



RC/hst

19 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Transition arrangements for 2024/25 - Portchester Community School

Congratulations on being allocated a place at Portchester Community School for September 2024. Your child will be part of one of the largest new cohorts of pupils we have had in recent years. This signals the growing popularity of the school as the first choice for the parents and children of Portchester and the surrounding areas.

At Portchester Community School, we aspire to be the most vibrant, creative, and successful school we can be. Our recent Local Authority Inspection visit highlighted a number of key strengths. Below, I have detailed what the pupils reported to the inspectors and visitors:

- During the pupil voice session, pupils said they value the support of their teachers across the school.
- **Year 7** pupils spoke positively about their **experiences of transition** and of life in secondary school. Most pupils interviewed had attended Summer School and taken part in curriculum lessons and offsite visits. This, they said, had helped to manage their anxieties over transition, in that they had been able to meet new friends and also work with pupils in Years 10 and 11.
- Year 7 pupils also spoke with enthusiasm about **clubs** they could attend, including girls' football, craft, badminton, gym, volleyball, and library/board games club.
- Pupils said there was a **good balance** of support at the school between academic progress and wider wellbeing.
- Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about the **Pupil Leadership Team**, which is active in the co-leadership of many aspects of school improvement.
- They said that poor behaviour is rare but, where it exists, it is 'nipped in the bud' quickly by teachers, supported, on occasion, by a duty teacher, where necessary.
- They said the school is '**inclusive, responsive and really supportive**'.

This is a really exciting time at Portchester Community School as we plan for the next cohort of pupils and parents. As a parent myself, I recognise the importance of this decision and I know that the transition to secondary school is a major change.

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

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We work closely with each of our cluster schools and aim to make the transition process as smooth as possible. Key staff will be visiting the primary schools next term. They are:

- Miss Grew – Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Kingston – Head of Year 7
- Mrs Howell – SENCo

Information regarding dates and visits:

- **Wednesday 3 July 2024 – Transition Day for Year 6**

All new Year 7 pupils will visit us here at the school for the day. Pupils should arrive in the school hall for a prompt start at 8.40 am. We expect pupils to wear their current Year 6 uniform. They will also need to bring writing equipment for the day, a packed lunch and drink and trainers to change into. During the day, pupils will be introduced to our exciting Summer Transition project and given details about this year's Summer Activity Sessions being held here at the school. The school day finishes at 3:10pm

- **Wednesday 3 July 2024 – Transition Evening for Parents (starting at 5.00 pm)**

You are invited to attend this essential opportunity to meet the Year Leader, Pastoral Assistant, SEN Team, and members of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Unfortunately, uniform will not be on sale during this event. Uniform is available via Skoolkit's website: www.skoolkit.co.uk or by visiting their Fareham store.

- A small number of pupils and parents have requested after school tours of the school or would like to meet a member of the Senior Leadership Team or SEN Team, prior to the Transition Day. Should you wish to make an appointment, please call the school on 023 9236 4399.
- Pupils will also be receiving 'Welcome Postcards' from their form tutors and link LSAs.

Summer School - August 2024

Last year, we ran a successful free Summer School which was funded by the school. We are looking to organise a Summer School again this year. This will involve pupils participating in a range of activities, such as sports, creative arts, cookery, and some off-site visits, for example, to Portchester Castle. Pupils will be able to meet key staff and their peers as well as familiarise themselves with the school site.

More information will be shared on the Transition Evening.

Pupil Information Forms

Please click the link below to complete your confidential data collection form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nmt9kvSQcEqfP6Sn6ltd6JUcvTJ4-IKtnRbjY2Xwe9UOEc2VzhVTDFNME9WRzFVSzNHWIAzTIE1RS4u>

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Parents and Carers must complete this carefully to ensure contact information, medical requirements and any other special information is used accurately to support your child while here at Portchester Community School.

Please complete this form by Wednesday 3 July 2024.

Arrangements for the first day in September 2024

The first day of the new academic year is Monday 2nd September 2024. This is a staff training day.

The first day for new Year 7 pupils will be Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Year 7 pupils will need to arrive in the school hall by 8.40 am, in full school uniform, to meet their tutors and have a welcome assembly.

Please take some time to browse the school's website for more detailed information about the school and follow events on the school's X (formerly Twitter) feed on @PCSInformation. Also enclosed with this letter is the summary statements shared with parents following our recent Ofsted inspection in January 2024.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

R Carlyle

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

National SMSC Quality Mark Gold Award 2021.

- 'The importance of all pupils achieving the best possible qualifications and that pupils develop inclusive, caring and positive values is evident throughout the school.'
- 'Inclusivity, recognising and celebrating diversity is a hallmark of the school.'
- 'The staff are clearly passionately committed to improving the learning and life chances of all pupils.'

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