

Dear Parents and Carers,

The half term break will soon be here, concluding another term of positive activities, events, celebrations and more across The Portsmouth Academy.

As mentioned within last week's Parent Forum, the school remains on an upward trajectory of improvement, but we are seeing positive outcomes as we work on our School Improvement Plan. Thank you for your ongoing support.

From the beginning of Term 6, Mrs Smith will begin as Executive Principal and Regional Director (South) to continue to drive the important but positive change for our whole school community. These newsletters will now be shared fortnightly, with some short video updates planned for our Facebook page.

Parent Forum Update

To those of you who were unable to make our Parent Forum last week, you can [see the slides with key updates here](#). At The Portsmouth Academy, I am pleased to share that our data shows cases of bullying are down, students are receiving better support, and behaviour is improving. Our rewards incentives have been well received too, seeing more students in the Term 4 100% club, and hundreds of others being recognised for achievement and effort within the classroom.

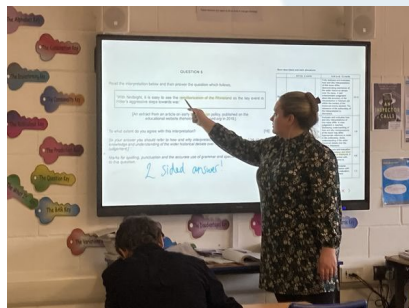
I am proud of the improvements we continue to make at the academy, whilst recognising that there is still much work to be done to fulfil our ambition to transform the life chances of our students. I am confident that Mrs Smith will continue to lead impactful change within our community.

Due to low numbers of parents attending our recent forums, we will pause these and reconsider how best to engage with you and gain your feedback and queries. We would welcome your views on this. In addition, we will be holding an Open Morning in Term 6, for parents to come and see the academy in action, more details to follow next term.



School community inspired by teachers sporting success

Our school has been inspired by a teacher who continues to have sporting success representing Great Britain in American football. Miss Currie, who teaches PE and is our Head of Year 8, recently competed in an American Football European Championships game in Spain. She said that being selected to represent her nation in the 45-strong squad was full of excitement and nerves. Well done and congratulations Miss Currie, we are proud of you!



Students prioritise extra revision to prepare for exams

Well done to those Year 11 Historians who have been attending our intensive revision sessions before school and on a Saturday morning. They recently focused on Elizabethan England and Germany 1918-1939, to be prepared for their first two GCSE papers. Students worked tirelessly and demonstrated some excellent prior knowledge and exam technique. We were able to revise what the examiners are looking for to secure top marks. Many thanks to Ms Williams, Miss Kendall and Ms Bodkin for co-ordinating this support for our wonderful Year 11 students.



Mrs Smith, incoming Executive Principal and Regional Director (South), wins top award

Congratulations to Mrs Smith who has not only won the Medway Headteacher of the Year award but also Kent Secondary Headteacher of the Year award recently. The Kent Teacher of the Year Awards, which recognises the talent and exceptional achievement of education professionals across the region, is timely for Mrs Smith as she moves into her new role as Executive Principal at The Portsmouth Academy and Regional Director within Portsmouth. She said: "What a night for The Victory Academy [also a member of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust]. It has been a tough few years but the school has gone from strength to strength and will continue to do so. It was awe inspiring listening to the nominations of colleagues from across Kent and Medway. Well done to everyone! You thoroughly deserve the recognition."

Summer Uniform

After half term, on the week beginning 3rd June, we move to our summer uniform policy. Students will not need to wear their blazer or tie to school, and black tailored shorts may be worn instead of trousers. In periods of extreme hot weather, we will write to parents to inform that students may wear PE kit – this must be the TPA kit and not branded sportswear. Students will be sent home if they are not wearing the correct uniform, and we ask for your support in upholding our expectations.

As this is my last of this series of weekly newsletters to The Portsmouth Academy community, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued feedback and support as all staff work tirelessly to improve this school and give your child the best learning experience. Your next newsletter will be from Mrs Smith, on Monday 10th June, 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mandy Gage
Director of Culture and Development