

1 September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Start of term September 2025

GCSE results

Year 11 students collected their results a couple of weeks ago with students, staff and parents celebrating their success. More than 800 grade 4s and above were achieved with 171 of those above a grade 7. We were joined on results day by Councillor Nick Dorrington and Stephen Morgan MP, who said 'It's fantastic to be here at The Portsmouth Academy today to see students celebrating their GCSE and vocational qualifications they are getting here this morning. Thank you to teachers and school support staff who have worked so hard to support children across this school and our city.'



We wish our outgoing Year 11 every success in the future as they move to the next stage of their journey.

Year group start dates

Years 7 and 11 will start on **Wednesday 3 September**, gates will be open until 08.30.

Years 8, 9 and 10 will start on **Thursday 4 September**, gates will be open until 08.30.

Please be aware that the roadworks on St Mary's Road are still ongoing currently. Parents must not stop vehicles directly outside of school on St Mary's Road, and we encourage you to leave extra time for school journeys in the morning.

Year group welcome evenings

When we return from the summer break we will be running year group introduction evening events. These evenings will allow parents to meet with the team that are supporting their child within school as well as share the keys dates and events that are happening across the year. These evenings will be happening in the main school hall. Please enter school via the main reception.

Year 11 – 2nd September 17.00-17.45

Year 10 – 3rd September 17.00-17.45

Year 9 – 4th September 17.00-17.45

Year 8 – 8th September 17.00-17.45

We will also be talking about improving our communications systems. For now, if you have any questions please contact us via the website or info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk.

Uniform expectations

There will be uniform checks on both gates in September as students arrive at school and **students missing any uniform items will need to swap a valuable item at Student Reception for anything they are missing.** We will also contact parents and send students home if they have the incorrect items at school. Shoes are to be plain black trainers as per the uniform policy. The skirt must be a standard black box pleated skirt. Wear a white shirt and school ties. Students are expected to have a TPA blazer. Students can wear a jumper, but this must be a grey V neck jumper. Straight leg trousers or flare trousers may be worn. They should not be skinny fit in style. Leggings are not permitted.

Students are expected to have full PE kit for all their lessons as well. Students who do not have full PE kit will be parked in the parking room and will complete a 15-minute detention.

Please click on this link to access full details on our [TPA uniform policy](#)

School meal payments system - Arbor

As you will have read in previous correspondence the school moved to a new Management Information System called Arbor. This term we will be using Arbor as our primary payment system as well as for behaviour communication, student timetables and reporting. If you have not already it is essential that you create a login. Information can be found at the bottom of this letter with instructions of how to do so.

You will not be able to add money for your child's school meal account without an Arbor account.

Studybugs

We have moved across to a new system to record students who are absent from school. You will no longer need to phone into school. You will need to download the free Studybugs app or register on the Studybugs website (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>) and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school. This system will replace all previous methods.

Get the app or register now Studybugs – Parents (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Arbor Instructions

When first confirming your child's profile in Arbor always use the browser, this is especially important if you are already using Arbor for another child at school.

To set up your account, you just need to set a password. You can do this by going to <https://the-portsmouth-academy.uk.arbor.sc/> clicking on 'Forgotten Password?' and following the instructions on screen.

Your username is your email address that we have on registered on the system.

If you have trouble setting up or require any further questions about the Parent Portal, visit this [Help Centre article](#). For any other queries, please contact the school office or email us.

You can download the App from the 'Apple App Store' or 'Google Play Store' by searching for 'Arbor Parent App'.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school this week.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Botting
Executive Principal