

6th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my recent letters, I am pleased to update you today about the leadership of The Portsmouth Academy (TPA).

As you know, we have been working hard over the last term to raise standards and expectations and I remain committed to ensuring the Academy provides the best education possible to give students the greatest chance of success. While TPA is making progress in many areas, it is important that we persist in implementing effective changes and robust Trust leadership is essential to achieve this. Therefore, to further support the Academy's journey of improvement, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Smith, a member of the TSAT Executive Team as our new Principal and Regional Director from June 2024.

Mrs Smith has more than 20 years of teaching experience and extensive knowledge of school leadership. She is currently the Principal of The Victory Academy in Chatham, also part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, and has been with the Trust for over three years. Mrs Smith has a proven track record of school improvement and achieving high standards. She recently led The Victory Academy to a Good Ofsted grading while also overseeing the school's accreditation of Advanced Thinking School status.

Ahead of taking up the position as TPA Principal in June, Mrs Smith will be working alongside our current senior leadership team to embed herself in our school community and ensure a smooth transition for both students and staff. Together, Mrs Smith and our team of staff will continue to develop and embed improvements and she is very much looking forward to taking the school into its next chapter.

Mrs Smith will be the Principal of TPA until August 2025 which will ensure the school is led by a highly experienced leader who has the relevant skills needed to support the Academy in its transformation. Mrs Smith will then hand over to a permanent appointment from September 2025.

We are pleased to share that Mrs Smith will join the Parent Forum on Tuesday 12th March to introduce herself to the parent community. The deadline to confirm your attendance for this meeting is Wednesday, 6th March. Please click on the following [link](#) to register and submit your questions to the leadership team. There will of course, also be many other opportunities for you to meet her over the coming weeks and months.

Our focus as an Academy continues to be on improving behaviour and learning outcomes for all our students. The Trust will also continue to provide support from various expert leaders, particularly in areas such as behaviour, digital, inclusion, SEND and Safeguarding.

The strongest schools are those where our students, staff and parents are pulling in the same direction, so I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and I am confident that together, we will ensure our students receive the best possible education.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a period following it.

Stuart Gardner
CEO, The Thinking Schools Academy Trust