

Dear Parent and Carers,

Following our first weekly newsletter update last week, we continue to highlight the positive progress and achievements at The Portsmouth Academy within this newsletter. If you do not follow our Facebook page or website, please do because that is where you will see a variety of the fantastic things happening to provide our pupils with a positive learning experience.

### Parent Forum

On next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, The Portsmouth Academy will welcome parents to our Parent Forum. This event will be an opportunity to discuss the questions you have raised and share our progress so far; I have provided below a list of areas we will be discussing.

- Behaviour management and sanctions
- Trust in teachers
- Learning disruptions around exam periods
- Parental lines of communication to the school
- Mental health of students / Where can they seek support
- Looking after equipment/ storage

Thank you to those who have already signed up to attend. If you would like to attend, [please click on the link here](#). **The registration for this meeting will close on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please note that all places at the forum must be booked in advance.**

Here are some of the positive headlines from this week:

#### Students reflect on the importance of LGBTQ+ History Month – See the [article here](#)

At The Portsmouth Academy, some of our pupils have chosen to engage in activities tailored to their age about celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion, while understanding LGBTQ+ History. This week, a selection of our pupils have completed 'I am Beautiful' hearts, which include a phrase by the person writing in the heart about why they believe they are beautiful.

#### Representing TPA across the Trust in Big Knowledge Quiz – Read our [Facebook update here](#)

Key Stage 3 quizzers competed in the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's Big Knowledge Quiz. The first round had already been completed, where students answered 20 questions based on information in their Knowledge Bank booklet. Miss Pszonak rewarded all the top scorers from each tutor group with pizza. They are the TPA crème de la crème!

#### Engaging with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) with Lego – See our [Facebook post](#)

Students from The Bridge, our specialist inclusion centre, took part in a Lego STEM event last week. They used Lego bricks, sensors and a hub to build a robot and used computer software to write code for the robot to move around in a sequence. It's fantastic to see teams working together and respecting each other's ideas.

#### Pupils crowned winners of Apprentice Vs Dragons Den Project – The story [is here](#)

One of our teams who participated in a competition which saw secondary school students come up with a product idea to solve one of modern life's problems were crowned champions. They were up against other secondary schools in the area and represented The Portsmouth Academy's value of Achieve well.

#### Further updates:

#### Term dates for 2024/2025

3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 – 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 <i>*New two week half term</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2025



The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, consisting of 26 schools along the south coast of England, has opted to align term dates across all its schools for consistency. This decision entails transitioning to a 2-week October half term. This adjustment aims to ease challenges faced during the lengthy autumn term, such as high absence, increased illnesses and declining wellbeing. The extended break in October provides an opportunity for students to rest and refresh. Additionally, the new schedule aims to address issues related to parents taking their children out of school for cheaper holidays during term time, ensuring that students do not miss valuable school days and maintaining the continuity of education and friendships. Please refer to the school website regarding INSET/CPD days.

#### Mobile phones

We respectfully remind parents that our policy is that students should not be using their mobile phones during the school day; if phones are seen they will be confiscated and can be collected by students at the end of the day.

#### Requesting a meeting

We are unable to fulfil same-day meeting requests. However, you have the option to schedule direct meetings to address specific concerns on an individual basis by [completing the provided form](#). Following the form submission, your child's Tutor or Head of Year will reach out to you within 48 hours (2 working days).

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter, which will be published and shared on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Meanwhile, please refer to our website and social media for all things good to benefit our pupils and empower them to meet the world.

Yours faithfully

Mandy Gage  
Director of Culture and Development