



Devonport High School for Girls

Opportunity - Nurture - Achieve

11th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your families had a good summer. I am pleased to have welcomed back students after the break, this week and to see familiar faces. It also gives me great pleasure to welcome new year 7 students and families to the school, along with some new Sixth Formers. I know that many students had an excellent summer, but this was overshadowed by a tragic event in Liverpool and followed by national rioting, which affected Plymouth. My thoughts are with anyone affected by these events and wanted to reiterate that DHSG is a safe, welcoming and inclusive place. Discrimination has no place in our society and if any student has been affected by the events over the summer and requires further support, please do contact us. I spoke to students on their first day back about this in my start of term assemblies and we are committed to supporting our students.

Exam Successes

The staff and I are delighted to be able to celebrate last year's Year 13 and Year 11 students. Many congratulations to students this year on their excellent results. I know they have worked tremendously hard over the past two years and deserve their successes. That our leavers have achieved so much in their time here is in no small measure and a tribute to their hard work and dedication. My thanks also go to their teachers who taught and supported them in their A Level and GCSE journeys. I am extremely proud of our DHSG students and wish them all the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

Staffing Updates

I can confirm again that we are again fully staffed, with subject specialists. With a national shortage of teachers and the difficulty in recruitment we are in a very fortunate position here indeed. New staff starting at DHSG this September are:

Mr Ayles – Teacher of History
Miss Brock – Teacher of RS
Mrs Mackay – Teacher of Music
Dr Mattock – Head of Chemistry
Mrs Rhead – Head of RS
Dr Roberts – Teacher of Biology
Mr Trafford – Teacher of Physics

School Events/Calendar

The school calendar of events is published on our website and is updated when there are any changes. Please do keep an eye on this. We have some exciting events coming up, such as the Community Breakfast (for new Year 7 parents/carers) and annual Carol Concert, to name but a few.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance at school is vital for student success. It is clear from the national statistics that those students with 95% attendance or better, on average, perform much better in examinations at the end of secondary school, than those that do not. The Department for Education has placed a renewed focus on good attendance and in August re-issued guidance to schools on this. It is clear from the government that attendance is a priority and that school leaders are unable to authorise absence unless in exceptional circumstances. Our Attendance Policy is on our website and has more details around this. Punctuality to school is also important and please could I ask that you remind your child[ren] that they must be on site by 8.45am and in tutor rooms by 8.50am to start the day and gain their registration mark.

October half term 2025

Please note that next year, the October half term is two weeks long. This begins on Monday 27th October 2025 and ends of Friday 7th November 2025. The full term dates are on the website.

My very best wishes,

Lee Sargeant

Head Teacher