



Lipson Co-operative Academy

Sixth Form Newsletter – July 2025

A few words from Mr Mee – Head of Sixth Form.

WOW what a year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible successes and progress we've seen in Sixth Form over the past months. It's astonishing how quickly the year has flown by which is a true testament to the energy, dedication, and focus of our students.

This year has been filled with achievements that make me genuinely proud. Our Year 13 students have worked tirelessly, and they truly deserve the best possible grades for their relentless efforts and perseverance throughout the year. I have every confidence that their hard work will pay off and open doors to exciting future opportunities when they open their results in August.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 students have really stepped up their game, particularly in their PPEs. Their commitment and improvement are impressive, and it has set a strong foundation for their Year 13 journey. I am confident that with their determination and continued effort, they will be well-positioned for even greater success next year. These PPEs have enabled us to identify gaps and provide interventions to support students further moving into year 13.

As we look back, I am grateful for the resilience and growth shown by everyone this year. I am immensely proud of all our students and excited to see what the future holds for each and every one of them. Here's to a restful break and an even more successful year ahead!

Careers – UCAS: We're thrilled to announce that our students have submitted an impressive 42 applications to universities for September! This milestone showcases their hard work, dedication and aspirations for higher education. Nine of our students have received unconditional offers for universities, a testament of their academic excellence and potential. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements! 75 of our Year 12 students have already started to complete their UCAS Applications in preparation for September 2025

Apprenticeships: Several students have secured amazing apprenticeships, marking the beginning of their careers in their chosen fields. We're delighted to see them embark on this exciting journey!

Work Experience: Our year 12 work experience program has been a huge success, providing students with invaluable

insights into various industries. Some placement highlights include:

- ☉ Houses of Parliament, gaining insight into the world of politics
- ☉ Princess Yachts experiencing all types of maritime industries
- ☉ Babcock experiencing all types of trades
- ☉ Doctor surgery, shadowing medical professionals
- ☉ AGE UK Plymouth
- ☉ Midwifery university gaining a glimpse into the world of healthcare

We will continue to share news and updates of our students progress on A Level results day on the 14th August and throughout the year.

In the meantime, we couldn't be prouder of their achievements and look forward to seeing them thrive in their future endeavours.





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Year 13 Celebrate in style after completing their courses – Good Luck for the future!





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Pelican of London – Stad Amsterdam –

Seas Your Future will always be one of my memorable memories with Lipson. It was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity that was kindly sponsored to us by Charley and David - two amazing people who made this trip even more enjoyable for us.

My experience on the boat was one that I will forever hold close to my heart. I gained so many skills, not only personal skills but also sailing skills, such as sail handling when climbing the mast. We all largely learnt the skill of teamwork, as you are joined with many unique individuals across the country, widening your knowledge of life itself, from different stories and experiences of others.

My favourite memory of the Pelican of London was the time spent with friends - when on watch or in our free time playing card games. Back then I only knew of them but now I couldn't imagine a time without them, and because of this trip I am grateful for them. This is a key reason why I encourage this trip to so many individuals and it isn't just a sailing trip, but an opportunity to find yourself, others and improve yourself as a human being such as growing confidence or becoming a more mindful individual.

This trip has also encouraged me to move out of my comfort zone and two other friends and I sponsored to Sail for Boston, America to the Azores in Portugal this July! It has enabled us to opportunities that wouldn't have been possible with the Pelican of London and the kind gestures from Charley and David.

So if you aren't sure about this trip or scared of what's to come, I hope my message has encouraged you to try new things, go out of your comfort zone, learn new skills and make memories to last a lifetime as this trip gives you the chance to do so. Lilly Bance



Sept 24 Crew with Pelican of London in Guernsey

July 25 Ruby – Mae, Becky and Lilly Stad Amsterdam in Boston



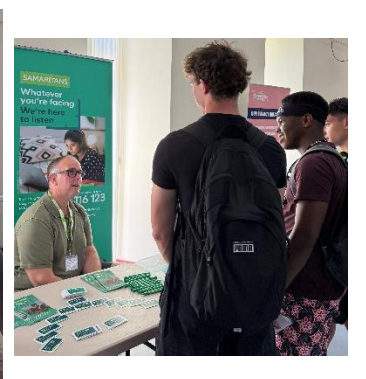


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Well-Being Day – In May we went to Tor Bridge High for our termly Ted Wragg Trust Sixth Form Day. Throughout the day students took part in workshops and activities based on self-defence, violence against woman and girls, hate crime, oral health and hygiene. In the afternoon they attended the Elm Community Centre where there was a variety of stands providing valuable insights into young carers, online safety, mental health support, testicular cancer, sexual health, understanding neurodiversity, and keeping safe in the community.

The students had a wonderful day and learnt so much on how to sustain healthy lifestyles in the future.





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It's in the bag -

We ran the teacher vs teacher charity match on the 22nd of May for the charity "It's in the bag" and just wanted to give you all a massive thank you for the support we received. This event was very special to us and the sixth form team, as we wanted to raise awareness for a cause that can affect anyone. Increased knowledge of this issue is crucial in order to ensure that every boy/man knows what to check for and how to ask for help when needed, before it becomes too late. Testicular cancer is a rare disease that occurs when malignant cells form in the testicles. It primarily affects younger men, with the average age of diagnosis being 33. Any other information and advice can be found on the website <https://itsinthebag.org.uk>

This event also allowed us to give Paul Boyes the send off he deserved with the students chanting "He's one of our own". Tears were shed and goodbyes were given. Thank you to all the teachers who participated as this ultimately allowed us to run this event. Not only this but the student attendance was incredible. We raised just under £200 thanks to everyone's support and created an amazing memory for all involved.

We aim to run another charity match in the new school year- this time for breast cancer and hope this support will continue

Lillie Buckley and Sienna Deaton



Key Dates:

21st Aug – GCSE Results Day

3rd Sept – Year 12 Return

4th Sept – Year 13 Return

15th Sept – 24th Sept – Pelican of London
Plymouth Science Voyage

17th Sept – Suitability Tests for Year 12

15th Oct – UCAS Deadline for Medicine,
Veterinary and Oxbridge.

14th Jan – UCAS Deadline for all other

AGE UK – Thank you to all the students who have taken a 6 week work experience placement at the Mount Gould Wellbeing Hub located at Age UK Plymouth's William and Patricia Venton Centre. Students found the opportunity so rewarding and have learnt so many transferable skills throughout their placements. Students joining Year 12 in September 2025 will also have this opportunity to volunteer and to really make a difference to our local community.

iStudy - It is open every school day from 8am until 5pm for all Sixth Form Students. All the chrome books and resources are available for you to use. I know a lot of students find it beneficial to complete the work before they go home or to use the space to work with their friends. Remember what your "Why" is and aim for that goal!

Pelican of London Tall Ship – 15 students are setting sail for the Plymouth Ocean Science Voyage on the 15th September for 10 days, you can read all about their adventures in the next Newsletter. Many thanks to our sponsors David and Charley.



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Maths Trip – Our year 12 A Level Maths class went to Plymouth University for a Stem careers event 'Where can an A Level in Maths get you?'.

The day started with looking at waves. Students were analysing real waves and using formulas to classify them. These classifications can be used to help contractors develop ocean defences to prevent damage to buildings and train lines.



We then went into a Maths Problem solving sessions, where students had to work through a series of problems as a team to use Maths, spatial awareness and common sense. Students then had lunch surrounded by stands for an undergraduate fair, courses varying from Geography to Robotics.

Our last session looked into cryptography, specifically encoding and decoding. Students were taught about some ancient encryption techniques and then tested their skills in a code breaking competition. The students came away with a flavour of the potential routes they can take using their A Level in

Exploring Future Pathways - On the 10th of July, we had the pleasure of taking five of our students to Marjon University for a **General Health and Wellbeing Discovery Day** — an exciting opportunity tailored for those considering a future in health-related university courses.

The day was packed with **interactive taster sessions** delivered by university lecturers, offering our students first-hand insight into a range of healthcare professions. Throughout the day, they explored key disciplines including: **Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy and Psychotherapy & Counselling.**



One of the highlights of the day was an **exclusive tour of Marjon's cutting-edge medical suite**. Students got hands-on experience with the university's high-tech mannequins — impressively realistic training tools that can breathe, blink, and simulate common medical conditions seen in hospitals.



In addition to the practical sessions, our students had the chance to **engage in conversations with university staff**, gaining valuable advice and a deeper understanding of the paths available within the healthcare sector.

Overall, the experience was not only informative but truly inspiring. It provided our students with a clearer vision of what studying a health course at university could look like — and the exciting, impactful careers that could follow.

We're incredibly proud of how our students represented the school and look forward to supporting them as they take the next steps in their academic journey.





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PERK Awards – Each term the Sixth Form team select students who have gone above and beyond the school values, this term the winners are:

Prepared – Drew Calladine and Charodon Berry

Engaged – Adam Duchnowski and Chloe Smith

Responsible – Violet Jacket and Ayhan Ahmed

Kind – Libby Demuth and Jay Jackson

PERK – Evelyn Shaw and Aidan O’Riley

Fieldwork – Year 12 went on their annual Non Examination Assessment (NEA) element of the Geography A Level course earlier this month. Students are given the opportunity to develop their data collection and analysis skills which totals 20% of their final A Level grade. This year we have had a range of coastal projects, including data collected from; Dawlish Warren on sand dune succession; Dawlish Town Beach on the effects of erosion on the South West Railway line; and erosional and sediment movement along the bar at Slapton Sands. The days were very hot, but the students did great in the heat, working together to collect the data and get the job done to a high standard. They are currently in the process of writing up their findings into a report format which will be submitted to the examination board later in 2026. Good Luck!



Lipson Medic – Year 10 and 12 students interested in medicine, dentistry and ophthalmology had a workshop with Old Lipsonian Anna Cardoso (Class of 2019), who has now almost finished her Medicine degree.

Anna shared her journey, offering practical advice on A Level choices, applications, interview tips and funding, as well as relating stories from her placements and rotations.

A huge thank you to Anna for giving up her time to help inspire the next generation of Lipson medics



Attendance - A polite reminder that all students are required to be in school registration for 8.38. Should a student continue to be late within a week, this may result in students losing their reward mornings on a Friday. If students are unable to attend due to illness please can the parent/carers email sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk or contact Student Services.

Year 12 start on Wednesday 3rd September and Year 13 start on Thursday 4th September.



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Celebrating Success: Discovery College Awards Day at Plymouth Argyle F C

On the 11th of July, I had the absolute pleasure of attending **Discovery College's Celebration Day**, where our amazing students were recognised for their outstanding achievements. Held at **Plymouth Argyle F.C.**, the afternoon was a heart warming occasion, bringing together **friends, family, and staff** to honour the dedication, growth, and accomplishments of our learners.

We were incredibly proud to see the following students take the stage to accept their awards:

Sophie Dunstan – *Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism*

Jacob Eddy – *Extended Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services*

Ashton Gibson – *NCFE Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary*

Kevin Peto – *Extended Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services*

Waad Salama – *BTEC National Extended Diploma in Business*

Sadly unable to make the awards were,

Fatema Alhamadah – *Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism*

Tyler Dannan – *Extended Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services.*

However, we wish them all the best.

A special congratulations goes to **Waad Salama**, who was named Overall Student of the Year for her exceptional performance and dedication throughout her Business course. A truly well-deserved recognition! It was a proud moment to witness our students' hard work being celebrated in such a meaningful way. Events like this remind us of the transformative power of education and the bright futures ahead for each of our learners.

Congratulations to all the award winners —
we couldn't be more proud of you!

Mrs Harris





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Sixth Form Enrichment - For me, this is just as important as the academic side. The students were fully engaged and developed stronger relationships and bonds with their peers which they will need as they support each other going into year 13.

The days consisted of supporting the lower school in the sponsored walk, our popular inclusive annual "Old School Sports Day" event consisting of the welly throw, three legged race, sack race and many more. After a tough day competing and some incredible colour matching faces and outfits we eventually saw the Blue team successful in winning this year's trophy. Congratulations!

The ever popular treasure trail around the City Centre and the Barbican saw many detour to local coffee shops or food outlets but all managed to complete the challenging trail with the event eventually being completed quickest by "THE SQUAD" team.

