

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carer,

**ADMISSION TO THE PORTSMOUTH ACADEMY (TPA):**

Congratulations on your official notification for your child who has secured a place at The Portsmouth Academy for September 2023 into the #team2028 cohort. We hope you received our welcome email before the Easter break. I would like to welcome your whole family to The Portsmouth Academy community and to say that we are very much looking forward to working with you for the next 5 years.

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

Now that you have accepted your child's place, we require further information from you via our online registration form. **The registration form needs to be completed before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.** Any registrations after this date may result in us not being able to fulfil curriculum preferences. Should you require any assistance completing the form or if you struggle to access the form, please contact [admissions@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](mailto:admissions@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk) or 03333 602200 and arrange a time to come into school.

**YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 TRANSITION DAYS:**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July we welcome our new Year 7s to Portsmouth Academy. As part of their transition days, students will participate in several familiarisation and introduction tasks and a carousel of lessons/activities around the theme 'Protect Our Oceans'.

These days aim to help your child familiarise themselves with the school environment and how the school day is organised. Please make sure your child is dropped off no later than 8.30am using the back entrance off Manor Road. They will then be directed into an assembly and will discover their groups and activities for the day ahead. You can collect your child at 3.00pm from the Main Hall (front gate).

We ask that students wear the PE kit of their current school (including trainers) as they will be participating in physical activity at some point throughout the two days. They will also be required to bring a pencil case, which should contain the following items;

- Black or blue pens (at least 2)
- Red Pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Calculator

- Ruler
- Reading Book

Lunch will be provided for them on each day, but we would advise students to bring additional refreshments if necessary.

If your child has Special Educational Needs, then our SENDCo and SEW team will be in touch over the next few weeks to see if we can arrange an onsite meeting and tour.

### **YEAR 7 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July from 3:30pm-4:30pm or 5:30pm-6:30pm, Mr Woodall, TPA Principal, will be hosting an Information Evening where we can answer any questions that you may have. It will be an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum at The Portsmouth Academy, learn more about our policies and procedures and discover your son/daughter's tutor, house and tie colour. We will also have our uniform suppliers in attendance, so you can see the uniform for sizing and order if necessary.

There will also be an opportunity for younger siblings to participate in a selection of exciting experiments to inspire our 'Mini Professors'. These experiments will follow the theme of the transition days (Save the Oceans) and activities will include science and engineering of water/the ocean and pollution. **Please confirm your attendance to the Information Evening via the registration form.**

### **DIGITAL LEARNING & ONE:ONE DEVICE**

At The Portsmouth Academy we offer a blended approach to learning, which means our teachers deliver most of the curriculum on a device and some of the curriculum through traditional teaching methods. TPA were awarded Microsoft Showcase School status in 2022, due to the how the school uses Microsoft to enhance and accelerate learning, and we are extremely proud of this accolade.

This year, the One:One device used at TPA is purchased by the parent using one of our payment plans. More information about the device, its benefits to teaching and learning, and about our payment plans will follow, but below you can see the payment contribution model for students who receive Free School Meals (FSM) and for those who do not (Non-FSM). Included within the scheme is insurance for an accidental breakage, connection to our management and security system which supports your child's online safety, ownership of the device after the last payment, and continued support through our One:One helpdesk.

One:One Device Payment Plan		
One-off payment	15-month Direct Debit	30-month Direct Debit

<b>Free School Meal students (FSM)</b>	£150	£10 per month	£5 per month
<b>Non-Free School Meal students (Non-FSM)</b>	£420	£28 per month	£14 per month

**Please note that the current payment model is under review and shown above are the payment plans for September 2022. These details may change ahead of September 2023, however, we do not expect monthly contributions to increase.**

### **FIRST DAY BACK**

The Portsmouth Academy will welcome Year 7 students on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Year 7 students will participate in a week of familiarisation activities, including but not limited to; this will consist of orientation of the site, biometric and ID card setup, receiving of their device, Digital Skills sessions, Thinking Skills sessions, and Character Development sessions but students will still have the opportunity to meet their new teachers throughout the week.

We hope that the induction days, together with the visits that our staff will be making to the primary schools, will help prepare our new students for the transition to secondary school and set any worries that they may have to rest.

The staff team at TPA are extremely dedicated to making this transition period as smooth as it can be and are deeply committed to working with you over the next 5 years to make the cohort of September 2023, the happiest and most successful group of children we have ever had!

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Woodall  
Principal

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

Q – What house will my child be in, and therefore, what colour tie will my children require?

A – Your child will discover their tutor group, house and tie colour on the transition days (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July)

Q – Where can I buy uniform ahead of September?

A – We have two uniform suppliers; Penelope Ann and Simmonds. Both suppliers will attend the Transition Evening on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July which will enable you to try on different sizes and purchase uniform early should you want to.

Q – What device will my son/daughter use?

A – Students currently use a HP360 device, this device is selected by the school for the needs of the curriculum and is managed by the school's security and management systems. You cannot use a personal device in school for the reasons mentioned above. The HP360 is a touchscreen laptop with a processor that facilitates all the applications and software used for learning. The current model of device is under review and may be changed ahead of next academic year.

Q – How can students buy food and drink at school?

A – All students are registered to our PlusPay system via their thumbprint or ID card. Parents are required to register with PlusPay, and top up their son/daughter's account. More detail and instruction will follow this communication.