



# Plympton Academy

REVIEW

SUMMER EDITION 2019



## Mayflower Artist Workshops

Students join preparations for next years comemorations



FIND MORE EXCITING NEWS INSIDE!



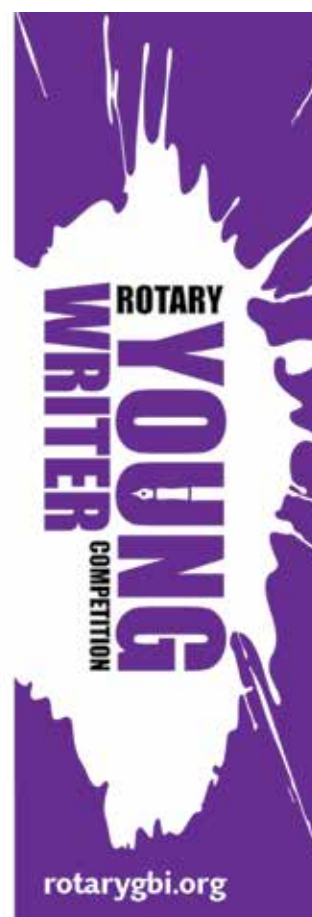
# CALLING ALL YOUNG WRITERS

(Entrants must be under 18 on August 31st\*)

Have your keyboard or pen at the  
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Writer competition.

**ENTER NOW  
FOR YOUR CHANCE  
TO WIN**

To enter, contact:  
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Organised by the Rotary Club of  
**Plympton**



**Plympton  
Academy**  
Inspiring Success

**OPEN  
EVENING**

THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
(tours 5.00pm - 7.00pm)  
PRESENTATION at 5.45pm  
(repeated at 6.30pm)

**OPEN  
DAYS**

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER (8.40am - 1.00pm)  
MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER (8.40am - 2.40pm)  
Call to book a tour: 01752 338373  
[www.plympton.academy](http://www.plympton.academy)



**Plympton Academy invites all parents and carers of Years 5 & 6**

# Message from the Principal



**Plympton Academy**  
REVIEW



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**A**s we head towards the summer recess this edition of our Review once again highlights for me just how busy all of our students are.

From recycling batteries and learning about global issues in geography to remembering D-Day and visiting Cambridge for a Hidden Histories residential in history or taking part in the preparations for Mayflower 400 in art, the students (and staff) have been busier than ever over the past term.

With the exam season finished for another year we have said fond farewells to our Year 13 students and to some of our Year 11 students who are not returning to our Sixth Form. We wish all of them the brightest of futures and look forward to celebrating with them on results day in August.

I wish all of our students a well-earned rest over the summer recess and look forward to welcoming them back on 4th September (Year 7 and Year 12) and on 5th September (all year groups).■

**Lisa Boorman, Principal**

'From recycling batteries and learning about global issues in geography to remembering D-Day, the students (and staff) have been busier than ever over the past term'

## STUDENTS CELEBRATE END OF YEAR WITH PROM -

As with every year the final half term is a time to say goodbye to another Year 11 group.

With some students going on to either college or apprenticeships, but with the majority staying with us to study with us in the 6th Form, it has been a challenging year for them and so many have shown great resilience and worked hard towards their exams. They have earned their extended holiday and they started this by celebrating Prom which is always one of the highlights of the academic year. They arrived in style, with some coming in sports cars, limos and even a tank.

We are extremely proud of this group of young adults and wish them all the best in the future.■

Mr Yates, Head of Year 11

'We are extremely proud of this group of young adults and wish them all the best in the future'



**Plympton Academy Friends**

**Come and join us for a meeting with  
PLYMPTON ACADEMY FRIENDS  
(formerly PTA)**

.....

**find out how you can help  
SUPPORT PLYMPTON ACADEMY  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 5pm  
MORPURGO STUDIOS  
Tea/coffee and light refreshments available.**



# New Build Update

## Full demolition now all but complete

**A**s you can see from the (picture below) BAM contractors have all but finished demolishing the older sections of the Academy estate. Work has been delayed by the discovery of buried asbestos on the site within the old art block (now fully removed) and the need to wait for birds to flee a nest in one of the buildings, but the full demolition is now all but complete.

The delays had put the scheme behind by 10 weeks, but work has been re-programmed and BAM advise that the delivery date for the new main Academy building is back on track and that the building will be available to us from September 2020 (handover due in August 2020).

Staff who will be moving into the new block and into specialist rooms have recently visited a very similar school in Ilfracombe built under the same Priority Schools Build

‘Staff who will be moving into the new block and into specialist rooms have recently visited a very similar school in Ilfracombe built under the same Priority Schools Build Programme scheme to look at similar rooms and start to plan’

Programme scheme to look at similar rooms and start to plan.

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.

We should start to see the new building emerge from the ground over the summer recess. ■

### YEAR 13 LEAVERS -

Plympton Academy said farewell to the Year 13 students on 20th June which coincided with the last exam.

Students were welcomed back by their teachers for a BBQ to celebrate their successes and share stories about their aspirations.

Katie Kerr, the Assistant Principal with Responsibility for the 6th Form said, "I am so proud of the students for all the work they have put in towards their exams. All there is to do now is to ensure they enjoy their summer whilst getting ready for their next steps. We look forward to seeing them on results day." ■



# Plympton Academy Friends

## Donation supports cost of newest Academy minibus

Plympton Academy is delighted to have received a donation of £5,000 from Plympton Academy Friends (formerly the Parent Teacher Association) to support the cost of the newest Plympton Academy minibus (obtained on contract hire from October 2018).

The minibus is used to support our daily minibus service bringing students in from around the city, but is also used extensively for trips and visits and for sporting fixtures. This very welcome donation will help pay for the lease/hire costs for the coming year.

The (picture below) shows current PTA Chairman, Jason Brockman, presenting a cheque to Plympton Academy site manager,

Alan Hocking. Thank you to all members of the Parent Teacher's Association for your hard work in raising this sum to support the cost of the minibus.

The current Parent Teacher Association (PTA) committee is very keen to involve more parents in the work of the PTA in supporting the school. A meeting with parents, to explain the work of the PTA and to try and involve more individual parents, is planned for September with a provisional date of 19th September at 5pm in the Morpurgo Studios theatre.

Please try and come along if you would like to get more involved with the Academy. ■

## BATTERIES FOR RECYCLING -

Staff and students at Plympton Academy are celebrating their first collection of batteries for recycling.

The school only started collecting old batteries in February, but have already submitted 7kgs for recycling! The school now hosts a used battery collection point for the recycling company Valpak.

Joshua Tucker said, "We collected a lot of batteries and are hoping to collect even more this time. People can bring batteries into the school reception to help us recycle. It is important we all do our bit to help the planet."

Thomas Rios Willis said, "We should recycle the batteries because otherwise they will just go into landfill and can cause serious pollution. Batteries contain lots of toxic chemicals so need to be recycled properly."

Teacher Martin Edmonds said, "Plympton Academy is committed to supporting our students to help the environment. As well as recycling batteries we are trying to reduce the amount of plastic we use and students have planted a number of trees around the school site." ■



**A WELCOMED DONATION:** Jason Brockman, PTA Chairman, presenting cheque to Alan Hocking, Plympton Academy Site Manager



# Coppafeel!

## Year 9 students attend event hosted by fantastic charity

**D**uring our Semester 3 Week 10, Year 9 were lucky enough to attend an event hosted by the fantastic charity Coppafeel. Our host was Sarah a 'Boobette' from Somerset. Sarah explained to us the history of the charity Coppafeel and its founder Kristin Hallenga, and how Sarah became involved in the charity.

Sarah is a volunteer and talked us through her own very personal and moving story of how she had been diagnosed with breast cancer at a very young age. Sarah discussed her journey from diagnosis to treatment to her recent check-ups. Sarah passionately explained her story to us, to help us understand how important it is for both men and women, girls and boys to check their boobs or pecks regularly. Sarah encouraged us to sign up to the free text reminder service by texting 'BOOBS' to 70300. Sarah showed us some fantastic celebrity endorsed videos of how to check yourself, and brought us a range of stickers, self-check cards and resources

'Sarah passionately explained her story to us, to help us understand how important it is for both men and women, girls and boys to check their boobs or pecks regularly'

to remind us what we need to do, and to help us spread the word about regular self-examination. We were then introduced to the work of local volunteers and fundraisers and the phenomenal job they do in supporting Coppafeel and how we could support the charity.

We can't thank Sarah enough for her inspirational presentation and we hope that

we can support Coppafeel in the future. ■  
Mrs Turner, Head of Year 9

### YEAR 10 ASPIRATIONS DAY -

On 26th June, Year 10 took part in an aspirational look to the future day. Activities ranged from post 16 taster lessons, guest presentations from a wide range of speakers including the military, City College and apprenticeships specialists. Some students took part in a tour of City College and others were involved in offsite team building activities. The students really engaged with the day and were appreciative of the chance to sample potential future opportunities that exist for them beyond their GCSE's. Mrs Kerr, Mrs Arkell and Mr Strachan were very impressed by their attitude during the day. ■



## COPPAFEEL REGULARLY AND GET TO KNOW THE SYMPTOMS BELOW



**CHANGES IN SKIN TEXTURE  
EG. PUCKERING/ DIMPLING**



**SWELLING IN ARMPIT  
OR AROUND COLLAR BONE**



**LUMPS AND THICKENING**



**CONSTANT/UNUSUAL PAIN  
IN BREAST OR ARMPIT**



**NIPPLE DISCHARGE**



**SUDDEN CHANGE IN  
SIZE OR SHAPE**



**NIPPLE INVERSION AND  
CHANGES IN DIRECTION**



**RASH OR CRUSTING OF OR  
AROUND NIPPLE**

**IF IN DOUBT, GET IT CHECKED OUT.**



# Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

**O**n 14th and 15th June 2019 the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh team completed their qualifying expedition. This took place along the south west coastal path and was not without its challenges. The weather on Friday was very stormy and the student's resilience was tested overnight under canvas. But spirits were high on Saturday morning and after a hot breakfast the students embarked on the final leg of their walk from Maker Battery campsite to the finish line at Cawsands. This dramatic route challenged the team's ability to navigate but the rewards of the views from the south west coastal path were worth it.

The team worked brilliantly together and as a result were able to overcome every obstacle. Miss West was the assessor and she

'The team worked brilliantly together and as a result were able to overcome every obstacle. Miss West was the assessor and she was very impressed by the leadership and teamwork demonstrated over the expedition'

was very impressed by the leadership and teamwork demonstrated over the expedition. Mr Strachan is incredibly proud of what they have achieved and looks forward to presenting them with their award upon completion of all the relevant sections. ■



## YEAR 8 -

Since January students of Year 8 have been working incredibly hard to instil a new Year 8 culture - one that promotes random acts of kindness and celebrating their achievements, no matter how small! The 175 students have blown Miss Luke and Mrs Puleston away, along with their tutors, with all their kindness and moments to be proud of.

We have had students achieve the following 'proud' moments (just to name a few).

- Kaydee Slater selected to play Plymouth Aspire Girls U14 Football in Holland, against USA, France and Germany.
- Charlie Simon had his mental health poem shared and posted on social media by young minds.
- Isobel Rowntree qualified for the horse riding show jumping winter nationals.
- Ben Trigger Motor Cross Champion
- Emily Sedgeman and Emily Harris completed geography graphs to a year 11 standard.
- Mason Ancill's great SQI paragraph on 'Of Mice and Men'

'The 175 students have blown **Miss Luke** and **Mrs Puleston** away, along with their tutors, with all their kindness and moments to be proud of'

We had students all performing random acts of kindness in and out of school - Stephen Highway will often wish Miss Luke and other Plympton Academy staff a 'good weekend' and thank staff for their hard work. Other students - Leona Downie, Sophia Turje and Josh Wallace have supported people in the public, while shopping in town. Year 8 have really grown as a community; supporting each other and working together to be a 'proud and kind' year group! ■

# Afternoon Tea for Accelerated Readers

Students at Plympton Academy celebrate their commitment to reading

Students at Plympton Academy enjoyed afternoon tea to celebrate their commitment to reading. The students have been using the Accelerated Reader programme which tracks and monitors their reading and comprehension skills. The software programme showed that some students had read more than one million words and the school librarian decided that this needed to be recognised and celebrated.

Librarian Julie McGlinchey said, "It is very impressive how committed these students are

'The students have been using the **Accelerated Reader** programme which tracks and monitors their reading and comprehension skills'

to their reading and I felt that they deserved a treat."

Student Eloise Trevor said, "It was nice to be recognised for my reading - I hope I get

invited again next year! I am currently reading *A Wrinkle In Time* and it is really good."

Student Ismaael Ali, said, "Mrs McGlinchey baked cakes and scones for us - they were delicious! My favourite book is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl."

Head of English Claire Jones noted, "This is testament to the hard work of both our students and our dedicated library manager Julie McGlinchey - who always embodies our academy focus of reading for pleasure." ■

## ACCELERATED READER PROGRAMME -

At Plympton Academy, we use the Accelerated Reader software programme to support student literacy.



Students in Year 7 and 8 have their literacy skills assessed by the programme and their engagement with reading is then tracked. Accelerated Reader not only allows us to see how many books students are reading, but also how many individual words are being read; eight students have read more than one million words this year with one student having read 2,478,661! ■



**ACCELERATE READERS:** (From left to right) Eboni George, Ismaael Ali, James Ferrier, Mrs Claire Jones, Sam Blair, Mrs Julie McGlinchey, Erin Burch and Eloise Trevor



# Literacy and Lent

## Students spend less time on their mobile phones to concentrate on reading

Students from Plympton Academy visited St Mary's Church during Lent to talk about learning, literacy and Lent.

The students had previously learnt about Lent in school and made their own Lenten vows. Many of the students had chosen to try spending less time on their mobile phones and to concentrate on reading instead during Lent. Father Sweeney had then invited them to Plympton St Mary's Church to give them a tour of the church and present them with an Easter egg each to mark the end of Lent.

Father Sweeney said, "It was a privilege to welcome the students from Plympton Academy to St Mary's Church. I was really interested to hear about their Lenten vows and I am very impressed that they stuck with

them! Now that Lent has finished the Church continues to celebrate the joy and significance of the empty tomb for a number of weeks.

In June the Church celebrates the birth of the Church (known as Pentecost), although I doubt the chocolate eggs will last until then!"

Kiel said, "It was interesting to visit the church - I didn't realise how old it was. I have been trying to read a lot more lately - so I feel I have earned my Easter egg!"

Jake said, "I have been trying to read more and I now know a lot more about St Mary's Church!"

Plympton St Mary Church was consecrated in 1311 although there has been a church on the site for more than a thousand years. ■



**LEARNING, LITERACY AND LENT:** (From left to right) Julie McGlinchey (Academy Librarian), Jake Proctor, Connor Docking, Toby Diston, Louis Shearstone, Kiel Hilton, Shayla Hilton and Father Will Sweeney

## POETRY BY HEART -

Students at Plympton Academy have risen to the challenge of learning a poem by heart. Year 7 students were set a challenge by Plympton Stannator Natalie Harrison to learn Wordsworth's famous poem Daffodils and on Thursday 16th May she visited the Academy to listen to the students reciting it.

Mrs Harrison stayed to have tea with the students and was then presented with a bouquet of flowers. The flowers, including Sweet Williams and Stocks, were all grown in the Plympton area and were supplied by the Ridgeway florist Miss Pinks in honour of the Stannator's visit.

The Stannator said, "It was a pleasure to visit Plympton Academy again where I received such a warm welcome. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to members of Year 7 recite 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth to commemorate spring. It was clear that the students had worked very hard to learn this iconic poem and worked really well as a team to recite it."

Aradia Turton said, "I really enjoyed learning the poem - it was much easier learning four verses than I thought it would be!"

Jack James said, "The poem was actually really good. It was a challenge to learn it all but I am proud of myself that I did!"

Teacher Martin Edmonds added, "Learning a poem by heart helps to develop the memory, improves language skills and builds confidence; we are very proud of our students for learning this poem and have now set a longer poem as their next challenge!" ■



# 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase'

Dr Mike Foulkes from Plymouth University delivers a workshop to Year 12 and 13 Chemistry students



On Thursday 4th April 2019 Plympton Academy welcomed Dr Mike Foulkes; a leading Associate Professor for the Centre of

Chemical Sciences at Plymouth University and a Student Ambassador, to deliver a workshop funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The workshop entitled 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' focusses on Infrared Spectroscopy and Mass Spectrometry in a practical context. The equipment brought into Plympton Academy for Infrared Spectroscopy cost over £20,000 and so delivery of this content in the classroom is normally on a theoretical basis. This was an invaluable opportunity for our Year 12 and 13 Chemists to use specific and specialised equipment and gain practical, hands-on experience of Spectroscopy as a series of analytical techniques.

Professor Foulkes introduced himself to our KS5 Chemistry students. The Year 12 Chemists had recently studied 'Analysis and Organic Synthesis' and the Year 13 Chemists used the session as an opportunity to revise AS course material in preparation for their examinations. The students were divided into groups on practical and theoretical rotation. Groups were given seven real analytical mass and infrared spectra, as well as their experimental data, to try and deduce and identify links between molecular formulae and functional groups. In addition to this, they were requested to analyse connections between compounds and identify unknown organic compounds. Each group was given an opportunity, within the two hour session, to set up, record and analyse an infrared spectrum using unknown organic samples. The equipment, which did indeed arrive in a suitcase, was a Bruker Infrared Spectrometer which requires students to use specific protocol to operate the apparatus safely and

'Plympton Academy welcomed **Dr Mike Foulkes**; a leading Associate Professor for the Centre of Chemical Sciences at Plymouth University and a Student Ambassador, to deliver a workshop funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry'

effectively whilst establishing uncontaminated and viable samples.

Professor Foulkes and his associate Will, were incredibly complementary of our Year 12 and 13 Chemists and stated that they were "the best students they had worked with in a long time". They were impressed by their

previous knowledge, practical technique and ability to follow instructions, in addition to their capability when analysing compounds of known and unknown organic compounds. Both Year 12 and 13 Chemists (Year 12 - Sid Basouyni, Harry Dales, Harry Holgate, Thomas McVeigh and Jack Skidmore. Year 13 - Caliph Ali, Connor Burn, Tillie Buxton, Martin Irwin, Lauren Nelson, Holly Rea, Kian Shepherd and Emily Skidmore) were an absolute credit to themselves and Plympton Academy and I am immensely proud of them all.

On behalf of Plympton Academy I would like to take this time to say a huge thank you to Professor Foulkes, the University of Plymouth and the Royal Society of Chemistry for supporting an excellent outreach programme that allows students fundamental practical application of core A Level Chemistry curriculum.■

**Mrs Clark, Second in Science**





# Science Week

Between 8th and 17th March 2019 pupils in KS3 had the opportunity to participate in the exciting science week.

## WHAT WAS THE POINT OF SCIENCE WEEK?

Science Week is a national event, which aims to raise interest in science and technology for the younger generation. Science Week promotes the subjects of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) to students. The event is an annual celebration of science.

A numerous amount of fun activities took place including the Year 7 Quiz, Cell Model Pizza Activity, Cell Model Competition, Creative Story Competition and Poster Competition. The winners of the Science Week Quiz were George Lazarus, Finlay Wallis and Aradia Turton-Debicka.

## WHAT DID THE STUDENTS GET OUT OF IT?

The students would have had the opportunity to make the most out of their ability to learn about science while having fun. As well as learning something new, the week may have inspired the students that are interested in a potential career in STEM. ■



'Science Week promotes the subjects of **STEM** (science, technology, engineering and maths)'



## SCIENCE CLUB -

### WHAT IS SCIENCE CLUB?

Science Club is an extracurricular activity which runs after school every Wednesday. The club is located in Dr Knights room (S7) in the science department, where a small group of Year 12's (Jack Skidmore, Harry Holgate and Jonathan Watson) voluntarily help run and organise the club in order to help inspire young minds with the fun of science!

### WHAT DO YOU DO IN SCIENCE CLUB?

Every week the students get the opportunity to perform a practical and explore the fun of science. The students have all been given a set practical to work on and get the opportunity to be able to take control of the practical themselves so that they have more of a feel for science themselves. ■

'I was nominated to come. I find science fun and I've had an interest since primary' **Erin Burch, 7CWE**



# A Level Geography Fieldwork

Students complete 4 days of analysis and investigation at Seaton and Totnes

**A**s part of the A Level Geography course students complete 4 days fieldwork. This year the first two days were spent on a residential trip in East Devon in conjunction with Tavistock College. Students analysed the physical environment at Seaton using a range of data collection. They used ranging poles and clinometers to profile the beach in order to investigate the impacts of longshore drift. They also conducted infiltration tests, sediment analysis and bipolar surveys to test their hypothesis.

In the evening, the students used a range of statistical testing to determine the

significance of the data and correlations between data sets. Following the data session, students enjoyed dinner together and took part in a evening quiz. After a good night's sleep at the Youth Hostel Association in Beer, students had a great breakfast ready for their second day in the field.

The second day was in Totnes using human fieldwork techniques to investigate social, economic and environmental aspects of the built environment. Students developed a range of skills including the ability to talk to members of the public. Students used the data to investigate the impact of globalisation in place.

The students were a credit to Academy

'The fieldwork has given students the skills needed to complete their **Non-Examined Assessment**, a 4000 word report on a geographical investigation of their choice'

and they behaved impeccably. The fieldwork has given students the skills needed to complete their Non-Examined Assessment, a 4000 word report on a geographical investigation of their choice.■





# Global Issues in Geography

As part of a new unit in Key Stage 3 Geography, students in Geography have been learning about global issues. Students in Year 8 have studied a range of global issues such as overfishing, water consumption and ocean plastic.

This learning was part of a new scheme of work called, Fantastic Places. Students have used a range of geographical skills including map and atlas skills, photograph interpretation and climate graphs as part of the scheme of work. Some of the locations they have studied include Totem Pole in Tasmania, Las Vegas and the Mariana Trench.

Plympton Academy students have been striving to address global issues by limiting the amount of single use plastic they use. A number of children are actively seeking alternatives such as bringing reusable bottles to school. Year 9 students Josh Hughes commented, "It is important to use reusable

'Students have used a range of geographical skills including map and atlas skills, photograph interpretation and climate graphs as part of the scheme of work. Some of the locations they have studied include **Totem Pole in Tasmania, Las Vegas** and the **Mariana Trench**'

bottles because plastic bottles are damaging our ocean wildlife."

The intent behind the scheme of work is for our students to gain a better understanding of the world that we live in so students can become responsible global citizens and be able to make informed decisions. Students showed enthusiasm and passion in lessons.■

## FIELD TRIP TO BUCKLAND ABBEY -

During Semester 3, two Year 10 history classes and the Year 12 Tudor historians went on a field trip to Buckland Abbey as part of their GCSE course work. The classes were split into groups and were given tour guides. We explored many aspects of the Abbey and even Mrs Brake learnt some new facts from the tour guides! We went through the Great Barn where Americans stored items during World War 2 and over to the house where Sir Francis Drake and Sir Richard Grenville lived.

Most of the classes' favourite place was on the third floor of the Abbey where you could dress up as a Tudor or Georgian citizen. Down on the first floor there was a Sir Francis Drake gallery with paintings there that were worth over £1,000,000!

We also were shown marks on the Abbey's west front wall which showed us where parts of the old abbey would have been when it was a Cistercian monastery. After the trip we got to have lunch and explore the Abbey on our own and even buy souvenirs in the gift shop.

The trip overall was helpful as Year 10 will be taking an exam in June next year on the Abbey and its history as a 1200's monastery all the way up until the National Trust took over in the 1940's and 1950's.■

Chloe Marcellino and Molly Griffiths, Year 10



## Year 10 Geographers conduct fieldwork in Exeter's City Centre and Start Bay, Slapton

**Y**ear 10 Geographers had a fantastic experience conducting their fieldwork in Exeter's City Centre and Slapton supported by Mr Strachan, Mrs Ord, Miss Ebanks and Miss Harris. The fieldwork trips are a compulsory requirement of the GCSE course and are examined in the Paper 3: Geographical Applications exam.

The first fieldwork trip investigated the impact of the Princesshay regeneration on Exeter's Central Business District. Students worked in groups to complete pedestrian counts, environmental quality surveys and land use surveys. Despite the adverse June weather, students remained engaged and enthusiastic. The data collected was analysed back in the classroom where students completed their data presentation, conclusion and evaluation.

'It was an excellent day and we learnt so much. It was great to visit a city I've never been to before' **Kobe Bryant**

The second fieldwork day took place in the picturesque Start Bay. Students used a range of fieldwork methods to investigate the physical environment and impact of human management. Students used ranging poles and clinometers to profile three sites along Slapton. They also completed wave frequency surveys and breach risk surveys to support them in investigating the likelihood of coastal flooding. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience with Kobe Bryant commenting, "It was an excellent day and we learnt so much. It was great to visit a city I've never been to before." ■

## GCSE FIELDWORK IN PLYMOUTH CITY CENTRE -

As part of the GCSE in Geography the Year 11 students completed their human fieldwork in Plymouth City Centre. The purpose of the day was to collect data on how the East End compares to the West End of Plymouth. The weather was on our side and we had the perfect day for collecting information on the environmental quality of the area, the volume of people in each area and a transect of how the types of businesses change from the Mall to Plymouth Market. All the data collected will be used in Paper 3, the final GCSE exam for Geography. The students were exceptionally well behaved and completed all of the tasks that were required. Miss Harris and Mr Strachan are incredibly proud of them and wish them luck for their GCSE results in the summer. ■





# Remembering D-Day

In anticipation of the anniversary of D-Day our Year 7 History Students were set the challenge of independently researching the event and producing an account of what happened. Here we have Janek's summary of what happened, which helps to demonstrate why it was such a significant moment in war.

On June 6th, 1944, 34,000 American, British and Canadian soldiers embarked on a mission. With an average age of just 22, the soldiers were to attack and invade Nazi Europe with a heavily guarded coastline, getting in was not easy. Most thought they wouldn't return, writing letters to their families explaining the events. The reason for the fight was to liberate Western Europe. Boats pulled into beaches in Normandy and getting on the beach was difficult. The D-Day battle lasted 12 hours, yet it is still remembered to this day.

On June 4th, the original D Day, all plots are forced to stop and delay until a further date due to stormy seas across the channel and an unsafe air channel crossing. They would have to wait until the next full moon so that tidal patterns were right.

James Martin Staggs makes a weather

'Most thought they wouldn't return, writing letters to their families explaining the events'

report of general knowledge concluding that all weather is clear on the 6th. 4 landing signal planes set out and 1 bales and the other overshoots their target. Soldiers are dropped either at a too high altitude leaving them hopelessly floating whilst guns fire, or too low altitude causing large impact breaking bones. At 6:30 am on June 6th 1944 crafts are forced to let out soldiers. A thousand soldiers end up on the wrong beach and Teddy Roosevelt Jr explains that the beach they're on is a much better attacking point. The team closed in on Nazi troops and where there to stay. D Day was so important as it showed how the combined international effort could lead to gains. With America, Britain, Canada and more working together it helped to cause losses to the Nazi's which were more significant than the losses at Stalingrad. While lots of people died in the event, it also showed the Nazi high command that defeat was just around the corner.■

Janek Slyszy, Year 7



## HIDDEN HISTORIES RESIDENTIAL -

As part of the 'Inspire2Involve' project four Year 12 students visited Villiers Park for a Residential, including Sarah Lyon, Lauren Hampson, Ethan Wilshaw and Rachel Wren. We are very proud of how they represented the academy. Here is Sarah's account of the trip.

During our week residential to Villiers Park, Cambridge, we did an intensive five-day course learning a combination of philosophical views and events in history.

It took us three trains and a tube to get there, so we had to combine our geographical and time-management skills to make sure we got there on time. We stayed in university-like accommodation, sharing rooms with new people, with nice home-cooked meals every night and even croissants for breakfast. We had a very informative and highly intelligent lecturer for the week who gave us an insight on not only crucial aspects that are often ignored in today's curriculum, but also key philosophers thoughts on these events, such as Kant, Benjamin, Marx, Engels, Hegels, Burke and Carlyle.

Whilst having 12 hour days filled with learning, we also had to work on a group project, arguing a perspective of a historical event. Our question was, 'Are revolutions necessary for society to progress' and we created a Powerpoint discussing the reasons for and against this argument as well as considering philosophers thoughts. This course was the 'Inspiring' excellence part of the 'Inspire2Involve' programme we are all involved in. This programme also involves a section involving other members of the community in learning new skills.

For our involve project, we are planning a series of lessons to deliver to Year 5's about the battle of Hastings, involving making swords and helmets so at the end we can re-enact the battle at Castle Green.■

# Mayflower 400 Artist Workshops

**N**ext year, the City of Plymouth will be involved in a year-long commemoration to mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's pioneering voyage to America. In preparation for the celebrations, some of our Year 7 artists have been involved in designing and creating art work to be displayed alongside student art from several other Plymouth schools. We were very lucky to work with Karen and Fiona Evans, who together form a collaboration called '*The Conscious Sisters*'.

Karen talked to the students about the struggles that the Native American people have had to face over the past 400 years and how modern day societies are still dealing with the effects of colonialism and sharing their land. The students were fascinated to hear the other side of the Mayflower story and to understand a less romanticised view of the

'In preparation for the celebrations, some of our Year 7 artists have been involved in designing and creating art work to be displayed alongside student art from several other Plymouth schools'

issues that modern day Americans face. The students also had the opportunity to meet and chat with Cannupa Hanska Luger, a Native American artist, whose work address issues of environmental justice.

Together, the artists and students are involved in a project entitled, '*Settlement*', which is a radical Indigenous-led performative encampment in which Indigenous artists from

across North America will occupy Plymouth's Central Park for four weeks from July 6 - August 7, 2020 during the commemoration of the Mayflower voyage. '*Settlement*' is a conceptually-driven event, collaboratively conceived and produced by Cannupa Hanska Luger and The Conscious Sisters. ■

## YEAR 7 & 8 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB -

This term has seen the start of the Year 7 and 8 Photography Club on Thursday lunchtimes in T2.

Students have had the opportunity to explore a range of different photography techniques and get to grips with a range of photography equipment.

We have started by making the most of the recent sunny weather and experimented with macro photography and Lego figures.

Pictured below is a fantastic example by Year 7 student Toby Lyon 7SCL. ■





# A year in the life of the Art Department...





# Morpurgo Festival

## Year 12 BTEC Music students organise spring concert

**O**n 9th May the Year 12 BTEC Music group organised a spring concert. They organised and arranged the whole event from ordering and purchasing refreshments to auditioning the performers. The Concert was part of the groups music qualification and is worth 33% of their BTEC qualification. They invited the school bands, friends and the newly formed Year 12 band 'Undecided' to perform.

The concert had a festival feel and was a night packed with fun and entertainment. I couldn't be prouder of the event and the Year 12 Music students. Some of the highlights included Year 10 student Shanice Davies playing ukulele and singing 'Here Comes The Sun', Year 10 boys Luke Vincent, Josh Pinder, Kobi Bryant and Year 11 Malachi George singing, in a manner '500 miles' and the new Performance band 'Undecided'. ■

### MUSIC THERAPY THURSDAY -

Thursday mornings have become 'Music Therapy Thursday' with the Year 12 Music students. The residence of Hardwick care home have been regularly visiting us to sing, play and literally 'dance the night away'. The

'The Concert was part of the groups music qualification and is worth 33% of their BTEC qualification'

residence have had the opportunity to sing with our Year 12 music students as well as composed music with them, learn the guitar and will be performing with the students at the Summer Gala on 28th June. This has been an excellent opportunity for our students to work with members of the public and create a special bond musically with them. ■

### SCHOOL OF ROCK -

On Tuesday 25th June the School of Rock auditions started at Morpurgo studios.

The evening was full of excitement, a collaborative atmosphere and lovely to be a part of. There were approximately 70 students who attended the auditions and wowed each member of the performing arts team. The students partook in a dance workshop, a music workshop and a drama workshop. They had to learn repertoire, sing a song in front of the rest of the audition members and to create a scene from the play.



Both staff and students are very excited to start the adventure towards the 'School of Rock' production at Plympton Academy in February 2020. ■

### GOODBYE TO OUR TRAINER TEACHERS! -

The Performing Arts Team would like to say a huge thank you to our two trainee teachers who have successfully finished their courses in Drama and Music teaching this term. Naamah Large and Nathaniel Truscott have supported extra-curricular activities, developed and taught an exciting range of lessons and been a real asset to the team. Naamah has secured a job at Tiverton Community College and we wish her the best of luck for her future! ■





# Drama Club

**D**rama club is open for anyone to join in Year 7 and 8. We have a range of students who come along for different reasons.

Some students come along for their love and passion for acting, some because they want to make friends and to build their confidence. At first they were all very separate, with some students finding it really difficult to socialise and have found secondary school quite difficult. However, they are now a lively, friendly and energetic bunch of students. They support one another, they always make each other laugh and it is overall a lovely environment and club to be a part of.

We have previously been exploring 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'Matilda' and building our devising skills. We are now working on a production of 'The Wizard of Oz' for the Year 7's and 'Mamma Mia' for the Year 8's. Year 7 have been and are working on a version of The Wizard of Oz. They have stuck to the original storyline and characters however, they have added their own twist onto the play with moments of showing

'Year 8 have been working on **Mamma Mia** and have re-written the storyline to include the main scenes, their favourite songs and important moments'

the outside world. This is shown by having a screen with The Wizard of Oz characters on and having characters who are watching The Wizard of Oz on TV. They wanted to think about how people can get sucked into things that they are watching and how we are feeding ourselves with information from the TV without thinking about the impact. The students have worked really well. Year 8 have been working on Mamma Mia and have re-written the storyline to include the main scenes, their favourite songs and important moments.

They have been working really well and quite independently at bringing this piece together and I am very proud of their devised work.■



## MATTHEW BOURNE'S ROMEO AND JULIET -

Plympton Academy students went on a trip to watch Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet on 4th July 2019.

The performing arts department took approximately 40 students aged from Year 7-12 to watch the production. This is a contemporary production which had a modern twist on traditional ballet. The performance was exciting with an elaborate set, talented and inspirational dancers and a gripping storyline.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with Year 7 student Zoe Havard commenting, "The dancing was amazing and inspired me to want to continue to dance."

The production was a passionate, captivating and imaginative taken on Shakespeare's love story.■

'The dancing was amazing and inspired me to want to continue to dance'  
**Zoe Havard, Year 7**



# A Levels - Is it for me?

**Y**ear 11 is a lot. I know. It's a lot of revision, a lot of hard work, and a lot of effort. Overall, in Year 11 you'll do around 20 exams (give or take

a few) depending on what subjects you've taken. On top of that, you then have to decide whether or not you want to carry on in school to do A-Levels, go to college or do an apprenticeship. There are many options, A-Levels being one of the most common choices after GCSE, so let's really talk about it.

Firstly, what options are there for you to pick from?

- **SIXTH FORMS** - Often attached to a school therefore you may be familiar with your surroundings, or you may opt to go to a new school for sixth form. This maybe scary for some, but some schools don't teach certain topics that you may want to take.
- **COLLEGES** - Colleges are separate from schools and this means that everyone turns up new on their first days. Colleges tend to offer A-levels, NVQs, Diplomas and foundation learning. Other colleges may specialise in certain topics like agriculture (farming) so will offer topics related to that.
- **APPRENTICESHIPS** - Apprenticeships are like a job as you will be working for an employer and earning money (usually minimum wage) while studying for a qualification at the same time. You will still be linked with a college/training provider to make sure you're getting all your work done.
- **ARMED FORCES** - You can begin your application to the forces at around 15 and 7 months, and can officially join at 16. Though, if you're under 18 you will need your parents' permission. The army states that they allow 16 year olds to join but you will not be allowed on the front line until you're over 18, but joining at

16 does create good, focused soldiers. I spoke to a current A-level student to gain a little insight into their options and their opinions on them:

### WHAT A-LEVELS DID YOU TAKE?

I took English Literature, Sociology and Biology. I also opted to take an EPQ (Extended Project qualification) where we collect data around a topic of our own choice. Once we've collected the data we write a dissertation, otherwise known as a long essay, about our study.

### WHY DID YOU TAKE THESE A-LEVELS?

I originally chose both biology and chemistry for A-Level as I thought I knew what I wanted to do after school. Once looking further into the career I thought I wanted, I realised it wasn't actually for me so I changed my options to ones I felt I was succeeding in. Personally, I feel it's okay to be indecisive as we're only young and should not be expected to know what we want to do for the rest of our lives, instead of being pushed to know what we want, we should be told about the many options that there are and how it's okay if we want to change our options.

### HOW DID YOU FIND THE TRANSITION TO YEAR 12? WAS IT WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

In my opinion, I believe that the workload is around the same in comparison to year 11. The only difference is that you're taking 3 subjects in comparison to the 10 you do at year 11. This just shows how big the workloads are for each subject to which you can then ask yourself, am I willing to put in the effort to keep up with the work? If no, you may want to consider a different route such as college or maybe an apprenticeship. Honestly, it's all dependent on what you think you want to do in the future. If you're wanting to go into something such as medicine or teaching, you have to gain the qualifications and degrees, where as some careers you can jump straight into with apprenticeships.

### DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU WANT TO WHEN YOU LEAVE SCHOOL?

I want to go to university, that's the one thing I know for certain, but honestly I'm still unsure on what subject I want to take. Career wise, I have no clue. I'm still deciding on what my interests are and what I think I may find enjoying to continue throughout life.

Overall, the most important thing I can suggest for those looking into their next steps after GCSE is research and speaking to others. Always research the courses you're looking into and make sure they are 100% something you want to do because the worst thing you could do is spend the next two years of your life studying something you don't enjoy. ■

Loren Verner

## UCAS TRIP -

Early in March, Year 12's went on an action packed trip to Exeter showground to find out about the next stages of their lives!

This meant student's spent time talking to representatives of various universities to find out about what courses and apprenticeships are available. Students enjoyed taking part in various activities such as listening to lectures about university life and how to manage on a budget. ■

Shona Dickson and Tia Pritchard, Year 12



**THE NEXT STAGE:** Rose Whiteley with two of the prospectuses she is interested in

# You're Hired @ Plympton Academy

**Y**ear 12 students at Plympton Academy participated in a careers event with a difference where employers from the construction firm BAM tested the skills of the young people in working together. This event was particularly special for the students at the academy as BAM construction are building the school's new build which is well under way, allowing the students to see the complexity of sticking to plans and meeting briefs.

The event saw students presented with a problem; the need to design a bridge which could sustain a specific weight, be accessible for cars and span an appropriate distance. Students set to it in predetermined teams with access to day to day resources like paper and sticky tape. For every item they used they were charged from a fake budget; meaning they had to try to be cost effective and energy efficient in their approach.

Representatives from BAM were impressed with the enthusiasm and teamwork



'This event was particularly special for the students at the academy as **BAM** construction are building the school's new build which is well under way, allowing the students to see the complexity of sticking to plans and meeting briefs'

of the pupils at the school and stated that they were a "real credit to the academy". After a competitive morning of activities finalists were chosen for the city wide event which will take place in July at Plymouth University. Students selected from the academy include:

## FINALISTS

- Robbie Evans
- Bethany Watson
- Kirsty Wroe
- Jack Skidmore

## RESERVES

1. Rose Whitely
2. Sophie Lord
3. Ben Campbell
4. Ryan Lord

Katie Kerr, Assistant Principal with the responsibility for the Sixth Form said, "I am really proud of the way in which our students took to this challenge, working outside their comfort zone and coming up with creative solutions to problems. They continue to make impressive strides to build their employability skills and act as fantastic role models within the academy. I wish the finalists all the best of luck." ■

## ALUMNI -

### SAM FIFIELD

I left Plympton Academy in 2017, and began my studies at The University of Plymouth for English Literature. I am now in my second year of my course and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences so far, and have especially enjoyed studying the Romantic Era. I have begun preparations for my dissertation, in which I plan to explore Gothic Literature. Through the University, I have also taken part in several clubs and societies and am even on a Committee as Social Secretary for one group. I have enjoyed my course so much that I plan to go straight into a Master's degree when I graduate.



### ALICE WHITELEY

I am currently studying Drama and English Literature at the University of Winchester, and am really enjoying my time here. I feel that



my course has already opened my eyes to concepts that I had never considered before, and I look forward to exploring where this can take me in my next two years. The experience of university is everything I expected and more. I have learnt that it is natural to miss home, but moving away has given me the independence that I have always needed. I have made great friends, met people that I never thought I would interact with, and joined societies which have allowed me to be a part of performing arts showcases. My university experience in my first year has challenged me, but I look forward to overcoming these and more.

I feel that my time in sixth form at Plympton Academy, really prepared me for university. The teachers I had for Performing Arts, Philosophy and Ethics, and English, really pushed me. This made me a motivated and determined person; great attributes to have whilst studying at university. Without these amazing teachers, I wouldn't be where I am now. ■



# Successful Cup Run for Year 11 Football Squad

### YEAR 11 FOOTBALL -

The Year 11 football squad ended their last year of school football with a very successful cup run, finishing runners-up to a strong Egguckland side. After progressing through the knock-out stage, quarter-final and semi-final, we faced Egguckland on a Friday afternoon fixture at Devonport High School for Boys. The first half was very even and we went in at half-time trailing 2-1 after Cody Duke rounded the keeper and slotted in. Egguckland made full use of their substitutes and went on to win the game 5-1, but the score line did not reflect the impressive performance put in from the lads.

We came away with our heads held high and some fully deserving runners-up silverware, considering the squad stayed until 5pm weekly on a Friday evening to train after revision sessions!



### YEAR 7 GIRL'S CRICKET -

The Year 7 girl's cricket team (pictured right) played their first match of the season against Plymouth College at Plympton Academy. The team showed great strength of character and perseverance producing performances that will stand them in good stead for their forthcoming fixtures.

### YEAR 7 GIRL'S ROUNDERS -

The Year 7 girl's rounders team had a challenging opening to the season playing matches at Notre Dame School against some experienced teams. The girls demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and determination which was noticed by the other players. The team will now look forward to playing the remainder of their games over the rest of this term. Good luck girls!

### YEAR 8 ROUNDERS -

Year 8's have had a real challenge this year - after their win of the season last year, they



were promoted to the top league. They have worked incredibly hard together and improved their tactical awareness!

### YEAR 9 GIRL'S ROUNDERS -

Following a successful season and having a recent promotion to the top league in Plymouth, the Year 9 rounders team (pictured



above) continued to shine in their latest fixtures. The matches were played over three weeks and the Year 9's had some excellent wins against Egguckland, All Saints Academy and Stoke Damerel. The Plympton Academy Students were great representatives of the school and showed fantastic determination. Well done to all involved.

## YEAR 10 ROUNDERS -

Year 10's have been led by their captain Megan Appleby - Megan has ensured each player has worked to their strengths and encouraged the team to communicate and evaluate their performance during their matches. Their last match of Plympton Academy will be celebrated with a trip to McDonalds on the way back.

## SPORTS LEADERSHIP -

It has been a busy term for Primary School sports event, and our hard working Sports Leaders have been giving up their time to help the fixtures run smoothly. We have hosted Primary Schools from all over Plymouth, covering a variety of sports including Rugby, Boccia, Basketball and Multi Skills.

Our Sports Leaders do a great job of helping set equipment up for the events, supporting the primary school teams while they compete, and umpiring the matches.

Special thanks needs to go to Phoebe Bond, Kiera Crossman, Megan Appleby, Eloise Trevor and Ella Kerswill who have volunteered more than any other students this term. If you are a Sports Leader and would like to help out in future events, please speak to Mrs Horton - PE Technician.

## YEAR 7'S AND CHAMPIONS OF THE SUPER 8'S! -

The first athletics fixture of the year was a resounding success when the Year 7's represented the Academy in the Super 8 team competition at Brickfields. A male and female team, many of whom were representing the Academy for the 1st ever time, came top of 12 schools winning the Plymouth and West Devon area event. Although all the team produced excellent individual performances leading to the win, some notable performances came from Nubia Evans winning both the Hurdles, Shot Put and being highly influential in the relay team's success. Similarly Taylor Jones won the 100m, High Jump and also was part of the successful medley relay team that saw Ellie Adams cross the line 70m ahead of the next team.

The successful team went on to represent the Plymouth area at the Devon School Games at Exeter Arena where the team, bolstered by Jaden Phillips, who came 2nd in the 200m, Ewan Jakes, who threw a huge 6m in the shot put, Holly Tremayne

finished strongly in the shot put and Elise Donez taking 3rd place in the 200m. Again, strong leading performances from Taylor and Nubia in their events with Millie Dann showing how quick she is coming 1st in the 100m. Overall excellent performances all round saw the team successfully representing Plymouth at the games.

The team - Levi George, Jaden Phillips, Billy Green, Taylor Jones, Riley Crawford, James Smith, Ewan Jakes, Aiden Webb, Corey Hodges, Milly Dann, Leoni Etheridge, Keira Hayman, Elise Donez, Ellie Adams, Mia Kerswell, Nubia Evans, Libby Simpson and Holly Tremayne.

## U13 BOYS CRICKET - A SMASHING SEASON -

The U13 boys represented Plympton Academy in the Plymouth School Sports Partnership softball cricket league coming 3rd overall. The boys competed in the league over 4 weeks often playing a minimum of 2 games per week with Harry Frost and Ollie Jacques being the standout batsmen for the team with Ollie also being the pick of the bowlers showing his excellent all round cricket skills. Ollie's batting performance was impeccable with him scoring over 20 runs causing him to be retired in all but one innings over the whole tournament and in one game achieving this 20 run milestone in just 4 balls by smashing 6's through the leg side.

## U13 GIRLS CRICKET -

In their 1st season as a team, the U13's girls' cricket team shows huge amounts of potential by being selected to take part on the County softball Cricket finals in Exeter. Girls Cricket at the Academy has had a boost this year from the English and Devon Cricket Board through targeted funding of a girls specific coach, Steph Hutchings being placed at the school for the past 6 weeks. Steph has taken targeted groups of girls in their PE lessons to develop their skills and confidence in cricket. This input led to the U13's winning the area tournament progressing through to the county finals. Playing experienced teams from St Peters, Okehampton, Churston Grammar and South Dartmoor the girls showed excellent character developing both their understanding and cricket specific skills throughout the day. With some excellent batting from Leoni Etheridge, Leisha Marshall and Ellie Adams the team started to score more and more throughout the day leading to an exciting run chase against Okehampton where they eventually came out the runners up. Excellent fielding from Amber Horne and Nubia Evans kept the girls in the hunt in each of the games with the pick of our bowlers being Holly Tremayne. An excellent achievement by all.

The Squad - Millie Dann, Ellie Adams, Leoni Etheridge, Amber Horne, Holly Tremayne, Nubia Evans, Keira Hayman, Leisha Marshall. ■





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

FEBRUARY 2020