

Year 13 2026/27: Key Dates, Expectations and Important Updates

Dear Parent/Carer,

As your son/daughter begins their final year with us, I wanted to write to set out the key dates for the year ahead, our expectations around attendance and independent study, and some important updates to Sixth Form procedures. This is a demanding but exciting year, and your support at home makes a real difference to how well students manage it.

Key Dates for the Year

Please keep these dates to hand and add them to your family calendar:

Date	What's happening
Thurs 3 Sept	Start of Term 1
Mon 12 / Tues 13 Oct	PD Days — next steps sign-off (see below)
Thurs 15 Oct	End of Term 1
Tues 3 Nov	Start of Term 2
Thurs 26 Nov	Look to the Future Day
Fri 18 Dec	End of Term 2
Mon 4 Jan	Start of Term 3 / Mock exams start
Thurs 28 Jan	PD Day
Wed 10 Feb	Subject Parents' Evening (in person)
Fri 12 Feb	End of Term 3
Mon 22 Feb	Start of Term 4
Thurs 25 March	End of Term 4
Mon 12 April	Start of Term 5
Tues 4 May	A Level written exams start



Headteacher: Mr S Willis, BA (Hons), NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner, BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH, NLE

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Key UCAS deadlines for anyone applying to university this year:

Date	What's happening
1 September	UCAS opens
23 September	Plympton internal deadline — Conservatoire courses
1 October	UCAS deadline — Conservatoire music courses
2 October	Plympton internal deadline — Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine
15 October	UCAS deadline — Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine
27 November	Plympton internal deadline — all other courses
13 January	UCAS deadline — all other courses
5 May	UCAS offer deadline
2 June	UCAS acceptance deadline

Attendance

Full attendance is expected at all timetabled sessions throughout the year — this includes lessons, tutorial time, PD (Personal Development) lessons and supervised study. These sessions are timetabled for a reason: tutorial and PD time is where students complete their UCAS/Unifrog applications, receive vital guidance, and are held to account for their progress, while supervised study gives dedicated, quiet time to complete coursework and independent study. Missing these sessions quickly leaves students behind.

In Year 13, attendance also directly affects the strength of references, UCAS predicted grades, and a student's readiness for external deadlines — so we would ask for your support in ensuring your son/daughter attends every day, arrives on time, and treats tutorial, PD and supervised study with the same importance as any other lesson.



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Reporting Absence

If your son/daughter is going to be absent for any reason, please report this by emailing Mrs Abbie Lewis, our Sixth Form Student Support Manager, at abbie.lewis@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk as early as possible on the morning of the absence. This ensures we can support your child appropriately and keep accurate attendance records.

Getting Ready for Next Steps — Unifrog, UCAS and Tutorial Time

This term, all Year 13 students are working towards one (or both) of two pathways: university (including degree apprenticeships) via Unifrog and UCAS, or apprenticeships and employment via Unifrog. Students are completing this work in tutor time, with two dedicated PD days on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October set aside to finish everything and get it signed off.

As a reward for getting organised early, once a student has their Unifrog and UCAS work fully signed off, they will be able to choose one morning tutorial session to drop, from a given choice. Later in the year, following the whole-school data drop, any student who is on track across all of their subjects will be able to drop a second tutorial session. Students who are not yet signed off, or who are not on track across all subjects, will continue to attend all tutorial sessions as normal — this ensures tutorial time is used to support those who need it most.

Mobile Phones — New DfE Guidelines

In line with new Department for Education requirements, mobile phones must not be seen anywhere outside of the Sixth Form centre. This includes around the wider school site and in the canteen. If a phone is seen outside of the Sixth Form centre, it will be confiscated by staff. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation with your child at home.

Lanyards — Safeguarding

For safeguarding reasons, all Sixth Form students must wear their lanyard at all times while on site. This allows staff to identify students quickly and easily, and supports the safety of everyone on site. Please remind your child to bring their lanyard every day.



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Independent Study Expectations

Alongside timetabled lessons, students are expected to spend a minimum of 9 hours per fortnight, per subject, working independently outside of the classroom. This includes completing homework, wider independent learning/reading, and creating revision materials. This is essential preparation for the demands of Year 13 and for the exams in May.

Expanded Study Space

To support this independent study, we have expanded the Sixth Form to take over H1 as an additional silent workspace. The Sixth Form is open from 8am until 5pm every day for students to come in, sit and work — whether that's completing homework, independent learning, or preparing revision materials. We would encourage all students to make full use of this space and time.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about any of the above, or about your son/daughter's progress more generally, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

- Mr Ian Hartley, Assistant Head (Personal Development and Sixth Form) and UCAS Lead — ian.hartley@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
- Mrs Abbie Lewis, Sixth Form Student Support Manager (attendance, pastoral support, bursary) — abbie.lewis@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to working with your child throughout this important final year, and to helping them achieve the very best outcomes as they move on to their next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hartley

Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Sixth Form)



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