



# Plympton Academy

R E V I E W

AUTUMN | WINTER EDITION 2019



YEAR 7 ENJOY SURFING  
AT BUDE IN CORNWALL



Ofsted  
Good  
Provider

FIND MORE EXCITING NEWS INSIDE!



Theo Bools and Harry Dale enjoying a cake.

Students and staff from Plympton Academy have started fundraising for their new charity of the year with a cake sale.

This year the school is supporting Crohns and Colitis UK. The charity was nominated by staff and students due to family members suffering from the condition.

In the UK, someone is diagnosed with crohns or colitis every 30 minutes and it is becoming more common amongst young people. Inflammatory bowel disease is a lifelong condition which can have a devastating impact on someone's quality of life.

# OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR

The cake sale is the first fundraising venture for the new charity and thanks to a selection of homemade and donated cakes brought in by staff and students, raised £1,330.

Ian Hartley, Assistant Principal at Plympton Academy said; "Once again our academy community has stepped up to the challenge of raising money for a worthwhile charity. Although Crohns and Colitis UK might not be one of the most well known charities in the UK, the work that they do supporting our students and their families is really important. The students who nominated Crohns and Colitis UK were passionate in their support for the charity and this money will help to support people living with the condition.

We will be running a variety of fundraising events throughout the academic year and we look forward to presenting the charity with a large cheque in July."




## FEBRUARY 1/2 TERM

Day	Date	Time	Activity			
			Football 3G	Badminton	Basketball	Table Tennis
Monday	17th	14.00 - 17.00	/	/	/	/
Tuesday	18th	14.00 - 17.00	/	/	/	/
Wednesday	19th	14.00 - 17.00	/	/	/	/
Thursday	20th	14.00 - 17.00	/	/	/	/
Friday	21st	14.00 - 17.00	/	/	/	/
Saturday	22nd	08.00 - 18.00	Closed until 12.00	Closed until 12.00	Closed until 12.00	
Sunday	23rd	10.00 - 16.00				

Plympton Community Sports Centre will be running a February 1/2-TERM FOOTBALL CAMP on 17th, 18th and 19th (times to be confirmed).



ALL TIMES AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE | FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



## Plympton Academy REVIEW

I am delighted to be able to bring you our latest newsletter, full of activities which our students have been involved in throughout the autumn term.

Our new Year 7 students have been busy settling in and engaging in new areas of learning and have also enjoyed taking part in a residential at Adventure International at Bude.

As you will see our new teaching block - due to open in September 2020, just seven short months away - is now rapidly taking shape and we are busy thinking about the detail of the new teaching and learning spaces we will all enjoy using within the block. Very exciting !

At the end of a busy term I would like to wish you a peaceful and restful festive season and wish all of our students and their families a very Merry Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 7th January



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## YEAR 7 BUDE RESIDENTIAL

Year 7 students spent three days in late October on the north Cornwall coast as part of our residential experience for new students.

Head of Year Mrs Kneebone commented ;

'I see the students embrace every new activity with enthusiasm whilst making new friends and developing some essential team building skills - skills we hope will help set them up for success here at Plympton Academy'.



## CHARITY DONATION

### STUDENTS RAISE £2000 FOR MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY

Students and staff from Plympton Academy have raised £2,000 for a young person's mental health charity. Young Minds is the very first beneficiary of the school's Charity of the Year and was chosen by the Academy pupils and staff following nominations and a final vote.

Young Minds offers an instant text counselling service for young people; a parent's helpline; online advice and guidance, and works with schools to improve the mental health provision for young people.

A variety of fundraising events took place throughout the year including a non uniform day, a sleepover for Year 7 and 8 students in the Michael Morpurgo studios, tutor time quizzes and cake sales.

"We are delighted with raising £2,000 for this very worthwhile charity," said



Ian Hartley (Assistant Principal), Sara Clyndes (English Teacher) and Ben Bacon (Year 9 student) with the cheque.

Plympton Academy Assistant Principal, Ian Hartley. "It was really interesting to see what charities our students wanted to support and the very personal stories behind the nominations. Once we had announced that Young Minds was the winning charity, the Academy community really got involved in fundraising.

Special recognition goes to English teacher, Sara Clyndes who organised

the sleepover (and all of the staff who supported the running of it), and Ben Bacon who raised the most amount as an individual student." The school has already chosen this year's charity with Crohns and Colitis UK winning the vote.

"We're already planning our activities for this year and hope to beat last year's total!"

## SPECIALIST TRAINING

Recently, at the academy, we have hosted some specialist teacher and support staff training .



Sharon Pennack, an Advisory Teacher for the Deaf, provided almost two hours of superb, intuitive, informative and practical training around the issues our deaf students have to deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Firstly, she explored the wide ranges and causes of deafness. She was able to relate the information in a practical way in order for staff to be able to understand the difficulties some of our students potentially face in the classroom.

As a whole staff we were able to explore the implications of being deaf in school and the adjustments that teachers may have to make in order to ensure our students are fully engaging with our teaching.

She was even able to 'make' some of our staff moderately deaf so they could really experience what school was like for our students. With specialist equipment 16 staff became part of a moderately deaf child's world. Without exception they quickly understood exactly how difficult, potentially confusing and tiring being in a classroom can be when a child has a moderate hearing impairment.

Having the opportunity to experience first-hand what difficulties some of our students experience on a daily basis has resulted in significant changes in classroom practice as well as a real empathy and understanding around some of our students' disabilities.

Sue Mullinder - SENCo

# PLYMPTON ACADEMY UPDATE



## NEW BUILD!

Our super new block is now really taking shape and as you can see from these photographs the external structure is now reaching completion with the roof due to go on and windows installed after half term.

The scheme is fully on time and we are looking forward to moving into the new block in late August/early September - just ahead of the new term.

Recent months have seen us considering mood boards for the internal finishes of the new block and work to progress this is now well advanced.

The Principal, Business Director and Site Manager meet monthly with the government department funding the scheme (the ESFA) and contractor BAM for progress reports and to discuss building layout and finish details to try and ensure that, whilst this is a standard school design, the specific needs of the Academy are met if at all possible within government funding constraints.

Keep an eye on the site to see the new cladding and external wall finishes installed over the weeks up to Christmas.



From left to right, Plympton Academy librarian, Julie McGlinchey with Mr Rean and Mr Meatyard of the Freemasons Lodge of Fidelity, with students, Joshua Tucker, Oliver Wroe, Chioma Duru, Theo Clancy and Armandas Nekrasius.

## NEW BOOKS

Plympton Academy will soon have lots of new books for students to enjoy thanks to a donation from the Freemasons Lodge of Fidelity.

The local charity donated £125 to the school library. Two members of the lodge visited the school to meet students and hand over the cheque.

Mr Rean from the Freemasons Lodge of Fidelity said; "It was a pleasure to meet the students and hear all about the books they enjoy reading. I am sure they will spend the money on new books to enjoy." Eleven year old student, Theo Clancy said he loved reading. "I am currently enjoying the 'Power of Five' series by Anthony Horowitz."

Fellow student, Joshua Tucker explained he had read loads and loads of books since starting at Plympton Academy.

**"Now we have got this money we can buy some new ones!"**

# YEAR GROUPS

## YEAR 11

### LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Between Monday 11th and Friday 15th November Year 11 students took part in a collapsed week of learning to help prepare them for their future. The initial focus was to look at higher education and the opportunities it presents as well as exploring the concept of mindfulness and managing stress. The students responded really positively to the mindfulness strategies explored.

Students also had an opportunity to explore the impact of online bullying, its impact on others and how to offer support.

Students were given a talk from motivational speaker Gavin Seymour about memory techniques and motivation to help prepare them for their up and coming mock exams. Students also took part in walking talking mocks to provide them with the advice and support they need to fully comprehend the exam technique required to get the most out of their exams. We also explored the topic of online gambling with the students, its dangers and how to avoid them.

To support the students with adopting the correct mindset at this critical stage of their GCSE's students spent some time with staff exploring the concept of PiXL power to perform. This was a great opportunity for students to critically think about how they can make the most out of every opportunity presented to them in year 11 to help support their progress.

Finally the students took part in a visit to Adrenalin to see the value in doing something physical to help support with exam pressure and to reward the year group for their effort demonstrated so far this year.

It was a fantastic week. Mr Strachan, Mrs Keane, Mrs Arkell were so proud of the level of engagement from the students. Well done everyone and good luck with all of your mock exams in Semester 2



Georgie Kay with Plympton Academy students from left to right; Matthew James, Callum Trelevan, Elizabeth Iris, Georgie Kay, Cohen Griffiths, Marley Bavestock and Aliya Miller.

## YEAR 10

### STRESS MANAGEMENT

A group of Year 10 students have taken part in an exciting opportunity to receive some coaching as part of a workshop for young people regarding stress and understanding stress as a holistic emotion. During the workshop our students were provided the opportunity to explore how stress impacts on them physically, emotionally and within their behaviour. Our students were provided with detailed information relating to the cycle of stress and avenues by which they can use to reduce their stress levels by means of coping techniques and resilience. Within the session was an interactive space created for students to voice their views and opinions.

The session delivered at Plympton Academy was extremely well received with students engaging in the activities and discussion. Lots of the discussion was linked to exams and exam pressure with students sharing their own concerns and coping strategies in relation to what works for them in times of stress and relaxation.

We were incredibly impressed with how the students engaged in the session and provided support and advice for each other about managing stress linked to exams, we will be continuing to work with the students involved to look at how we can use this workshop to support more students with their stress management.

## YEAR 9

### MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Year 9 students from Plympton Academy participated in World Mental Health Day recently with a visit from a special guest.

Georgie Kay is a young artist who has recently been on tour with the Vamps and talks honestly about her anxiety and mental health.

"I see first hand how social media is a huge contributor to our young people's mental health," said Head of Year 9, Kirsty Luke. "I want our students to know the facts around social media and more importantly how they can keep themselves safe online."

Not only did Georgie sing for the whole of Year 9 she also shared her own experiences of how social media ignited her own low self esteem and self worth. Georgie also explained to the students how she suffered from anxiety through her school years and how important it is for young people to be able to talk and get advice and care.

"I thought she was very honest about her own mental health struggles and she knows what some of us are going through", said Plympton Academy student, Matthew James.

Fellow Year 9 student Bethany Beech agreed. "It was good to hear from someone else about how we can keep ourselves safe online and not to believe everything we read."

## YEAR 8 WE THINK, WE ACT, WE GROW

In September we launched the motto, 'We Think, we Act, we Grow' with Year 8.

This is based around encouraging students to think about how they act and to reflect on the consequences of the choices they make. It is designed to support them in considering how their behaviour and actions impact on others as well as themselves.

Students are not only using this mantra in lessons to help them progress academically, but it is also running alongside the tutorial programme on healthy relationships, as it encourages them to develop a positive role in the academy community.

Mrs Heard, tutor for 8DHE, said, 'It is really great to see the students using this when thinking about the decisions they are making, and as a result they are demonstrating a developing maturity towards both their studies and how they communicate with each other.'

## YEAR 7 BUDE RESIDENTIAL



In late October 2019, our fantastic Super 7 students ventured to a chilly and rainy Adventure International in Bude. The students were split across two groups, with each group spending 3 days participating in exciting and challenging activities which forced them out of their comfort zones. The activities included: surfing, kayaking, canoeing, caving, high ropes, mountain boarding and abseiling.

Danni Parrin, from 7LBR, commented, **"I have achieved so much this week and have really conquered some of my fears!"**

In addition to the daily activities, the students (and staff!) also participated in 'Just Dance' competitions in the evenings - the tutor team enjoyed this way too much! The students were also away for Halloween, and the centre hosted a fancy dress disco to mark the occasion.

The diversity of costumes was fantastic and the students really embraced dancing and singing on the karaoke.

The students ended the week feeling tired, but also with a feeling of real achievement: some students had never stayed away from home before, let alone tried such challenging activities. The



residential is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop new friendships and for tutors to get to know their students better. It was wonderful to see the students encouraging and supporting one another during the activities.



The students were a joy to take away, with the instructors feeding back how positive, polite and enthusiastic they were - a real credit to the Academy. We look forward to returning with our new Year 7s next year.

## SOUP RUN



Students of Plympton Academy have been collecting Tomato soup to help feed the homeless over the next couple of cold months. Student's of the tutor group 8DHE presented the idea when learning about Charity and Leadership during their tutor programme session.

The tutor group along with help from other students and staff members managed to collect 172 cans in a short space of a month and has been donated to the Plymouth Soup Run. Tutor Mrs Heard states that 'it is so important that students are aware of what is happening in our community regarding homeless but it is even more valuable for them to know they can help in a really easy way'. Plympton Academy are planning their next Soup Run where they hope to collect even more for the next delivery.

## NEW TO TEAM PA



### SIMON JONES Sports Centre Manager

Hi my name is Simon Jones and I am very grateful to be appointed the Sports Centre Manager for the Academy. I joined the leisure industry around 15 years ago and found a great passion in helping people change their lives for the better.

Although leisure is my passion, my first is Rugby and I have had the privilege to

play this at a semi professional level back in Essex, prior to moving down south with my family.

Since arriving in Plymouth I was lucky enough to be involved in the opening of 'SuperTramp', Plymouths & Devons first Trampoline Park and now being involved with a great school and Sports Centre has really made my move even more enjoyable.

Welcome and wishing all the best to our new Team Members joining Plympton Academy

### ROSE HUTTON Science Teacher

I am an innovative teacher with over seventeen years' experience delivering engaging science lessons. I was the director a science outreach business, Science Starz. Science Starz was mobile lab that enhanced science provision for primary children throughout Northern Ireland.

I moved to Plymouth recently from Belfast, Northern Ireland and I love living

in the 'Ocean City'. I started a Masters in Education this year at Marjon University and will be researching the tools needed for teenage resilience. I currently hold a BSc (Hons) Physiology/Pharmacology.

I was thrilled to obtain a position teaching at Plympton Academy. I am so lucky to be part of a diverse Science Department. The staff in the department have been so welcoming and they are a great example of having a team of people with different gifts working collaboratively together to help all pupils reach their potential.



## WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

Check online at [plympton.academy/about/job-vacancies](https://plympton.academy/about/job-vacancies) to see our regular job section.

# DICKENS COMES TO ACADEMY

It's been a fantastic start to the academic year in the English Department. Year 10 have started their GCSE content with great positivity and effort. Their engagement in Conflict Poetry from their AQA Anthology has been superb and we have seen excellent examples of poetry analysis and extended poetry essays within Week 8 Assessments, and throughout lessons.

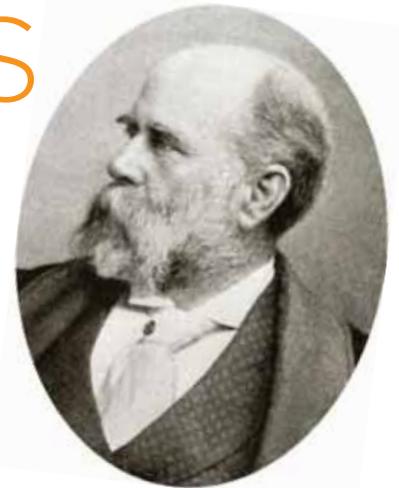
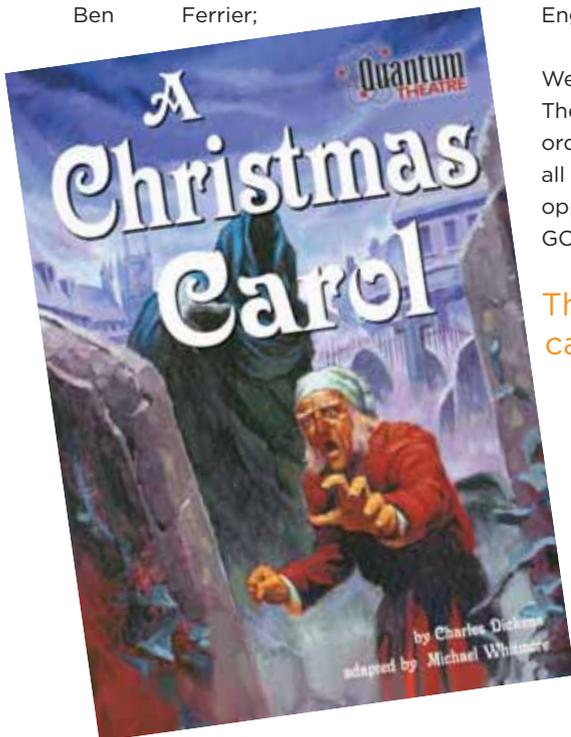
Mrs Wills shared some examples of the amazing work that her group had been doing that we are delighted to share with you below from: Rachael Easterbrook; Ben Ferrier;

Emily Heighway; Katie Stephenson and Carys McCarthy.

In order to continue supporting the progress of our students, we are passionate about ensuring that they have access to high quality, entertaining and challenging books that they will love. Many thanks to Ms Clyndes and all students in Year 7 and Year 8 who have taken part in our recent 'Ready Steady Read' sponsorship alongside Usborne Books (where our fundraising will be matched by the publisher) to raise funds for new and exciting books within the English curriculum.

We were excited to invite Quantum Theatre into school in November in order to perform 'A Christmas Carol' for all Year 11 students. This was an amazing opportunity for students to see their GCSE Literature text being performed.

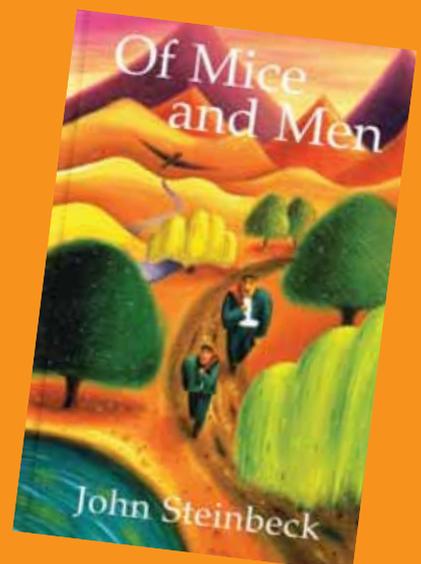
The words of Dickens truly came to life!



## TUTOR TIME READING

The launch of new Tutor Time Reading for all students in Years 7-11 has kicked off with a fantastic start during Semester 1. Students are enthusiastic about their tutor novels and are reading a range of fiction such as, 'Little Women,' 'Oliver Twist,' 'Rebecca,' and 'Noughts and Crosses.' Their understanding of the world has been broadened significantly already through these journeys through time and place. Please spend some time talking to your child about their tutor books; they will have lots to tell you!

Mrs C Jones- Head of English



# WIZZ, BANG, POP

Chemistry students from Plympton Academy put their text books aside recently to do a hands on experiment.

The Year 7 pupils created a density column with three liquids, tomato ketchup, oil and coloured water.

The students then placed a small marshmallow on top and predicted if the sweet would survive the fizz created by an added vitamin C tablet.

“Not only is this experiment fun and messy but it allows the students to pick up useful skills, including making predictions, measuring and observations skills,” said Plympton Academy chemistry teacher, Rose Hutton.

The experiment was a hit with the pupils. “It was a messy practical and I liked putting the marshmallow in because I guessed it would float,” said Oliver Wilson.



Year 7 Oliver Wilson and Lexi Palmer taking part in the chemistry experiment.

Lexi Palmer said; “I enjoyed the practical and learnt about floating and sinking. The fizzing part was fun.”

“I enjoyed learning about density, floating and sinking”.

**BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK**  
6th - 15th MARCH 2020  
'Look out for lots of exciting things happening in Plympton Academy science classrooms in next year's Science week'.

# BAE SYSTEMS, RAF ROYAL NAVY

## ROADSHOW ROLLS INTO TOWN



Students from Years 7 & 8 enjoying the interactive show on the 8th November.

BAE Systems, with the Royal Navy and RAF, presented a buzzing, interactive and engaging show on Friday 8th November. The roadshow, called "Are we connected?", involved over 400 students from KS3 and focused on our use of telecommunications in the 21st century.

The show opened with one of the presenters zooming onto the stage on a remote controlled hoverboard. Students were immediately hooked and watched enthralled as they were taken on a journey through communications in their world.

They were shown how mobile phone calls are made. This interactive segment of the show involved Eloise Gorvin-Devieux, Sam Blair, Malachi Nyika-Kerr and Chanel Linton acting as the transmission stations and home bases to simulate the movement of the radio signals by passing a beanbag between them over several meters. The challenge - to do it as fast as the speed of light! They were fast, but not quite up to 300 000 000 meters per second that our phone signals travel at!

Phoebe Hall got first hand experience of using infrared technology to locate and identify 3 unknown objects while the team explained the uses and science behind her infrared glasses.

Amalie Wezel-Rain and Taylor Jones went head to head racing Sphero's, tiny remotely controlled robotic spheres that can follow commands given through a mobile phone or tablet.

This inspiring and informative event was completely aligned with our taught curriculum this semester, with students being able to build on their knowledge and understanding.

# PERSONAL FINANCE

## HELPING STUDENTS LIVE HEALTHY, HAPPY AND SECURE

Having basic personal financial skills is one of the most important things you can do to live a healthy, happy and secure life. Your level of understanding around the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, debt and investing will impact every part of your life and can mean the difference between prosperity or poverty.

**Why is this topic important for young people?**

About **40%** of young people go abroad without travel insurance, risking medical fees of thousands of pounds if they are taken ill. Source: Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) survey 2017

**18-24** year-olds are most likely to be prompted to gamble by adverts and posts on social media. Source: Gambling commission annual report February 2018

**Questions**

1. What could be the three most valuable assets someone might own in their lifetime?
2. Name three risks that could affect your ability to earn an income.
3. Explain how investing is different to saving.

- Organising a bank overdraft to help your monthly budgeting
- Using hire purchase to buy a car
- Taking out a personal loan to fund a one-off payment
- Borrowing via a student loan to help fund yourself through higher education
- Arranging a mortgage to buy a property

Too often young people are turning 18 and are being thrust out into a world where every step they take from graduation to retirement will be directly impacted by their financial knowledge and money management skills. Career decisions, buying your first house, getting married, having children—finances all play a massive role in each of these life events. And it's not just the major ones; finance is a part of our everyday life. Whether it's where we eat, what we buy, traveling, going out with friends or negotiating prices, every day we are faced with financial decisions. Young adults lack the experience and education to make these decisions - big or small.

Recognising the importance of this Year 10 had a week dedicated to these key issues. Pupils engaged in a range of topics that included;

“Week 10 taught me a lot about how to deal with money as an adult and how many different options I have. It was important because it taught me how to be responsible with spending and saving my money.” - Joanna Hore

**1. Savings** - A session looking at the difference between saving, savings and

interest and their relationship to the concept of delayed gratification. Pupils considered the rewards of savings and engaged in tasks around interest rates and their calculations.

**2. Risk and Rewards** - Pupils considered that in order to gain financial rewards, there is often some element of risk involved - the outcome of a financial decision may not be certain or guaranteed. There could be the possibility of a significant financial gain, but there could also be the risk of no gain or even a loss, leaving you worse off than when you started. They focused on

- Risks Associated with your Income
- Risks that you might lose Assets
- Risk Associated with Investing
- Risk Associated with your Spending and Borrowing

**3. Borrowing** - Here the consideration turned to loans and borrowing and how they are now a part of modern life. They have become almost unavoidable in one form or another. We ensured pupils understood that you have to be at least 18 years old to borrow from banks and evaluated the different forms of borrowing to choose from, for example:

- Using a credit card to pay when shopping online.

**4. Making the Most of Your Money** - Was a session looking carefully at the differences between personal finance needs and wants.

• Needs - These are the absolute necessities; the things you really cannot do without. Some of these are obvious, such as water, food or housing, although you may still need to make choices about them, such as which brands to buy, which will impact on the price.

• Wants - These are the items, services or experiences you would like to buy if you have the money to do so. This is where personal choice and preferences really come into focus. It is all a matter of the priority placed on each of these by each individual.

**Borrowing**

**What is Borrowing?**  
Borrowing is receiving money from someone else with the agreement that you will pay it back at a later date.

**Why is this topic Important for Young People?**

- One in five **25-30** year olds use credit to buy day-to-day essentials. Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers research, 2017
- The average interest rate on credit card lending bearing interest was **18.26%** in April 2018. Source: The Money Charity, June 2018
- Citizens Advice Bureau deal with over **4,000** debt problems per day in England and Wales. Source: The Money Charity, June 2018
- 28%** of young people (aged 25-34) were worried about meeting future debt repayments. Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers research, 2017

**WHY IS THIS TOPIC IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

Only **39%** of young people aged 14-17 often or always plan how they are going to buy the things they need.

Source: The Financial Capability of Children, Young People and their Parents in the UK, The Money Advice Service March 2017

**77%** of people aged 25-34 made contactless payments during 2017.

Source: UK Payments Market Summary, June 2018

**Discussion Point - Needs and Wants**  
What would you buy if you had £100 per month available to you?

They considered potential influences on spending habits in both positive and negative forms and how to safeguard against negative habit building.

“The week was fun and set me up for the future. I now know how to start a pension early.” - Louis Batton

**4. Online Gambling** - From loot boxes to the National Lottery pupils considered what it means to be engaged in gambling with a specific focus on the various forms of online gambling. The psychology behind game design and loot boxes was considered to help pupils understand developers rationale behind the concepts of loot boxes. With national figures rising for those affected by online gambling each year it was considered how some people who start with gambling actions can soon engage in life changing actions through addiction and what the warning signs of this are.

**5. Personal Finance in the Workforce** -

This looked at how young people have to start to manage their own personal finance when they first become employed and manage a wage or salary. Pupils also considered the financial impacts of Apprenticeships, University courses and Employment. This supported the other focus of the week where pupils listened to expert guest speakers who presented to pupils from a variety of Higher Education and Employment providers with each giving a clear and helpful perspective on their routes and routes available to young people once they are 18.

“The session on gambling was useful because you don’t always make money and you can lose everything; now I know the consequences” - Charlie King

**LOOT BOXES. . .**

**LOOT BOXES**  
INFORMATION TAKEN FROM BBC OWN IT GUIDES



If you're into video games, you probably know about loot boxes. They might hold useful tools like axes or hang gliders, or in-game currency, or simply new threads to wear in football games, they're usually a pack of players you can add to your team or sell. All of these have one thing in common - that you pay for them with real-world money, without knowing what's inside.

Loot boxes have become so controversial that some types have been banned in a few countries. It's because they can make players act in a certain way, which might not be good for them.

These are five main tricks the game designers use to do this:

1. **Juiciness**

Loot boxes are built to seem exciting - they are bright, flashy, dramatic, and have sounds and visual effects that grab your attention. In game design, we call this "juiciness" and it really works to entice players to keep buying loot boxes. See how shiny they are and how exciting the "enchantment" that comes with them.



The speakers included,  
• Stephen Bond - Principal Engineer/ Deputy Head of Clinical Engineering

• Sean Gibson - Employment, Skills & Community Engagement Officer with British Land (Retail)

• Phil Tuckett - TV Producer who develops and produces short films / programmes at the BBC

• Martin Giddy - Training Hub Business Manager South West ( Health Education England)

• Steven Ricketts - Sherford Training Scheme Skills Co-ordinator

• Next Steps South West - Promoted the possibility of pupils going onto to study at University

“The sessions helped me understand how to be sensible with money and stay out of debt” - Jake Lyon

Pupils engaged with great enthusiasm and energy and made the most of the opportunities to ask insightful and pertinent questions.

Too often young people are turning 18 and are being thrust out into a world where every step they take from graduation to retirement will be directly impacted by their financial knowledge and money management skills.

Recognising the importance of this Year 10 had a week dedicated to these key issues.

## LOCAL HISTORY

Year 7 students from Plympton Academy had a great start to their history studies with a topic which allowed them to embrace their inner historian. Their unit, which focused on 1066 and the impact of the Norman Conquest, provided students with the chance to not only get to grips with one of the most famous turning points in our monarchical history, but also allowed them to explore the impact on Plympton.

As such, the whole of year 7 were given the chance to visit Plympton Castle, a Motte and Bailey fortification inspired by the Normans and built in the early 12th

Century. Students walked through rain and shine to inspect the ruins, looking at how it was an important feature of the medieval landscape, and considered the significance of Plympton as a trading area. They made sketches and took photos so they could see how the ruins showed the uses of the castle in the 12th Century.

Through this study students have been able to identify that History really is all around them, and we would encourage them to look at the other local areas which show our history such as Plymouth Hoe and the Mayflower Steps.



## LOVE TO RECYCLE

As part of social skills / functional literacy work, five of our students have been researching, introducing and organising ongoing recycling programmes.

So far, they have launched recycling projects for batteries, plastic pens and crisp packets

with further projects planned for the new academic year.

This afternoon Mr Langmead presented each student with an engraved medal to recognise their ongoing efforts. Please congratulate the students if you see them!



# ACADEMY HELP SAVES THE PLANET



Plympton Academy student, Aiden Allen, with some of the recycled batteries.

Staff and students at Plympton Academy are continuing with their efforts to help the planet. The school has been collecting old batteries and have just sent another 10 ½ kg for recycling.

Twelve year old student Aiden Allen, said; “We collect old batteries and then send them for recycling. If we didn’t, they would just go to landfill and the dangerous chemicals in them could get into the ground and water. It is amazing how many batteries we have collected already this year.”

Plympton Academy teacher Martin Edmonds added; “In the UK we use about 600 million batteries a year. The government estimates that we could remove 12,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year if we recycled just 46% of those batteries rather than sending them to landfill.”

Used batteries are collected from staff and students and recycled using the scheme from [recycle-more.co.uk](http://recycle-more.co.uk)

# REMEMBRANCE DAY AT PA

Students from Plympton Academy took part in this year’s Remembrance Day service at Plympton St Maurice church.

Along with many others they also attended the Act of Remembrance at the Plympton Cenotaph. The cenotaph lists the names of the 39 men from Plympton who died during the First World War and the 23 who died during the Second World War.

Plympton Academy teacher, Martin Edmonds explained that students had been discussing the wars and remembrance in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day. “The students also had the opportunity to write a brief message on small poppy crosses which were then sent to the National Arboretum at Royal Wootton Bassett.”



# ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY



## VISUAL ARTS - SEMESTER 1

### YEAR 7 PHOTOGRAPHY

This has been an exciting term for the first cohort of Year 7 students to experience Photography as part of their Year 7 curriculum. The students have been exploring portraiture and methods of manipulation. We have looked at a range of artists who have inspired our creations and explored how we can combine techniques from both art and photography.

In the Images shown we have been inspired by the artist Jiri Kolar to combine two different images enabling the view to see both images at the same time.



### HALLOWEEN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNER!

Huge congratulations to Alisha-Jay Clarke 7IGL who has won the Plympton Academy Halloween Photography competition. Students were challenged to create an imaginative Halloween image. Well done Alisha this is a fantastic image, you have really shown your imagination and creativity within your image.



## YEAR 7 AND 8 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

We have had another busy semester with the Year 7 and 8 Photography Club, with lots of new members joining we have been busy each week with new and exciting projects. Our latest shoot we explored the wonderful world of Pumpkins, just in time for Halloween.

Our Photography club runs on Thursday lunchtimes in T2.

“You can look at a picture for a week and never think of it again. You can also look at a picture for a second and think of it all your life.” —**Joan Miro**



## YEAR 11 VISIT THE EDEN PROJECT

As part of the GCSE Photography course the Year 11 students joined with the GCSE Art students to complete a day of researching and shoots at the Eden Project. Students fully embraced the opportunities on offer at the Eden Project to find links to their current project 'Structure' experimenting with and exploring the vast creative opportunities available.

The students completed a huge number of shoots that will form part of their second unit of coursework. Since returning to school the students have been developing their image with both manual and digital manipulation techniques.



## LET'S DO THE TIME WARP

STARS FROM THE TOURING PRODUCTION OF THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW VISIT ACADEMY

They were there to deliver a workshop to sixth forms students in the state-of-the-art performing arts building, The Morpurgo Studios.

Director of Performing Arts at Plympton Academy, Jo Crook, taught Miracle Chance who is currently playing the role of Columbia, and George Carter, the musical director for the show several years before.

"I asked if they would come in to school and speak to the performing arts students about their own break through into the industry, but they went one step further, and they brought along the star of the show, Joanne Clifton from Strictly Come Dancing, the resident choreographer, Andrew Aherne and performer Shelby Farmer," said Jo Crook. "They gave the students a dance and vocal workshop, plus sharing stories about their training and careers. It was such a fantastic experience."

The students were given professional instruction from George, shaping harmonies and supporting solo

sections, followed by a dance workshop where they learned the professional choreography for The Time Warp taken from the current production.

Despite suffering with a cold Joanne Clifton joined in the dance with the students and supported them as they struggled with some of the more complex moves. At the end of the practical session the students were able to ask the cast some questions and get some advice.

Performer Shelby Farmer was honest with the students and admitted that this tour is her first professional job since graduating in 2016.

"It's so important to be resilient and to believe in yourself," she told them.

Following the workshop the students went to see the production at the Theatre Royal. Student Dan Hillon said; "I think it is the best thing I have ever seen - it was unlike anything I have seen before and the cast were amazing too."



Performing arts students from Plympton Academy with Director of Performing Arts, Jo Crook (first row on right) with Shelby Farmer, Joanne Clifton, George Carter, Miracle Chance (slightly stood) and Andrew Aherne.

## P.A ROCKS THE CITY

A group of 42 students from Plympton Academy left Devon and headed for the bright lights of London recently.

The trip to see the smash hit West End musical, The School of Rock, involved students from Years 7 - 13 who will all be starring in the schools own version of the show later this year.

"The show was brilliant," said Director of Performing Arts at Plympton Academy, Jo Crook. "The performers, both adults and children in the cast were outstanding, and the students left completely inspired and ready to begin their own rehearsals in preparation for their performance in February."



Plympton Academy students outside the West End theatre.



Year 10 Btec Music Class getting ready for the 'Back to the Future' Concert.

Plympton Academy went Back to the Future when the Year 10 Music BTEC group organised and hosted the annual Autumn Concert. With a varied concert programme of music from the Decades, the audience was wowed with pieces from artists such as; Elvis, Jackson 5, Journey, The Weather Girls and Busted to name a few.

We also invited our friends from Hyde Park Junior School to come and perform some pieces and then sing with the Plympton Academy choir. The year 10 Music did an amazing Job at decorating, setting up the equipment and performing in the concert.

We even managed to get hold of a real Back to the Future Delorean, thanks to the Incredible Tom Reddaway who brought the car down especially for the event. Well done to all those involved in the concert and all the Performers we are incredibly proud of you all.



## MY WESTEND END AUDITION!

with Sam Stokes Year 13

I have been obsessed with the musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' since I first discovered it in 2017 and thus when the opportunity rose to audition for the lead role of 'Jamie' I knew I had to go for it! On the 10th of October I got the 4:50am train to London Paddington in preparation for my audition later that day. When I got to London I made my way to the Apollo Theatre and joined the back of the queue (which wrapped around the entire building!).

A man then came and gave each of us in the queue a numbered card, but only up to 100 as after 100 people they cut the line and sent the rest of the people home without an audition.

I was number 84 in the line, and extremely grateful just to be seen as I had travelled so far!

After handing in my CV and headshot, I made my way to the foyer of the 'Thriller, LIVE!' theatre where I then waited from 10am until I was seen at 3:30pm. They called us in groups of 10 and escorted us up to the dress circle of the theatre where we then waited for our turn to go into the next room and perform for the panel of two. This was especially nerve-wracking as while I was waiting I could hear all of the other auditionees singing one by one in the room next door. When it finally got to my turn, I walked in the room and immediately they asked my name and number, then the track began and I started singing. I sang the first verse and chorus of the song 'Don't Even Know It' and then thanked the panel and left. I was only in the room for about a minute and a half! Overall, this experience has been extremely enjoyable as well as educational as I have been able to learn about how I react in pressurised performance settings and how that affects my voice also.

I have learned that I actually do better under pressure, and I'm very happy with the way I performed and the lessons that I have walked away from this experience with.

## DANCING SUCCESS

A Plympton Academy student who is passionate about performing arts has danced her way in to the national finals of Supadance. 15 years old Chloe Patrick, who has been dancing since she was seven years old, was part of a team who came first in the Southern League of the competition. The team is now off to Blackpool for the national finals. "I've loved dancing since I was young when I used to put on shows in the living room" explained Chloe, who is in Year 11. "I was inspired by the ballet and music shows I saw."

Chloe, who has been competing for five years now hopes to follow her dreams and pursue a career in acting and performing arts. In her spare time outside of school she attends the theatre company Plymkids where she takes part in big musical stage productions. "Everyone at Plympton Academy wishes Chloe every success for the future," said Head of Year 11 of Plympton Academy, Jim Strachan.



# INSPIRE TO INVOLVE

## INSPIRING YOUNG SCIENTISTS

A level students from Plympton Academy have inspired a thirst for science in the younger students. Johnathan Watson, Harry Holgate and Jack Skidmore each participated in the Inspire2Involve project with Cambridge University and Villiers Park whereby they attended a residential at the University.

Following on from this they co-ordinated a STEM club for year 7 students and supported them as they worked towards their CREST awards. To further enrich the student's love of learning they also took them to the Big Bang Show in Plymouth.

This demonstrates how the Sixth Form students have been leading the love of learning of others whilst taking on positions of responsibility within the academy.

The success of the project is not only shown in the number of year 7s who gain CREST awards, but also through Johnathan, Harry and Jack being awarded a Gold Inspire2Involve award for their efforts.



'the Inspire2Involve project enabled our students to flourish whilst also providing enriching experiences which crossed age groups, the students should be incredibly proud of their efforts.'

Katie Kerr, Assistant Principal for 6th Form Strategy

# DEMOCRACY MATTERS

Students at Plympton Academy Sixth Form welcomed Plympton MP Sir Gary Streeter who presented to students on the topic of Democracy.

Gary tackled topics such as the evolution of the vote and its importance as well as a chronology of the Brexit situation so far, answering questions surrounding the impact on Democracy, as well as National Politics.

Students at the academy welcomed the chance to discuss topical issues with a Politician. Sixth Form Students at Plympton Academy will continue to have a host of sessions centred on Democracy, including visits from local Plymouth Council Members.



## OUR ALUMNI

### AMBER POLLACK

I am currently half way through my BSc Hons Strength & Conditioning Degree at Marjon University. I am still playing for Plymouth Argyle Ladies in the Southern Premier League as well as playing for Marjon ladies football team.

Being at University is more than just the Academic Qualifications, I am also gaining experience which is helping me to become more employable in the future. For example, as part of my degree

I have earned my Level 3 Personal Trainer Qualification, and work at Core Fitness in Plympton as a Personal Trainer part time.

My degree sees me complete placements as Argyle Ladies Lead Strength & Conditioning Coach, as well as working at Train Fit, a performance gym in Exeter. A lot of my degree also involves testing of athletes and members of the public in the sports science lab at Marjon's, taking measurements, blood samples and other information to assess fitness and health.

I hope to move away from Plymouth in the future once I complete my degree and find work within a professional club or with athletes as a Strength and Conditioning Coach, helping athletes improve their performance.

"Plympton Academy helped to prepare me for this by offering specialist Sport Courses and also building my interest and love for the industry."



### JAN RYCZEK

My journey from Post 16 to university was a one of a kind: after leaving Plympton Academy in 2017, I didn't immediately join university as I wanted to take a break after Sixth Form, and, after two years of working I'm now at Plymouth University, studying Illustration.

It might have been two years since I left Plympton Academy, but the experiences that I had been given in Sixth Form have definitely shaped how I am approaching learning at university. I was supported at all times by my tutors and teachers alike in Sixth Form; if there was a problem all I had to do was ask and I would be helped instantly. I am pleased that the support I am receiving at university is similar, as that has also helped me to settle back into studies.

I have found that my organisation has improved and my procrastination has decreased largely and I tend to now put the task ahead of me first before heading off to do my own thing. I loved my time at Post 16 and made many happy memories there. Now at university I'm starting to form new exciting moments in my life and I am meeting some amazing people.



Soldiers from the Royal Armoured Corps with Year 9 students from Plympton Academy.

## ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS VISITS

Soldiers from the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) visited Plympton Academy recently to share their skills with Year 9 students.

The RAC provides the armour capability of the British Army. It combines speed, momentum, firepower and reconnaissance capabilities with armoured fighting vehicles such as the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank and Jackal Fighting Vehicle.

The soldiers from the RAC spent the day with 40 Year 9 students from the school working with them to raise their aspirations, resilience and develop their leadership skills through challenging activities.

“The students have started studying for their GCSE courses this year with commitment and dedication,” said Head of Year 9 at Plympton Academy, Kirsty Luke.

“They know they need to focus on their future studies and careers and that hard work can lead to exciting opportunities. The soldiers challenged the students to work together, communicate and organise themselves to complete each activity with accuracy.”

The favourite challenge was the minefield task where students learnt about metal detectors, how to use them and how important they are in saving lives, before attempting to find their own pretend metal explosives.

Year 9 student, Ella Foot enjoyed learning about the metal detectors. “It was really interesting to learn about how soldiers lead with theses to prevent others behind them from being blown up.”

“It was challenging,” said fellow student Summer Holmes. “We had to really use our collaboration and communication skills.”

## PLYMPTON ACADEMY NETBALL GIRLS

Our year 8, 9, 10 and 11 netball teams have started the academic year with outstanding success. All our teams are currently holding top positions in their leagues and have all experienced great end results in their netball matches.

Calling all year 7 netball players! Your matches will begin after Christmas and training has begun - Thursdays 3 - 4:30pm in the Sports Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Let the success continue.



## PLYMPTON ACADEMY AMBASSADORS

4 of our BTec Sport students have completed the Plymouth School Sports Partnership Ambassador Training to become Gold or Silver Ambassadors. The Young Ambassador and Volunteering Programme was conceived in response to London hosting the Olympic Games and is now both embedded and established within schools nationally and locally. The Young Ambassadors will therefore be part of a true legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Following their one day training at Plymouth Life Centre, they will now:

- Be an Ambassador and role model advocating PE and School Sport
- Increase participation in PE, School Sport and competition
- Promote the positive values of sport
- Deliver an Inclusion/Paralympic event
- Organise and run the school Leadership Academy

Ella Kerswill has been awarded Gold Ambassador status, while Mia Kerswill, Louis Batten and Eloise Trevor have been awarded Silver Ambassador status.

## GIRLS PROJECT RUGBY

16 Plympton Academy girls took part in a girls rugby training day at Exeter Chiefs on Friday 8th November. The day consisted of coaching sessions and fixtures with coaches from Exeter Chiefs. We were one of only 5 schools from the South West selected to attend. As part of the day, the girls met the coach for the brand new Chiefs Ladies team, who has 100 England caps, and got to eat lunch in the main stand, overlooking the pitch.

Students involved were: Kelsey Leigh-Down, Milly Dann, Natasha Jones, Freya Slade, Holly Sullivan, Olivia Kuczynaska, Keira Hayman, Katie Woods, Kaydee Slater, Ella Kerswill, Megan Appleby, Charlotte North, Amy Webb, Emma Logan, Chloe Court



## U13 BOYS FUTSAL

Boys in Year 8 competed in the Plymouth U13's Futsal Championships at Marjon University on Thursday 7th November. The squad did really well in the group stages, finishing joint top of their group after beating Stoke Damerel and Eggbuckland.

Unfortunately, the team got knocked out in the quarter-finals, losing 1-0 to St Bonifaces. The squad was made up of Shay Bell, Fin May, Ben West, Taylor Jones, Harrison Bettley, Jaiden Phillips, Myles Cotte, Jack Davidson and Marshall Barnes.

## TABLE TENNIS

The year 7 and 8 table tennis team competed in the Devon School's Table Tennis Championships on Wednesday 6th November. This competition saw some

of the counties top Table Tennis players compete for the national qualifiers. All students won many matches against different schools including: Stoke Damerel, Plymstock, Eggbuckland, Stover and Torquay Grammar School. The Plympton Academy Students were great representatives of the school and showed excellent determination. Well done to all involved.



## NUBIA'S NATIONAL NO1!

We've known since she started with us at the Academy that Nubia is an amazing athlete in the making but over the summer she has proved us correct. Competing in the event of Discus Nubia has represented both the Academy in the summer term athletics programme and shows amazing commitment to her club, City of Plymouth.

Competing in the U15 age group, 2 years above actual age, Nubia has thrown a personal best distance of 39.86m this year ranking her as National number 1 in the U13 age group also giving her the amazing accolade of her distance being the 2nd furthest of all time in the country, a fantastic achievement.

Keep your eyes out for this amazing athlete in the future.



## PLAY LIKE A CHIEF - EXETER CHIEFS

As part of the Academies Rugby Football Union's ALL SCHOOLS programme we have teamed up with Premiership Rugby side Exeter Chiefs to develop the rugby opportunities offered both in the curriculum and as part of the extra-curricular offer. Exeter Chiefs community coach Tom Steer has been at the Academy every Thursday giving his high quality input to Yr's 7, 8, 9 and 10 looking to develop the students skill and knowledge of rugby. Mr Steer has assisted the PE department in getting more students to rugby clubs after school and as part of the Exeter Chiefs development outcomes, get more students to join local rugby clubs outside of school. As part of this project the Academies PE department and Exeter Chiefs have introduced students to our target clubs OPM's at Elburton and Devonport RFC girls rugby club. For more information about your chance to join a club speak to the PE dept.

The Year 7 Rugby team have made a fantastic start to the year, with over 20 students representing the school. This has included wins against both Heles and Coombe Dean in the Year 7 Boys central venue league. Both Boys and Girls have also been involved in coaching workshops delivered by Exeter Chiefs coaches throughout the first term. In addition, 16 Girls attended an England Roses Rugby festival at Sandy Park hosted by Exeter Chiefs, which was an excellent opportunity for the Girls to further develop their skills through specialist coaching.

THE NEXT GENERATION

# SCHOOL *of* ROCK

THE MUSICAL

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION**

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE

MUSIC BY  
**ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**

LYRICS BY  
**GLENN SLATER**

SCRIPT BY  
**JULIAN FELLOWES**

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coming to

**PLYMPTON ACADEMY**  
PLYMPTON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2020