The Portsmouth Academy

6 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At TPA, we want every student to spend as much time as possible in lessons so that they can learn, make progress and achieve their best.

From next week, we will be introducing some changes to strengthen lesson attendance and reduce internal truancy.

What is changing?

Students who are not in their timetabled lesson will be identified more quickly.
Staff will locate students and, wherever possible, return them to learning immediately.
Parking will no longer be the default response to internal truancy.
Students who repeatedly refuse to return to lessons when directed by staff will receive consequences.

Detentions

Students who refuse to return to lessons on two occasions in one day will receive a detention.
Detentions will follow a graduated structure:
30-minute detention
60-minute detention
Headteacher's Detention (2 hours)
If a student attends their detention, the process ends at that stage.
If a student fails to attend, they will move to the next stage of the detention system.
Parents and carers will be notified through Arbor and email no later than 2:15pm on the day the detention takes place.

Why are we making these changes?

These changes are designed to:
Increase time spent in lessons.
Reduce internal truancy.
Improve punctuality.
Ensure students receive the maximum amount of teaching and learning time.
Most importantly, they allow staff to spend more time doing the work that matters most: helping children learn, make progress and achieve their potential.

Success is built through a thousand little moments: a conversation with a teacher, extra help with a piece of work, encouragement at the right time or support when learning becomes difficult. Over time, those moments can play a significant role in transforming life chances.

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Chief Executive Officer: Mr L Miller MBE BSc (Hons) FCCA PGCE
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We also recognise that some students avoid lessons because they are worried about falling behind or do not know how to ask for help. We want students to know that asking for help is always the right thing to do.

How can parents help?

Please support us by:
Encouraging your child to attend every lesson.
Encouraging your child to arrive on time.
Reinforcing the importance of remaining in lessons.
Encouraging your child to ask for help if they are struggling.
Contacting the school if there is anything affecting your child's attendance, punctuality or engagement with learning.
If you have any questions, please contact your child's Tutor, Head of Year or Pastoral Manager.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Papanicolaou
Deputy Headteacher (Attendance, Behaviour and Pastoral)

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