



150 HEAR ME OUT

July 2024



e Rijks



CONTENTS

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Note from HST- page 2

Earth Alliance - page 3

PHSG PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

How we Have Celebrated- page 5

How Far Our School Has Come - page 9

PHSG Word Cloud - page 11

Women's History and PHSG - page 13

How Has PHSG Physically Changed? -page 15

IN HONOUR OF OLD MAGAZINES

An Ode to Education - page 21

Staff Room Revealed - page 23

PHSG: A Short Story - page 25

Dear Clarissa - page 27



VERITY
HEAD STUDENT AND EDITOR OF MAGAZINE



Thinking of myself amongst all the students who have ever walked through these halls makes me feel small in the best way possible; imagining previous head girls and the mark they made makes my editorial role for this magazine (and indeed my position as Head Student) feel that bit more special. I do hope you enjoy this edition of 'Hear Me Out', which both reflects on progression and honours the past, while continuing to showcase the talent this school cultivates.

ELLATHEA
HEAD OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY



As a student who only recently joined Plymouth High, I've become quickly immersed in the school's diverse and kind community. I have also learned lots about its rich history, and our pride in it. Seeing those who have come before me, and thinking about those who are yet to come, makes me realise how special 150 years really is. This birthday represents not just what the school has been but what it can and will be in the future, and whatever happens, I'm sure it will be brilliant!

NOTE FROM HST

FRANKIE
HEAD OF CHARITY AND WELLBEING



So much has changed in the last 150 years and yet I still feel connected to the faces of the students and teachers I see in the archive—their passion for the power of women's education and equality, their camaraderie and compassion in unprecedented times such as the blitz and their "for life not school we learn" spirit. I have followed in the footsteps of so many creative, passionate and dedicated students and I hope I can pass this on to the next generation of students who can lead the change they wish to see for the next 150 years!

KITTY
HEAD OF STUDENT COUNCIL



Plymouth High's 150th birthday is such an exciting and important occasion to me as it brings into perspective the enormity of the school's community. I have followed in the footsteps of my older sisters by coming to Plymouth High, so already I have seen the impact our school has had on people's lives. What strikes me harder, however, is how these people have gone on to impact the lives of others, and over the span of 150 years, we must have made quite a few impacts! I am proud to even be a small part of Plymouth High's long history, and hope to see many more years of inspiring, impactful Plymouth High students.

EARTH ALLIANCE'S 150TH PLANTER

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL'S 150TH BIRTHDAY IS AN EXTREMELY SPECIAL OCCASION. THEREFORE, WE DECIDED TO MAKE SOMETHING TO MARK THE OCCASION. EARTH ALLIANCE COLLABORATED WITH THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM AND OTHER STUDENTS TO CREATE A WONDERFUL PLANTER FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH WARM AND VIBRANT FLOWERS TO CELEBRATE. WE USING RECYCLED MATERIALS TO MAKE THE PLANTER AND FILLED IT WITH DONATED PLANTS. WITH THIS WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND BOOST BIODIVERSITY, WHILE FURTHER SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE SCHOOL ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY.

WRITTEN BY EARTH ALLIANCE



HOW WE HAVE CELEBRATED

Plymouth High School for Girls has been a place of learning, friendship, and unforgettable memories for a century and a half. To celebrate our 150th Birthday we have been marking this incredible milestone with exciting events and activities throughout the year.

The celebrations that have taken place throughout 2024, have offered the opportunity for current students, alumnae, staff and the local community to come together and reflect on the school's enduring legacy.

We started off the year with a special presentation of the commemorative pin badge to every pupil and member of staff, with an assembly led by their Headteacher. These unique badges are a symbol of our shared history and a keepsake to remind us all of this momentous year.

Simon Underdown, Headteacher at Plymouth High, said:

'We are immensely proud to reach this significant milestone in the history of Plymouth High School for Girls. Over the past 150 years, our school has played a vital role in shaping the lives of countless young women and, latterly, young men and we are excited to celebrate this legacy with the entire community.

'Our motto, 'For life not school we learn' is just as relevant as we look forward to celebrating our latest milestone as it was in 1874. I consider myself fortunate to be the Headteacher of such a caring and happy place. Our students and staff are ambitious and enthusiastic; students enjoy their learning and treat each other with kindness and compassion.

'It's a privilege to be able to work with them. All that we do at Plymouth High is driven by our commitment to create a positive environment where everyone feels valued for who they are.'

Jay Davenport, Regional Director for Devon at the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, said:

'I am honoured to witness the remarkable journey of Plymouth High School for Girls as it celebrates 150 years of transforming the life chances of young people across the community. Our commitment to empowering young people at the school and fostering a culture of leadership has stood the test of time, and I look forward to seeing what's to come. As we reflect on the school's rich history, we look forward to a future where we continue to inspire and shape the aspirations of generations to come.'

A special 150th Anniversary page was published onto the school website. On this page, you'll find a wealth of resources, stories, and event information that capture the essence of our school's 150-year journey. From historical memories to our year of celebrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy as we celebrate this historical occasion together.

The PHSG History timeline was created using the expansive school archive and formed through letters, magazines, logbooks, articles and diaries. For the first time we can experience a chronological and captivating journey through the key milestones and memorable events in our school's history. From our founding days to monumental milestones, this timeline offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of our school's history, tracing its evolution, achievements, and enduring legacy over the years.

The Great 'PHSG History' Bake Off was a huge success. As part of the 150th school birthday celebration, students have been representing their Houses in this prestigious competition.

The Great 'PHSG History' Bake-Off is not just any old House competition; it's a flavourful journey through time, exploring the recipes that have delighted taste buds of students of old and that were passed on through the student-led school magazines.

The recipes and methods have been extracted from our 1960's student magazines and were used by the contestants to revive the classic recipes and showcase the timeless appeal of traditional baking. Two students were selected from each year group, for each House, and the winning house from each year earned a place in the Bake Off final. For the selection process, House Captains invited students to bring in a 'signature bake' and students were selected to then represent their House and compete against their year group.

We kicked off the competition heats (or 'technical challenge') on Thursday 7th March, with Year 7 and Year 8 students having to follow a 1960's student recipe for 'Peanut Crisps' within a set timeframe.

The heat got off to a flying start, with each pair of bakers using their teamwork to organise equipment, measure ingredients and remembering to pre-heat the oven!

Each team had varying approaches, with some flying through the 1960's instructions, and converting the methods into everyday processes, while others took a more steady approach and concentrated on traditional practices.

All teams had the nail-biting moment of recognising whether they had enough time to cool the crisps! And whether they had had long enough in the oven! Eeek!

All entries had to be presented at the gingham table before the clock ran out, with Kendall House waiting for the last possible seconds to race to get their entry to the table.

Our panel of judges, included Mr 'Hollydown' and Miss 'Prueghton', who judged the final entries based on taste, presentation, creativity, and the historical accuracy of the chosen recipe.

Anthony swept the floor in this first heat with both 7A and 8A securing places in the final.

The second heat took place on Thursday 21st March with Year 11 and our Sixth form competitors following a 1960s 'Chocolate Truffles' student recipe. The metric conversions were no match for our experienced scholars.

It was great to see the varying approaches to 'biscuit sieving', with some bashing through the biscuits with rolling pins, with others going for the more modern technique of the food processor. The students needed to use teamwork to ensure their truffles had an even coating and were at the right consistency. Students soon realised that rolling identical spheres, in shape and size, was perhaps not as easy as it looked!

Finalist positions were secured for Year 11 Latimer and Sixth Form Temple, with Mr 'Hollydown' saying "These truffles are so good, they are worthy of being served as a dessert in a restaurant!

Our final heat took place on Thursday 18th April, where Year 9 & Year 10 Houses competed for a place in the 'Bake Off' final by following a 1960s 'Summer Pudding' student recipe.

Apple selection became the topic of conversation, with some sticking to the traditional cooking apple, and others opting for a more modern twist by using a more sour Granny Smith, and another team using a sweet red apple.

Timing on the cooking was essential. Students had to make their own judgement on an interpretation of what is a 'just soft' apple? No-one wanted a soggy mess, but apples that were too hard would have an unpleasant texture!

Attention then turned to chocolate and presentation. Who knew there was so many ways to grate chocolate? Some grated, others crumbled, and one team 'shaved'. All providing their own unique take on decorating their final portion to present to the judges.

Judges deliberated for quite some time and admitted that 'this is by far the hardest heat that we have had to judge'.

In the end Kendall earned their spot in the final with both Year 9 and Year 10 Kendallers joining the others for the final show stopper.

For the final showstopper, the contestants were given a basic hot cross bun recipe and method, where they could then enhance this in any way they wanted. For some, this was their first ever attempt at resting and proving dough, so keeping to time was critical.

Each team brought their own unique flair to the competition, infusing their creations with personal touches and innovative twists. From traditional recipes to daring flavour combinations that pushed the boundaries of convention, the stage was set for a feast of culinary delights.

As the aroma of freshly baked bread filled the room, students worked tirelessly to perfect their creations, kneading dough, piping crosses, and carefully crafting intricate designs. The kitchen buzzed with excitement and camaraderie as classmates exchanged tips and encouragement, embodying the spirit of friendly competition and collaboration.

Contestants placed their hot cross buns on the gingham tablecloth to display for the last time, ready to impress the judges and claim the coveted title of Bake-Off Champion.

A distinguished panel of judges, including our trusted 'Mr Holydown' and 'Miss Prueton' alongside two esteemed guest judges from the local culinary scene, lent their expertise to the event.

Mrs Arkroyd, our catering manager, has over 30 years experience in the catering sector. She has a keen eye for details and knows how to get the best flavour combinations out of the ingredients.

Petty Officer Dent, has been a professional chef for the past 19 years. During his time in the Royal Navy he was a Professional Cookery Instructor at the Defence Maritime Logistics School, representing the RN at 4 Tri-service Cookery Competitions. He has delivered a Trafalgar Night Dinner to the British Ambassador at the British Embassy in Washington DC, and assisted cooking for the late Queen Elizabeth II on 2 occasions.

After much discussion and tasting deliberations, the judges announced the winner: Year 9 Kendall, whose hot cross buns stood out for their impeccable texture, bold flavours, and stunning presentation. As cheers erupted and applause filled the room, Kendall was awarded a gleaming trophy, a symbol of their culinary prowess and dedication to their craft.

Beyond the thrill of competition, the Bake-Off Final offered students an invaluable opportunity to showcase their skills, build confidence, and forge lasting memories with their peers. It was a celebration of tradition and innovation, where the past and present intersected in a symphony of flavours and aromas, reminding us of the power of food to bring people together and create moments of joy and connection.

Our special celebration day on the 4th July will be filled with activities that honour our school's past, celebrate our present, and look forward to the future. Here's what's on the agenda:

Discovering the Past, Present, and Future: Explore our school's journey through an amazing exhibition featuring photos, artifacts, and stories from each era. Learn about the visionaries who founded our school, the milestones we've achieved, and the traditions that make our school so special.

Singing the School Song: Join us in singing the school song – a tradition that has united generations of Plymouth High School for Girls students. Let's raise our voices together and celebrate the unity and spirit of our school community.

Interviews with Past Students: Hear first hand accounts from alumni who walked the same halls as you. Their stories of school life, achievements, and adventures will inspire and connect us to the legacy of those who came before us.

One of the most exciting parts of our Celebration Day is welcoming back former students and staff members. They'll join us for a special celebration event where we can share memories, stories, and laughter. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet the people who have helped shape Plymouth High School for Girls into the amazing place it is today. We want every single student to be a part of this historic celebration. It's not just about looking back – it's about celebrating who we are now and dreaming big for the future. So, get ready to dive into the festivities, connect with our rich heritage, and enjoy a day full of fun, learning, and community spirit.

WRITTEN BY MISS BENWELL





HOW FAR OUR SCHOOL HAS COME

Our school, Plymouth High School for Girls, was opened by Archbishop Temple on the 14th of September 1874. The buildings were modern for their time, being 'well ventilated' and 'comfortable.' In his opening speech, the archbishop begins to say how boys' schools, now with 'fame and honour of their own,' depend on their students as much as they do the teachers, which he states he hopes becomes true for our school, an all-girls school. Luckily, we can say that now, in 2024, his statement has become one of the foundations of the school, teaching us to build trust between students and teachers. PHSG has some of the best student leadership opportunities compared to so many schools in Devon, which dives deeper into Archbishop Temple's statement, as it shows us that all the unique and amazing activities we have in our school are not just organised by the teachers, but by many of the students as well.

In his speech he also remarked that 'a very great deal of excellence of a school like this will depend on [our] caring for it' and that we should 'make the school proud' of us' This is very clearly a big part of our school, especially with our 'House Pride.'

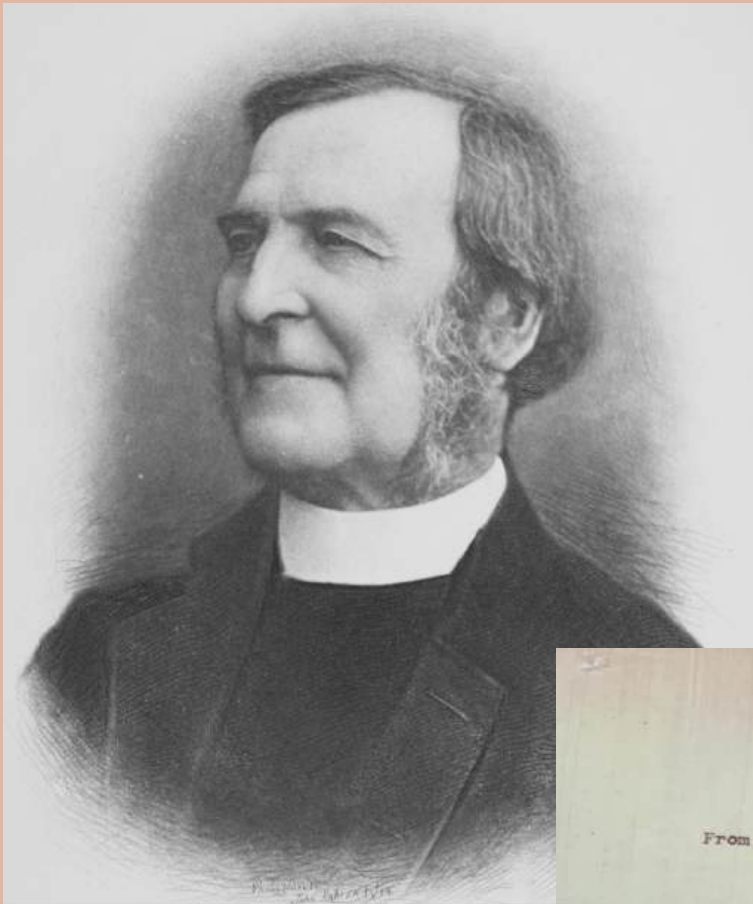
The four houses really bring the school bonds closer together, making relationships stronger with the friendly, yet highly competitive aspect of it; the feeling that you have to try your best to make your peers proud as well as yourself. The archbishop even talks about when the time for us to leave the school approaches, we come to be proud of the fact that we were a part of it, which we can see now, with former students returning yearly, to judge festivals and talk to aspiring scholars about what they do now. The archbishop states that 'so in your afterlife you will find much that a great deal of what you have learned, simply because you have learnt it together, will be much more under your own control and use, and you will find it more completely at your command.' We can see that he understood that just by helping us learn together, around others, we would have better chances and opportunities. The mixing of characters has a marvelous effect, when girls mix with girls, they begin to learn at their own measure what they can do and what they are yet to learn. It provides us with a sense of self, keeping our confidence high, while not letting our hubris grow much bigger than is necessary for life.

Our school has come a long way from where it started. Although Archbishop Temple had high hopes for our school, his plans for the students were to help them become 'Christian Gentlewomen.' He had hoped for women to succeed in this school in order to become 'modest and intelligent in ordinary society.' Although that was a success for many years, the branches of students have continued to grow and blossom throughout the many seasons they spend at our school. Our school has brought up women of many backgrounds now and has sent them off to become successful individuals, living for not only others, but also themselves. From police officers to florists and politicians.

Our school was opened by a respected man but has become its own, flourishing into a space for women to become who they are and what they want to be.

The line that I enjoy most in Archbishop Temple's speech is; 'It will show, of course, in many ways. It will show itself in small things as well as in great, it will show itself in perpetual humility and simplicity, it will show itself in perpetual small kindness, in a readiness to retire, in a readiness to put others forward rather than yourselves. It shows itself too, sometimes in the crises of life, it shows itself in the unflinching adherence to duty, come what may.' These words are at the heart and soul of our school. Even once we leave, the memories of the halls stay strong, living on forever in our minds.

WRITTEN BY FLORA WILLS



THE NEW PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

OPENING PROCEEDINGS.
From : THE WESTERN DAILY MERCURY, JANUARY 22nd, 1878.

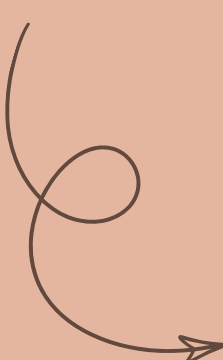
The new High School for Girls, which have recently been erected at the top of Tavistock Road, Plymouth, were formally opened yesterday afternoon by the Bishop of Exeter. The site, it is true, is in a somewhat retired position, but is not less desirable on that account. The design of the architect, Mr. H.J. Paull, F.R.I.B.A., of London, has been carried out as originally planned, with the addition of a basement storey, occasioned by the inclination of the ground surface westward. The leading ideas of the Council in the erection of the new school, to which the architect has given complete effect, will be manifest to any intelligent observer. They may be stated to be :-

1. Adaptation of the internal arrangements to their special purpose.
2. Abundance of daylight everywhere.
3. Sanitary excellence and bodily comfort.
4. Architectural comeliness, united with economy.

With regard to the first point, viz., adaptation of plan to the requirements, it should be noted that this is one of the earliest projected buildings of its kind in England, so that the architect had no precedent for guidance. It is believed, however, that arrangements are such as will entitle it to rank as a model for others; especially in the facilities afforded for educational work and the maintenance of good discipline and decorum. As to the second point, viz., good daylight, an inspection of the rooms, corridors, passages, etc., will not find any gloomy parts. All are bright and cheery throughout. With regard to the third - sanitary considerations and bodily comfort - all appliances having any relation to drainage are of the first order, and no expense has been spared to render them complete and perfect. Every drain pipe is well ventilated, no connection exists between the sewers and waste pipes; and access of sewer gas to the interior is practically impossible. Ventilation too, has been well provided for throughout the building. Each class-room has inlets for external air, so arranged as to prevent draughts, and outlets for vitiated air. Open windows will not be required during the hours of teaching except in hot weather, but all are made to open, and in the opposite wall are one or more casements opening to the outer air, so that by through draught a rapid and complete renewal of the atmosphere may be effected in each class-room during the hourly change of classes. The large assembly room has one of Boyle's extraction ventilators in the roof, and several inlets for fresh air, independently of the windows. A uniform temperature throughout all rooms and passages in cold weather is accomplished by a combined system of hot-water pipes and fresh warm air; the arrangements being of a special kind, contrived by the architect and carried into effect by the engineers, Messrs. Haden and Son, of Trowbridge. The Council have acted most liberally in this matter, wisely regarding the health of the pupils as of first importance. Each class-room has an open fire-place which, when in use, will

1

The newspaper article after
the opening of the school



PHSG WORD CLOUD

There is no question as to how much PHSG means to its students; over the years we consistently see students returning in the forms of visitors, speakers, festival judges, and even staff. The unequivocal sense of pride and love students seem to accumulate during their time at this school is often overwhelming and can be felt by teachers and visitors alike. Those external to Plymouth High often remark upon the nuanced ambience of it compared to other schools. As a student myself, I've often remarked upon this to teachers, peers and indeed my own family. Therefore, as a way of mirroring such an air within our school, we decided to ask students and staff to submit a word or phrase that best sums up PHSG for them in order to create a 'PHSG word cloud'. You can see the results of the submission we can see on this double page, and I believe it says all necessary of remark.

supportive
 fantastic
 learning
 friendly
 teamwork
 houses
 key historic
 experiences
 future
 belonging
 community
 inclusive
 kind
 life
 power
 lock
 kindness
 learn
 house
 amazing
 competitions
 spirit
 festivals
 education
 proud
 fun
 anthony
 kendall
 opportunity
 friendship
 temple
 independence
 laughter
 school

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND PHSG

The image of women throughout history has changed dramatically, with stereotypes and rights completely different to how they were two centuries ago. Almost solely thanks to the women's suffrage movements, expectations of women went from becoming childbearing housewives to important and major figures in society, imperative for development and change in our world.

When PHSG was first opened in the late 1800s, to be educated as a woman meant excelling in cleaning, cooking, sewing and fundamentally anything that did not require a university degree. But as the suffrage movement developed, so did education at Plymouth High, with the introduction of more academic lessons and new teachers, such as in 1906, when the first science teacher was employed. However, education was still limited for some women, with the headmistress at that time keeping the school exclusively for paying students, keeping learning limited to mostly middle and high class girls

By 1918, the Archdeacon (a senior Christian cleric) was voicing his expectations of women's importance rising and how soon women would be equal to men. In 1919, Plymouth High became more inclusive, and introduced scholarship places, allowing girls from lower and poorer classes to be well educated. Then by 1925, PHSG was fully scholarship dependent, with all students having to pass a test to get in. It was at this point that Plymouth High became more focused on giving students a good and useful education, rather than training them to be submissive wives.

Women were quickly becoming more important in society, for instance we saw the first female PM, Margeret Thatcher entering office in 1979. In 1984, Plymouth High bought its first computer, beginning the introduction of technology into the educational world, but IT lessons would not enter the curriculum for a few years as the computers were very slow and expensive. Throughout the 1990s, women were now well established in the working world and most women had more highly qualified jobs. Many women worked on screen, in movies and TV shows. Women in the celebrity world however, such as Brooke Shields, were being romanticised and oversexualised, causing misogyny to arise again.

Now in the 2020s, women are crucial to society in every way. Misogyny and sexism still hold us back in many ways, yet women and men are continuing the fight for female equality. Plymouth High, as it reaches its 150th anniversary, is still helping people reach amazing academic achievements and preparing them for whatever life may bring.

WRITTEN BY ERIN MARTIN





ARTWROK BY HOPE HUGHES

HOW HAS PHSG PHYSICALLY CHANGED?

Plymouth High School for Girls was founded in 1874 and has physically changed a lot since then to how it looks now.

From the buildings to the courts, the subjects to the uniforms, everything has changed to be modernised and new. It's not just physical changes either, we have changed the way we teach and how we learn, our school meals have changed, and much more. But what has always stayed the same are our good morals, which are shown in the school motto:
"For life, not school, we learn"

OLD: The school first opened in 1877 with just 70 pupils. The school was made from local limestone. Back then, it was a school that was used as a model for other schools. However, it was obviously much smaller than it is now!



NEW: In 2024 the school now contains around 835 pupils and has expanded massively. It is not just the main building, but also the Annex, the Metcalfe and the PE department. PHSG is now one of the oldest schools in Plymouth and is still as prestigious as it was back in the 19th century.



In 1877, the PHSG building was purely the Main Building. The building contained just 15 classrooms, reception and an art room (where Resources are now). There were no Science labs or languages rooms at this time! The students would not enter through the front doors, but through a gate at the back!

Despite the age of the school, we learn new things about it all the time. For example, the subsidence in the main courts led investigators to find air raid shelters, right below our school! This just goes to show how remarkable our school is.



Sadly, the girls at PHSG did not have any Science lessons until 1906! This was when they employed their first Science teacher – Mrs Drew. Before this time, they had no need for any laboratories! After the New Wing was completed on the eve of the war, the school finally had the labs! The new wing had laboratories, a Cookery Room and extra cloak rooms. Chemistry was also added to the syllabus at this time, as girls only studied Botany before this.

During the Second World War in 1939, sinks were built in the school as it became a “back up” hospital. However, the school soon realised that if the main staircase was blocked, there would be no way of escape. So, they built a trap door outside of Room 4 with a ladder that led to the Headmistress’s office and provided a different escape route.

Air raid shelters were also built underneath the Tennis Courts, and there were regular drills and alarms where the pupils and staff would file in for safety.

The front of the school was shaken by a blast from the neighbouring wing of the Blind Institute (where the Annexe is now). If you look closely nowadays on the outside of the Annexe on North Hill, there is slight difference in the type of stone used to build it as the school had to rebuild it after the bombing. Sadly, children from the institute died from the blast, but there is no record of how many.

Additionally, the Main Hall (where the PE lessons were held at this time) had its roof caught on fire. A neighbour, called Mr. Pillar, helped to save the school as he kept the school hoses spraying the walls of the building until the fire brigade arrived. A bomb also fell in the school garden, slicing through one of the underground shelters, which caused many of the last remaining windows to break!



Shopping in Plymouth, 1943

As the war was in full swing, Devonport High School became the headquarters for the fire service, while Stoke Damerel became a hospital. Plymouth High became known as the “Emergency High School”. Furthermore, Plymouth High contributed lots to the community when it turned the Cookery Room and Room 20 into a communal feeding centre using rations. It used help from volunteers and the school’s cook, Miss Hulbert that could feed up to 600 people in one sitting.



**FUN FACT: DURING THE WAR
PHSG AND DHSG WERE
MERGED TO BECOME ONE
SCHOOL**

In 1959, the redecoration of the school was completed, and the PTA spent £50 on new shrubs and plants for the grounds (the courts were grass at this point) and a new bench (now in Mrs Payne's possession).

In 1962, the Institution for the Blind moved premises and the building was in possession of PHSG, known as the "Annexe". The Music department was the first subject to move across in the first year, followed by Geography, Needlework (now Textiles) and the library over the next couple of years. However, the school had a growing number of students in the main school and Sixth Form and still need more space! In Miss Brogden's final Speech Day speech, she said that one day the school may contain a Physics room, a Gym and even a dining room – but the school had to wait 25 years for this dream to come true!



In 1970, extensive renovations took place in all the buildings, including adding new floor in the hall and new stainless steel sinks in the Domestic Science room. In 1977, the governors met agreed to turn the ballroom of the Blind Institute into a games room for the school.

This meant that the whole of the annexe now belonged to PHS. Only the lock-up shop (where the library now is) remained outside of the school's possession.

After this, more classrooms were added in the Annexe as the school continued to expand, funded by the PTA. The front hall, classrooms along the corridor and rooms 2 and 3 were decorated and the rooms had new floors and the hallways were sanded and sealed.

In 1984, PHS received a large increase in sixth formers from other schools in Plymouth which closed. Therefore, a new sixth form room was created out of empty basement space (which is now AOI).

In 1991, the PHSG governors and new Headmistress gave support for new funding and a three-year building plan to retain the school's independence on the current site on St Lawrence Road, after controversial plans were drawn up meaning that PHSG would share Paradise Road with Devonport High School for Boys; however, this plan was stopped. A grant for a £1.4 million expansion was given and a two storey wing, three further laboratories, a new Main Hall (the Newman Hall), new canteen, a new library with computer suite, Drama and Sixth Form rooms were built.



Then



Now

The opening of the Newman Hall and the three Science rooms above happened in 1994. The building was constructed by Alfred McAlpine Construction Ltd and named after the previous Headmistress, Miss Newman. The ceremony took place on the school's 120th anniversary and the building was opened by Devon County Council Chairman Doug Lentell and Miss Newman herself

In 1997 the 'Metcalf' Building was built next to the Annexe. It was named after Mrs. Metcalfe, who was the hon secretary of the Plymouth branch of the National Union for Improving the Education of Women.



In 2011, Plymouth High students built and entered 'Hummingbird' into their first Greenpower F24 electric racing car competition. The South West heats took place at Cornwall College at Newquay Airport and the team came 4th against 14 other more experienced teams.

Hummingbird has gone on to win a string of successes over the years, accumulating many awards over 50 races and counting! Hummingbird has seen hundreds of Plymouth High students experience and get hands on with all the different engineering disciplines throughout the years. Whether it is working with hand tools to construct the car, or performing complex calculations to plan race-critical parameters, there is a place for all who wish to get involved.

A grant of £375,000 was secured and plans approved to build the school gymnasium, office and teaching classroom. The gymnasium officially opened in September 2002. The PE department is still used all the time for our PE lessons.



In 2019, Mr Underdown became Headteacher, the first male to become in charge of the school. He joined PHSG in 2019, coming from Churston Ferrers Grammar School. He has been a senior leader since 2008 and has been teaching maths for over 25 years teaching at six different schools. Mr Underdown is determined to ensure that our students have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience at school.

Room 14 and Room 18 were built on the opposite side of the corridor to the Languages rooms, and directly above, lab 8 and office space. The rooms were completed in September 2009.



Not many physical changes have happened since 2009, but there have been many other different types of changes, such as Covid-19 which saw us all doing our school learning online from home.; many aspects of daily life were changed and it was an important part of the school's history.

We hope that in 150 years from now people will look back and think how many changes there have been just like we are now. We can't wait for the many future changes to come. Happy 150th Anniversary!

Of course writings about Plymouth High, in both past and present time, mark the 150th birthday extremely well. Remarking upon the changing times which PHSG has seen throughout its years shows not only the progress of the school, but further of the world in which we live. However, in this magazine, we also wanted to include things that used to be in old PHSG magazines, beyond 'Hear Me Out', such as 'PHySoG' and 'Talk', as a way to pay homage to the many things our school has witnessed and lived through since 1874. In this next section of the magazine, then, you will see things all of which were common in the school magazines in times before 'Hear Me Out' was even a thought- I hope this is interesting and enjoyable for current students and nostalgic for students who remember it.



ARTWORK BY ANONYMOUS

AN ODE TO EDUCATION

My teachers always tell me, to follow my own story.
Learn from all the hardships, revel in the glory.
But I still don't know the ending, my chapters and my verse.
We all choose what we write; it's a blessing and a curse.

Blue walls contain my narrative, the halls and corridors.
In classrooms, we learn how to be ourselves and so much more.

Art gives us expression in a world deprived of colour
Technology helps us design our lives and make them fuller.
Music gives us voices where we learn how to be heard
And English gives us nuance and the love behind each word.

With each word comes a story and a tale that must be told,
Each student brings a narrative that's waiting to unfold.
How far we've come from being merely whispers of ourselves
In history, we've risen, plucked our own tales from the shelves.

Now, with the past securely writ, the future is less certain.
We pass exams, then effort and achievements raise the curtain.
We're free from all the homework and the learning and the rules...
Until we find there's different work – and pick up our old tools.

So anytime you're wondering just how to fill your page,
Remember, we're all players and the world is just a stage.
Be strong like castles, wise like owls or work hard like the bees -
You're here to tell a story; you can publish what you please.

You could end up at a Bleak House, you could fall upon hard times
Or travel to the lighthouse and make your story shine
But how you choose your story at the remains of the day
Is the spark of light that never dims – you have so much to say.

If you don't know how to start yet, or don't know where or why,
Remember that you'll always have a place at Plymouth High.

School and education remains a part of us.
Non scholae sed vitae, vitae discimus.

WRITTEN BY RUTH, PLYMOUTH HIGH ALUMNUS



ARTWORK BY MAVIS

STAFF ROOM REVEALED



In 1998 Plymouth High School for Girls students decided to launch a magazine written by students. Run by a 6th form editorial team and only costing 25p, PHySoG quickly became extremely popular with regular features. One of the most popular (and sometimes controversial) features was 'The Staffroom Revealed'.

For one time only for Hear Me Out's special 150th Birthday issue, we will once more find out what is going on in 'The Staffroom Revealed'

(In PHySoG the spies / authors were always named but for inscrutability, this author will remain anonymous!)



It's a warm, June lunchtime and within the basement, in a room that has been many things (including an LRC, a support base and the haunting place of the ghost of 'Matilda'), the staffroom is unusually full. Slumping back on the decorative cushions and staring up at the bunting and artwork (the remaining decorations from Mr Rutherford's last attempt to cheer up the place) are a hodgepodge of staff from all over the school discussing the upcoming 150th celebrations.

"Will there be singing?" asks Mrs Walsh; our dedicated Head of MFL is renowned for recruiting many of the PHSG staff to her adult choirs and this is often her first question for any Plymouth High event. Mr Underdown agrees enthusiastically and announces that "everyone will sing the school song and that the 'Old Girls' can lead it". The old girls in question - Miss Readey, Mrs Hore, Mrs Gilchrist, and Miss Joynes - quickly look up from their various distractions and begin to weakly protest. It doesn't last long of course as they secretly love 'Non Scholae Sed Vitae Discimus' and are soon formulating a plan. Miss Readey is humming a harmony line immediately.

"Are we being fed?" This mumbled question is asked by Mr Law who, through biscuit crumbs, clearly has his priorities right. Mrs Banks enthusiastically exclaims "The winners of Plymouth High Bake-off can make scones! They make their own jam, you know!" The now fizzing-with-ideas Mrs Banks and the very satisfied Mr Law both grab another biscuit before dashing back to the Head of Year office.

Wanting to have a plan so she can integrate maths into the celebration, Mrs Freeman-Alford reasonably questions "So we have food and music, but what are we actually going to do on the special day?" The entire room turns to Miss Roughton who is wielding her board pen and before Mr Britz-Colwill can say "how about we circle map it?", there is a frame of reference on the white board. With 150 years of history to celebrate the staff need to put their thinking hats on. Some staff have been at Plymouth High for a long time and are well-versed in PHSG traditions and soon ideas like time capsules, tours, gonging the school gong and celebratory mugs designs are in the circle.

"We will knit something!" add Mrs McAuliffe and Mrs Brownbridge.

"We'll keep the planters watered" say Mr Watson and Miss Hofmann.

"I'll showcase my accents" cries Miss Tomalin in what sounds suspiciously like a mix of Kentish and Scottish.

"Has anyone seen my Margaret Thatcher mug!?" queries Mr Mallard.

A small huddle of teachers has formed on one sofa.

The Heads of House are clearly arguing about something. Is it who has the highest numbers of Ruby certificates? Is it about what 6th team has the best house t-shirts? Suddenly Mr Goodchild nervously bellows, "We want to know if there are achievement points available?" Thankfully, they had only been arguing on who was going to say something! Mrs Brown adds, "Anthony don't do anything without achievement points being available - 7A have a masterplan!" Seeing this as an opportunity to leave being Latimer Head of House with a bang, Mrs Goolden suggests inter-house competitions. "Yes, and I'll run the first one!" agrees Miss Jones knowing full well that Temple House will absolutely smash Just Dance! Coming in from their lunchtime duty for a well-earned cup of tea, Mr Graves in his latest geography waistcoat and Mrs Marcer-Griffiths enter the discussions. Always keen for students to be involved, Mrs Marcer-Griffiths asks, "Are the students going to help with this event"? I volunteer Year Seven as tribute!" declare Miss Joynes and Mrs Hatfield in perfect unison. After considering this for a moment, Mr Underdown takes charge of proceedings and suggests that the school leadership teams should probably take the lead.

Are we the oldest surviving school in Plymouth? Asks Mr Rutherford, looking up from his latest read. "No, Notre Dame is older but moved to a newer school site in the 60's. Our school site remains the oldest in the city." Impressed, all eyes turn to Miss Benwell who, alongside being Mr Underdown's PA, is the school's resident archivist and history expert. "It's a pretty special occasion to be able to celebrate!" she concludes.

As the clock ticks around to Period 5 staff slowly start to leave to go to their teaching areas as hundreds of educators have done before them at Plymouth High. They acknowledge that Miss Benwell is right: although tiring, being a teacher at Plymouth High, with its rich history, is special and definitely worth celebrating!

WRITTEN BY ANONYMOUS

SUMMER'S DAY AT PHSG: A SHORT STORY

It was an endless summer day: the clouds danced in the sky and swirled around forming different sizes and shapes. Far below them the buildings stood tall and heavy to attention, like soldiers. It was the complete opposite to the sky, showing how the students inside felt; melancholy, hot and desperate to get outside for fresh air. The school was trapped in by roads and was a sea of blue and white - the school colours - and towered over the students on the courts. Old-fashioned. Blue. Hot.

The sound of the school gong rang in the ears of the students. A rush of excitement. A stampede of feet. A jump of happiness. Despite the heat, the students ran to get changed for PE - their last lesson of the day.

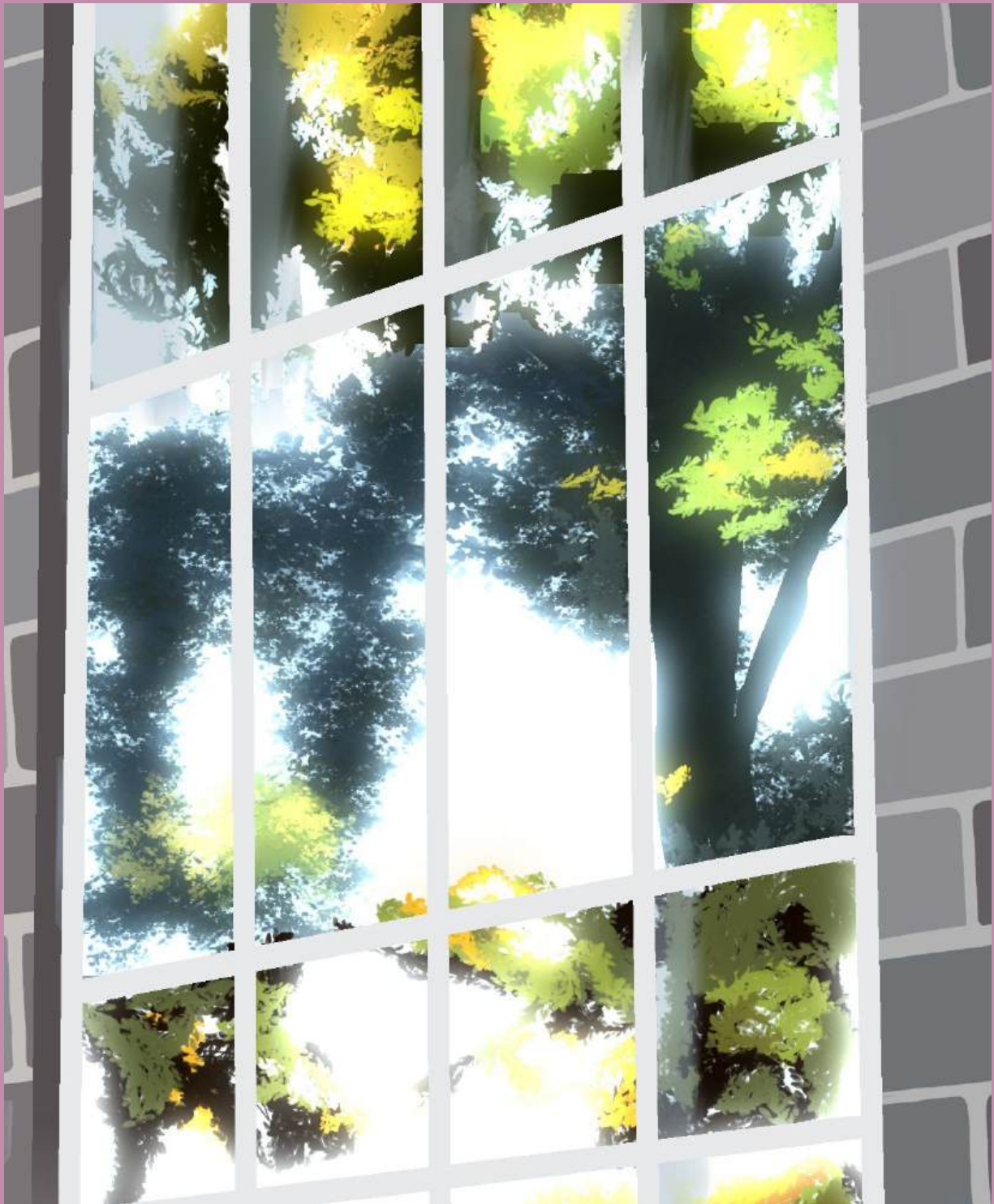
They emerged onto the courts armed with tennis rackets, dressed in their PE kits. The kits were white pinafore dresses with a smart shirt and collar that led down into a pleated skirt that fell just above the knee. The year 9 class played happily (despite some poor sportsmanship from the losing team) and the giggles of happiness could be heard from inside the buildings.

Although they were having fun, they decided to stop to cool down from the immense heat. They hid in the safety of the trees for shade, on the opposite side to the main buildings. The sun shone down covering the courts in a blanket of heat, and there was very little wind. Flowers grew, blossoming the school in colour and the trees' leaves showed it was summer - they were the brightest, purest green. The heat was suffocating - but at least it wasn't raining!

There was a buzz of happiness as they took heavy breaths after their tennis match. The air was thick and stuffy with the humidity. Despite the sticky air, the climate could not dampen their spirit. While the noise of bees and birds filled the air, flowers and pollen caused some girls to sneeze. As they sat, the bark of the gargantuan trees was rough against their backs and they all breathed a sigh of happiness.

For the second time, the gong was sounded; signalling the end of the school day. The girls jumped back up with excitement and ran inside to change back into their school uniforms (a navy skirt, white blouse, felt hat, tie, black socks and shoes)

WRITTEN BY MOLLY BRIGHTMAN



ARTWORK BY ANONYMOUS

Dear Clarissa

In PHySog, another common occurrence, which some ex students may remember, was the agony aunt 'Clarissa'. Similarly to our 'Staff Room Revealed' we will once more bring back an agony aunt for the 150th Birthday. However, it may be advantageous to note that the questions posed and answered in this magazine are purely for comedic purposes, and that any questions resembling that of the truth are purely coincidental.

“

Dear Clarissa it has always been my dream to be a Hummingbird driver since I heard it existed... but I'm too tall apparently! What do I do? I'm heartbroken!
From supertallstudent

I'm so sorry to hear about this! I understand that it is hard to face the facts sometimes. However, there is still hope! After speaking to some older students who have also had this problem, I found out that being a driver is not the be all and end all of our renown karting team. There are many other roles within the team where you can still feel like a driver even if you are not one physically... perhaps give the Hummingbird comms team a thought.

”

“

To Clarissa,
I need your help! I have three boys that I want to take to prom but I am only allowed to take one! I NEED to choose one by next week... how could I ever possibly choose!? - Stressedwithtoomanydates

Thank you for your question Stressedwithtoomanydates, I appreciate what a concerning decision this is for you! When it comes to choosing a prom date the main aim is to take someone who will make your night enjoyable, which means not necessarily choosing the best looking guy. Might I suggest considering the one who is kindest to you and makes you laugh the most? I can assure you that your best date option is the one who cares about you the most. Alternatively, ditch them all and go with just your friends!

“

Hi Clarissa, this is low-key high-key embarrassing but I kinda sorta have a massive fear of seagulls. I get all in a flap and can't go onto the courts without squawking about. What do you suggest? - yourfavornithophobe

Wow that is quite the predicament. Fears can be hard to get over, especially if they're constantly flying over your head trying to take your food. Now, I'm no therapist so can't advise on how to overcome your phobia, but I can suggest making sure you hide your food when outside to avoid encouraging them to dive at you and perpetuate the problem. I would also say that you might find it quite nice to always be around your friends when outside as they can support you and help if you get a bit flappy, birds of a feather have to stick together afterall.

”

”

To Clarissa, I am beginning to get quite concerned that Anthony are never going to win a house competition this year!
From a dedicated Anthonian

I believe your panic may be quite justified thus far in the house competition calendar; it's not looking particularly hopeful! But, I should not worry as we have sports day coming up very soon, which Anthony always manage to pull through on, even in such diabolical times. I have also heard that Anthony's contribution to the music festival is looking good for the final day of term this year, which might be just in time to resurrect the Anthonians' hopes for success!

To Clarissa,

I've been put down to do the javelin for sports day but I realllllyyyyyy don't want to. Do I fake an illness to get out of it? Do I just not go when my name is called?
from sportsdayhater

Dear sportsdayhater, I can very much relate to not wanting to do a sport event, especially javelin! But it's important to remember that whether or not you are good at javelin, sports day is super fun! You get to do face paint and fully express your house pride! Many people doing it will be no national champions, so you may as well just embrace taking part in something for your house. Incidentally, you could always practice the technique in the garden with a stick if you're really worried about being bad.

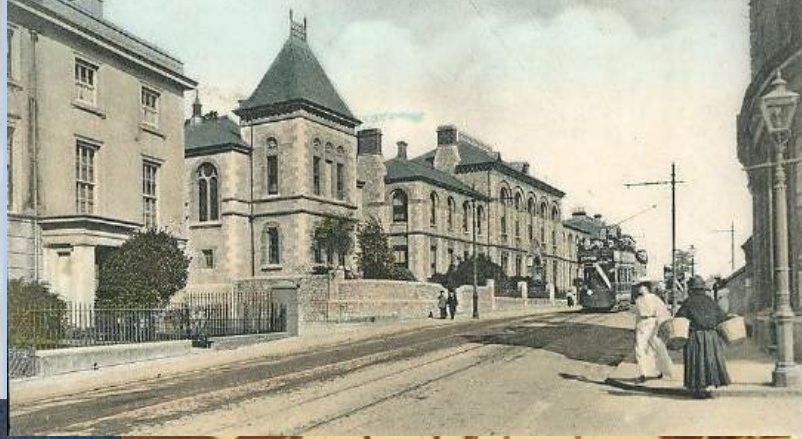
Dear Clarissa I'm in search of some advice for how I could ever get the sixth form boys to possibly notice me!
Yours sincerely, Desperatelyinlove

I believe you may be very upset with my response to this question, but my suggestions for your plea will be to leave the poor souls alone. I assume you are much younger than them, and therefore I believe that you should stop focusing on them as they are people too and don't want to be perpetually bothered by students who are too young for them! If you are desperate, turn your attention to boys your age who are more suitable for you.

Dear Clarissa, the canteen used to sell the most delicious spring rolls ever, but about three years ago they disappeared! What do I do, I miss them and barely any students now were here when they were sold! We're all missing out! Why has this happened? From confused and hungry

To confused and hungry,
I completely understand your upset; I used to love them too! Perhaps it is because we now have a new food provider and our beloved spring rolls are not something supplied that they supply. Otherwise I believe it is clearly because they don't want us to be happy anymore and are strictly prohibited from providing us with our one joy life. The only other possible reason is that the grappling and violence we all displayed to get our hands on some was too much for the staff!





MOUTH EMERGENCY HIGH SCHOOL STAFF, 1945.



GOODBYE
Young
pupil
Soper
presenting
retiring
teacher
Rosemary
Stogger
a list of
pupils
Plymouth
High School
for Girls



Please note that the opinions expressed in the magazine are that of the author's and do not reflect those of Plymouth High School, the DfE, the local authority or Thinking Schools Academy Trust