



RC/JAE

10 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we rapidly approach the end of another very busy half term, I would like to reflect on a few of the key moments from the last few weeks and set some dates for after the February half term.

Year 11 have been sitting their second set of Pre-Public Examinations in preparation for GCSE finals in the Spring and Summer terms. Most of the pupils are getting down to some serious revision as colleges and workplaces are starting to ask for predictions of final grades. With a few more weeks of extra revision, all pupils can make a significant difference to their final awards. Additional Enhancement Sessions are being planned for after the half term break based on the performances in the current PPEs.

Year 11: Exam Results Day – GCSE 20 August 2026

Every Year 11 pupil in England will be able to see their GCSE exam results on a new app from summer 2026. Year 11 pupils across England will be able to view their GCSE results on their phones for the first time from this summer, speeding up the process of enrolling into college, freeing up teachers and college staff from unnecessary paperwork, and bringing record-keeping into the 21st century.

Pupils will still go into school on results day to meet face-to-face with their teachers and receive their results. Their results will later become available on the app.

Berlin 2026 – The History department organised for 50 pupils to visit key historical sites in and around Berlin. The trip was a unique opportunity to learn about what happened in Germany during the 1930s and 1940s and, while the country has come to terms with its past and is a central partner in modern Europe, the physical landmarks and memorials are key markers for pupils to learn from. Pupils and staff braved temperatures of minus 5 degrees during the visit and returned with some great memories.

Thanks must go to Mr Webb and his team on the ground in Berlin for their care and consideration for the pupils' wellbeing and safeguarding when plans had to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. The poor weather conditions had meant the visit to Sachsenhausen was cancelled by the museum management – this gave more time for the visit to the Olympic stadium, and the chance for Mr Webb to exercise his great knowledge of Berlin by visiting alternative attractions. You can see from both the Instagram and X social media sites that the visits to the Olympic Stadium and the East Side Gallery provided excellent opportunities to take some amazing pictures.



Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

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AN AMAZING GIFT TO THE SCHOOL



International artist, and Portchester pupil parent, Claudia La Bianca, has kindly donated a beautiful new mural depicting the house emblems of Portsdown, Castle and Solent within a dazzling mix of colours and images. Thank you, Claudia! If you would like to see Claudia's work, please visit the Year 11 Hub.

Careers Update

January and February has been busy months with regards to careers work in the school.

Pupils in Year 11 continue to be supported by their mentors with their applications to colleges and other Post 16 providers. Many pupils have begun to have college interviews, and it is lovely to hear how positive these have been. Hampshire Futures continue to provide independent careers advice for those who remain unsure as well as with some Year 10 pupils whilst our Year 11 pupils sit their PPEs.



Year 10s are busy applying and securing work experience placements for the week beginning Monday 23 March. We recognise that this can be time consuming and the pupils, tutors, year team and Mrs Tonks in the office are working hard supporting them. **If you, or someone you know are from a local business or provider and think you may be able to provide a placement for**

one of our pupils, please contact Mr Shaul, Year Leader for Year 10. Work experience provides an invaluable experience for our pupils and will create memories which will last them a lifetime. Any help you could offer would be much appreciated.

Year 9 are also busy thinking about their futures as they begin to commence their options journey with subject Parents' Evening and Options Evening in the next few weeks.

Finally, National Apprenticeship Week runs from Monday 9 - Sunday 15 February. Apprenticeships provide a very popular pathway for many of our pupils when they leave Year 11. The Government has provided some engaging resources which we will be sharing with pupils and yourselves in the next few weeks. Please look out for these and refer to the Amazing Apprenticeship links on the Careers sections of the school website.



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Year 8: Trip to Portsmouth University – a small group of pupils are busy planning for the future by picking the brains of local University students about Higher Education. The day consisted of a tour of the campus, workshops

about University life, and a 'hotseat' the student - a question and answer session detailing subjects, courses, funding and expectations of University life.



As part of **National Year of Reading**, we are welcoming to Portchester Community School local author Yarrow Townsend. Based in the New Forest, Yarrow spent much of her youth playing in the woods – this inspired much of her writing. Her books include: *The Map of Leaves* – a debut novel about a young girl who can talk to plants, and *A Ship in the Dark* that focuses on the impact of light pollution.

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2020

For PCS Year 7 and local Y5 pupils
Portchester Community School presents

Author and New Forest's first 'Writer in residence'
Yarrow Townsend

There will be a chance to ask her any questions in a Q&A session.

Visit our **BOOK FAIR** and purchase a book or 2. **CASH ONLY** please.

Wednesday 11th Feb
4-5pm

Hear Yarrow talk about being an author and how parts of Hampshire have inspired her writing.



Congratulations to the Dance Live team! Their stunning performance at Portsmouth Guildhall on Tuesday 27 January provoked an emotional response from both the Judges and the audience. The beautiful dance moves, stunning lighting, and sound effects supported by a well-crafted narrative focused on the horror of war. Thank you to the Performing Arts team for yet another fantastic production! There is a copy of the performance that can be shared on request – highlights can be found on the performing Arts Instagram feed.



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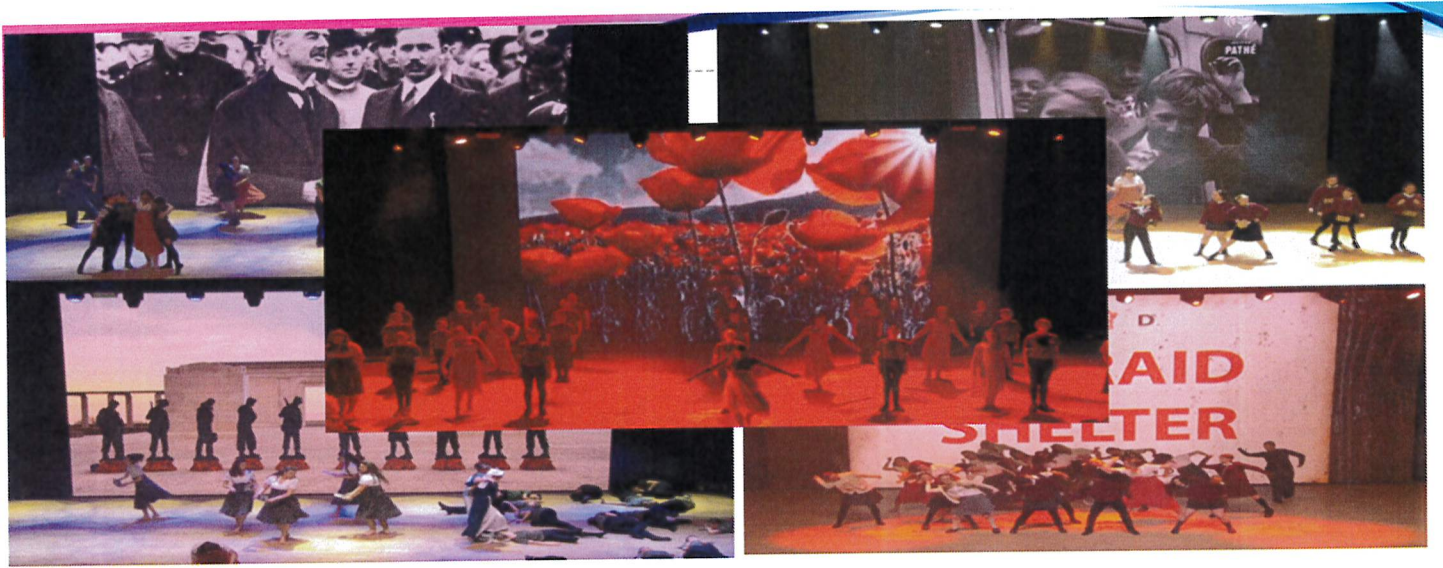
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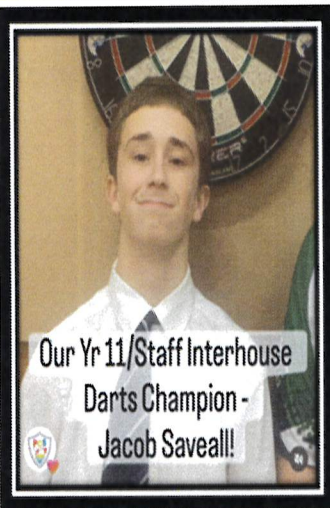
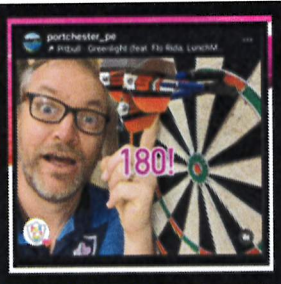




House challenges: This half term has seen the regular House challenges in the form of Taskmaster – from Mr Grant, and Numeracy Challenges from Mr Castle.

However, Mr Smith and the PE team initiated a new challenge in the form of Interhouse darts! A huge amount of fun was had during the knockout stages, and the dramatic finals produced a set of proud winners – more details on the PE Instagram pages.

INTERHOUSE DARTS UPDATES



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More PE updates are on the Instagram page: [portchester_pe](#)

Key dates for next half term include:

Monday 23 February - School returns from the Half Term break/New Year 7 PA starts.

Tuesday 24 February – Full Governing Body Meeting/New Year 9 PA starts.

Wednesday 25 February – **Year 9 Options Evening for pupils and parents.**

Thursday 26 February – Local Authority monitoring visit to school.

Monday 2 March – Year 7 and Year 8 Summative reports to parents.

Thursday 5 March – World Book Day.

Friday 6 March – Year 9-Year 11 Booster jabs.

Monday 9 March – Chair of Governors in school. Year 11 PPE results to parents.

Wednesday 11 March – Writing moderation at Red Barn. **Year 11 Parents' Evening.**

Thursday 12 March – SMSC session period 4.

Monday 16 March – **INSET Day – school closed for pupils.**

Friday 20 March – Governors' Finance Working Party – pm.

Monday 23 March – **Year 10 Work Experience week starts.**

Tuesday 24 March – Full Governing Body Meeting – 6.00 pm.

Wednesday 25 March – **Year 8 Parents' Evening.**

Friday 27 March – End of the Spring Term. School closes for pupils at 2.10 pm.

Monday 13 April - Summer Term begins at 8.40 am for all pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

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Not all abuse is physical.

If you suspect domestic abuse but
don't want to reveal your identity,
tell us what you know.

crimestoppers-uk.org



You can speak up and remain
100% anonymous. Always.

#Youarenotpowerless

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



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