

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a lovely Easter break.

Term 5 is now underway, and it is wonderful to see our classrooms bustling with energy. At The Portsmouth Academy, our mission is to empower young people to meet the world and to encourage them to achieve their aspirations in a respectful environment. Throughout this term, we will continue to remind our community of that.

This week, we are running assemblies to set out our expectations for behaviour. As you will be aware, we have specialists from the Thinking School Academy Trust working together with staff across The Portsmouth Academy on continuous improvements to our [behaviour and school culture](#), and we are already beginning to see some positive changes. Thanks for your ongoing support and understanding of the importance of good behaviour.

Our next newsletter will highlight some positive stories from across the school and this will be shared on Monday 22nd April. Meanwhile, here are some important updates for your attention.

Our next Parent Forum

Our next Parent Forum at The Portsmouth Academy will take place on Thursday 16th May 2024, from 4pm to 5pm. Please do save this date in your diary; We will provide you with further updates on key developments in our school improvement plan, as well as answer any questions you may have submitted prior to the meeting. You can register your attendance for this event via our form, which will go live in a couple of weeks. We will share links to that soon.

World Earth Day: Monday 22nd April

On Monday, The Portsmouth Academy will join 25 other schools from across our Trust for World Earth Day, an opportunity for thousands of pupils to come together to understand more about sustainability and protecting our planet. The main event will look at ideas from our Trust Student Council's suggestion to create a Trust-wide campaign to promote recycling. Students will be wearing their green creative Thinking Hat for sustainability to explore ways we can promote our mission to reduce single-use waste and recycle.

TPA Thrives in Gatsby Benchmarks

At the Portsmouth Academy, we are driven to offer high-quality career opportunities to our pupils. Schools across the country are assessed in their offerings through a scheme called the Gatsby Benchmarks, which looks at the framework schools and colleges have in the area of career provision, and we have received 100% in all the assessment criteria.

Being prepared to learn with One:One devices

It is essential our Year 7, 8 and 9 students bring their One:One device to school fully charged. Lessons often use the technology to help with pupil engagement, educational enhancement, and are an extension to learning within the classroom. We expect pupils in these year groups to bring their devices to school each day as part of their required equipment for quality learning. Parent/Guardians will be called to bring One:One device into school if they are left at home. Our assessment data shows that students in Year 7, 8 and 9 who regularly bring in their device are more likely to be working above or to be on track in their learning pathway (Aspire, Endeavour, Accelerate).

Visits by Mrs Smith

Throughout this term, Mrs Smith will be visiting The Portsmouth Academy and getting to know the team and student community more ahead of her taking on the role of Principal at the beginning of June. As shared in our newsletter before Easter, Mrs Smith will be Principal of our school and Regional Director until August 2025. She has a wealth of experience working across other schools within our Trust and will drive positive changes across The Portsmouth Academy in the coming year.

Further updates you need to know

School uniform expectations

We expect all students to come to school every morning in full and correct uniform. Maintaining consistency in our expectations of how our students present themselves helps develop the sense of pride our students have in coming to our school.



Punctuality

At the Portsmouth Academy, registration starts at 8:30am every day. Students who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and picking up important messages. Students who miss the start of a lesson are disadvantaged as they miss a recap of prior learning and instructions for that lesson. There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. We are required to monitor student punctuality and attendance. Lateness (after the register closes) is classified as an unauthorised absence and therefore will be coded with a U code. To prevent continued lateness, we may invite you to sign an attendance plan. High levels of unauthorised absences or poor punctuality can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice procedure. We understand that there may be rare occasions when a student is unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these occasions, please make sure that you contact the school.

Mobile Phones

As you are aware, we have a "See it, Lose it" mobile phone policy. Students are required to store their phones in their bags and turn them off upon reaching the school gates. Phones are not to be used during school hours. This does include social times. If a mobile phone is seen, students will be asked to hand over their phones. We will store all confiscated phones securely. Students receive their phones back at the end of the day. Staff will place students in the removal room if they refuse to follow instructions. Students are also required to hand over their phones when entering the removal room. If students refuse to comply, they will be at risk of being suspended from school. If you need to contact your child in a rare emergency, please contact the school reception.

If you have any further questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school at info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the coming term.

Yours faithfully

Mandy Gage
Director of Culture and Development
Co-Principal, The Portsmouth Academy