



PLYMOUTH
COLLEGE



Inspectors commended the “diverse and enriching” education and observed “high levels of success”



Students are top of the class in business competitions

Two Plymouth College teams, The Dividend Divas and The Dividend Dudes, have qualified for the regional final of Student Investor – this is the seventh consecutive year Plymouth College has made it through to this stage of the financial stock market competition. The Dividend Divas have also won £100 for the most improved performance in the month of January with a 37% gain against a backdrop of a declining FTSE 100. In the Shares4Schools competition, Plymouth College are currently in pole position after investing their entire portfolio in just one stock, Alphameric. The team have seen their £1,500 investment in the company behind Turf TV (which shows live horse-racing feeds) rise to £1,892 since November. Although a high-risk strategy, the potential for big rewards has paid off and only seven other schools out of 81 in the competition have so far produced a positive return. The national competition run by The Share Centre finishes in June.

Inspection report is ‘outstanding’

The rigorous inspection carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has resulted in an exceedingly strong and successful report. Not only did the school meet all the regulatory requirements in the areas assessed but it received three ‘outstanding’ and four ‘good’ judgements accompanied by a clutch of positive comments.

Inspectors commended the “diverse and enriching” education and observed “high levels of success” across a wide range of activities. They said that “staff teach their pupils well” and that “the relaxed and friendly manner in which pupils and staff work together enhances every aspect of the life of the College and promotes the development of pupils”. The inspectors concluded that “good leadership and management throughout the College give clear direction and support in creating an educational experience of benefit to all pupils”.

ISI is the independent schools sector’s equivalent of OFSTED. Inspections take place every six years. The latest inspection was carried out in November 2007, with the official report published in February 2008.

“We are extremely pleased with the inspection report”, said Headmaster, Dr Simon Wormleighton. “We knew that we had all the elements of a resoundingly good school and it is so rewarding to have that officially recognised. I am particularly delighted that the school was judged ‘outstanding’ in three areas of assessment. The report states that the College has very few issues to resolve. Nevertheless this will not result in a complacent satisfaction with things as they are. Rather it will be the spur to develop and improve further all that we offer to ensure we provide the very best education possible for present and future pupils”.



The Cadets were congratulated on their smart appearance, quality of marching and their conduct

Cadets are guard of honour at RAF dedication service

The CCF RAF section provided a Guard of Honour for a special ceremony at Ford Park Cemetery to dedicate the graves of two young airmen who perished when an Iris flying boat from 209 Squadron at Mount Batten crashed on February 4th 1931. Until now the graves of Flying Officer Wood and

Leading Aircraftman Rutledge were unmarked. Ben Harker (Year 11) played the Last Post.

Angela Hawker, Acting PH Officer, reported that the Cadets were congratulated on their smart appearance, quality of marching and their conduct throughout the service.



Third place in south west maths challenge

The Year 8/9 Maths Team South West final took place in early March at the Guildhall in Plymouth. Matthew Andrews and Niall Mahoney (Year 8), and Michael Daniel and Tom Turner (Year 9), were challenged mathematically against nineteen other schools. Lottie McRae was reserve. The boys started brilliantly in the first team event, correctly solving nine out of ten tough problems. The next, the 'Head to Head' competition, involved formula-spotting starting with very little information. Luckily the team had practised a square root formula in training and were very pleased when one came up, scoring nine out of a possible ten points - the opposition scored just one point. This was followed by the cross-number event, which they found hard but so did everyone else. The finale and most exciting event was the relay. Pythagoras came into it, polygons and probability, and there were square numbers and speeds, as well as running backwards and forwards with the answers. The team came a very respectable third overall and secured the best position held by Plymouth College in the four years the school has been taking part in this national competition.

Poetry Club Awards

Three members of the Poetry Club have successfully gained Vanguard Poetry Awards. Rachel Pun (Upper Sixth) was awarded a Senior Gold Medal after completing a poetry recital and learning, by heart, four contrasting styles of poetry. Rachel had to discuss why she chose the poems, the poets' lives and their forms of poetry. She was also given a sight-reading exercise and achieved 78 with Distinction. Cherry Yeung (Lower Sixth) took her Senior Silver Medal. She recited two poems and discussed the poets. She achieved 75 with Distinction. Shantel au Yeung (Lower Sixth) took her Senior Advanced Certificate

and gained a good Pass with 72.

The three girls are very dedicated and between them have now taken thirteen poetry exams. They find great enjoyment and understanding of the English language through poetry and value the learning of different styles of poets, poetry and eras.





Perfect powder snow, exciting tree runs and fantastic weather made the long trip across the Atlantic very worthwhile

Perfect snow conditions for Colorado ski trip

A group of eighteen pupils and three staff took to the slopes in Winterpark, Colorado for this year's ski trip during February half term. Perfect powder snow, exciting tree runs and fantastic weather made the long trip across the Atlantic very worthwhile. Après ski activities included meals out, quizzes and bingo, as well as a few sessions in the hot tub! They also made good use of the favourable exchange rate with a shopping trip to Colorado Mills.

Head of Girls' Games, Andrea Blunden, said, "Everyone had a brilliant time and I was really proud of the exemplary behaviour of the pupils".



Italia Conti place for Terri

Terri Pike (Lower Sixth) has won a place at the prestigious Italia Conti in London. With a burning ambition to perform in the West End, Terri will start a Performing Arts Degree in September. She will also undertake training to be a dance teacher with a view to one day opening her own dance school.

Terri has been singing since she was six and as well as taking part in many shows with Italia Conti in Plymouth, she also sang at last year's Christmas lights ceremony.



Gold Medal for Hollie

Hollie Goodall (Lower Sixth) has won a LAMDA Gold Medal in Speaking of Verse and Prose, achieving a Distinction with a mark of 88%. Her examination included extracts from "Henry V", "Dracula" and TS Elliot's "Naming of Cats". Hollie has also recently passed her ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory.



Prestigious drama school for Len

Len Cook (Year 11) has successfully gained a place at the performing arts college, Arts Educational in London. He will be studying for A levels in Drama and Art. It is a highly competitive college and Len will have the option of applying to the main drama school when he is 18.



Pupils were camping over night in preparation for a long navigation test the following day



Local area training for Ten Tors

Snowy conditions added to the challenge of setting up camp in the grounds of Plymouth College's outdoor activity base at Whiteworks on Dartmoor in February. Pupils were camping over night in preparation for a long navigation test the following day as part of their training for the May event.

In addition to the main event, five Plymouth College pupils are assisting Hillside School with their training for the Jubilee Challenge, the one-day event for young people with special physical or educational needs. They will also act as guides on the day.

Saltash Music Festival

The quality of Plymouth College musicians was rewarded again this year at Saltash Music Festival.

Tavoya Howeson (top right), who won five trophies at the Plymouth Music Festival in November, continued her winning streak with five more trophies at the Saltash event. She won cups for Grade 8 Saxophone, Grade 8 Clarinet, Grade 5 Flute, Overall Woodwind (with the highest mark of 90) and the Most Promising Musician.

Annabel Wigginton (bottom right) and Alex Spearman won the trophies for Grade 5 and Grade 6 Clarinet respectively.

Plymouth College Swing Band won the Carlton Big Band cup for the third year running in the Jazz Orchestra class.



National Symphony Orchestra for Sophie

Trumpeter, Sophie Brown (Year 9), has successfully auditioned for a place in the National Symphony Orchestra. With more than a thousand young musicians vying for a place in the prestigious orchestra each year, Sophie will get to play alongside professional musicians and receive expert coaching on the trumpet. Already heading towards Grade 8 Trumpet, Sophie is also accelerating rapidly through the grades on the piano and more recently the French horn.

Luke walks on Dartmoor for The Gambia Fund

After visiting The Gambia last year, Luke Wheeldon (Year 9) decided he wanted to raise money for future Plymouth College-led projects in the West African country. Currently in training for Ten Tors, Luke decided to undertake a sponsored walk on Dartmoor with his full kit on his back. His brother Ollie (Year 11) accompanied him on the 15-mile walk (but without the back pack!), which started at Yelverton, on to Princetown and finished at Burrator Dam. The brothers' efforts raised £135.

Busking for The Gambia

Talented trio, the Harker brothers (Tom, Ben and Joe), busked in Ivybridge during the Christmas break and raised £130 for The Gambia Fund. Plymouth College pupils have been visiting The Gambia for more than 20 years and have worked on and helped to fund a number of projects including the recent building of a health post in Bissary Mardi. It is hoped that this year's fund-raising efforts will go towards finishing the health centre and making improvements to the school in the village of Bondali. Tom (Upper Sixth) has already been to The Gambia and twins Ben and Joe (Year 11) hope to visit in the future.

Joe has recently passed his Grade 8 Trombone with Merit.





Plymouth College was the most successful school swimming team in the country

Plymouth College celebrates six swimming titles and records

The fastest twenty schools in the country, covering every age group in medley and freestyle relay, competed for twelve 200m relay race titles in the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) national championships held in Sheffield. The results were:

School	Titles	New Records
Plymouth College	6	6
Millfield School	5	3
Peter Symond's School	1	0
Kelly College	0	1

Plymouth College was the most successful school swimming team in the country. Ten of the twelve records were broken, six of them by Plymouth College, a remarkable achievement. The College now holds more championship records than any other school. Millfield held eleven of the twelve going into the tournament and came away holding onto just five.

The six records broken were: Junior boys' medley 2.03.73; Junior boys' freestyle 1.48.62; Intermediate girls' medley 2.04.42; Intermediate boys' medley 1.51.16 (achieved in the heats!); Senior girls' medley 2.03.26; Senior girls' freestyle 1.49.36



The titles gained were: Junior girls' freestyle champions; Junior boys' medley champions; Junior boys' freestyle champions; Intermediate girls' medley champions; Senior girls' medley champions; Senior girls' freestyle champions.

Plymouth College are runners up in show jumping competition

The school equestrian team missed out on winning an inter-school show jumping competition by the margin of one knocked down pole. Just four faults put them in second place after the first round and well clear of the rest of the field of 16 teams. Emily Dinnis (May Sunday), Alex Moore (Sparky), Tori Rea (Bailey's Reward) and Jessica Cronk (Joker) completed the second round with a clean sheet to take second prize at the event held at the Barguse Equestrian Centre in Cornwall. Alex Moore also claimed the individual second place for the second fastest double clear round of the day.



Sophie swims the channel in school pool

Sophie Collier (Lower Sixth) has swum the distance of the English Channel – in the school's 25m swimming pool! An elite swimming scholar who trains with Plymouth Leander, the 22 miles took Sophie 10 hours and 20 minutes. She used the challenge as an opportunity to raise £1000 for two worthy causes – the Cancer Care Unit at Derriford Hospital where Sophie has carried out voluntary work as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and a new health centre being built in The Gambia by Plymouth College pupils.



All we had to do was to win our final game to secure the trophy, which we duly did

U15 girls win Plymouth and South Devon hockey league

Captain, Julia Hayes, writes...

Starting in December, we had two successful matches against Coombe Dean and South Dartmoor. We won the initial match very easily, scoring ten goals against Coombe Dean, and also comfortably beating South Dartmoor by three goals to one. Our next match was against Kelly College. This was our toughest match of the league and could have gone either way. In the end we emerged with a 1-1 draw. Kelly College almost got a second goal late into the second half, but some great goal-keeping from Freya kept us in the match.

After Christmas, we picked up where we left off with two good wins on the same

day against Plymstock (won 2-0) and Lipson (won 7-0). After the draw with Kelly College, we had to win all of our remaining games to stay in the running for the trophy, so we were a bit anxious when we came up against Ivybridge. However, after a good fast start we emerged victorious with a 5-2 win. All we had to do was to win our final game to secure the trophy, which we duly did. We beat Stoke Damerel 1-0 and emerged outright winners of the league.

Julia, who already plays hockey for Devon, has been selected for the West of England trials in April.



Sarah qualifies for National Biathlon Championships

After winning the South West Biathlon Championships in early March, Modern Pentathlon scholar, Sarah Palmer (Lower Sixth), has qualified for the National Biathlon Championships being held in Macclesfield in May.

Sarah's emphatic swim/run win came the day after she represented Devon, and came 56th out of 309 runners, in the Senior English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Liverpool. Fellow Plymouth College pupil, Poppy Le Marechal (Year 10), represented Devon in the Intermediate event.

Plymouth College win Kelly Tens

Plymouth College successfully defended the title they won last year, playing some excellent rugby along the way. In the pool stage of the competition, Plymouth came up against last year's finalists, North Devon CC and Torquay Boys' Grammar School. The fitness levels of the Plymouth players enabled them to play the game at a high tempo, resulting in comfortable victories over both teams. While both performances were based around a good team performance, players who shone included Richard Skinnard and Jawad Miklaszewicz.

In the semi-final of the competition, the opposition were Tavistock College. In a physical encounter, Plymouth came out on top emerging as 26-5 winners. This victory was based around a strong aggressive defence where Patrick Jaynes showed particular energy, pulling off three big tackles in the space of fifteen seconds! This victory meant that the final would be against Exeter School, who defeated Kelly in their semi-final.

In the final, Plymouth took a 12-0 lead in the first half, courtesy of tries by Richard Skinnard and Jawad Miklaszewicz. However, the second half was a different story and the fact that Exeter were denied a score was testament to the determined defence of Plymouth. In the end Plymouth ran out deserved winners and the squad should be very pleased with the attitude, skill and effort they showed during the day.



Plymouth College

Ford Park Plymouth Devon PL4 6RN

T 01752 203300 F 01752 203246

mail@plymouthcollege.com

www.plymouthcollege.com

Registered charity number 1105544
Registered company number 518942



PLYMOUTH
COLLEGE