



Newsletter to Parents and Carers

Autumn Term – September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back from your summer break. I hope that you and your family had a peaceful time enjoying some of the great local events and the summer sunshine – some of the warm weather seems to have been extending into the start of term. Our new academic year begins with a celebration of the amazing GCSE results that last year's Year 11 achieved. The cohort achieved a strong set of outcomes that have supported the significant majority of the year group into profitable Post 16 placements within local colleges, training providers, or employment.

Individual highlights include:

- Abeer J – 5x grade 9, 4x grade 8, 1x grade 7
- Lauren S – 5x grade 9, 4x grade 8, 1x grade 7
- Aston W – 5x grade 9, 1x grade 7, 3x grade 6
- James W – 3x grade 9, 6x grade 8, 2x grade 7
- Mathilde D – 3x grade 9, 5x grade 8, 1x grade 7
- Taylor-May – D – 3x grade 9, 2x grade 8, 2x grade 7

While there are no National Progress measures for this cohort, due to them not completing SATs in Year 6, there are individuals who have demonstrated high levels of success and improvement during their five-year journey with us here at Portchester Community School. They include:

- Frankie H, Alfie H, Lloyd B, Jonathan H, Devon B, and Nate W.

The term is now well underway – we have welcomed our new Year 7 cohort of pupils. Most of this new cohort attended the Portchester Community School Summer School – this is a free three-day event filled with activities to support pupils making new friends, exploring the school, and having fun. Staff kindly gave up time from their summer break to support pupils having a more confident start to their five-year journey with us.

This year group are the first to be wearing our new House ties – there are two tutor groups in Year 7 in each house. Portsdown – with the red stripe, Castle - with the yellow stripe, and Solent – with the blue stripe. The new ties were generously funded by our fantastic PTA. New members are welcome to join our PTA – the first meeting of the year is planned for Monday 21 September, 6:30-8:00 pm in the school Conference Room. There is also a Coffee Morning and Preloved Uniform sale on Saturday 17 October, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

Home School Agreement 2026

Please keep an eye on your emails – you will be receiving an updated version of our Home School Agreement. The agreement is a demonstration of the three-way partnership between you, your child and us – the school to support engagement, progress and success. Please read the agreement carefully and contact your child's Year team if you have any questions.



Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

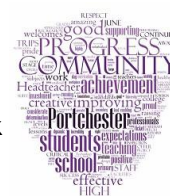
Portchester Community School

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

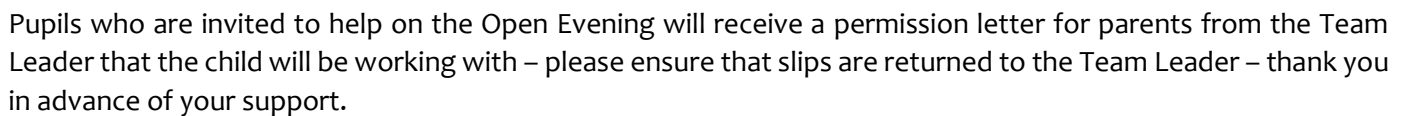
T: 023 9236 4399 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

X @PCSInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



Please see below for the revised Open Evening and INSET day dates – unfortunately, due to clashes with other local arrangements, we have made a couple of changes.



The planned INSET Day for Friday 2 October 2026 will, therefore, move to Friday 9 October 2026.

We are seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our Governing Board.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences. You do not need to have a background in education. Skills and experience in areas, such as finance, human resources, business, legal services, marketing, project management, or community engagement are particularly valuable, but most important is a commitment to supporting our school and its pupils.

- Help set the school's vision and strategic priorities.
- Support and challenge school leaders to drive improvement.

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



- Monitor educational outcomes and financial performance.
- Represent the interests of pupils, parents, and the wider community.

The role typically involves attending governing board meetings – usually on a Tuesday evening, visiting the school occasionally, and undertaking some training. Full induction and ongoing support will be provided by Hampshire Governor Services.

If you are interested in helping our school continue to thrive and would like to learn more about becoming a Governor, please contact either me – Richard Carlyle – Headteacher, via email on j.earl@portchester.hants.sch.uk or our Clerk to Governors (Maggie McMurray) via email on clerk.governors@portchester.hants.sch.uk

Together, we can make a positive difference for every child.

Safeguarding and attendance updates

It has been lovely seeing the pupils making such a positive punctual return to school this week. Thank you for your support with this. We do recognise that the change in routines to coming back to school can be challenging for some pupils and that things may have altered for them over the break. To help us support your child, please can you:

- Contact Mrs Tonks, in the school office, if any of your contact details - phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, etc have changed. We do need to have more than one contact for every pupil.
- Contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns or updates about your child returning to school so we can work together to ensure they are supported.
- Contact our medical team if there are any updates with regards to medical needs, such as allergies, medication, etc over the summer break.

Free School Meals eligibility

As many of you will be aware, there are now new arrangements for claiming Free School Meals for your child(ren) which have come into place following the Children's Wellbeing and School Act 2026.

From 1 September 2026, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending school are entitled to receive a free meal. Please see the information below with regards to what you need to do to ensure your child receives their entitlement.

- If your child already receives Free School Meals and you applied through the Hampshire portal, you do not need to apply again.
- If your household receives Universal Credit and you have never applied for Free School Meals, please apply as soon as possible. Here is the link to the portal [Online FSM Application](#)

Please be aware that any applications made before September 2026 will have been rechecked ahead of the new school year.



Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

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

T: 023 9236 4399 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | **www:** www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

X @PCSIInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



