



# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of our Sixth Form Newsletter. It has been an extremely positive and exciting start to the year for our students, and I am proud to share the many achievements we have celebrated across our Sixth Form community. At Lipson, our Cooperative values of ambition, responsibility, and working together remain at the heart of everything we do, and this term has been a true reflection of that shared commitment. In January, our BTEC students completed their examinations with determination and maturity, and we now await the results in March with great optimism.

Our Sixth Form continues to set the standard across the school, achieving the highest attendance, which demonstrates the dedication, resilience, and positive culture our students bring each day.

We are also delighted to celebrate a record-breaking year in terms of progression beyond Lipson. This year, we have submitted the highest number of UCAS applications ever, with 59 students applying to university. Alongside this, a growing number of students are securing successful university offers following strong interviews. Equally, we are proud that several students have also received apprenticeship offers, highlighting the wide range of pathways our Sixth Form supports as we prepare young people for ambitious futures.

In addition, we have recently completed interviews with the entire Year 11 cohort, helping them explore their next steps and ensuring they feel confident about the opportunities available within our Sixth Form. It is also especially encouraging to see a record number of external applicants applying to join us, a clear testament to the growing reputation and success of Lipson Sixth Form within the wider community.



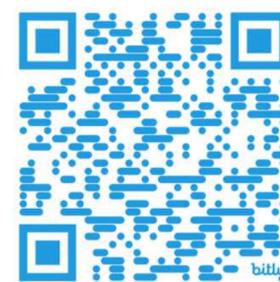
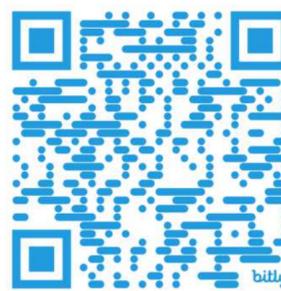
As we look ahead, the months to come will be equally important. Year 13 students will soon undertake their PPE examinations as we continue to prepare them for the demands of the summer exam season. At the same time, our focus begins to shift towards Year 12, with an upcoming UCAS conference in Exeter designed to help students broaden their understanding of the opportunities and next steps available to them beyond Sixth Form.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We have so much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to in the months ahead. **Mr Mee**



## Revision support

With our half term break fast approaching and our students moving closer to exam season, it's important for them to consider various revision strategies. Often students stick with what they know, but it's worthwhile exploring options of revision that may not have been considered before, that could potentially be more efficient. The **QR codes** included will open documents that will explain various models of revision and ways to plan for those all important exams coming up. Additionally, any student who may be finding this time challenging, there are people here in the Sixth Form who can help and support, please feel free to talk to us.



## Attendance

Attendance in Sixth Form is vital to students' academic success, personal development, and preparation for life beyond school. Being present and punctual ensures students fully engage with their learning, build strong study habits, and make the most of the support available to them. We are extremely proud that our overall Sixth Form attendance currently stands at an impressive 93.2%, which reflects the commitment and maturity of our students.

Students are expected to arrive by 8:38am each day. If students are not able to attend due to illness or any other valid reason Parents must email [sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk) or contact student services, or alternitically message in via the My Child At School App.

## UCAS Applications

We are thrilled to announce that we submitted a total of 59 UCAS applications for the 2026 cycle, a new record for Lipson! We are already seeing fantastic results, with many students receiving Unconditional Offers, a testament to their hard work and academic potential. Congratulations to everyone on reaching this milestone!



## Exeter Scholars Programme

Our partnership with the Exeter Scholars programme is proving highly successful, with 17 students currently participating. Students are engaging in tailored activities including subjects such as medicine, law, business, and number of others. Students involved are gaining invaluable insights into university life and developing their academic passion. We are also encouraging our students to apply for the Sutton Trust Summer Programme, final date for applications is Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. Details have been posted in google classroom.

## Work Experience Placements (13th–16th July 2026)

All year 12 students are reminded that our mandatory work experience week runs from Monday, 13th July to Thursday, 16th July 2026.

- **Deadline:** All placements must be secured and recorded on Unifrog by 1st March.
- **Action:** Students should half term to contact employers, build their CVs, and ensure their placement aligns with their future career or university goals.

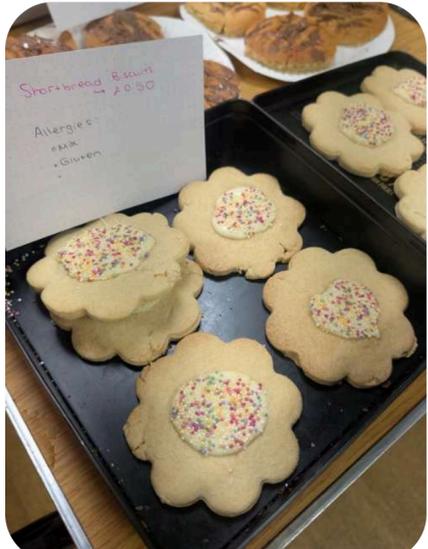
Please ensure your Unifrog profile is updated with your placement details as soon as it is confirmed.



# This Terms Charity Event



Our year 12DBD Tutor Group have been busy organising the charity event this month for The Woodside Animal Trust; with a Valentines theme. Our tutees have been delivering "Love Notes" to students during tutor time, after they gave a small donation to write a note to show their appreciation of a peer or indeed a member of staff. As well as this, there has been a guess how many paper hearts are in the jar, guess the teachers pet and the all important Bake Sale. In total the students have raised amazing £200. All money raised will go towards supporting rescued animals at the trust, helping with medical needs, food and rehoming.

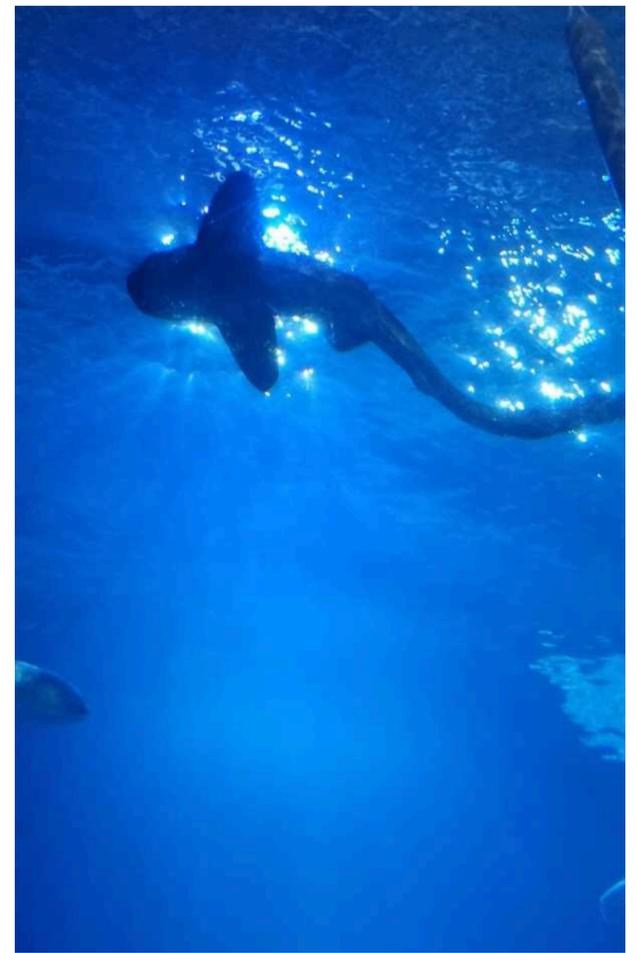


## A Level Biology field trip

### **Year 13 Visits** to the National Marine Aquarium

Year 13 students enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking visit to the National Marine Aquarium, where they explored the real-world impact of sustainable fishing practices. Through interactive sessions and expert input, students examined how fishing methods affect marine ecosystems and how consumer choices can play a vital role in protecting fish stocks.

A key focus of the day was understanding how we, as consumers, can support sustainability through informed choices in the supermarket—bringing an important area of their specification to life beyond the classroom. The visit provided valuable context and helped deepen students' understanding of sustainability within marine environments. Our thanks go to all the NMA staff for delivering such a fantastic and informative day.



### **Year 12 Biology Visit** to the University of Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre

Year 12 biologists enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre, where they gained a fascinating insight into cutting-edge scientific techniques used in modern biological research.

Students learned how delicate, “squishy” biological samples are carefully prepared before being placed into the vacuum of an electron microscope. This included exploring how samples are fixed, dried using a range of methods (including liquid nitrogen), and coated with metals such as gold and neodymium to allow detailed imaging.

The visit also gave students the opportunity to use both transmission and scanning electron microscopes, while asking insightful questions about how and why each technique is used in research and diagnostics.

Seeing these processes first-hand helped bring challenging concepts to life and deepened their understanding of microscopy beyond the classroom.

**Our sincere thanks go to the entire team at PEMC for a fantastic morning and for generously giving up their time to accommodate us.**



## Sixth Form Workshop Report – Arts University Plymouth

A group of our 6th form Media students recently took part in an exciting workshop at Arts University Plymouth, where they were tasked with creating a short film based around the theme of a séance. Working in a professional-style production environment, students were assigned specific media roles including camera operator, lighting, production design and acting.

The group were fantastic to work with throughout the day. They collaborated brilliantly as a team, communicated clearly within their roles, and approached the project with creativity, focus and enthusiasm. Their professionalism and commitment impressed the lecturer they were working alongside, who commented positively on both their teamwork and their final outcome.

Most importantly, the students had a lot of fun while gaining valuable insight into media production at a university level. They clearly took a great deal from the experience, developing both practical skills and confidence in a creative setting which I'm sure will impact on their own upcoming film productions.

These students are definitely ones to watch — I'm sure you'll all agree that the final film outcome is incredible... if not a little bit scary!

Mr Phillips

Head of Media Studies

Please see video link below

[Sixth Form Workshop Report – Arts University Plymouth](#)



## Lipson Career Fair

The Lipson Co-operative Academy Careers Fair for 2026 was held on Thursday, January 29th. Over 20 exhibitors/organisations joined us. The annual event was aimed at students in Years 9 to 13 and provided information on various industries, employment opportunities, apprenticeships, and further/higher education.



## Matilda the Musical – Rehearsals Update

Rehearsals for *Matilda the Musical* are going brilliantly, with students showing fantastic energy and commitment. Before the Christmas break, the cast proudly performed two numbers – *When I Grow Up* and *Revolting Children* – at a community event, giving audiences an exciting taste of what's to come.

A number of sixth form students are helping out with roles throughout the production such as assistant director, assistant choreographer and technical assistant

We were also thrilled to be invited to watch the dress rehearsal of the UK and Ireland touring production of *Matilda* at Theatre Royal, Plymouth. This was a truly inspiring experience, allowing students to witness the magic of live theatre and the professional performance up close. We're now back in rehearsals with a real spring in our step and can't wait to continue building towards our own performances. Ticket information will be shared closer to Easter – watch this space!

### Performance Dates:

- Thursday 2nd July - Friday 3rd July



## Year 12 Photography and Art Trip

Our Year 12 Photography and Art students enjoyed a school trip to Bristol, where they visited Spike Island; the Arnolfini Arts and Bristol Museum, at which they viewed this year's National Wildlife Photography Exhibition.

This trip was designed to inspire and support students as they begin developing ideas for their Unit 1 work.

It also provided valuable real-world gallery experience, which forms a required element of their A-level course, and helped to strengthen the sense of community within the year group.

You can see more about this trip by visiting our facebook page :

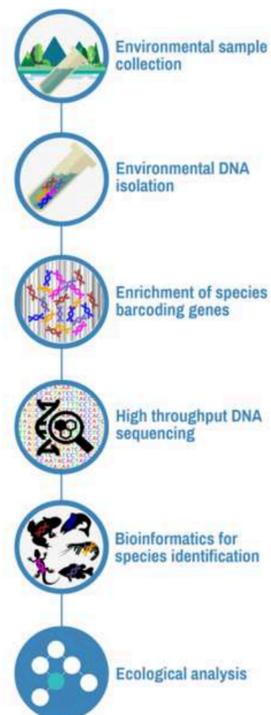
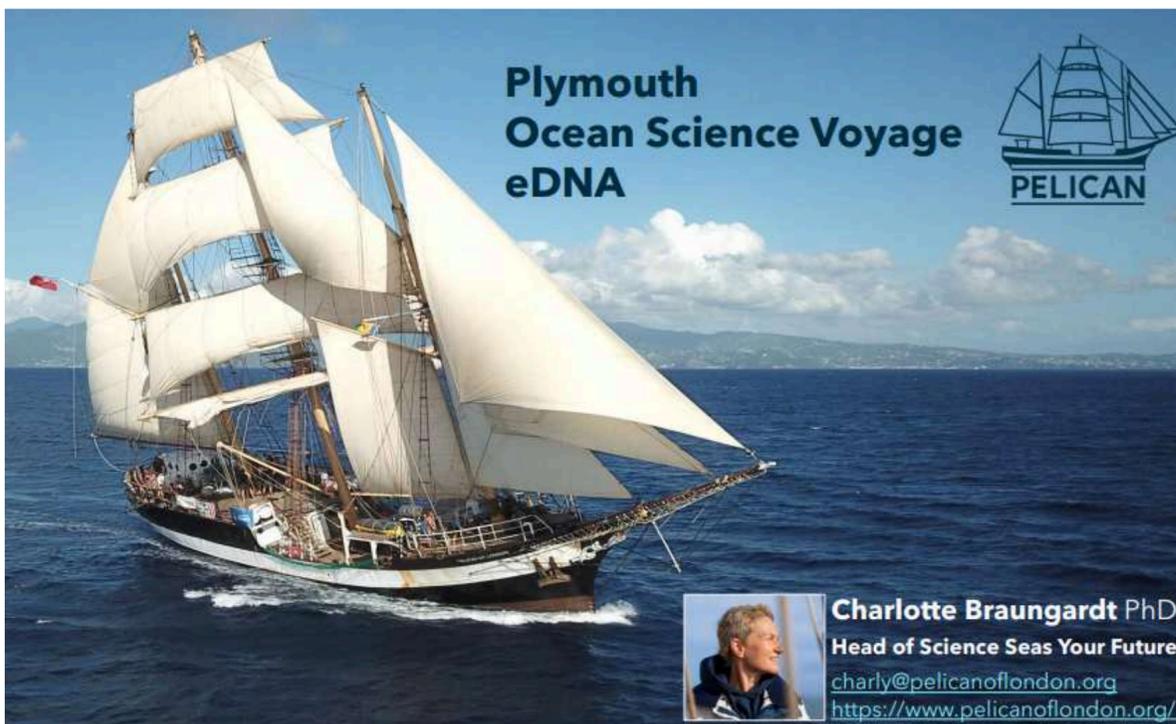
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## Pelican of London

I am very pleased to announce that 10 of our Year 12 students have secured a place on the Pelican of London for a 10 day voyage in September. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors David and Charly. We also had the opportunity to take part in an eDNA Webinar with A level biologists attending and past and future Pelican of London trainees. The objective was to demonstrate how water sampling and molecular methods can be used to detect vertebrate biodiversity in marine environments, while generating a baseline dataset that could be expanded into a time series through repeat sampling. The samples were taken in September at Cawsand Bay and Lulworth Cove, the results were wide ranging but highlights were conger eels, ray and also the eDNA from a seahorse! During the seminar students learnt about meta barcoding, the limitations and implication of the study. All of the data collected will be used for conservation monitoring, fisheries management and long term ecosystem assessment.

More information can be found here : <https://challenginghabitat.com/projects/#eDNA>



### How Does eDNA Metabarcoding Work?

1. Collect water samples
2. Extract DNA
3. Amplify barcode genes
4. Sequence DNA
5. Match sequences to reference databases
6. Analyse patterns



## Up Learn

Up Learn is a school-funded online learning platform that students are expected to use each week to support their independent study and exam preparation. We are very pleased to see that overall study hours are increasing week by week, with our highest total reaching an impressive 250.33 hours. This shows a growing commitment from students to their learning. We ask for parents' continued support in reminding and encouraging students to complete their Up Learn hours regularly, as this partnership between home and school plays a key role in helping students stay on track and achieve their best.



## Year 13 Lesson 6's

To support our Year 13's in the run up to their final exams teachers are offering lesson 6's to run through assessments from the Exam Ready Room, look at exam techniques and revise the course content. We highly recommend all students should be attending these lessons and if they are unable to they need to speak to the teacher before hand.

### Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Biology English C Geography - HNG Politics - JRS	Chemistry English A Sociology	Art History Maths Photography Physics Politics - TBN Psychology	Art Photography

### Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Biology English C Geography - ABS Politics - JRS	Chemistry English A Sociology RE - MLR	Art History Maths Photography Physics Politics - JRS Psychology	Art Photography

## Tutor League

Each week Tutor Groups gain points for the tutor league, these points are earned by their attendance, Up Learn hours, Golden Tickets, Quiz Scores and application forms completed (Work Experience / UCAS / Apprenticeships). There are also one off events like applying for Age UK Volunteering and the Pelican of London.

The current standings are

13 BME	13 CGW	13 DGE	13 NHS
33	44	49	27

12 DBD	12 ECE	12 MPE	12 RPS	12SLE
30	49	35	35	28

# Our Sixth Form Leadership Team



Despite the relentless rain and wind, our Sixth Form community has continued to stay busy with a range of exciting events, trips and opportunities.

This week, students helped spread positivity across the school through our Valentine's charity initiative. Love letters and kind messages were shared throughout the day, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere while raising money for a great cause, Woodside animal sanctuary. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, showing how small acts of kindness can make a big impact.

Our Year 12 Biology students took part in an inspiring trip at the University of Plymouth where they explored how delicate biological samples are prepared for electron microscopy. Students gained valuable insight into advanced scientific processes, and had the opportunity to use both transmission and scanning electron microscopes, asking thoughtful questions from professionals about how and why each method is used. Year 12 Photography and Art students travelled to Bristol, visiting Spike Island, Arnolfini Arts, and Bristol Museum, where they experienced this year's National Wildlife Photography Exhibition. The trip was designed to inspire students as they begin developing ideas for their Unit 1 work, while also providing valuable real-world gallery experience, an essential part of their A-level course.

Year 13 enjoyed a visit to the National Marine Aquarium after their hard work during mock exams, exploring sustainable fishing practices and learning how everyday consumer choices can help protect fish stocks. The experience brought key parts of their specification to life, showing how real-world actions link directly to the science studied in lessons.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the upcoming UCAS Discovery Exeter trip on 17th March, which will give students the chance to explore future pathways, meet universities and employers, and start planning their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

## Key Dates

- 24th February - Miss Saigon Performing Arts Trip
- 12th March - Yr 12 Complete placement forms for Work Experience
- 12th March - Yr 12 Assembly UCAS Conference
- 17th March - Yr 12 UCAS Conference Exeter
- 26th March - Yr 13 Student Finance Assembly
- 1st April - Yr 12 WEX - Employer / Parent/ Carers sections completed
- 13th - 16th July - Yr 12 WEX

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