

Dear Parent and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all the parents and carers who joined and sent in questions to our parent forum last Tuesday. The full presentation can be seen by [clicking here](#). Should you have any additional queries or wish to schedule a one-on-one meeting to address concerns about the school or about your child, [please complete the form via the link here](#).

As highlighted during the forum, we acknowledge the need for improvements in three key areas: behaviour, learning outcomes, and SEND support. However, it is important to recognise the positive aspects, including students showing improved attendance and the Trust's expert support, which is providing increased support and resource to implement lasting changes. This collective effort aims to transform the Portsmouth Academy into a place where students not only enjoy attending but also achieve the outcomes they rightfully deserve. Our next Parent Forum will be on the 14th May 2024, I will share further details with you nearer to the time.

Meanwhile, please see some other key highlights below:

### Key Dates

There will be an early closure of The Portsmouth Academy on Tuesday 26th March at 12:35pm, for staff training. We will have an INSET Day on Thursday 28th March, where the school will be closed to all students. On Good Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup> March, the school will be closed to all students. Please see the homepage of our website for all our key dates.

### Stephen Morgan MP visits The Portsmouth Academy

Last week, we welcomed Stephen Morgan MP to learn about the positive effects new tuition in key subjects is having on learning. He visited the school to see how extra tuition for Maths and Science - funded by the Department for Education National Tutoring Programme - [is being put to use](#).



### Students attend the launch of new social enterprise challenge

A new competition designed to encourage young people from across the area to reimagine their local community and voice their ideas has launched, and students from The Portsmouth Academy [were there for the first event](#). The 'Made in Portsmouth' competition is a cross-school competition held at Gunwharf Quays, and our students are excited to be involved.



### Cake sale success by pupils from The Bridge

Bakers from The Bridge, our specialist purpose-build inclusion centre, held a [successful cake sale this week](#) to support a teacher who is set to represent Great Britain in American Football at European Championships in Spain. They raised £80, so well done to everyone involved. You can see pictures and read more on our website.



### Students enjoy our first Digital Bootcamp

Miss Bellazrak launched our [first ever Digital Bootcamp](#) recently, an intensive digital training workshop where we are training our digital champions and our cyber ambassadors on how to use all the Microsoft applications and how they can help others and impart those skills on their peers.



### Other notices

#### Ramadan Mubarak

We want to extend the greeting of Ramadan Mubarak to all those who are participating in the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a time of reflection and a way to empathise with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Pupils will not eat or drink from dawn until dusk. To support our pupils who are fasting, we have made slight adaptations to the curriculum areas which are affected. Pupils will be required to participate in PE by changing into their PE kit and taking part where possible. In creative lessons such as music, staff are taking into consideration pupils needs and are adapting their teaching where possible. Where pupils are very strict observers, they will be permitted to spend the occasional lesson in our removal room to avoid invalidating their fast. We have also set up our library as a temporary prayer room which pupils can access during their respective KS lunch times. We will also keep this facility available after school too. While we support and encourage our pupils to express their religious beliefs, we are restricted with the facilities we have available to us but hope that you understand that we will always endeavour to do our best.

#### Report It!

Have you seen something that you are not happy about? You can inform The Portsmouth Academy via our ['Report It!'](#) button found on the homepage of our website here. We take matters of bullying or anti-social behaviour seriously, so welcome members of the school and wider community to report it.

#### Requesting a meeting and contacting the school

At The Portsmouth Academy, we are unable to fulfil same-day meeting requests. You do 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). For general enquiries, please email [info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk)



Thank you for your ongoing support for the work our staff are doing at The Portsmouth Academy to empower every pupil to have a safe and fulfilling learning experience, preparing them to meet the world. Our next newsletter will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mandy Gage  
Director of Culture and Development

