



Lipson Academy Sixth Form

NEWSLETTER

JULY 26

Celebrating an Exceptional Year in the Sixth Form

As another academic year comes to a close, we are incredibly proud to celebrate what has been one of the most successful years in the history of Lipson Sixth Form. From outstanding student achievements and record progression destinations to exciting innovations for the future, this year has demonstrated exactly what can be achieved when ambition, opportunity and exceptional support come together.

Throughout the year, our students have continued to embody everything that makes our Sixth Form special. They have embraced academic challenge, contributed to the wider school community, taken on leadership roles and represented the academy with pride both locally and nationally.

Our Year 13 students now leave us having achieved so much more than excellent qualifications. They leave as confident, resilient and ambitious young people, ready to thrive at university, in apprenticeships and within the workplace and we are really excited to hear about what they go on to achieve.

Whilst we celebrate our leavers, our Year 12 students have also enjoyed an exceptional year.

They have fully embraced Sixth Form life, developing independence, building confidence and making the most of the many opportunities available beyond the classroom. Through enrichment, leadership opportunities, work experience, university visits, careers education and our growing super-curricular programme, they have already begun preparing themselves for life after Sixth Form.

Many have taken on leadership roles across the academy, and supported younger students such as the Reading Mentors scheme which has been highly recognised locally and nationally. Their maturity, commitment and enthusiasm give us enormous confidence for another successful year ahead.

I am genuinely excited for this summer's examination results. The commitment shown by our students and staff throughout the year has been exceptional, and we are looking forward to celebrating what we expect to be another outstanding set of results and whilst it's sad to see an exceptional cohort leave. We are excited for the up and coming cohorts as September marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for us.

We are proud to become one of the few school Sixth Forms to introduce an innovative four-day week student timetable.

By intelligently redesigning our curriculum, students will receive exactly the same curriculum time whilst benefiting from a dedicated fifth day to pursue opportunities that will strengthen their future applications and personal development. Students will be able to use this time for independent study, work experience, volunteering, university preparation, wider reading, employment or additional enrichment activities.

"This is not about reducing learning time—it is about increasing opportunities for our incredible students." As our Sixth Form grows, so does opportunity. From September Mr Reynolds will be joining our exceptional Sixth Form team, which I'm sure will be a great addition in supporting our students academically and

pastorally.

Mr Mee

Ofsted

This year brought another significant milestone for Lipson and our Sixth Form, as our recent Ofsted inspection recognised the many strengths that make our Post-16 provision such a special place to learn.

Inspectors highlighted the academy's ambitious culture, strong relationships and the high expectations that enable students to flourish. They recognised that students benefit from a curriculum that prepares them well for the next stage of education, employment and training, while the academy's commitment to personal development ensures that every young person is supported to achieve their full potential.

The report reflects what our students experience every day.

Our Sixth Form provides an environment where students are known as individuals, challenged academically and supported personally. Staff work tirelessly to ensure that every student receives the guidance, encouragement and opportunities needed to succeed.

Inspectors recognised the positive relationships that exist throughout the academy, alongside the calm and purposeful atmosphere that allows learning to thrive. Students spoke positively about feeling safe, well supported and encouraged to aim high. High aspirations underpin everything that we do, whether students are applying to university, securing competitive apprenticeships or preparing to enter employment.

This recognition comes alongside another year of continued growth and success for our Sixth Form. Record university applications, increasing numbers of Russell Group destinations, outstanding apprenticeship outcomes and our growing reputation across Plymouth demonstrate the impact of the education and support our students receive.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building upon these strengths with the introduction of our innovative four-day student timetable from September. By maintaining full curriculum delivery whilst creating additional opportunities for independent study, work experience, university preparation and enrichment, we continue to evolve our provision to meet the needs of modern learners.

The Ofsted report provides external validation of what our students, parents and staff already know...

Lipson Sixth Form is a place where ambition is encouraged, potential is realised and futures are transformed.

For students considering their Post-16 education, there has never been a more exciting time to join our thriving Sixth Form community.

PERK AWARDS

**Congratulations to the following students
who received this terms PERK awards.**

Hayden Slater

Lenna Battle

Finn Lynch

Abi Calder

Jack Matthews

Alek Pater

Emma Willson

Harlow Harrison

Daisy Luxton

Diwa Moh Tahir

Class of 2026 Leavers



We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon celebrating our Class of 2026. Students were warmly "clapped in" by staff before spending time signing yearbooks and sharing messages with friends.

Following a series of speeches, awards were presented to recognise the achievements and contributions of our students. Congratulations to Eri, who received the Scholarship Award along with a book voucher to support his medical studies at university. We also celebrated our PERK Award winners: Ryan, Maura, Felix, Viktoria, Osman, Madison B, Corey, Saria, Liam, Grace, Izzy and Dylan.

The celebrations then moved on to the student-voted awards, bringing plenty of laughter and memorable moments. Categories included Most Stylish, which featured the challenge of creating an outfit from a bin bag, as well as Best Girl Duo, Best Bromance which was won by drawing competitions, Most Likely to Change the World with on the spot policy speeches and Most Dramatic, winners were chosen through a combination of student and staff votes.

The afternoon concluded with personalised biscuits, a BBQ and a visit from the ice cream van before students said their farewells to staff and their friends.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2026 and look forward to celebrating with them again on Results Day 13th August. We are confident that they will be Record Breakers with outstanding grades, increasing numbers progressing to Russell Group universities, and many securing higher-level apprenticeships.



A Level / BTEC RESULTS Day

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST

As we near the end of a successful school year, I would like to share with you the plans for A Level/BTEC Results Day, Thursday 13th August, 2026.

Firstly, students can collect their results from iStudy using the main entrance into the courtyard from 8.30 am onwards.

Secondly, as well as celebrating the anticipated positive results students have worked so hard for, please rest assured we will also support those who require advice and guidance.

For students who have applied to university, UCAS usually updates at 8.00am on the morning of results day, and often students will know if they have been successful in getting into university before they get their results. The sixth form team will be on hand for the day should students require any support. If students do not meet the grade requirements of their offers, please encourage them not to panic. Many universities may still be able to offer a place, and there will be thousands of courses available through UCAS Clearing; in this case, students should speak to any member of the Sixth Form team.

Anyone who cannot make it into school to collect their results will have theirs emailed after 1pm on Thursday 13th August.

Finally, in our eyes the students are more than a grade. The resilience and determination shown by all our sixth formers is remarkable. Every one of them is an exceptional, inspiring and talented young person and we couldn't be prouder. I am excited to celebrate Results Day with them and hear about the next part of their journey.

Welcome to Lipson Sixth Form

On the 24th and 25th of June this term, we welcomed our incoming Year 12 students for two days of immersive taster sessions in readiness for September. The days were designed to bridge the gap between Key Stage 4 and 5, as well as giving an insight into what the next 2 years will look like for our wonderful new cohort.

Students from Lipson and eight other schools across the city attended a broad range of taster sessions exploring previously unlearned subjects like Sociology, Media and Politics, in addition to the firm favourites like English, Health and Social Care and the Sciences.

Students were also introduced to one of the most exciting changes beginning next year: the wellbeing day. Students in Years 12 and 13 will now attend school Monday-Thursday, with Friday becoming a wellbeing day. This allows students time to organise their time more effectively, creating time for independent study, preparing for the world of university and work in the form of a part-time job, or driving lessons and more.

We look forward to officially welcoming them back on 7th September 2026 as they embark on this exciting two-year journey. A journey supported by both academic rigour and a modern approach to personal well-being not seen anywhere in the city.



Pelican of London

We are proud to announce that students will be back sailing on the Pelican of London this September. 12 students will be setting sail, learning how to sail a Tall ship, completing eDNA science experiments <https://pelicanoflondon.org/ocean-science-projects/> as well as marine / meteorological science projects. We are so thankful to Charly and David for being our sponsors for the 5th year running, we look forward to sharing their adventures in the autumn newsletter. More information can be found at <https://pelicanoflondon.org/>





Media Film Awards



Young Filmmakers Shine at the Ted Wragg Trust Moving Image Awards

Students from across the Ted Wragg Trust took centre stage for the 2026 Moving Image Competition Awards Evening.

Hosted in the 360° Dome Cinema, the event brought together students, families, staff and industry professionals to celebrate the creativity and storytelling of young filmmakers. This year's competition featured 28 entries from schools across the trust, showcasing a vibrant mix of ideas, styles and powerful messages.

Congratulations to our Year 12 student, Lenna Battle, for winning the Critics' Choice Secondary award.

Rhys Phillips, Head of Media Studies at Lipson Co-operative Academy and Lead Event Organiser, said:

"I was blown away by the talent on display. The quality of production in each category was nothing short of exceptional. We saw such an amazing range of work, from Music Videos through to hard-hitting Short Films, and it confirmed for me that this event allows our students the opportunity to tell their stories through Moving Image, providing a platform to show off their skills and dedication.

The buzz around the Market Hall was infectious. It really felt like our students got the chance to experience an Oscars-style evening, and it was a real pleasure to see the audience's reactions to the video productions.

I'm very excited to see what next year brings, but for now I want to thank everyone who helped and got involved with this year's event. It genuinely could not have happened without your time and support."

Falmouth Art and Photography Trip

Year 12 Art and Photography students had an absolutely fantastic time at Falmouth University on Friday. During the visit, students took part in a range of inspiring workshops, including Fine Art, Life Drawing, Animation and Light Painting. They also enjoyed guided tours of both the Penryn and Wood Lane campuses and were treated to some spectacular food throughout the day. The welcoming, creative and environmentally conscious atmosphere made a real impression on the group, encouraging many students who had never previously considered university to think more seriously about their future options and opening their eyes to the opportunities that higher education can offer.





Year 12 Jack Matthews has beaten tens of thousands of students worldwide to be shortlisted for a prestigious Literacy award.

Jack came through a field of 100,227 contestants from 183 countries to make the finals list of the John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize in the Law Category.

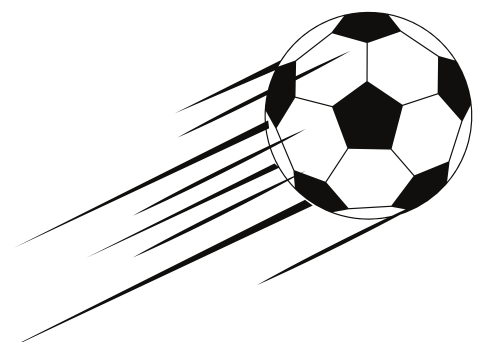
The list was drawn from the top 17.5% of submitted essays. To be numbered among the best of the best is a remarkable achievement by Jack and we congratulate him on the tremendous honour.

All essays will now undergo a final review by the John Locke Institute senior faculty. They will determine commendations, high commendations, category winners and the overall Grand Prize winner.

Jack, a Sixth Form leader, has been invited to a black-tie Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, in Mayfair, in October, for a spectacular evening to celebrate his success and announce the winners of each category as well as the winner of the overall Grand Prize.

Alongside the ceremony, the John Locke Institute will host an invitation-only academic conference, bringing together finalists from around the globe.

Devon Wednesday Football League



Congratulations to our Devon Wednesday Sixth Form team on their first successful season in adult football, competing for the George Lang cup.

The team played against many other clubs such as Argyle's post 16, Plymouth Parkway and other universities.

Although the cup did not make it back, the boys finished mid league which is a great result for their first season.



The Ted Wragg Trust Well-being Day 2026

Year 12 students visited Plymouth Marjon University to attend the Ted Wragg Trust Health and Wellbeing Conference. They enjoyed a fantastic day, which began with an informative talk on staying safe while living at university, helping students prepare for some of the social aspects of university life and equipping them with practical advice for the future.

Students then attended a thought-provoking session on ovarian cancer awareness, which highlighted the importance of recognising the signs and symptoms, looking after their health, and seeking medical advice when needed.

Additionally, our students had an excellent and engaging session on finance, budgeting, credit, and mortgages, all of which will help them in the future. Furthermore, this gave students the exciting opportunity to design questions for Martin Lewis CBE, founder of MoneySavingExpert. Their questions will be answered live on air during the Big Money Assembly, which will be broadcast to more than 275 schools nationwide

The day concluded with an interactive self-defence workshop led by professional experts, including our very own Theo Jones. This engaging and enjoyable session allowed students to experience the basics of Muay Thai boxing, while learning practical techniques to help keep themselves safe and build confidence.



Crash Investigators



Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service visited us for a Crash Investigation Session and brought in a “Crashed” BMW. Students investigated and discussed what factors could have caused the accident; the car is indicative of the most common type of collision encountered on the road: a low-speed front-end collision. In the interior and on the exterior of the vehicle, students found items common to young people's cars, signs of how the passengers/driver may have been behaving and the sort of individuals that may have been in the car. Outside, students observed common vehicle faults that lead to reduced safety, MOT failures and potential Police action.

The students then discussed the consequences of the collision and what they could do to reduce the risk, both from a driver and passenger point of view. This conversation then unearthed many aspects of the Fatal 5. 1 in 6 new drivers will have a collision in the first 6 months, from reversing into a bollard, to a front-end collision or something more serious. All students appreciated this hands-on experience and the lessons learnt will keep them safe for life. We look forward to welcoming them again next year, as well as Learn2Live in the Crowne Plaza in November.



TOP FACTORS IN FATAL AND SERIOUS INJURY COLLISIONS



**DEVON &
SOMERSET**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



Careers

Year 12 students are making excellent progress with their post-18 planning, with 80 students already registered on the UCAS Hub. Students are currently focusing on completing personal details, course choices, and personal statements preparation ahead of submissions in the new academic year. See link below for help with Personal Statements:

[CLICK HERE >](#)

[Personal Statement Builder](#)

Key Updates & Action Items

- **Medicine & Dentistry (UCAT):** The testing window begins on July 13th. Any student intending to apply for Medicine or Dentistry must sit UCAT and should ensure they have their test date booked.
- **UCAS Finance:** applications for Year 13 students planning on attending university this September must be complete their application soon as possible.

[CLICK HERE >](#)

[UCAS Student Finance](#)



Recent Taster and Discover Days

This week, 31 Year 12 students completed in-person placements across the city; students gained real-world insight.

Some highlights include:

NHS Derriford and Mount Gould Hospitals

Dartmouth Navy College

Rittal

Toyota

Local Primary and Secondary schools

Charity Shops

The expectation is that students will secure their work placements before the end of the Year 12 autumn term to build a competitive profile.

University of Plymouth: Year 12 students gained hands-on insight during the Law, Criminology, and Social Work Taster Day, where they attended academic seminars and examined crime scene models.

We will continue to share news and updates on our students' progress throughout the year. At present, we have a total of 59 students with UCAS applications for 2026 entry!

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



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

Attendance

Attendance is one of the most important factors in Sixth Form success. Every lesson builds on previous learning and missing even a small amount of teaching can make it harder to keep up with coursework, homework and exam preparation.

Sixth Form attendance for the year was 92.6% compared to the whole school of 90.4%, so although we are proud, there is more we can do! We expect all students to be on site in September by 8.50am and to use their Well-Being Day for doctors/orthodontist and any other medical appointments where possible. Consistent attendance, by being taught by the experts in the room, gives each student the strongest possible opportunity to achieve their goals and reach their full potential. We will achieve this by all working together; students, Parents/Carers and Teachers.

“Every lesson attended is another step towards reaching your goal”

Up LEARN

Now that this year's intense exam season is finally out of the way, September offers the perfect opportunity for Sixth Form students to hit the reset button and start afresh.

For students stepping into Year 12 or Year 13 this autumn, Up Learn provides a massive advantage by structuring independent study time efficiently, building rock-solid exam techniques, and pinpointing precise knowledge gaps before they become overwhelming. It empowers Sixth Formers to take control of their learning from day one, transforming the daunting jump to A-Levels into a manageable, high-yielding journey that confidently guarantees academic success.

Tutor League

Congratulations to 13 DGE and 12 RPS who won the tutor league for this academic year. Points are awarded for highest attendance, most hours on Up Learn, weekly quiz scores, Golden Ticket and PERK winners, and for individual students who go above and beyond each week. Next year the tutor league will be upgraded with more rewards for students each fortnight, so keep a look out for how you win more!

KEY DATES

13th August - A Level/ BTEC Results day

4th - 12th September Pelican of London Voyage

7th September - Year 12 First day of term

8th September - Year 13 First day of term

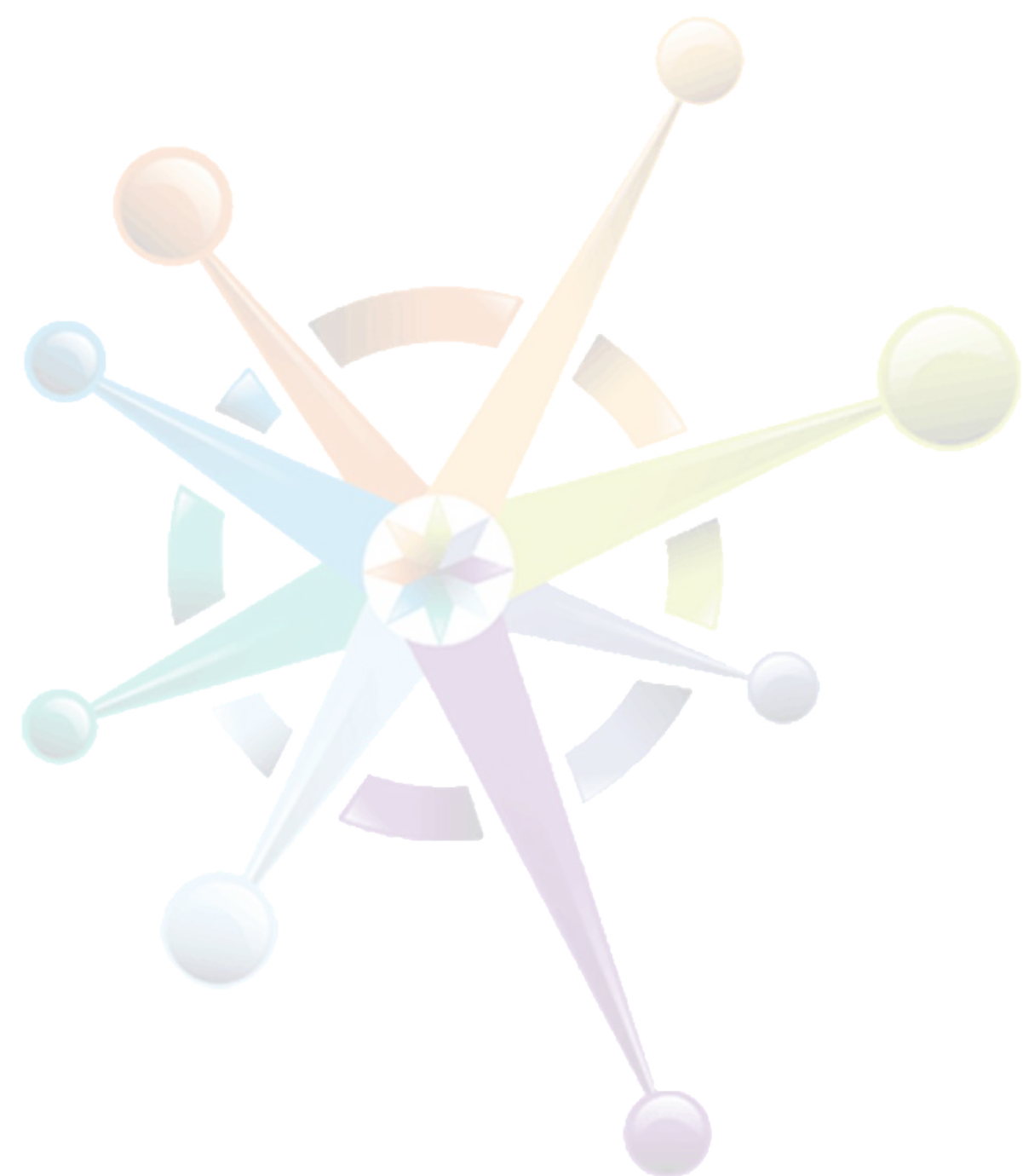
15th October - UCAS Early entry deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary courses.

16th November - Year 13 PPE's

17th November - Learn 2 Live - Crowne Plaza - Year 12

13th January 2027 - UCAS deadline for all other undergraduate courses.

21st January 2027 - Parents Evening



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