

# OUR VISION

We believe in inspiring a culture of success for all.

In our academy, individuals are equipped to take pride in their achievements and pursue their dreams.

Plympton Academy is the cornerstone of a thriving community that is stronger through collaboration.

We foster innovation and promote opportunity, creating resilient learners with a love of challenge.



**Welcome to  
the new  
Academic  
year!**



# Year Group Vision



**Plympton**  
Academy  
Inspiring Success



## 'Strive to Succeed'

Focus for this half term- 'Strive to Succeed' at.....

- Making a great first impression
- Making the most of opportunities
- Being the best version of you

# Year Team- Who's who



**Plympton**  
Academy  
Inspiring Success



**Polly Turner –Head of Year 8**

**Sarah Puleston- Pastoral Mentor Year 8**

**8STA- Mr Taylor**

**8DHA- Miss Hawkshaw**

**8RTR- Miss Trevorrow**

**8JDA- Miss Davies**

**8LHU- Miss Hulcoop**

**8CCU- Miss Cunningham**

**8IBA- Dr Bawden/ Miss Thomas**

**8SSH-Mrs Sheppard**

**SENDSCO: Ms Barber**

# Contact with Home

Calendared events:

- Tutor Evening
- Parents' Evening
- Progress Reports (2 per year)

As and when necessary:

- First point of contact = The Tutor
- Head of Year / Pastoral Mentor





# Attendance



As an Academy, it is our **ambition** for all our students to attend 100% of the time.

As an Academy, it is our **expectation** that all students' attendance will be at least 96%. This is 'good' or 'strong' attendance.

# Attendance



0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance

# Important Changes

1. The timings of the school day
2. The Academy's IT system has switched from Google to Microsoft
3. Rewards



# Important Changes



## 1. The timings of the Academy day

Lesson One	8.40am – 9.40am
Lesson Two	9.40am – 10.40am
Break	10.40am – 11.00am
Lesson Three	11.00am – 12.00pm
Lesson Four	12.00pm – 13.00pm
Lunch	13.00pm – 13.40pm
Lesson Five	13.40pm – 14.40pm
Tutor	14.40pm – 15.00pm

The TTR session after break has gone. Lessons are now 1 hour long. TTR will take place some afternoons in Tutor.

# Important Changes



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## **2. IT systems have switched from Google to Microsoft**

Students have been given new log in details for the computer system which they should use to log onto the new IT system as soon as possible.

If they have any difficulties logging in, please encourage your child to speak with their tutors.

# Important Changes



## 3. Changes to Rewards: Habits of Mind

In / outside of lesson positive praise points, logged on ClassCharts

Clean conduct cards

Hot Chocolate Friday

Da Vinci Awards

Celebration Assemblies

Friday 5s

Awards Evening



## 3. Changes to Rewards: Habits of Mind

There is a growing recognition that mastering subject-area knowledge alone will not be sufficient to prepare your children for their futures. They will need deliberate practice and focused attention to grow their capacity as efficacious thinkers to navigate and thrive in the face of unprecedented change.

Habits of Mind are a universal framework for thinking and are dispositions people use when confronted with problems and situations to which answers are not immediately apparent. When we draw upon these intellectual resources, the results that are produced are more powerful, of higher quality and of greater significance than if we fail to employ those intellectual behaviors

# Important Changes

## 3. Changes to Rewards: Habits of Mind

 <p><b>Thinking About Your Thinking (Metacognition)</b> <i>Know your Knowing!</i> Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.</p>	 <p><b>Persisting</b> <i>Stick to it!</i> Persevering with a task through to completion; remaining focused. Searching for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.</p>	 <p><b>Managing Impulsivity</b> <i>Take your time!</i> Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.</p>	 <p><b>Striving for Accuracy</b> <i>Check it again!</i> Doing your best. Setting high standards. Fact checking and finding ways to improve.</p>
 <p><b>Listening with Understanding and Empathy</b> <i>Understand others!</i> Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas. Making an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.</p>	 <p><b>Thinking Flexibly</b> <i>Look at it another way!</i> Being able to change perspectives; generating alternatives; considering options.</p>	 <p><b>Questioning and Posing Problems</b> <i>How do you know?</i> Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed &amp; developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve.</p>	 <p><b>Thinking Interdependently</b> <i>Work together!</i> Working with and learning from others in reciprocal situations. Teamwork.</p>
 <p><b>Thinking &amp; Communicating with Clarity and Precision</b> <i>Be clear!</i> Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over-generalizations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.</p>	 <p><b>Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations</b> <i>Use what you learn!</i> Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.</p>	 <p><b>Gathering Data Through All Senses</b> <i>Use your natural pathways!</i> Paying attention to the world around you. Gathering data through all the senses: Sight, Sound, Smell, Taste, and Touch.</p>	 <p><b>Creating, Imagining, and Innovating</b> <i>Try a different or new way!</i> Generating possibilities; playing with new ideas.</p>
 <p><b>Taking Responsible Risks</b> <i>Venture out!</i> Being adventuresome; living on the edge of your competence.</p>	 <p><b>Finding Humor</b> <i>Laugh a little!</i> Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at one's self.</p>	 <p><b>Responding with Wonderment and Awe</b> <i>Become intrigued!</i> Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.</p>	 <p><b>Remaining Open to Continuous Learning</b> <i>Learn throughout your lifetime!</i> Having humility and admitting when you don't know and are curious to find out. Resisting complacency.</p>

There are 16 Habits of Mind and over the next 12 months, we will introduce all of these to students at Plympton Academy, through language used by teachers in lessons, work in tutorial, assemblies and report writing.

Staff and students were asked which habits they thought were the most important to focus on, and as a result, from September, we will be looking at these habits:



# Important Changes



## Persisting

### *Stick to it!*

Persevering with a task through to completion; remaining focused. Searching for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.



## Managing Impulsivity

### *Take your time!*

Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.



## Striving for Accuracy

### *Check it again!*

Doing your best. Setting high standards. Fact checking and finding ways to improve.



## Listening with Understanding and Empathy

### *Understand others!*

Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas. Making an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.

# Important Changes



## Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

*Use what you learn!*

Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.



## Creating, Imagining, and Innovating

*Try a different or new way!*

Generating possibilities; playing with new ideas.



## Thinking Flexibly

*Look at it another way!*

Being able to change perspectives; generating alternatives, considering options.



## Taking Responsible Risks

*Venture out!*

Being adventuresome; living on the edge of your competence.

# What hasn't changed?

1. How to order / buy / collect food
2. Behaviour system
3. Wearing PE kit to school on days have PE or Dance
4. Uniform expectations
5. When students can / cannot use their mobile phones

# Expectations: A Reminder....



## Equipment

- Black Pen x 2
- Green Pen
- Pencil and Sharpener
- 30cm Ruler
- Eraser
- Scientific Calculator
- Maths set
- Knowledge Organiser



# Expectations: A reminder...





# Homework

Here is a screen shot of the introduction to the homework book.

The students have a copy of this.



All the info they need is on this page.



**INTRODUCTION**

YEAR 8	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3
Monday	English	Geography	Art
Tuesday	Science (Carousel)	History	
Wednesday	Maths (Sparx)	RS	
Thursday	Maths (Sparx)	Science (Carousel)	
Friday / Weekend	Maths (Sparx)	Spanish	Technology

Log in details / Passwords

Sparx		
Carousel		

**How to complete self-quizzing homework:**

1. Turn to today's date in your homework book and check the subject for the day.
2. Open your knowledge organiser booklet and turn to that subject. Pick one section of the KO and read it carefully. (Your subject teacher might tell you an area to focus on) This will be the focus of your homework.
3. Using the space provided, write out 10 questions about the information.
4. Close your knowledge organiser.
5. Answer the questions.
6. Open your knowledge organiser again. In green pen, mark your work and correct any answers you got wrong.
7. Write down your score at the bottom of the page.
8. Are there any areas you need to focus on next time? List them in the final section.

**How to complete Sparx homework**

1. Log onto Sparx using your username / ID.
2. Complete the assigned tasks.

**How to complete Carousel homework**

1. Log onto Sparx using your username / ID.
2. Complete the assigned tasks.

# Keeping Safe @ PA

## *What?*

A coordinated approach to ensuring all students feel safe and valued, and raising awareness of how they can access support should this not be the case.

# Keeping Safe @ PA: Bullying



- Bullying Policy
- Keeping Safe slot in assemblies
- Information to parents
- PSHE curriculum
- Anti-Bullying Week (November)
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (Diana Award)
- Yr 12/13 Peer Mentors
- Sanctions
- Developing a shared understanding of what bullying is
- Signposting to external agencies

Raising Awareness

# Keeping Safe @ PA: Bullying

‘Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, **repeated** over time, that **intentionally** hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.’

# Keeping Safe @ PA: Bullying



- Concerns triaged by DSL and shared with pastoral team
- Pastoral team to investigate
- Contact home to be made for both aggressor and victim
- Mediation offered if appropriate
- Escalation of sanctions applied
- Decision made as to whether other authorities (eg. police) need to be made aware
- Support offered to victim
  
- Reports of bullying to be tracked, monitored and reported by VP Inclusion/DSL
- Keeping Safe team to agree response to frequent areas of concerns

**Responding**





# Key Dates for your Diary



Thursday 20th October is last day of term as Friday 21st October- Non pupil Day	Friday 31st March Data for term 2 shared and last day of Term.
Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November Personal Development Week	Tuesday 18th April back to school.
Thursday 1st December- Year 8 Tutor Evening.	Thursday 20th April Year 8 Parents Evening
Friday 9th December- Data for term 1 Shared.	Friday 26th May last day
Friday 16th December last day of Term (½ Day).	Challenge week from 3rd July to 7th July.
Thursday 5th January back to school.	13th July awards evening and 14th July Plym fest.
Friday 10th February last day of term.	21st July last day of school year.
Monday 20th February back to school.	

# Free School Meals and Support

- Free school meals can be accessed through an application
- Support with meals at school
- Eligibility for support with the cost of uniform and trips
- Access to council funded holiday places
  
- Mrs Puleston is available this evening with applications to support





**The Year 8 Team will  
be available to  
support with any  
questions you may  
have.**

