



PLYMOUTH
COLLEGE

International qualification on offer

Plymouth College has been awarded accreditation to run the globally-recognised International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) from September 2009.

The diploma programme will run alongside traditional A Levels in the school's sixth form. IB students will have their own lessons but all other elements of sixth form life such as the tutor group system, assemblies, games and extra-curricular activities will be fully integrated.

The structure of IB offers a true breadth of study, designed to equip students with the ability to not only be international in their outlook but also to develop independence in learning and life to give them an all-round educational benefit. Students choose six subjects from the 'outer hexagon', including a language, as well

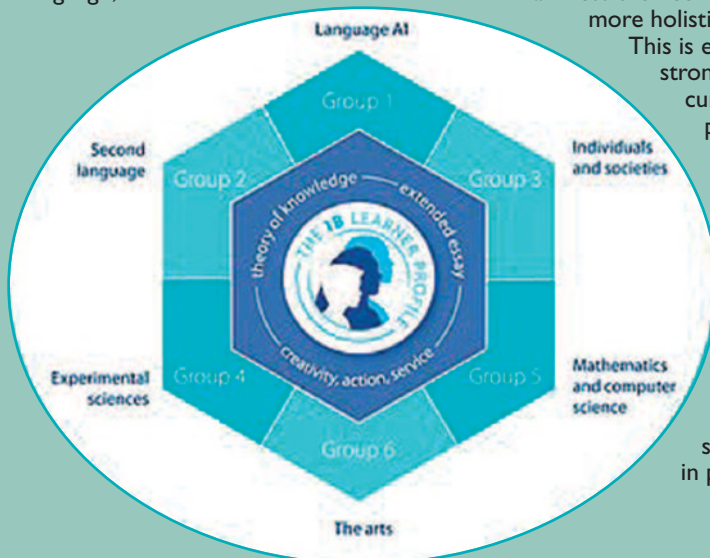
The IB assessment team commended Plymouth College for "a strong collegiate spirit that centres upon the student"

as completing the three elements from the 'inner hexagon' or core: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Action, Service. These areas very much drive the IB ethos for encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives, developing independent study and life skills and fostering students' awareness and understanding of life outside the academic arena.

In awarding accreditation to run the diploma, the IB assessment team commended Plymouth College for "a strong collegiate spirit that centres upon the student and the desire to address the need for a broader, more holistic education.

This is evidenced by a strong extra-curricular

programme, the many existing links and exchanges outside the immediate school community and the sound pastoral and student support systems that are in place."



Olympic bronze medal for Cassie!

Cassie Patten, 21, a former swimming scholar at Plymouth College, won a bronze medal in the 10K Open Water event in Beijing this summer. An open water specialist, Cassie also made it to the 800m freestyle final in the pool.

This was the first time the 10K Open Water had been an Olympic event making Cassie the first person in history to qualify for both open water and pool. Cassie is also the Open Water World Championships' silver medallist.

Cassie joined Plymouth College in 2002 and was the school's first swimming scholar. Run in conjunction with Plymouth Leander, the elite swimming programme now boasts 32 swimmers who in the last couple of years have won World and European medals, competed in World Championship finals and have broken over 50 British and English records. Since 2004, fifteen have been selected for Great Britain and/or England swim teams, and national records are held by Plymouth College swimming scholars in five different countries around the world.

Now based in Stockport, Cassie is still a member of Plymouth Leander and trains several weeks a year with the club.





The Plymouth College team came up with a plan for a competitively-priced breakfast cereal called 'Berry Munch'

Economics and Business pupils win marketing and investment challenge

A team of Year 11 students from Plymouth College have won the Plymouth Business and Enterprise Challenge event.

Jack Berry, Cameron Deardon, Will Dickinson, Fiona Ellis, Alistair Lochhead, Dan Snowdon, Sam Straughan and Oli Wace competed against teams from nine other schools across the city in the event held at the Guildhall.

Part of National Enterprise Week, the competition had two sections – Investment Challenge and Marketing Challenge. Investment Challenge required the participants to undertake active trading of funds across a range of financial products, resulting in the Plymouth College team coming out on top.

Marketing Challenge involved a five-minute presentation on the launch of a new product for the 'credit crunch'. The Plymouth College team came up with a plan for a competitively-priced breakfast cereal called 'Berry Munch'. They won the judges over with a reasoned report explaining the marketing strategy – product details, pricing and a promotional campaign, which included a musical jingle 'Beat the Crunch with Berry Munch!'.

South West Linguafest Win

French and German students have won the intermediate and advanced sections of the South West Linguafest competition.

Set up last year when it was hosted by Plymouth College, the event gives young linguists in the South West the opportunity to demonstrate and compare their skills in a multi-lingual dimension.



Held this year at West Buckland School, Plymouth College pupils from Years 9 to Upper Sixth competed against teams from the host school, Truro School, Exeter School, Millfield School and Prior Park College. Beginners, intermediate and advanced level students delivered sketches, songs, poems and dramatic presentations on topics including Cinderella, visits to German cities, the delights and dangers of eating omelette 'Chez Paulette', German film, Coco Chanel, and the sunny and shady sides of Pablo Escobar and Costa Rica.

The Plymouth College intermediate team impressed the judges with their winning presentation, 'Sprachreise nach Berlin'. The advanced team's Powerpoint presentation on 'Aspects of German cities: Munich and Berlin' won them joint first prize, and the College's slick and entertaining beginners' team sketch in French, 'Chez Paulette', came a close second to Prior Park's sketch 'Cinderella'.

National LAMDA Win for Hollie

It was third time lucky for Hollie Goodall, 17, who has won the Advanced Communication category of the LAMDA National Finals, held in London - she has previously made the finals twice at intermediate level.

Hollie's winning recital of TS Eliot's 'The Naming of Cats' saw her presented with a top prize of £500 by actress Michelle Collins. She qualified for the final after achieving one of the top five aggregate scores in the country for her gold medals in Verse and Prose Speaking, Reading for Performance and Public Speaking.

A member of the Raleigh School of Speech and Drama, Hollie hopes to study for a Drama Teaching Diploma during her gap year. Her ultimate aim is to go to one of the top London drama schools after gaining a degree in English at university.



Music and drama success in City of Plymouth Festival

Sixth form pianist, Aidan Law, took joint first place in both his open classes winning the Worth and Gordon Dyer Cups with pieces by Mozart and Chopin. He has also been presented with the Barbara Hannon Cup for the highest mark for a pianist aged 18 and under, and he shares the Charles May Cup for the highest mark in an open pianoforte class.

In the open mime class, festival veteran, Hollie Goodall, came away with the Anderson Cup. She also went on to win the TK Stevens Trophy with a piece from Anton Tchekov's 'The Seagull' in the U18 solo acting class.

In the singing classes, Ed Hirst came joint second in the 14-17 years category while his sister, Pheobe, came 3rd in the 11-14 years age group singing 'Fields of Gold'.



The formal inspection was followed by a number of displays and activities by the cadets

Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force inspected by Wing Commander

The Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force has had its biennial inspection. Aged between 14 and 18, the male and female cadets were inspected by Wing Commander Guy Bazalgette RAF, Senior British Officer, Joint Maritime Facility St Mawgan, on the school's parade ground.

The formal inspection was followed by a number of displays and activities by the cadets such as rifle-firing on the range and a communications command task in the school grounds. Wing Commander Bazalgette then addressed the cadets and presented trophies to the top cadets for 2008.

Made up of Army, Navy and Air Force sections, the Contingent meets once a week to undertake a range of service and adventure training activities. As well as having fun, the Combined Cadet Force helps to boost young people's confidence by developing leadership and self-reliance skills.

"Inspection day is a very important occasion for the cadets", said Contingent Commander, Major Sarah Johnson. "It only happens every two years and passing the inspection is a requirement of the MOD.

"Wing Commander Bazalgette was very impressed with what he saw and I look forward to receiving a good report. I was really proud of all our cadets."

Pictured above: Cadet prize winners Vincent Markwood, Will Chapman, Will Murray, Freya Jesty, Tom Watkins with Wing Commander Guy Bazalgette (far left) and Plymouth College CCF Contingent Commander, Major Sarah Johnson (far right).



Parents take part in practice interview scheme

A number of parents have given up time during their working day to hold practice university entry interviews for Upper Sixth students before they do 'the real thing'.

The experience of having a formal interview with a well-qualified person is invaluable to the students. It takes them out of their school comfort zone for the first time as well as providing crucial feedback.

The photograph above shows the parents and teachers who took part in the Oxbridge mock interviews. Below, an interviewee is put through his paces. Many more parents took part in the scheme which ran in October and November. Many thanks to them all and to those who volunteered but were not called upon. Mrs Undy will be in touch again next year!

Former BBC journalist conducts workshop and judges Spoken English

Andrew Barr, former Head of Education and Religious Broadcasting BBC Scotland, put the sixth form through their paces in a lively hands-on session, which saw them write, edit and broadcast a series of news bulletins. Mr Barr almost didn't make it to the school after suffering a nasty fall at Edinburgh Station and had to take a detour to casualty at the start of his journey!

The aim of the afternoon was to introduce the students to the pressures of rapid broadcasting, learning to work



together and express themselves in good quality English in a very short space of time. The session concluded with the recording of the students' bulletins.

The evening saw the final of the Spoken English Competition. Pupils spoke on a wide variety of topics from rain forests to school, misconceptions to Malaysia and even 'Is Elvis dead - really?'.

Andrew Barr's adjudication was 'spot on', fair and encouraging. The winners were:

Year	Josh Bean
Year 8	Emil Agobiani
Year 9	Niall Mahoney
Year 10	Martin Tongue
Year 11	Charlie Maidment
L6	Bridget Luff
U6	Hollie Goodall who was also the overall winner

Finalists and winners won points for their Houses.





The cast and technical crew clearly worked very hard, under the creative direction of Mrs Jayne Hansford

Lower School Drama Club give a 'bewitching' performance

On the 25th and 26th of November, the lower school drama club treated us to their version of the enthralling tale of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'. The magical story of how a young boy falls victim to a society of witches determined to change all children into mice was highly entertaining. However,

in this case some big bad witches were no match for the resourcefulness of a single rodent. We were transported into their ghastly world at the Annual General Witches Convention, where we witnessed the ghoulish transformation of the member from dapper and stylish to bald, hook-

nosed, sharp-clawed witches on a mission of mass destruction. There were outstanding performances from Luke Dickinson as the evil Grand High Witch and Sebastian Slade as the innocent boy entangled in the witches' evil foils. The production was set against the backdrop of the 1950s with music and songs reminiscent of that era to establish the nostalgic scene. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all. The cast and technical crew clearly worked very hard, under the creative direction of Mrs Jayne Hansford, to bring us this wicked evening of bewitching, bedazzling, rodent-infested entertainment.



Chemistry teacher passes RAF Officer Training

Dr Angela Hawker, teacher in charge of Plymouth College's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) RAF section, has been presented with her Officer Scrolls by the oldest World War I veteran, and the oldest man in Europe, Henry Allingham, aged 112.

Flight Lieutenant Hawker, a chemistry teacher at the school, undertook her week's training at RAF Cranwell, where she completed courses in leadership skills, presentation, oral skills, marching and drill, dress, and RAF/CCF history.

The RAF is the only service in the CCF that requires its officers to pass the course and be commissioned by the Queen. Dr Hawker is now fully responsible for RAF activities at school, which includes the chance to fly and glide.

Excellence Award for Financial Diploma

Plymouth College has won £1000 from the ifs School of Finance for the second year running. The Excellence in Education Award comes on the back of continued success by Plymouth College students in the Diploma in Financial Services.

This year Robyn Mulhall came top in the country overall winning her £325 after coming 3rd in module 1 and first in module 3. Monica Guly came 6th in the country overall after coming 1st in module 1 and 3rd in module 2 winning her £125. Equivalent to an A Level, last year's top mark was also achieved by a Plymouth College student.

Having already received their own cheques, Monica and Robyn accepted the £1000 cheque on behalf of the school. It was presented by Rod McKee from ifs School of Finance.

"I am delighted that the success of Economics and Business Studies at Plymouth College has again been recognised at a national level", said Economics and Business Studies teacher, Jonathan Shields. "Not only have our students done well in the diploma, but we also had the 1st and 3rd highest scores in the country in Edexcel's Economics and Business Studies A level. It has also been a very good year for us in business competitions such as CIMA Management (1st in country for the third time in five years), Student Investor (3rd in country) and for the fifth time in six years, best Young Enterprise company in Plymouth".

Front L to R Monica Guly, Robyn Mulhall, Rod McKee (ifs School of Finance); Back L to R Jonathan Shields (Economics and Business Studies teacher), Dr Simon Wormleighton (Headmaster).



Emma decided to use the event as an opportunity to raise money for Clic Sargent and Great Ormond Street



Runner is Plymouth Cross Country Champion

Sarah Palmer, 17, has clinched the gold medal in the sixth form category of the Plymouth Schools Cross Country Championships held in Staddiscombe.

Leading from the start, Sarah increased her lead to finish a good 20 seconds ahead of the second-placed runner. Susie Kellagher was 7th in the same race and Kosuke Takeuchi was 9th in the sixth form boys' event. All three qualify for the South West Area Championships.

Sarah, who earlier this year took the Youth A Girls British Pentathlon Championships title, and Susie are part of the Plymouth College Modern Pentathlon Programme.

In the Year 10/11 category, Poppy Le Marechal took the bronze medal with Georgie Barrington finishing in 15th place. Both girls are modern pentathletes and have also qualified for the South West event.

Further South West qualifiers are Emily Dinnis (another modern pentathlete), who came 8th in the Year 8/9 girls' category and Dominic Day, who came 10th in the Year 8/9 boys' event.

Sarah Palmer (L), Poppy Le Marechal (R)



Modern Pentathlon success for Plymouth College PE teacher

Plymouth College PE teacher, Emma Tremaine, thought she would practise what she preaches by taking part in her first Modern Pentathlon competition - Emma teaches girls' games and is the equestrian coach for the school's Modern Pentathlon programme.

To give her extra motivation, Emma decided to use the event as an opportunity to raise money for Clic Sargent and Great Ormond Street, the hospital where her nephew, Noah, was treated for Neuroblastoma (a rare childhood cancer) - she raised almost £800 for the two charities.

Emma was the only senior lady taking part in the Sealions MPC and Whitgift MPC 28th Annual Pentathlon, where she scored a

respectable 2088 points. Achieving PBs in four of the five disciplines, Emma was delighted to receive her winner's award from Sydney Olympic Modern Pentathlon Gold Medalist, Stephanie Cook. The event also saw rising star and Plymouth College Modern Pentathlon Scholar, Sarah Palmer, come 2nd in the Youth A girls with 4788 points.



Sixth form rugby scholarship is launched

Plymouth College, in association with Plymouth Albion RFC, is offering a scholarship to a talented rugby player from the south west to join the sixth form. The successful player will have the opportunity to develop his rugby-playing career while at the same time be able to benefit from the wide range of academic, sporting and cultural opportunities available at the school.

The first-class rugby programme at Plymouth College sees players taking part in a range of high-quality fixtures both locally and further a field, receiving intensive skills-based and fitness-orientated training programmes, and participating in major national tournaments and overseas tours which has seen the team travel to South Africa, South America and Australia in recent years - the next proposed tour will be to South Africa and Namibia in 2010.



As well as the opportunities on offer by being part of this established and highly-regarded team, the successful rugby scholar will also benefit from a mentoring programme with staff from Plymouth Albion RFC.

L to R Richard Edwards (Plymouth College Head of Rugby and 1st XV Coach), Anthony Comyn (Plymouth College 1st XV), Richard Thompson (Plymouth College 1st XV Assistant Coach) and Graham Dawe (Plymouth Albion Chairman of Rugby),

Girls have a successful hockey season

The U16 girls' hockey team have had their best season yet, winning the West Devon Cup and the Plymouth Area National Schools' Hockey Tournament - they also came second in the County competition.

The U15s have won the Plymouth Schools' Hockey League. The team have been unbeaten this season, scoring 22 goals and only conceding one.

There have also been some great results against local schools. The 1st XI had good

wins against Blundell's and Ivybridge and drew against Kelly College. The 2nd XI scored a convincing win against Kelly and beat Stover's 1st XI. The U15s, U14s and U13s all beat Kelly College and Ivybridge and it was a clean sweep for the junior ages against Stover. The U15s, U13s and U12s also beat West Buckland.

A number of girls are currently representing West Devon and are awaiting notice on County selection. Head Girl, Celia Hayes, is already representing Devon U19s.



In a very busy season the First XV have secured victories over all their main rivals

Strong play on the rugby field from all teams

As the season draws to a close, Plymouth College rugby teams can reflect on a busy and exciting season. There have been numerous successes for various teams with the U14s winning the West Devon Cup, the U16s making the semi-final of the Devon Cup and the U15s making the final of the West Devon Cup. The U14s had to work hard for their win over Kelly and when the first match, including extra-time, remained locked at 12-12, they had to travel to Kelly for a replay. Second time round they prevailed, winning a tough contest 18-12.

At the time of going to print, the First XV are through to the final of the U18 Devon Cup when they will play Exeter School at Exeter Chiefs' ground. The First XV have enjoyed a very successful season, losing only once to Truro College Rugby Academy in the 4th round of the Daily Mail Cup. In a very busy season the First XV have secured victories over all their main rivals, including Blundell's, QEH Bristol, King's Taunton, Truro School, Kelly College, Queen's Taunton, Exeter School and West Buckland. They have also travelled to Christ College, Brecon, where they won 32-0.

England selection for cricketer

James Burke, 17, has been selected to play for the England U19 cricket team. An upper sixth pupil and member of the Plymouth College 1st XI since Year 10, James will join the team on tour in South Africa in January. Last season he represented England at U17 level when the team played New Zealand.

James has been a leading player since his early years at the school. In 2003 it was reported that he was the first pupil in more than 20 years to score two centuries in one season at U12 level. At age 14 he won Cricketer of the Year at the Devon Cricket Board Youth Awards and as well as England representation, he has also played for West of England and Devon teams. He currently plays for Exmouth.

Also a member of the prestigious Somerset Cricket Academy, James has already been awarded a professional contract with Somerset, which will come into full effect when he leaves school in June.



Swimmer breaks British records

Two of Great Britain's most iconic swimming figures had their British Junior short course records taken at the Haslemere Open as Plymouth College's Sam Straughan set about two of the former marks held by Liam Tancock and Mark Foster.

On day one of the meet, Straughan was to take the British Junior 50m Backstroke record down to 26.11, formerly Tancock's 26.22 set in Sheffield back in 2000. On the second day of the meet, Foster's 50m Butterfly twenty-two-year standing of 25.48 set in Bonn in 1986 was clipped by the young Plymouth star to 25.47.



Straughan is part of the highly-acclaimed Plymouth Leander/Plymouth College swimming scholarship programme, recently applauded by Chris Martin, British Swimming's Development Coach for having "perhaps the best set up in the UK for developing such swimmers". Now in his second year in the scheme, the 15 year old GCSE student is showing great promise in a number of areas, having lowered the long course British Age Group records for 200m and 400m Individual Medley earlier in the year.

Plymouth College are U19 badminton champions

Dominic Lyons, Ben Pigott, James Burke and Michael Haley are celebrating after becoming Plymouth U19 Badminton Champions.

After a series of matches this term, Plymouth College qualified for the final after coming top in their league. With four teams through to the final (the top two from each league), Plymouth beat

Ivybridge 6-2 in the semi-final before defeating Devonport High School for Boys 5-3 in the final.

Badminton coach, Kevin Hall, said: "I'm delighted the boys won. They've played exceptionally good badminton all term and came up against two very good teams in the final. Well done to them all".

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Registered charity number 1105544

Registered company number 518942



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