

30 June 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Digital learning at The Portsmouth Academy

From September 2025, The Portsmouth Academy will be changing our digital learning programme.

Digital learning is vitally important for all our students. As well as our computer science lessons, our students learn digital skills throughout the curriculum by using devices and programmes across a range of subjects.

At the moment, we provide laptops for students to use and look after through our One:One device scheme. We do not expect parents to contribute to the running costs, as the laptops are fully owned and managed by the school.

We recognise that the current digital learning programme is not operating as consistently as we would wish. This causes frustrations for students and staff alike. With school budgets under significant pressure, we need to deliver the best possible learning impact whilst also ensuring value for money from our digital device scheme. Therefore we are changing the way that digital learning is supported across the school from September:

1. Laptops will be stored and managed by subject departments, rather than on a one-to-one basis by students. This will provide more consistency in lessons, as we can provide a fully charged and operational device for every student in a class. As currently, this does not mean that laptops will be used all lesson, every lesson. Instead, teachers and students will use them when they are the best tool for the learning planned.
2. Additional computer room space will be available for students to use at lunchtimes and after school. This will provide extra opportunities for students to complete digital-based homework or project tasks.
3. We will overhaul our range of mobile-enabled applications for students and parents. This will mean that school services can be accessed from home on a smartphone. In school, our policy for mobile phones remains 'see it, lose it'.

We will write to parents in September to share more details on computer room homework access arrangements, and on the apps and websites we provide for students and parents. To get ready for the changes to storing and managing laptops, we will be collecting in all student laptops in a phased process. Please bring in all laptops and chargers on the following day, to be handed in with form tutors during tutor period (13.40-14.00).

Year 10: Friday 04 July

Year 9: Wednesday 09 July

Year 8: Monday 14 July

Year 7: Thursday 17 July

Students who are absent from school on their hand-in day should bring in their laptop on the next school day they attend, and hand in with their tutor.

These changes will allow us to continue to provide high-quality digital learning for all students. I recognise that some students will be disappointed about not having individual devices. There may also be questions about how to access specific applications and resources. Please rest assured that we will give further guidance on this in September as part of our start of term plans.

Likewise, we will also be sharing more details on this with parents in September, including as part of our new year 'welcome' events.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Daniel Botting
Executive Principal