Transforming Life Chances



The Portsmouth Academy

Prospectus



We are committed to empowering every student achieve their best

It is a privilege to introduce you to The Portsmouth Academy and the exciting journey that awaits every student part of our proud community.

Starting secondary school is an important milestone, filled with anticipation, curiosity, and opportunity. As a member of Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we take great pride in ensuring every student feels known, valued, and supported from the moment they walk through our doors.

Our mission is simple and clear: **We Transform Life Chances**. This is not just a statement of intent; it is the lens through which we make every decision and shape every experience.

We believe transformation is built through a thousand small moments: a warm welcome at the door, a teacher who takes the time to explain something once more, a friendship formed in the lunch queue, or a challenge embraced in the classroom. Together, these moments shape confidence, character, and ambition.

At our school, your child will discover new subjects, embrace new opportunities, and build lasting friendships. They will be encouraged to think deeply, work hard, and show kindness to others.

Our staff are committed to delivering exceptional teaching, strong pastoral care, and creating a culture where every student can thrive. We hold high expectations because we believe in the potential of every child, and we work tirelessly to help them realise it.

As your child begins this new chapter, we look forward to working in partnership with you to celebrate successes, by working together through challenges, and ensuring your child's time at The Portsmouth Academy is filled with growth, joy, and achievement.

If you entrust us with the next stage of your child's education, we will create the moments that shape their future.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about life at The Portsmouth Academy, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our team would be delighted to help.

With best wishes,

Sarah Dedman, Headteacher
The Portsmouth Academy
Transforming Life Chances




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We are proud of our school's values

Everyone at The Portsmouth Academy places great emphasis on our values of Aspire, Achieve and Respect. These core values are well embedded across our curriculum to support children in their steps to success.

Aspire - Our intention is that our curriculum ignites curiosity in our students, so that they engage with life-long learning and see themselves as both local and global citizens. We have high aspirations for our students, and through a broad range of cultural enrichment opportunities, our one-to-one digital curriculum and strong careers provision, we nurture ambition in our students. Our curriculum provides our students with the clearly sequenced steps they need to take to achieve their aspirational goals and understand the potential they have to implement change.

Achieve - The curriculum we offer to all students is broad, balanced and inclusive. It is coherently sequenced to support all learners, regardless of their starting points. Building knowledge is key to our curriculum planning, and the mastery of skills enables students to experience success through learning. Our approach to thinking with the use of Thinking Tools and self-reflection allows us to challenge our students with ambitious and varied content. All subject areas contribute to the development of literacy, oracy and numeracy, to emphasise the value of these skills in preparing students to meet the world.

Respect - Our curriculum supports students to reflect on, and develop, their best selves, learning to recognise and appreciate the importance of respect, tolerance and community. Students will have a strong sense of how their actions contribute to the wellbeing of others and the important role they play in building our school culture, and our wider community. Throughout their learning journey, we teach students core values, routines and resilient habits of mind so that they are best prepared for the demands of adult life.

Living our value of Respect:

The Portsmouth Academy is proud to be a Rights Respecting (Silver) School.

The Portsmouth Academy has a national accreditation to acknowledge its commitment to embedding children's rights in its policy, practice and ethos.

The school has received the Rights Respecting School Silver accolade, which is presented by UNICEF UK when a school demonstrates an awareness for putting children's rights at the heart of school life.

In order to achieve the 'Silver: Rights Aware' status, the academy was assessed by one of UNICEF's advisors who looks at the whole school's rights respecting work. We are now working towards the Gold award.



We hold high expectations for success

At The Portsmouth Academy, our whole school community follows eight expectations to ensure everyone has a positive experience. We call these expectations The TPA Way:

- We do our best every day so that we can achieve our full potential.
- We respect everyone so that we all feel safe and valued.
- We bring the right equipment so that we are ready to learn.
- We wear the correct uniform so that we show pride in ourselves and our school.
- We move calmly and respectfully so that we keep everyone safe.
- We are in the right place at the right time so that we maximise our learning time.
- We listen and use the right tone of voice so that we can learn and make progress.
- We keep trying when things are difficult so that we build our resilience and confidence.

By following The TPA Way, our whole school community works together to ensure our learning environment is welcoming, calm, and a comfortable space to develop.

We expect our students to attend school every day and to arrive at 8.20 for a prompt start at 8.30. Students will be welcomed into school by members of the senior team, Head of Year and their form tutor.

By choosing to come to our school, students agree to follow The TPA Way. These expectations apply at all times, including to and from school, on all visits and on all occasions where the school is being represented.





We welcome everyone into our school

We believe in empowering young minds to meet the world head-on.

At the heart of our mission lies the commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but igniting curiosity in our students so that they become both local and global citizens.

We support our students to learn new skills, be kind and respectful, and to be their best self. It's a journey where our pupils can discover how amazing and successful they can be.

We achieve this through a varied schedule of extra-curricular activities, our one-to-one digital curriculum, student voice, engagement with trust-wide We Are One events, careers and aspirations opportunities.

Our belief is that academic success alone is not enough to thrive in today's ever-changing world. That's why we place a strong emphasis on personal development alongside academic opportunities.

We believe that nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with essential life skills is paramount to young people to meet the world.

We are proud to have a specialist centre for children with complex Cognition and Learning difficulties at The Portsmouth Academy, which is called The Bridge.

This purpose-built part of school opened in September 2022 and has gone from strength to strength as a support to families with children who require extra specialist support.

The Inclusion Centre is a resourced provision for students who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or are currently undergoing assessment and are awarded placement by the Inclusion Support Panel (ISP), which is run by Portsmouth City Council's Special Education Needs (SEN) Team.

The students will work towards being able to integrate into mainstream education for some learning, with support from the team to meet their specific needs.

We have our own alternative provision called Connect KS3 which supports students who are finding the transition to secondary school overwhelming. This is a much smaller provision operating a 12-week programme with the aim of integrating students back into mainstream education. We will contact parents/carers if we feel this would be an appropriate provision for your child.



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We support students to think critically, reflect deeply, and love learning for life

The Portsmouth Academy is proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, a family of schools united by a shared mission: Transforming Life Chances.

Within Portsmouth and beyond, we work closely with other Trust schools, including Penbridge School, New Horizons Primary School and Meon Way Federation, creating a strong all-through education journey for many young people across the city.

For pupils who join us from other schools, it doesn't take long for them to embrace our culture and see the benefits of our approach to learning and personal development.

Together, we are committed to helping young people grow into confident, successful individuals who can think for themselves, make informed decisions, and thrive in an ever-changing world.

As a Thinking School, we take a distinctive approach to education. Alongside excellent teaching and strong pastoral support, we help students develop the skills, habits and confidence they need to become independent learners for life.

We believe that giving young people the tools to think effectively is one of the most powerful ways to help them achieve their ambitions. That's why students are taught a range of practical strategies that help them explore ideas, solve problems, make connections, consider different viewpoints and reflect on their learning.

These include Thinking Maps, De Bono's Thinking Hats, and Costa's Habits of Mind. Used consistently across all subjects, these approaches help students develop creativity, resilience, curiosity and confidence, both in the classroom and beyond.

At the heart of our Thinking School approach is the idea of Being Your Best Self. We encourage every student to aim high, embrace challenge, learn from experience and continually strive to improve.

By developing positive habits and a growth mindset, our students are well prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

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We develop character and support success

Our school culture ensures that students aspire to be their best self in everything that they do.

Our rewards system is built around students developing good habits and achieving 'Positive Points'. Our students are encouraged to be creative and critical thinkers who are resilient and able to problem solve effectively – all key attributes which are required beyond the school gates.

We place great value and importance on our students feeling a sense of belonging. Our school is organised into a year group structure which we believe best supports students in their personal development and allows us to provide timely interventions at critical points throughout their school journey. Each student belongs to a tutor group where we continue to foster the sense of 'family'. Each Head of Year is supported by a Pastoral Manager who works on pastoral needs and attendance to ensure everyone has the best experience and opportunity of school.

Students are rewarded with 'Positive Points' which feed into Competitions and leaderboards. Rewards for the winning groups are given at the end of each term. We have found this strategy effective in building a sense of pride, community and healthy competition.

At The Portsmouth Academy, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum, supporting them to develop long-term knowledge and skills which can be effectively deployed in new circumstances.

Our teaching staff are deeply passionate about their subjects, and have created an engaging curriculum, developing a cultural understanding of the modern world, Britain, and Portsmouth at its heart.

We place significant importance on the arts as we know that these subjects support students' mental health and well-being, whilst allowing a creative outlet and building vital knowledge and transferable skills.

The Aspire building, which opened in September 2020, houses a state-of-the-art music recording studio, a drama studio, humanities rooms, and an art department with panoramic views over the city.

The development of our Design and Technology suite of rooms, which are well equipped with innovative technology, has led to an exciting opportunity for our students to learn technical skills which will support them in the modern workplace.

It is our goal that students leave The Portsmouth Academy having had a full and rich experience of education and the opportunity to find their talents and excel in areas they enjoy.



We inspire and empower every student

Each year, we offer a wide range of exciting trips and visits for our students.

These range from local spots like the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, where students can explore the city's rich history, to international destinations such as France, Spain, Germany, and Belgium.

Our trips are designed to be both fun and educational. Some trips include outdoor activities such as kayaking and mountain climbing, which help students build confidence in their abilities.

Other trips focus on learning experiences, like practicing a new language in an immersive environment or studying significant historical events, such as World War I.

Each opportunity is carefully planned to ensure students have an enjoyable experience while gaining valuable knowledge.

Back at school, students can participate in a variety of activities and events that complement their learning. We offer engineering workshops, author visits, and first aid training, STEM workshops as well as many more.

Additionally, students have the opportunity to take free music lessons in different instruments or vocal training.

Our music teachers provide both individual and small group lessons. Students are encouraged to take music exams and have numerous chances to perform, including at our annual Carol Service held at St Mary's Church and our Summer Showcase.

We also showcase the talent of our students through performances and show. These events bring together our performing arts teams, providing a platform for students to showcase their creative abilities and celebrate their achievements.

Our Physical Education department plays an important role in supporting students' health and fitness. We offer a range of sports clubs that help students stay active and healthy.

These clubs also foster a sense of competition and teamwork, allowing students to feel proud of representing their school and building strong connections with their peers.



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We are ready to help you get started

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about The Portsmouth Academy. We know that choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions a family can make, and we would be delighted to help you discover whether our school is the right fit for your child.

At The Portsmouth Academy, we are committed to Transforming Life Chances through exceptional teaching, strong pastoral care, and a culture where every student is known, valued and encouraged to be their very best self.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we help young people develop the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to thrive both in school and beyond.

Whether your child is excited by academic challenge, creative opportunities in the arts, sporting success, or the chance to develop new interests through our extensive enrichment programme, we believe every student should have the opportunity to discover their talents and achieve their potential.

If you have any questions about life at The Portsmouth Academy, our curriculum, enrichment opportunities, transition arrangements, or the admissions process, please get in touch with our friendly team by emailing **info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk**

We are always happy to answer questions, arrange a visit, and support you throughout the application process.

To find out more about our school, visit theportsmouthacademy.org.uk, where you can explore the latest news, student achievements, upcoming events, and learn more about our unique approach to education.

You can also follow us on social media for a glimpse into daily life at The Portsmouth Academy. From classroom learning and educational visits to performances, sporting successes and community events, our channels showcase the many opportunities and experiences that make our school such a vibrant place to learn.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school community and showing you everything that The Portsmouth Academy has to offer.

If you would like to find out more, please do get in touch; we would be delighted to hear from you and support you as you take the next step in your child's educational journey.







The Portsmouth Academy

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