

Dear Parents/Carers

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### **Update for Parents**

During a recent Parent Forum, parents informed us they would like more communication from the Academy. To this end, we aim to write to you at least three times a term with updates to keep you aware of progress made. It has been a busy two weeks and I thought this would be a good time for an update on Thinking, Teaching and Learning. Lessons have been busy, and students have been making great progress in many areas. This term our focus is on ensuring students are independent learners. Staff are using a range of strategies to help students know more, remember more and do more. In my visits to lessons, I have been impressed with the work I have seen on Thinking Maps, Thinking Hats, Starter for Ten, Deliberate Practice, purple stickers and much more ... please speak to your son/ daughter about these: they should be able to tell you about the work they have been doing and how it is helping them to remember.

We have received questions recently from parents regarding cover lessons and our use of the Main Hall. Unfortunately, there is high staff absence across the city and the country in education and currently we have some staff members who are not present at the Academy. We have changed timetables, moved classes and actively recruited subject specialist supply teachers but still have some classes which need to be covered. As a last resort, we use the Main Hall to host some classes: work is always set and there is always staff available to support. We review this each day as this is not an ideal situation but one which is sometimes needed. This is not necessarily a long-term solution but one we are trialling at present. If students have a cover lesson, there should always be work for them to complete which complements their learning. I thank you for your continued support with this and please be assured that we always explore every avenue to minimise any disruption to education.

To make you aware of some staffing changes, Mr Lane has now left the Academy and has taken a non-teaching role in another organisation; Mr Bennett, who has been supporting the covering of absent staff, has now moved on to secure a more permanent position at another school. We wish them well in their new careers. Mrs Phare started her maternity leave last week and we hope she has a lovely time welcoming their new child into their family.

*Inspiring Success*

[www.plympton.academy](http://www.plympton.academy)

We welcome two new pastoral mentors into the team, Abbigale Corey and Kimberley Bickle. These are to replace Michelle Keane, who has moved to be our Attendance Improvement Officer. We also have Will Dowling from Brixham College, seconded for two days a week to our senior team to support with Behaviour and Inclusion across the Academy; this is in light of Sarah Glover's continued absence.

Finally, we have now entered the examination period and students are fully immersed in revision, completing coursework and some students have started their examinations. These year groups are really rising to the challenge and have already produced some excellent work. If you are a parent of a student from these year groups, please continue to encourage them to 'revise, rest, repeat'. A huge thank you to the teaching staff who have given countless hours to the students so that they are ready for this important stage in their education. As always, thank you for your continued support. Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns (email addresses are available on our website) – it is important we work together so that our students can achieve their best. Our weekly SWAY released on our website and social media channels gives you a flavour of some of the amazing things happening at school.

Kind regards



**Lisa Boorman**  
**Principal**