

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 6 is well underway and the countdown to the summer break has officially begun. However, before the break we have several weeks of fantastic activities and events taking place for our students to enjoy as well as to encourage aspirations. We will be sharing subject specific news on our social media channels too. The exam season continues to go well. Good luck during the final push to all our year 11 students; you're nearly there!

I have received a very warm welcome from students and staff alike in my first term at The Portsmouth Academy. I am looking forward to working with everyone, including our parent community, as we focus on implementing our school improvement plans.

Last week, we welcomed an external quality assurance organisation to assess our curriculum, what is happening in the classrooms, extra-curricular activities and personal development. The feedback was positive, identifying that we are on the right track for continued improvement. It also gave us an opportunity to reflect and review the next steps. Our staff were praised for their dedication and hard work and our students were commended for the way they articulated their views during meetings with the quality assurer.

Below, are some positive moments so far this term:

#### **Good engagement in assemblies**

A passion of mine is to help our young people to identify who they aspire to be, and to support them in achieving their goals. This week, I started my series of assemblies focused on 'Who do you want to be' and will aim to deliver this with all year groups in the coming weeks. The focus here is all about recognising and achieving aspirations, so I am delighted to see there has been positive engagement so far.

#### **Exploring museums in London**

Year 10 triple Science students enjoyed a day out in London last Tuesday. They visited the Science and Natural History museums to see the exhibits and galleries on display. Students and staff travelled to London Victoria by train before taking the underground to the museums. First stop was the Science Museum, followed by the Natural History Museum. Well done to Miss Blackmore, Ms Steger-Lewis, Mrs J. Smith, Mr Das, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Leigh and Ms Ma for guiding 51 excitable teenagers through London's busy transport network and getting everyone safely on and off 2 trains and 2 underground tubes.



#### **Good luck to those doing work experience**

We are in the term where Year 10 pupils begin work experience across the City of Portsmouth and the surrounding areas. The work placements give our students an opportunity to have a taste of the world of work and explore industries which may interest them. A huge thanks to the team at the school, and to local businesses and community groups who have partnered with The Portsmouth Academy to support us with making this a success.

#### **Ice cream enjoyed by the 100% Club**

Congratulations to all those students who were involved in last term's 100% Club, where an impressive 460 golden tickets were given to students who earned 100% positive behaviour and attendance for the week. With the weather improving, they were rewarded with an ice cream! Our students continue to engage positively with the 100% Club incentive and we are immensely proud of everyone who earned a golden ticket. Here's to many more in Term 6!



### **Understanding democracy: A fundamental British Value**

Mr Lock has been busy introducing student leader candidates to each year group throughout the first week of term. Following some information about why the team wish to become student leaders in September, students in each year group get the opportunity to vote for who they wish to represent them. This is a fantastic way to showcase democracy at work. The students involved prepared and spoke incredibly well.

### **Term 6 parent survey**

At The Portsmouth Academy, we believe that it's important for parents to have the opportunity to provide their feedback about their experience of the school. From positive to constructive feedback, what you say helps shape the decisions we make to improve the school. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey [by clicking here](#).

Your next newsletter will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work to empower our young people to meet the world and achieve their aspirations.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs. Smith**  
Executive Principal & Regional Director (South)