



PLYMOUTH
COLLEGE

First XV reach Daily Mail Cup quarter final

The First XV achieved their best result ever in the Daily Mail Cup by taking the honours in a tense match against Stowe School, making it through to the quarter finals for the first time. The match was a thrilling event with Plymouth never trailing. Tries from Henry Slade, Josh Tolan and George Stephenson (all converted by Slade) were enough to send last year's semi finalists out 21-17.

Despite losing in the next round to formidable reigning champions, Whitgift School, the team, who are sponsored by chartered surveyors Monk and Partners, have had a phenomenal season winning 17 out of 18 competitive matches. Boasting an England U18 player in Henry Slade, who achieved great acclaim for his performance in a recent England match against Italy, the First XV were Rugby World's 'Team of the Month' in January and reached the top 3 in the national schools' rugby league.

The season ended on a massive high with a convincing 39-3 win over Kelly College in the final of the U18 Devon Cup.



Plymouth College business wins national social enterprise award

Plymouth College company, Ecovation, has won the Young Person's Social Enterprise of the Year category in the Social Enterprise Awards England. Founded last September by a team of inspiring Sixth Formers, Ecovation will go through to the UK finals along with other social enterprises from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Leader of the Labour Party, Ed Miliband, will speak at the high profile event, being held on 30th March at The O2 in London.

The company builds and sells products to help the environment, including the Ecofeeder, a birdfeeder which turns household kitchen food waste into bird food, to help reduce landfill. The team pledges to give away a percentage of profits to help improve the local and global environment and turned down an offer of private investment because they want to stay true to their values.



LAMDA success for Bethany and Calais

Budding performers, Calais Goord and Bethany Gare, have both passed LAMDA exams with distinction. Bethany, 15, has achieved grade 7 Mime, while Calais, 14, has been awarded grade 5 Acting. Both girls take classes with Norma Blake at the Raleigh School of Speech and Drama

German department brings 'Karneval' to Prep School

Mask-making, quizzes, games and singing were just some of the fun activities undertaken by Year 6 when the German department hosted a Karneval day at the Prep School. Dressed in carnival costumes, the children celebrated the mid-winter festival with a mixture of learning and fun activities.

As well as mask-making for a carnival-procession finale, the children got to grips with the language through learning a traditional song, playing games and taking part in a quiz. Year 10 and Sixth Form IB students helped to run the day, as did Swiss Assistant, Ursina Sommer.

Head of German, Richard Robinson, said: "It was a really fun day and a great way for the Year 6 pupils to be introduced to the language. The teachers also got into the spirit of Karneval by dressing up and there were lots of prizes for best efforts and contributions to the celebration of this historical festival. As is also a Karneval tradition, many sweets were showered on the procession!"



Dance and speech trophy haul for Ben



Ben Harvey, 11, has won his weight in trophies after a run of success in dance and speech competitions. Following a number of wins in the Plymouth Speech and Drama Festival in the autumn, Ben walked away with more silverware at the Saltash Festival this term.

He came 1st in the U14 Prose Speaking class, reciting James Reeves' 'The Sea' and claimed another 1st place in the U14 Prose Reading, with an extract from Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. He came 3rd in the U16 News Reading class. His success in the Saltash Festival was completed with the award for Overall Prose Performance.

Ben's final addition to his trophy haul came courtesy of his 3rd place in the U16 intermediate duo class in the British Street Dance Championships in Somerset. A member of Plymouth street dance group, Rhythm City, Ben performs in competitions around the country.



Dorset trip brings geography theory to life

Lower sixth AS and IB geography students got to put their theory into practice recently on a fieldwork trip to Dorset. First up was an opportunity to carry out a transect of the sand dunes behind Studland Bay followed by an investigation of the coastal defences around Chesil Beach. The students also had the chance to visit many classic sites on the Jurassic Coast, including Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Old Harry Rocks.

"It was a great experience for the students", said Head of Geography, Anya Starling. "Thankfully the weather was pretty good so we were able to make the most of being outdoors, even though that meant the classroom sessions ran quite late at the end of each day!"

Bobby and Robin sing their way to National Youth Choir

Singers, Bobby Davies, 12, and Robin Willoughby, 13, have been selected for the National Youth Choir. The boys were successful after singing two songs each at auditions in Bristol and London last term. Robin sang songs from Mary Poppins and Sweeney Todd, while Bobby sang Handel's 'Silent Worship' and 'Consider Yourself' from Oliver.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 young people apply each year for the prestigious choir. First on the agenda is a residential coaching course in Oxfordshire in April followed by a concert in Birmingham.



Plymouth College celebrates Chinese New Year

Plymouth College celebrated the Chinese New Year in style with a colourful lantern procession around the school grounds. The lanterns were made in after school club, Art Extra. To honour the Year of the Rabbit, pupils and staff created two large rabbits from willow rods covered with coloured tissue paper. The procession also included two carrot lanterns and a series of red lanterns with New Year wishes written in Chinese.

As well as members of Art Extra, the procession was joined by some of the school's Chinese students, who played percussion instruments and 'Chinese bells' throughout the event. The procession culminated in a crescendo in the school library, where lanterns from previous Chinese New Years are on display.

Medical imaging techniques brought to life in physics lecture

Dr Michael Wilson from the Nuclear Medicine Department of the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust gave a whistle-stop tour through various imaging techniques in his fascinating lecture 'From X-rays to antimatter'. His inspiring lecture revealed how over the past hundred years physicists have developed increasingly sophisticated techniques to see inside the body.

Pupils from Year 9 to Sixth Form, along with students from eight other schools, were given an insight into how CT scanners, PET scanners, radioisotope scanners and magnetic resonance imagers work. The lecture, the first of a tour of 30 organised by the Institute of Physics, was full of amazing audio/visual media and there were a number of hands-on demonstrations including an explosion of coloured balls to show how detectors receive signals from various locations inside the body.





Year 7s bring book characters to life

Snow White, Alice, the Artful Dodger, a vampire and even a wardrobe were just some of the characters from children's literature that Plymouth College Year 7s dressed-up as to celebrate World Book Day. During their English lessons, the pupils were offered some fun activities such as a quiz and a 'Where's Wally?' game, which took over the whole Library. The highlight of the day was the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The Year 7s were joined by Year 10 drama students dressed as characters from Alice in Wonderland. Even the staff got in on the act with Librarian, Heather Chapman, dressed as the Mad Hatter and English teacher, Siobhan Currie, as The Tiger Who Came to Tea.

African cycle adventure to raise money for Jeremiah's Journey

Plymouth College staff, Elle Compton and Rosie Gee, both 22, are set to undertake a gruelling cycle ride to Morocco to raise money for Jeremiah's Journey.

The Souk to Souk challenge will start at the Souk restaurant on the Barbican on 1 April. From here the Boarding House tutors and sport coaches will embark on a journey of 1,300 miles to reach a souk (meeting place) in Morocco. Travelling 70 miles a day, the girls' adventure will take about three weeks during the Easter break.

Apart from ferry trips across the English Channel and Strait of Gibraltar, the girls will complete the challenge on bikes. Elle and Rosie are being supported by Cogs Bikes and will travel with Jeremiah's Journey mascot, JJ, attached to the handle bars. They are hoping to raise £2,000.

Elle, a former pupil of Plymouth College, and Rosie will be keeping a blog and posting photos during their trip. For more information and to sponsor the girls, please visit www.souk2soukjimdo.com



Natasha and Katie go bananas!

Year 7 girls, Natasha Spiers and Katie Little had to take care they didn't 'slip up' when they took part in the Hoe 10 fun run in February. The girls completed the 1.5 mile run dressed as bananas to raise money for a charity which pays for orphaned children and former street kids in Tanzania to go to school.

The Banana Tree Project was set up in 2006 by Plymouth College Head of History, Ed Beavington, when he was teaching in the African country. Plymouth College Year 7 pupils have taken on the challenge of raising £500 so that teenage orphan, Asha Hassan, can continue her secondary school studies. She gained a C grade in her national exams in December and continues to work hard. Her letter to Year 7 is on display in the History department. Natasha and Katie have raised more than half the money between them and a cake sale has brought in a further £100. The challenge will continue next term.



Year 6 meet Lord Mayor of Plymouth

The Prep School's Year 6 paid a visit to the Council House to meet the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor Mary Aspinall. Encompassing the Citizenship element of their PSHE programme, the children gathered in the Lord Mayor's Parlour where she spoke to them about her life as Lord Mayor and the history of the position. The Lord Mayor showed them some of the Civic Regalia including maces, robes and chains of office. They also had a tour of the Council Chamber.



Pupils 'take off' around the world

Reception classes at Plymouth College Preparatory School experienced an around the world trip by turning their classroom into an airport and aeroplane.

Featuring check-in, customs and passport control, the children boarded the 'plane' and went through a full safety announcement courtesy of the 'teacher' air stewardesses. Wearing holiday clothes, the children made their own passports and brought their luggage into school.

Jamie was the first pilot of the day, securing a smooth landing in Paris. Over the course of the day further flights were taken to Africa and Australia - each scheduled stop involved a lesson based on the country they were 'visiting' before returning to the airport for their next adventure.



Teacher retires after 33 years at Prep School

The Prep School said a fond farewell to maths teacher, John Wayne, just before half term. The joint deputy head and director of studies had been at the school for 33 years.

His retirement was marked by an emotional special assembly in the chapel, in which Year 6 children presented 'The twelve faces of Wayne', a light-hearted sketch of all the roles John had held during his time at the school. The Prep School deputy chair of Governors, Mrs McKinnel, and teachers Mr Cottrell and Mrs Avery, gave heartfelt tributes.

"John is the essence of the perfect school master", said Plymouth College Preparatory School Headmaster, Chris Gatherer: "He heads into a happy retirement with the enormous satisfaction that there are thousands of people in the world whose lives have been enriched by his inspired guidance."



Sun shines for Prep cross country

On a glorious sunny afternoon Years 2 to 6 at Plymouth College Preparatory School took advantage of the school grounds in the annual House Cross Country event. With Senior School Year 10 Sports Leaders as marshals and time-keepers, the route ranged from one lap of the grounds for Year 2s to two laps for Year 6. Downton House (red) triumphed with 173 points, Pusey House (blue) came second, Wantage House (green) took third place and Sellon House (yellow) were fourth.



OPM releases new single

James Robinson (OPM) and his Brighton-based organic pop band Two Spot Gobi released their new single in February. 'Guiding Star' is taken from the band's forthcoming album 'The Sun Will Rise', (released 16 May) and was recorded with legendary producer Niko Bolas (Neil Young, John Mayer, Regina Spektor) at the California home of Grammy Award-winning artist, Jason Mraz. As well as the new album, Two Spot Gobi are also working on their 'Music Set Free' programme. Involving schools in the South East and London, the programme was trialled with Plymouth College students last year. Having been featured in the Times Educational Supplement, the band is hoping to roll out the programme across the UK, and even the US. James Robinson will be performing at the Barbican Live Lounge on Thursday 21st April.

Katrina Gibson gives a Foundation Office up-date...

We have had a fantastic response to the Foundation Questionnaire sent last year, with over 100 OPMs and parents registering their details, enabling us to create a resource bank for our students and recent graduates. This has proved particularly useful for the careers department who have been able to offer our current students work experience from a more diverse list of opportunities.

We hope that you will continue to support this initiative by registering your career details and areas of expertise with the Foundation Office. More information about the Foundation Office and its work can be found at www.plymouthcollege.com/foundation.

Since launching our partnership with Amazon.co.uk, we have raised over £350 for the Plymouth College Bursary and Scholarship Fund. This is a result of books, games and clothing being purchased from Amazon via a special Plymouth College link. Go to www.plymouthcollege.net and half way down the page on the left you will see a link to Amazon. Every time you make a purchase using this link, Amazon donates up to 15% of what you spend. This does not affect any discounts that you may have and you pay exactly the same as if you visited Amazon directly.

Another of our partners is Travel2Give South West. Through them you can book quality holidays at fantastic prices. In return they donate part of their profits to local and national charities. Booking is easy, just call 0843 216 4017 with your travel enquiry and remember to quote 'Plymouth College'. They will then give you a quote, full itinerary and your possible donation value information. Once you have booked your holiday, they donate part of their profits to Plymouth College - the donations are often worth approximately 4% of the holiday value. All holidays are ATOL and ABTA protected.



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OPM gives talk to Sixth Form

When Anthony Harris left Plymouth College in 1960 he never imagined it would be more than 50 years before he returned. Earlier this term the former Deputy Head Boy came back to talk to the Sixth Form about his life and work since leaving the school.

An Under-Officer in the Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force and Captain of the shooting team, Anthony won a Stapledon Exhibition to read Classics at Exeter College, Oxford, where he shot for Great Britain on a number of occasions. From here Anthony joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and went to Lebanon to study Arabic. A long career in the Middle East followed, which included a role as an interpreter for HM The Queen and Prime Minister Edward Heath during official visits to London by Arab leaders, and being HM Ambassador to Abu Dhabi. "I was quite moved by the experience of returning to the school after a complete break of more than 50 years", said Anthony. "It was an unforgettable experience and I must now try to restore some links with Plymouth and the school and not let the years rush by as I have previously done."

Photograph L to R: Jon Dawe, Simon Wormleighton (Headmaster), Bianca Richards, Chris Robinson (Chairman of Governors), Anthony Harris, Mike Turpitt (OPM President), Emily Coelho, Jonathan Shields (Head of Sixth Form), Tom Clenaghan



Harry dives his way to competition win

Plymouth College pupil, Harry Mason, 11, won the 12-13 age group category at the South West Regional Diving Championships held in Trowbridge. A member of Plymouth Diving, Harry completed 12 dives on the 1m and 3m boards, as well as poolside. Harry has been diving for 2 ½ years and trains twice a week. He also plays rugby and is in the school hockey team.



Kevin is Devon table tennis champion

Year 9 pupil, Kevin Vandabona, 14, has beaten 70 table tennis players from across the county to win the Devon U16 Schools Table Tennis Championships held at Eggbuckland Community College.

Kevin's county victory comes just two months after taking the top spot in the U15 Band 1 section of the Bribar East Midlands 4 Star Table Tennis Tournament.

Kevin started playing table tennis when he was ten years old and practises at home with his Dad. He was named Plymouth & District Table Tennis League Junior Player of the Month late last year and is a member of a Sunday club in Eggbuckland.

Bronze medals for U12s in netball tournament

The U12 netball team had a great end to the season by taking third place in the Plymouth Schools' Netball Tournament. The girls made it to the semi-finals by winning four out of five matches. Here they lost to eventual tournament winners, Plymstock School As, holding them to just four goals. In the 3rd/4th play-off they had a comfortable 6-1 win over Plymstock School Bs.



Devon hockey team for Georgia and Sarah

Plymouth College 1st XI hockey players, Georgia Hall (17) and Sarah Jeffery (16) have been selected for the U17 Devon Hockey Team. Also members of Marjon Hockey Club, the girls were selected to the Devon team after a series of winter training sessions and a trial.

In the coming weeks they will play for Devon in two tournaments against Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset, where they will be observed by South West selectors.



Great Britain call-up for modern pentathlete

Modern Pentathlete, Alice Rogers, 16, came 5th in her age group (Youth B) representing Great Britain at a multi-nation youth competition. Alice competed for Great Britain against 31 Youth A and Youth B athletes from across Europe in the Modern Pentathlon Youth International event held in Gloucester. She finished 12th overall and achieved PBs in the swim and the combined run/shoot event, and won 50% of her fencing fights. Alice's strong performance has led to a second Great Britain call-up. She will travel to Berlin in early April for the German National Youth B Championship.



Medals for Jamila in African swimming competition

Elite swimmer, Jamila Lunkuse, brought home two gold and three silver medals for Uganda in the CANA Zone 3&4 Swimming Championships. Competing in Botswana against eleven African nations, Jamila, 14, triumphed in both the 50 and 100 breast, and came second in the 50 fly, 50 free and 100 free.

The Year 9 pupil, who boards at the school, previously represented her country in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in October and the World Swimming Championships (25m) in Dubai in December.

In other swimming news, Plymouth College is the top swimming school in the country for the fourth year running after winning six of twelve national titles in the English Schools' Swimming Association Relay Championships.

Ten fencers qualify for nationals

Ten Plymouth College fencers have qualified for the National Age Group Fencing Championships in May after successfully competing in the South West Championships.

In the U12 girls' category, Tia Simms-Lymn came first with Prep School pupils, Catherine Bishop and Alice Simmonds, in second and third. Charity Brifaut and Tim Andrews took third place in the U14 girls' and boys' sections. Katie Davies-Gregory was third and Alice Rogers sixth in the U16 girls, while Megan Woodrow and Rebecca Razey took second and third respectively in the U18 girls' competition. Georgina Barrington receives a bye in the U18 girls' category because she came third in last year's national competition.

Tom clinches place on England squad

Rising rugby star, Tom Mumford, 16, has secured a place on the U16 England rugby squad. The Plymouth College hooker came to the attention of England selectors when he captained the U16 South West team in a tournament between the North, the Midlands and the South East.



The U16 Devon vice captain spent half term at a training camp in Abingdon and has been chosen to play for the U16 England Red Team in the Wellington Festival against Belgium, Canada, Scotland and France in April.

"Knowing I've made it to the England squad is an amazing feeling", said Tom. "I've always dreamed of getting this far and after making the Devon and South West teams, I knew it was within my grasp. I just tried to keep focussed and play the best rugby that I could."

In other rugby news, Dominic Day (15) Tim Weale (15) and Emil Agobiani (14) have been selected for the U15 West Devon rugby squad.