

12th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Update on Progress at The Portsmouth Academy

I wanted to take a moment to share an update on our progress at The Portsmouth Academy and our focus as we look ahead to September.

Over recent weeks, I have spent a lot of time in classrooms and around the school, getting to know our students and staff. This has helped me see clearly the strengths of our community. Classrooms are calm and focused, with clear routines that help students feel safe and ready to learn. There is also a strong sense of ambition for all students, supported by positive relationships and a shared commitment from staff to consistency, inclusion and care.

Our Focus for September

As we move towards the new academic year, our focus is on making sure every student has a high-quality experience. We are continuing to strengthen teaching and learning so lessons are engaging, challenging and supportive from the very first day in September. At the same time, we are working to ensure greater consistency in routines, behaviour and pastoral systems, so expectations are clear and fair across the school.

We are also reviewing how we support students who need additional help, including those with SEND, and are investing in staff development so our team feels confident and well supported. Transition remains a key priority, and we are working closely with primary schools and families to make sure all students are ready for September.

Learning from Across Thinking Schools Academy Trust

Before half term, I visited Goodwin Academy, Maritime Academy and The Victory Academy, where I saw strong examples of clear expectations, calm environments and effective classroom practice. More recently, I spent time with colleagues in the South West, including a visit to Lodestar Academy, with a focus on inclusion and supporting vulnerable students.

These visits have shown the strength of our Trust and the benefits of working together, helping us bring the best ideas back to Portsmouth for our students.

Leadership and Working Together

You will also see an updated leadership photograph shared below. Strong and visible leadership helps ensure clarity, consistency and support for both staff and students as we continue to improve the academy.

Leading The Portsmouth Academy is a real privilege, and I am proud to work in partnership with our families. It is the many small, everyday moments—when home and school work together with shared expectations and care—that make the biggest difference.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. We truly value it as we work together to improve opportunities for our young people.

Yours faithfully,

S Dedman

Mrs S Dedman
Headteacher
The Portsmouth Academy

