



DEVONPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS PARENTS' UPDATE

October 2018

Calling all green fingered gardeners

Research suggests that gardening benefits mental health in numerous ways; it's fun, it provides gentle exercise to lift moods, provides sunshine and fresh air that provide essential vitamins, a sense of achievement and success, helps develop a sense of responsibility when growing living things and provides a great way to meet new people and become a part of something. We have an area behind the school that was introduced as a garden a number of years ago. The garden was developed as part of a nurture programme for small groups of year 7 and 8 students, which proved to be a tremendous success. Unfortunately our garden was badly damaged in the high winds last year so it has been unusable for 12/18 months. However, I am pleased to announce that the garden is going to be reestablished this year. The redevelopment of the garden will take place through nurture programmes with select students but also during lunchtimes with other interested students, staff and family members.

Therefore, if you are a keen gardener and can give up an hour of your time to work with our students to develop and maintain the garden as part of a lunchtime club between 1.35 pm - 2.35 pm please get in contact with Miss Ricks (SENCO) at jricks@dhsg.co.uk.

In addition, if anyone has any gardening tools or seeds that they would like to donate to the club we would very much appreciate your offerings. If you have items to donate please contact Miss Ricks to arrange drop off, all tools and seeds (gardening equipment) would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Miss J Ricks

Ten Tors

The introductory walk for Ten Tors took place on Saturday 6th October 2018, and despite the terrible weather forecast we managed to complete the walk without getting too wet. The students were fantastic, and seemed to enjoy the day. All the volunteers were really pleased with the effort and attitude of the students and are looking forward to beginning the training on the 10th of November. Just a reminder that the Parents Evening is at Coombe Dean School on 1st November 2018 at 18.30-19.30 so if you would like to meet the volunteers who will be out with your children on the moor and find out a bit more about the event and the kit requirements please come along.



Students wishing to take part in the 45 mile event, your first walk is on December 1st so keep an eye on the notices so you can complete the route card in time.

Mrs S Anderson

Year 12 Trip to Oxford

On Monday the 8th of October, Miss Ricks and I took a group of Year 12 French students for a workshop at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages in Oxford.



Even though it was a very early start as we left at 6.30 am all the students agreed that it was a valuable experience! Several sessions had been organised: one was about French paintings and surrealism and all students were very receptive. When it came to the end, some students were saying how surprised they were to see how much they had been able to say. The second session which was a Russian ab initio hour triggered a lot of interest and I did hear that studying French with Russian could be a strong possibility at university in 2 years' time. The group were also given some information about how to apply to Oxford and in particular how to apply to study Languages; we then went on a guided tour of Hertford College. We found out that there was a cat there that always waits for the students to come back in September (memories of Marmalade!). We found out that a lot of TV presenters and journalists, like Fiona Bruce, are former alumni of Hertford College. On the way back, the students were buzzing with ideas.

Many thanks to Miss Ricks for driving us there and back.

Mme Burkey

Drama GCSE Performance

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 GCSE Drama students on an excellent evening of powerful and humorous performances, they did themselves and the Department proud. A big thank you to Plymouth University for hosting our event in their Drama studio, and to the sixty plus audience members who came and supported the students.

Mr C Swabey

Year 7 Teambuilding at Escot Park

We are pleased to welcome the new Year 7 students, who have been busy getting to know each other and settling into school. It was great to see so many Parents and Carers at the Community Roast Dinner, as they exchanged stories from the Teambuilding Trip to Escot Park.



The Year 7 students took on a variety of challenges including finding their way through a maze, orienteering and name-badge making. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Swamp Walk, where students were well and truly out of their comfort zone and up to their armpits in mud!



Swamp Walk conquered!

We feel sure that the students will keep the "can do" attitude, try their best and seize new opportunities.

Heads of House

Year 11 Matters

It is a particularly important year for Year 11 students, with the GCSE examinations in the summer being the focus of their attention. To help prepare them for the year ahead, students took part in Year 11 Matters Day on 9th October. We considered different methods of active revision, how to identify and manage stress and practised relaxation through aromatherapy and massage. Students also learned CPR using our British Heart Foundation Call Push Rescue kits and ended the day fully relaxed (and in some cases asleep!) after a guided breathing activity led by The Zone. We hope they benefit from the skills gained as they sit their GCSE mocks after half term.

Heads of House

Classroom to Moon Relay

As part of National Walk to School Month, DHSG students took part in the Classroom to Moon Relay with Plymouth City Council (PCC) to contribute to the quest to walk the 79,000 hours that would be required to walk to the moon. Students representing each tutor group in Year 7 and Year 8 were met by PCC staff and "Astro Mo" to walk the relay leg between DHSG and Pennycross Primary School.



The students delivered Astro Mo safely to the primary school students for his onward journey. Thanks to Mr Moore and Miss Scott for accompanying the students and we hope that they continue to exercise by walking to school safely.

Dr Parry

Jeans for Genes



Changing the world for children with genetic disorders

The national Jeans for Genes Day was Friday 21st September and, as usual, DHSG students showed their full support with a denim-themed mufti day. Students learned how genetic disorders may be inherited and how they can affect daily life. A total of £683.17 was raised on Jeans for Genes Day at school, which will go towards support such as specialist learning and equipment, time away from home, or research to look for the causes, treatments and cures of a condition. Thank you for your support!

Dr Parry

Childcare Vouchers

We would like to remind you that we can accept childcare vouchers for payment of after school clubs which take place on the school premises (including the Life Centre). This means that we can accept childcare vouchers for our netball and dance clubs.

Due to HMRC rules, we cannot accept the vouchers for school trips (including residential trips) or music tuition.

We are registered with the following companies:

Voucher Company Name	Registration ID
Busy Bees	Devonport High School for Girls
Computershare	0026105353
Eden Red	P21220811
Sodexo	829576

If you would like to use your childcare vouchers for payment of the after school clubs, using a different company, please email dhsg@dhsg.co.uk and we will register with them.

Learning Gateway

This is a reminder to Parents/Carers that information about your child is available to you online, via the SIMS Learning Gateway. SIMS Learning Gateway is a secure online service that allows Parents/Carers to see up to date information about their children. Each user must have their own username and password to access data relating to their child.

The Learning Gateway provides you with information about your child's attendance, school timetable, academic progress, behaviour/rewards/ sanctions and ensures that key information retained by the school (e.g. contact details) are correct. Log in details would have been sent to you when your child started at the school, if you need these details to be re-sent to you please contact the school at dhsq@dhsq.co.uk

A New Way to Make Donations to our School Fund

Each year, we request a donation of £10.00 for each student to support our School Fund. We use our School Fund for activities for our students that cannot be otherwise funded from public funds. This includes:

- Sporting activities and competitions
- Cookery competitions
- Supporting students for a variety of trips and visits
- Our annual Carol Concert
- Our annual awards for Speech Day

We have now been able to add the School Fund Payment to your cashless account on lpayimpact. As it is a charitable donation, it has been added to all accounts and will remain on your account for you to make a donation if you wish. Alternatively, you can still donate by cash or cheque to the finance office (please ensure that the envelope has your child's name and form on it). We would really appreciate it if you could support this very important fund.

Absences, ie Medical Appointments etc.

If your child is unwell please telephone the school office in the morning before 10.00 am, so that we know why they have not arrived. If your child has been absent, please send in a written note explaining the reason for the absence.

Request to Leave School During the School Day

May we politely remind Parents/Carers that students in Years 7-11 inclusive are not permitted to leave the school site for appointments unaccompanied during the school day. If any student should need to leave the site during the school day (for example, for a medical appointment), they must be collected by a Parent/Carer or named adult and signed out from the main school office.

Department for Education School Census

It is statutory for all state schools to complete a Census three times a year and return this information to the Department for Education (DfE). As you may be aware, as a school we receive additional funding to support vulnerable students via pupil premium plus. We would like to draw your attention to the need to self-declare to us if your child was previously in care and is adopted or living with you under a special guardianship order or child arrangement order, if we are to apply for this funding. We are able to claim £2,300 per eligible pupil each year to support the social, emotional and academic needs of this group of students and self-declaration is our only means of identifying them.

If you would like us to do this, you must declare your child's status directly to us at school. At Devonport High School for Girls this can be done by contacting Ms A Nettleship, PA to the Head Teacher. The Department for Education requires you to provide evidence of your child's adoptive or special guardianship status, by sharing your adoption/ special guardianship order or showing a letter from the local authority confirming that they placed your child with you. We will register this on our pupil census return.

Please be aware that you must make this declaration each time your child moves to a new school, so if this is your first year with us, we would be grateful if you could let us know. This information is used for Pupil Premium Plus purposes only. If you wish staff to know about your child's adoptive status in order to better understand and support them, please contact Mrs R Morgan, Assistant Head Teacher, our member of staff with lead responsibility for adopted and special guardianship children.

Changes to Parent/Carer contact details

If you have recently moved house or changed your place of work would you please contact the School Office and notify us of your change in contact details asap. This information is important to us in order to ensure you are notified at the earliest opportunity if your child is involved in an emergency situation.

Lost Property

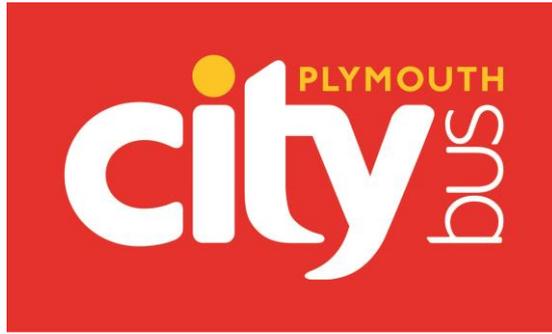
We have a huge amount of lost property which needs to be returned to the relevant owners. We have endeavoured to return all named items. However there are still a large number of items remaining which are not named. Some of these items are expensive brands. Can you please encourage your children to check the lost property for items lost – it is located beside the main school office. In the main school office we also have a box of valuables which includes glasses, earphones, bus passes, make-up, stationery, etc

School Term Dates 2018-2019

Term 1	Wednesday 5 September 2018 to Thursday 18 October 2018
Holiday	Friday 19 October 2018 to Friday 26 October 2018
Term 2	Monday 29 October 2018 to Friday 21 December 2018
Holiday	Monday 24 December 2018 to Friday 4 January 2019
Term 3	Monday 7 January 2019 to Friday 15 February 2019
Holiday	Monday 18 February 2019 to Friday 22 February 2019
Term 4	Monday 25 February 2019 to Friday 5 April 2019
Holiday	Monday 8 April 2019 to Monday 22 April 2019
Term 5	Tuesday 23 April 2019 to Friday 24 May 2019
Holiday	Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 31 May 2019
Term 6	Monday 3 June 2019 to Friday 19 July 2019
Bank Holidays	Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December 2018, Tuesday 1 January 2019, Friday 19 and Monday 22 April 2019, Monday 6 and 27 May 2019, Monday 26 August 2019

Change To Plymouth Citybus Services

We would like to forward on to you a letter received from Plymouth Citybus concerning a revised timetable for the service 104/105 that is due to take effect as from 29th October 2018:



To whom it may concern,

As from Monday 29th October 2018 we will be introducing a revised timetable for the 104/105. This timetable will be more robust and reliable than the one currently in operation and will provide faster journey times between Tavistock and the Devonport High Schools.

We will now have two buses departing Tavistock in the morning, the 104 will depart the Bus Station at 07.30 and will serve Whitchurch, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Golf Links Road (Rock Shelter) then on its arrival into Plymouth will serve Roborough, Woolwell Roundabout, Crownhill Low Level, DSHG on Outland Road and continue through Stoke to DHSB.

The 105 will depart Tavistock Bus Station at 07.27 and will serve Bishopsmead, Horrabridge, Crapstone and Yelverton and will take the same route through Plymouth as the 104.

The afternoon journeys will follow the same route in reverse.

The only stop in Horrabridge will be at Manor Garage. Any pupils currently catching the bus at Pencreber Road will need to walk up to the main road.

Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to serve Plymouth High School on North Hill. Your alternative service will be to catch the 104 or 105 as normal and then transfer onto a 40/41, 44 or 42/A/B/C from Crownhill Low Level to and from school.

We thank you all very much for your patience over the past months and thank you for remaining with us whilst we resolve this situation; for those who are using us to travel to and from the high school for girls on North Hill, I apologise for the inconvenience these changes will cause. Regrettably we have had to accept that we could not deliver a reliable direct service to all schools hence the decision.

The revised timetable can be found on our website in the timetable section.

Yours sincerely
James Church
Commercial Manager
Revised 104 link:

<https://www.plymouthbus.co.uk/timetables/school-service-104-29th-october-2018#timetable>

Revised 105 link:

<https://www.plymouthbus.co.uk/timetables/105-29th-october-2018#timetable>

PTFA Update

Our recent AGM on Wednesday 10th October was well attended – a huge thank you to those parents/carers and grandparents that came along to support and enjoy the cheese and biscuits. The current chair, Ms Victoria Trevor, stood down after many years of volunteering with the PTFA. Thank you Victoria for all of your hard work.

The new chair is Becki Greenwood. Becki was formally the secretary and this role has now been taken over by Annabel Poet. A new position of events organiser was agreed, and Helen Dugmore is undertaking this role.

We have lots of exciting events planned over the coming year. The two currently underway are a Christmas shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway in Bristol on Saturday 10th November 2018, and a Quiz evening on Friday 16th November 2018. Please find the details below, and we hope that you can support these fun events to raise much needed funds for the school.



Christmas Shopping Trip Saturday 10th November 2018 Bristol Cribbs Causeway

Pick up at Park & Ride (opposite DHSG)

Leaving at 07.00 & Returning at 20.00

£18

Tickets being sold by the PTFA

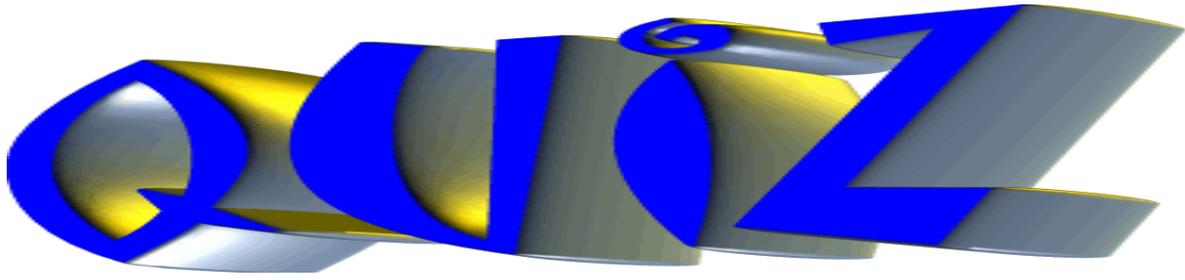
Please put money/cheque into a sealed envelope with your child's name and form and mark it **Christmas Shopping** and hand it in at reception. DHSG students can attend unaccompanied – please complete the parental consent form available from reception.

Hand in no later than Friday 2nd November

This will be on a first come, first served basis due to limited seating.

Cheques made payable to: **DHSG PTA & FRIENDS**





PTFA Winter Quiz Night

Friday 16th November 2018

From 19:00

£5 per person

Grab yourself a team of up to 6 people (adults only)

Meet in the dining hall at DHSG and bring your own nibbles and drinks

For more information and an entry form email

PTFA@dhsg.co.uk



All proceeds raise funds for DHSG PTFA

We also have a list of school events and would appreciate volunteers from our parents/carers/friends/grandparents to help with refreshments and uniform sales. Just volunteering for one activity per year would have a real impact on how much fundraising could happen. To volunteer for one event, or to find out more about how you can support the PTFA, please email ptfa@dhsq.co.uk and they will be in touch.

The PTFA meet once per term, on Wednesday nights. The dates of all meetings are on the school calendar which is on the school website. Please come along for a cuppa and biscuits and see how you can help to raise much needed funds for the school.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Forthcoming Events Requiring PTFA Volunteers

Date	Event
Wednesday 14 th November 2018	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 5 th December 2018	Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening
Wednesday 6 th March 2019	Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening
Wednesday 13 th March 2019	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening
Wednesday 27 th March 2019	Year 10 Parent/Carers Evening
Thursday 6 th June 2019	New Intake Evening
Wednesday 19 th June 2019	Open Evening
Wednesday 26 th June 2019	Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening

Lettings

At Devonport High School for Girls, as part of our links to the local and wider community we are pleased to offer a range of venues and facilities available for hire for events, parties, meetings and sporting activities after 5pm on weekdays during term time and during the day at weekends and school holidays.

During the summer we have tennis courts available for hire and in the autumn we have outdoor netball and basketball courts to hire.

If you are interested in our facilities, in the first instance please contact the school's Business Manager, on 01752 705024 or by e-mail to dhsg@dhsg.co.uk.

We have a number of business already letting our premises, and offer the services:

Rockfit



Rockfit is a mix of cardio, toning and dance based exercise set to rock and metal music. You can have fun whilst you get fit with music from bands including Queen, Bon Jovi, Motley Crue and Rammstein. There are variations of moves and high and low impact options to suit all levels along with clear demos to help any new members. Anyone can join in! Classes are every Tuesday at 7pm, no need to book ahead, you can just rock up and pay as you go for £5 per class and if you really enjoy it you can buy class cards, £20 for 5 classes giving you one free class or £35 for 10 classes giving you three free classes.

Clubbercise



A fitness class called Clubbercise takes place in the Hall every Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm. As part of the Every Girl Can project, this is a fun class which is open to anyone aged 16 and above. To find out more about this class, please follow the instructor's link to her Facebook Page:

Clubbercise Plymouth with Natalie

https://www.facebook.com/clubberciseplymouthwithnatalie/?ref=br_rs

Taekwon-Do

Taekwon-Do classes are held for various ages:

4 to 7 year old – Mondays 5.50pm to 6.15pm

7 years + including adults – Mondays 6.25pm to 7.30pm
Thursdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm

For more information, please contact Angela Bradley: Mobile: 07734391481

Angela.bradley@blueyonder.co.uk

Devon Shotokan Karate Club

Takes place every Monday and Friday night from 7pm to 8pm.

Contact Colin Putt: puttcolin@aol.com - 07968061887



Many thanks to all of you who have kindly donated bras over the academic year. We have been very successful this year and I have sent off 3 full banks, which is absolutely super. To date we have now donated 7 banks.

Please keep collecting as for every tonne of bras collected, Against Breast Cancer receives £700 to fund their research. The same bras also help to support small businesses in Africa. Together with their recycling partners, the textile recovery project prevents these bras going into landfill before giving them a new lease of life in developing countries such as Togo, Ghana and Kenya, where bras remain too expensive to produce locally. Successful ventures like this keep many families in developing countries out of poverty whilst providing employment for people at home in the UK. Any bras that are genuinely beyond redemption are dismantled and disposed of properly.



So another reminder that we host a pink bra bank down in the multi gym which is now empty and needs to start filling up again.

For more info

<https://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/recycling/bra-recycling/>

Mr Pierce