



**State School**

# Plymouth College Devon

Private boarding school in Plymouth on the south coast of England, known for elite performance sport pathways alongside a broad academic curriculum. Well suited to students seeking small class sizes, strong pastoral care, and progression to top UK and international universities.



BOARDING



SPORTS



ARTS



STEM



CITY

## Quick Facts

**Founded:** 1877

**Ofsted rating:** Good

**Climate:** Cool winters and Warm summers

**One-Year A Levels:** No

**Programme duration:** Term, Semester,  
Academic Year

**Accepting students:** Age 11-18

**Visa information:**

- Term/Semester – ETA or Visitor Visa (nationality dependent)
- Academic Year – Student Visa required

**Pathway to UK university:** Yes

**Interview required:** Yes

**Total students:** 675

## Academic Excellence

Plymouth College offers GCSE and A-Level programmes supported by small class sizes and a broad subject range across sciences, humanities, arts, and technology. Students can also take the Extended Project Qualification. Academic outcomes are strong, with a high proportion of grades at A\*-C at A-Level and consistent progression to Russell Group universities and international destinations. The curriculum supports students balancing academic study with high-level sport or creative pathways, and structured university preparation guides pupils through subject choices, applications, and interviews.

## Student Accomplishments

- Pupils progressing to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities
- Olympic, World, European, and Commonwealth-level athletes
- Alumni include world-class athletes and award-winning artists
- Inspection: ISI – pupils' personal development rated Excellent.

## Recent University Acceptances

- University of Bath
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- King's College London
- University of Bristol
- University of California Berkeley
- Princeton University (USA)



## Stats

**1:16**

Teacher : Students Ratio

**16**

Number Of A-Level Subjects

**95**

International Students

**91%**

Pass Rate At A\*- C Level

**20**

Average Class Sizes

**30**

Different Nationalities



## Campus Facilities

The campus includes science laboratories, ICT suites, art and photography studios, music and drama spaces, and dedicated technology classrooms. Sports facilities include on-site pitches, sports halls, fitness and conditioning spaces, and access to professional swimming and diving centres in Plymouth. Boarding houses provide study areas, common rooms, and supervised residential accommodation within the school grounds.

## Residential Life

Boarding at Plymouth College combines UK and international students in supervised houses with shared and single rooms, communal study spaces, and social areas. Meals are provided on site, and students receive daily pastoral support from house staff. Educatius UK boarding placements are accredited by the Boarding School Association (BSA). Boarding life supports academic routines while encouraging independence and cultural exchange.

## Athletics and Arts

Plymouth College is internationally recognised for performance sport, particularly swimming and diving through partnerships with elite local clubs. Students also participate in basketball, fencing, golf, pentathlon, sailing, and general physical education, supported by strength and conditioning facilities and specialist coaching.

Arts provision includes music, drama, art, photography, and creative design. Students engage through curriculum courses, choirs, performances, exhibitions, and creative clubs, with opportunities to build portfolios for further study in the arts.



## Lists

**Sports:** Swimming, Diving, Football, Basketball, Rugby, Netball, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket, Fencing, Golf, Sailing

**Arts:** Art, Drama & Theatre Studies, Music, Photography, Film, Media Studies, Graphic Design, Design & Technology

**Languages offered:**  
French, Spanish, German

**Subjects offered:**

- **A-Level:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Statistics, Sport Science, Psychology, Economics, Geography, History, Government & Politics, Business Studies, English Language, English Literature, Religious Studies, Classics
- **GCSEs:** Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Business Studies, Art, Drama, Music, Computer Science
- **BTEC / Vocational:** Sport, Sport Baccalaureate, Hospitality, Hair & Beauty, Business Studies, Physical Education
- **Other pathways:** Extended Project Qualification

**Tech & Innovation Courses:** Product Design

**Clubs and Extracurriculars:**

Model United Nations, Robotics Club, STEM Club, Chess Club, Creative Writing, Choir, Music Ensembles, Sailing Club, Golf Club, Politics Society, Jewellery Making, Our Planet Club, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Explorers Club, Performance Sport programmes.

**English as an Additional Language (EAL)**  
Dedicated international admissions and boarding staff  
Academic mentoring and pastoral care  
University guidance and UCAS support

## Community

Located in Plymouth, a coastal city in Devon on the south coast of England, the school benefits from access to maritime culture, outdoor activities, and a safe urban environment. Plymouth is around one hour from Exeter and offers museums, historic sites, and coastal landscapes, making it suitable for students seeking both city life and outdoor learning opportunities.

## Climate in Plymouth, Devon

Mild southern climate with cool winters and warm summers. Average temperatures range from 3°C in January to 21°C in July, with moderate rainfall throughout the year.



[Click to view community](#)



### Video

**A Virtual Tour by  
Our Head,  
Mrs Jo Hayward**

