It also allows us to put interventions in place for Year 11 so we can start the next academic year proactively and productively. These mocks will start mid June and students will be given individual exam timetables later this half term.

New Tutor

Mr Presland will be taking over as tutor of 10LBL this term. Mrs Blount left us at Easter having been at the Academy for the last couple of years. Mr Presland joined the Academy in September so will know many of the students already and vice versa which is very helpful. If you need to contact Mr Presland as the tutor of your child please email preslandj@plympton.academy.

Sixth Form Taster Day

The Sixth Form Taster Day, on Thursday 7th July, will provide students with the opportunity to explore different Post 16 option routes. Students will be introduced to some of the subjects we offer at the Academy and find out what it is like to be part of our Sixth Form. We will also discuss Post 18 options, and how choosing different routes now can inform options later. A small cohort of students will also be selected to participate in a trip to other local Post 16 providers; should your child be chosen, we will be in contact with further details.

Key dates:

Date	Event
16/5/22- pm	RS exam 1 - Religion Modern World
26/5/22- pm	RS exam 2 - Christianity
27/5/22	May Half Term
6/6/22	Term 6 begins
8/6/22- pm	RS exam 3 - Judaism
13/6/22	Mock exams begin
27/6/22	Work experience begins
6/7/22	Sports Day
7/7/22	Sixth Form Taster 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 your child has whilst with us at Plympton Academy and I'd just like to thank you all for continuing to work with us.

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

Kind regards,



Mr Yates
Head of Year 10