



SENIOR SCHOOL



INTRODUCTION

Plymouth College provides a holistic education, balancing a first class academic programme with an extensive range of sports, music, drama, arts and further co-curricular activities. At the centre of everything we do is a commitment to ensuring we provide an environment in which all our pupils are happy, engaged and purposeful.

Over the next few pages, we will show you a glimpse of the special journey that our pupils make during their time with us. We aim to ensure, when they leave at the end of the Sixth Form, that they do so as well-rounded young adults, balancing excellent examination results with the skills, qualities and attributes that will ensure they will go on to achieve great success in their chosen careers.

In order to truly understand what a Plymouth College education can provide for your child, we would encourage you to visit us and see for yourself. We hope to welcome you to our vibrant and dynamic school community in the near future.





SENIOR SCHOOL

Founded in 1877, the Senior School is a vibrant community based at Ford Park. As their education journey continues from Years 7-11, our pupils thrive with small group teaching which is often enriched with lessons outside of the classroom. Friendship groups are cemented and opportunities to explore new experiences – whether it's a subject being studied for the first time or being inspired by one of our after school activities – are plentiful.

Great care and support are given, to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential. With high levels of academic and pastoral monitoring, alongside small class sizes, every child's journey through the school is closely observed and, should any concerns arise, they are dealt with promptly and effectively.







ACADEMIC

Plymouth College has an outstanding academic reputation. We offer our pupils the opportunity to study a wide range of courses including GCSE, IGCSE, A Level and Sport Baccalaureate (which is made up of the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport {Adventurous Activities}, plus other relevant qualifications, such as Pool and/or Beach Lifeguard, First Aid at Work, as well as the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award).



When our pupils join the school in Year 7 we encourage them to embrace their academic studies and harness a love of learning that they will carry with them throughout their education journey. Our small classes, together with a purposeful and focused environment, offer the best possible surroundings in which to promote learning. Great facilities, the latest equipment and teachers with a passion for their subjects put our pupils in the strongest position to do well. By the time they reach Year 11 and their GCSEs, our pupils are equipped with everything they need to achieve the best they can in their exams.

HUMANITIES

Our humanities subjects cover everything from English and foreign languages to Classics, Geography and Religious Education. Lessons are a combination of classroom study, where pupils learn the facts and engage in discussion, mixed with practical exercises and off-site visits.

One of the favourite History topics in Year 7 is 'Castles'. Pupils learn about structure and purpose in the classroom then visit Restormel and Launceston Castles to explore the past. Likewise, Year 10 Business students get the chance to put theory into practice with a Dragons' Den-style project. Inspired by a visit to a local snacks manufacturer, they have to design and market a new product, making a pitch to a panel of business experts to win a 'contract'.





SCIENCE & MATHS

The sciences are a true journey of discovery. Our small class sizes really come into play allowing personal attention and flexibility in approach. Formulae and processes are brought to life with dynamic experiments that allow our pupils to test theories and explore possibilities. We believe that practical sessions enhance pupils' enjoyment and cement their theoretical learning, an essential part of a quality science education. Year 8 physicists really see the benefit of these practical sessions when studying electricity and magnetism, refraction and colour, sound, force and motion, pressure and moments.

Off-site visits to Mount Edgumbe Country Park, Paignton Zoo and the Eden Project make the most of our local environment. Inter-school competitions are also an important part of the mix with our young chemists seeing success in the University Challenge, Salter's Festival and Top of the Bench competitions, while gifted mathematicians benefit from our links with Plymouth University.

CREATIVE ARTS

Personal expression, interaction and imagination run through our Creative Arts subjects. There are a wide range of music concerts and drama productions throughout the academic year. Drama and Music are a fantastic way for our pupils to build confidence through performance and our group instrumental lessons give every student the chance to learn something new.

We are extremely lucky to have the Theatre Royal, offering commercial and experimental productions, on our doorstep and visiting companies provide practical workshops across a range of platforms both in school and off-site. In Art, our pupils are not just taught to draw but are encouraged to observe the world, record, engage and comment on it. While in Design Technology, there is no greater achievement for pupils than taking home a finished product.





ENRICHMENT

A Plymouth College education goes beyond the classroom. With more than 70 clubs and activities on offer, every pupil can find something to excite and challenge them whether it's to enhance an existing talent or harness a new skill. Clubs and activities are run after school, with Year 10 upwards timetabled to have a whole afternoon of enrichment on Fridays. Our extensive programme is designed to stimulate our pupils' sense of adventure and unlock creativity while making the most of our school, city, moorland and coastal environments.







ENRICHMENT

We are very fortunate to be surrounded by such beautiful landscapes ensuring outdoor activities are plentiful. Ten Tors and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award take our pupils to the rugged terrain of Dartmoor, which can include weekend expeditions with overnight camping or residentials at our outdoor pursuits centre, Whiteworks. From Year 7 onwards, pupils can take part in the Discoverers Club which offers the opportunity to take part in activities such as caving, climbing, bushcraft, coasteering and mountain-biking, enabling pupils to challenge themselves and develop team-building skills whilst having lots of fun!



The Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force dates back to 1871. With Navy, Army and RAF sections, our cadets work within a structured and disciplined environment in order to develop skills in leadership and self-reliance. Linking in with the outdoor activities, there are many adventurous training opportunities for cadets both at home and abroad and trips to military establishments are a favourite. The annual CCF Summer Camp is one of the highlights.

Our Performance and Creative Arts clubs cover everything, from learning how to etch in art textiles and emboss in Card Club, to stepping on stage for the first time in Drama Club or picking up a percussion instrument in the Samba Band. Expression and experimentation are at the heart of these clubs so that pupils can discover the creative outlet that suits them. Whether you like the sound of the contemporary Rock School or the more traditional Orchestra, there is always a pupil performance just round the corner. The worlds of music and drama often collide with collaborative big school productions such as 'Les Miserables' and The 'Greatest Show on Earth' running alongside more intimate concerts.

Thrown into this mix of adventure and creativity is the Entrepreneurial Society, which welcomes top business leaders such as Reggae Reggae Sauce creator, Levi Roots, and an eclectic assortment of other clubs such as Card Making, STEM, Model Making, Golf, Chess, Robotics and many more.









SPORT

At Plymouth College we embrace all aspects of sport from grass roots engagement, to team participation, through to Olympic Champions. We run performance sport programmes for those hoping to reach world podiums, providing a dedicated team of staff enabling pupils to achieve their potential both as athletes and academically, with outstanding pastoral care and support. For many of our pupils, sport is about having the opportunity to take part, staying healthy and enjoying their chosen sport. It is important to us that we encourage those who don't consider themselves to be very sporty to find and enjoy their place too. We very much believe in the mantra 'healthy body, healthy mind' and that the pride, spirit and determination from participating, particularly in team sport, will flow through to the classroom.



Overseas tours are part of the mix and really help to broaden the horizons of our pupils, not only in terms of their sports development but also their cultural and social awareness of the world around them. Recent countries visited include South Africa, Barbados and Sri Lanka. The tours create life-long memories both on and off the field.





SPORT

Rugby is a significant part of the boys' fixtures list in the Autumn Term and the school is considered a significant force with county, regional and national caps amongst its credentials. Every age group is represented on the field involving boys of all abilities. Practices take place during games lessons and after school, with some matches and tournaments at weekends. Hockey is the girls' choice for the Autumn Term. With block fixtures on Saturdays, the girls also compete in the National Cup competition and have been county champions in several age groups in recent years. The bonds formed in the youngest teams stay with the girls throughout their hockey careers.



The Spring Term brings netball for the girls and football for the boys. Netball has an extensive fixtures list and teams play in all area and national schools' tournaments. There are currently several girls in the Plymouth satellite centres. Competing mid-week and at weekends, the boys' football coaching focuses on skill development and tactical awareness. Developing a strong team ethos is key to the game as is enjoyment of the sport. Rugby Sevens training and competitions also take place in the Spring Term, culminating in the Rosslyn Park Sevens tournament.

Cricket, the sport of summer, has a rich tradition at Plymouth College. Games sessions are structured through a skills-based programme and matches take place most weekends during the summer months. The school participates in national competitions and regularly sees boys and girls selected for county sides across all age groups.

The girls play rounders and cricket, mixing in-house tournaments with local fixtures. Athletics also plays a significant role in the Summer Term sports calendar – runners, shot putters, long jumpers, high jumpers and javelin throwers can often be seen representing the school in county, regional and national schools' competitions. Moving away from the traditional teams, there is a plethora of other sports. The muddy cross country courses have produced a number of national-ability athletes, while our equestrian team members compete at prestigious events such as Horse of the Year Show. From basketball to badminton and yoga to swimming, sport is most definitely part of the fabric of life at Plymouth College.





SCHOOL LIFE

The life of a Plymouth College pupil is full and rewarding; there is always something new and exciting around every corner.

The four Houses bring all year groups together and there is a fantastic camaraderie amongst the pupils. House events flow through the school year covering sport, music, drama, languages and quizzes, culminating in the Whole School Sports Day in the Summer Term. The competitive spirit throughout is lively and friendly.

Whole school events, such as Speech Day, Remembrance Day, Special Assemblies and Carol, Easter and Harvest Festival Services bring our community together, while the School Balls, House Captains', CCF and Rugby Dinners and Chinese New Year are highlights of the school calendar.



CHARITY

Our pupils raise thousands of pounds each year for charities nominated by the School Council, a representative body of all year groups. Cake sales, fashion shows, fairs, sports matches, car washing, sponsored swims, rows and bike rides are often organised by the pupils themselves, giving them a real understanding of social responsibility. They also have a lot of fun in the process!

OVERSEAS TRIPS

For some of our pupils, going on a school overseas trip will be their first time abroad. Early opportunities include the Junior French Trip to Normandy, and as they progress through the school, they might choose to go to Pompeii with Classics, Berlin with German, Switzerland with Physics, Barbados with Hockey and Netball or Morocco with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Embracing new cultures and widening our pupils' global perspective plays a big part in these trips.





BOARDING

There is a family atmosphere running through our boarding community and boarders thrive in a friendly environment where they are encouraged to develop skills for living independently. Our main house is College House: a row of Victorian villas, with two satellite houses – Thompson and The Haven for Sixth Form. Most boarding pupils live here throughout the term, a growing number of pupils stay a handful of times a year – perhaps mum and dad need to go away on business, or students would simply like a sleep over with friends. Occasional boarding offers great flexibility.

We have an extraordinary cultural diversity in boarding with pupils from 40 different nationalities. Common rooms are a hub of activity in the evenings with boarders coming together after their homework is done to watch TV, play games or just chat. Although main meals are taken in the school dining room, snacks and drinks can be made in the boarding house kitchens. Boarding pupils also have use of extensive sports facilities in the evenings.

The pace of activities pick up most weekends with organised outings and events. The boarding staff make the most of the school's close proximity to the city centre with ten-pin bowling, ice-skating, clay art, dry slope skiing, pitch and putt golf and cinema trips. Equally the moors and coast are not far away offering boat trips, surfing and walking.







THE END RESULT

There are many points in our pupils' education journey where progression and achievement are assessed and reflected. Year 11 is one of the key stepping stones when GCSEs are sat and choices are made for Sixth Form. Plymouth College posts consistently strong GCSE results and our high value-added scores demonstrate our success in maximising the potential of every pupil academically, so that they move into the Sixth Form with firm foundations for their next step.

The 'added value' that Plymouth College gives its pupils is broader than just academic results. Our Sports Leaders programme in Years 10 and 11 is full of opportunities to lead and inspire, while the bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme challenges the mind and body. As they progress through the school, pupils are encouraged to become positive role models for the younger years. Demonstrating care and commitment for everyone in the school is fostered from an early age leading to an incredible community spirit. All of this is underpinned by our Careers and PSHEE sessions, which offer advice and teach life skills.



As Year 11 progresses, we see confident, well-mannered and compassionate young adults emerging. Our students are ready for responsibility – maybe becoming a prefect or a sports team captain. They are ready for independent study. They are ready for Sixth Form.

Plymouth College



THE NEXT STEP

Plymouth College is proud of its exceptional students, who are confident, articulate, empathetic, globally-minded and prepared for success.

The 'something special' that a Plymouth College educational experience provides can only be fully understood by getting to know us better; to that end, we would encourage you to visit us and see for yourself.

To book a visit to the school, please contact the Admissions Department on 01752 505115 or email admissions@plymouthcollege.com

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Plymouth College

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