

13 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection which took place before half term, on 18th October. We are delighted to confirm that Ofsted has confirmed that safeguarding across the Academy continues to be effective.

We have been keeping you informed about standards of student behaviour and what we are doing to make sure it is as good as it should be, and I am pleased that the inspection report says “you are resolute in your determination to improve the behaviour across the school to ensure students learn and achieve well.” Inspectors also added that we are “putting in place the much-needed improvements” and our actions “reflect an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts students’ interests first.”

There are a number of other highlights in the report that I would like to share with you, including that:

- The systems and processes to safeguard students are thorough.
- Leaders have an accurate view of the standard of education being provided, including the areas where students are learning effectively and where improvements are required.
- Staff clearly know their role in reporting any concerns and are confident these are always followed up to ensure students and their families get the support they need.
- The safeguarding team have a detailed understanding of the risks students may face outside of school and has close working relationships with external agencies.
- Recent improvements have been made to the security of the site.
- Leaders are acutely aware of the importance of students regularly attending school and clear systems and processes are in place to support this.
- The trust is committed to ensuring that improvements in the school are made quickly.
- Many students recognise the initial impact of the improvements that we are putting in place.

The report did acknowledge that some students who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) do not always have their needs quickly and accurately identified. However, the inspectors recognised that our leadership team is working rapidly to address these concerns. Inspectors were particularly pleased with the success of The Bridge. This provision was praised for creating an environment where “students are keen to learn and are very positive about the detailed support provided by the well-trained staff who help them.”

We recognise behaviour and attendance are not yet where we would like them to be and as you know, we have been working hard to make improvements. However, to see our progress acknowledged by Ofsted is excellent and demonstrates we are absolutely on the right track. In our letters to you, we asked for your support in this, and I would like to thank you for working with us so we can have a safe, calm and predictable learning environment.

Please click on [this link](#) to read the Ofsted report.



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

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk | **Aspire - Achieve - Respect**

Director of Education: Miss Natalie Sheppard BSc (Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

St Mary's Road,
Portsmouth, PO1 5PF

T: 0333 360 2200
E: info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk

The Portsmouth Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755