

24th April 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Timings of the school day

As we move into Year 11 exam season, we are making some changes to the sequence of lessons within the school day. School start time at 8.30am and finish time at 3.00pm remain the same. There are three reasons for this. Firstly, these changes will help us to ensure the smooth running of all Year 11 exams over the course of the next eight weeks. We have also listened to feedback from our students about wanting a stronger connection with their form tutors and tutor groups. By moving this to the start of the school day, we are making sure that all students start the day with their form tutors. Finally, we have also analysed our behaviour data and it shows that student behaviour is at its best in the periods following a line-up with their tutor group. By having these throughout the day, we plan to strengthen the improvements in behaviour we have seen over the course of this year. A copy of the new timings is attached with this letter, and these will be in effect from Monday, 27/04/26.

Lockdown alarm

We communicated with you during the school day last Friday regarding the lockdown alarm error at the end of last week. To reiterate, we knew straight away that this was not a genuine alarm, and at no point were any students or staff at risk. Following on from this, we have reminded all students about what to do in the event of a lockdown alarm. This includes the vital importance of following the instructions of staff, as students did very well last week. We do not plan to run this as a drill due to the disruption this would cause to learning. However, staff are fully prepared on how to support students if we needed to go into a lockdown situation.

Quality assurance visit

This week we had our quality assurance visit; a team of experts from across our trust visited lessons, spoke with students, and helped us to review the progress we are making. I am pleased to report that the students they spoke to were described as articulate, mature, thoughtful and a credit to our school. The visit team praised the improvements seen in the quality of students' work, and in the calm and orderly learning environment seen throughout the school. Our top priority for improvement is around attendance. We know that this is an area where home and school working together is vital. Later this term we will be reaching out to parents and carers to help us develop the next stage of our attendance strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D. Botting
Executive Principal, The Portsmouth Academy

SCHOOL DAY

Starting 27th April 2026



TIME	ACTIVITY	GCSE EXAMS	
08:30 - 08:35	Line Ups	08:30 - 09:00	Gather in Quad and line up in Canteen
08:35 - 09:00	Tutor Time <small>(AM Registration)</small>		
09:00 - 10:00	P1	09:00	AM Exams Start
10:00 - 11:00	P2		
11:00 - 11:20 <small>(Canteen closes at 11:15)</small>	BREAK		
11:20 - 11:25	Line Ups		
11:25 - 12:25	P3		
12:25 - 12:55 <small>(Canteen closes at 12:50)</small>	LUNCH		
12:55 - 13:00	Line Ups	13:00 - 13:30	Gather in Quad and line up in Canteen
13:00 - 14:00	P4 <small>(PM Registration)</small>	13:30	PM Exams Start
14:00 - 15:00	P5		