

Friday 29th September, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the weekend ahead.

I first want to share my thanks for the support you have shown the Academy this week. It has been heart-warming to see our community come together to support each other following the incident involving a member of staff last week. Students have been writing kind and thoughtful messages and creating posters for the teacher who was injured, and we were very pleased to welcome her back to school today. We know you will join us in continuing to support her over the coming weeks.

As I wrote to you last Sunday, we have been reiterating the high standards we expect regarding student conduct. Our staff have worked exceptionally hard to support and celebrate the excellent behaviour that the vast majority of our students display, as well as to take action to ensure that the small minority of students who are not following instructions, and disrupting the learning of others, are sanctioned appropriately.

As a result, we are already starting to see some positive improvement in the atmosphere and behaviour around the school amongst all students, but we know that this doesn't stop here. It is by continuing to enforce and uphold these standards and ensuring that we are living up to the TPA Way, that long-term improvements can be made.

As a helpful reminder, our values are for our young people to 'Aspire and Achieve' in an environment of 'Respect'. Showing respect for others and ourselves encompasses the school culture we seek to instil in our corridors and classrooms, so that our students are able to develop, personally and academically, and our staff can work happily, in a considerate environment.

Please be assured that we will continue to sanction students who are not behaving respectfully and who are failing to follow reasonable instructions from staff. We ask that you, our parents and carers, contact us if you have any concerns about conduct in and around school. We are more than happy to discuss any questions or worries you have, and will always take the necessary action to ensure good behaviour, and the safety and wellbeing of our entire school community.

We are dedicated to equipping our young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the modern world and that all begins with the respect they show themselves, their peers and their teachers. We will only accept the highest standards of behaviour and I know that by working together, we can ensure that the TPA Way is truly lived. Again, my sincere thanks for the incredible support you have shown us. It has meant more than you can imagine.

Yours faithfully,



Natalie Sheppard

Principal, The Portsmouth Academy
Regional Director (South), The Thinking Schools Academy Trust