



21st July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Welcome from the New Headteacher**

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Principal, Rachel Grey for her dedication, hard work and tenacity in evolving the school into the successful learning environment it is today. She has given over 20 years service to the school, and leaves it in a positive place, ready for me to continue its exciting digital journey onto its next phase of becoming the best school in Portsmouth. I would also like to welcome the new Year 7 parents to the school and look forward to working with you all in September!

I started my role as Principal Designate on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July and already I have forged many positive relationships with both students and staff that I am looking forward to developing these and extending them further to incorporate the voices of parents of children in the coming months. In this letter I would like to highlight a couple of points that I am going to need your support with in September, along with sharing with you some important key dates that will appear on our calendar in the coming weeks.

### **Opportunities to Engage with the School and 'Meet the Team'**

Sadly, over the last few years, Covid has prevented parental opportunities to come onto school site and so the engagement in school life has naturally seen a decline. Strengthening the engagement with parents is paramount for the success and development of the school and an area I will be developing over the coming year.

During September I have introduced a 'Meet the Team' evening for each year group. During this evening, you will have the opportunity to hear me speak about my vision and values for leading the school and also talk to your child's Head of Year and their form tutor. These people play a valuable part in your child's welfare and happiness at the school and are your first port of call should you need to contact the school about a pastoral issue.

There will be further opportunities to come into school and offer your feedback over the course of the year, but it would be great to see as many of you as we can in September!

## **School Uniform**

At The Portsmouth Academy, we believe that school uniform achieves three important goals:

**It acts as a social leveller.** By all wearing the same school uniform that reduces the demand for fads or fashion, students do not compete with each other, and no student can be seen as wealthier or poorer than others. This reduces unkindness.

**It encourages a sense of community identity and pride.** By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, students are more likely to feel part of a community; this will encourage them to think about the needs of our community as well as their own individual needs.

**It encourages our students to develop habits for life.** By learning to dress smartly, fold trousers and hang up their blazers, students learn the habits of self-discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back in September in full school uniform, but for our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally and without exception. Our parents understand this and so support us at home to uphold the school's high standards. We understand that for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. There should be no need for children to ask for expensive, fashionable items. If you do have a problem with any item of clothing or footwear, or you are unsure about an item of clothing or footwear, please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Meale, either by email, [k.meale@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:k.meale@tsatrust.org.uk) or by calling 0333 360 2200 and ask for details of eligibility for assistance.

Full details of TPA's uniform requirements and information on where to obtain it, can be found on the school website: <https://www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk/parental-information/>

As a quick reminder, school uniform policy includes:

### **School Uniform Requirement for September 2022**

- The Portsmouth Academy logo blazer and tie – to be purchased from Simmonds
- White school shirt – short or long sleeved
- Black tailored trousers or black knee length box pleated skirt – **No lycra skirts, leggings or jeans**
- Leather school shoes or blacked out leather trainers, no canvas shoes.

- The Portsmouth Academy PE polo top and shorts – both to be purchased from Simmonds

Any students arriving to school with incorrect uniform will be sent home to rectify their uniform, before being welcomed back to start their day again at TPA.

### **Key Dates:**

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Term starts at 08:30 for students in Year 7 and at 09:30 for Year 11
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Term starts for students in Years 8, 9, and 10

### **Inset Days:**

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- School will close early PM on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June for a joint Multi Academy Trust meeting

### **Meet the Team Headteacher / Head of Year and Tutor Evening**

- Year 7 – Tue 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- Year 8 – Tue 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- Year 9 – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- Year 10 – Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022
- Year 11 – Thu 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

I will send a full schedule of useful dates in September to help you all support your children over the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Assheton Woodall  
Principal Designate  
The Portsmouth Academy