

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

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Ref: LBO/TOV

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Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, let me wish you a very Happy New Year and I hope you are all keeping yourselves safe and well during these difficult times. We have not returned to school as we had thought we would when we broke up in December, but have instead completed two weeks of remote learning. What a two weeks it has been!

The Academy remains open for the children of critical workers and for those students who require additional support. In line with the latest government guidance, we request that, where possible, this provision is used as a last resort in order to support adequate staffing levels on site. NSPCC guidance states that, whilst it is important to speak to your child and ensure they feel safe, children over the age of 12 develop important independence skills by being left for periods of time on their own at home. Each individual case is different but please do bear in mind that I would like to minimise the amount of staff on site each day, whilst providing that essential care for the children of our critical workers.

We have seen some fantastic engagement from our students, supported wonderfully by you, the parents and carers, and I thank everyone involved for ensuring our young people receive the best care and education possible. Our blend of both live seminars and pre-recorded lessons, along with the tracking of engagement and success, has led to a really positive approach to learning so far this half term, which is celebrated through ClassCharts' rewards points, #hotchocfridays and Di Vinci awards. In addition, the uplift in contact with the tutor is really supporting the wellbeing of our students and it is great to hear they feel confident with the technology they are using. If you, or your child, has any concerns regarding remote learning, please do contact the helpdesk on remoteteachinghelpdesk@plympton.academy and the team on hand will answer your questions.

So, congratulations to all the students who have certificates or hot chocolate packs coming to them this week, and to all those who have received ClassCharts points in recognition of their efforts and contributions - well done and keep up the hard work!

For the profession there is still a lack of clarity for current exam groups regarding the awarding of their final grades. It is also likely that there will be adjustments for the current Year 10 students when they



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finally sit their exams in June 2022. As the impact of the lockdown and the moving to on-line learning will be evident for the next few years, it is really important that work is completed now so that we will always be able to demonstrate the quality of the work that your son/daughter is capable of. We do not know if it will be used to support final grades, but it is better to have it as back up than no work at all.

We have been rolling out the new virtual parents' evenings which have been positively received: I understand that for some of our parents this has made attendance much easier. Please do let us have your feedback as, in the future, a blend of face to face and virtual evenings may well be advantageous to everyone.

I will be writing to you more frequently to try and help keep you up to date with news from the Academy and the future plans: however, please remember that our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed are always being updated. Please ensure we have your correct email address as this will be our main point of contact.

Please do stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'L' and a long, sweeping underline.

Ms L Boorman
Principal