RC/JAE
19 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below for some exciting updates and information about future events here at Portchester Community School.

New Headteacher appointed - The Governing Body had a very difficult task to select a new Headteacher for the school from a very strong field of candidates. On day one of the selection process, all candidates did presentations to pupils, met with staff, and presented their vision for moving the school forward. The Governing Body of Portchester Community School are pleased to announce that Mr Andy Applin (Deputy Headteacher from The Henry Beaufort School) has been appointed Headteacher of Portchester Community School from January 2027. Mr Applin will be visiting the school several times before the end of term to get to know the pupils and meet with staff.

Year 11 updates - At the Year 11 Parents' Evening next Wednesday, parents and pupils will be issued with a timetable of the forthcoming Pre-Public Examinations for January 2027. However, prior to this, there are some key dates and events that parents need to be aware of:

- Tuesday 24 November - English Language Paper 1 Mock Exam - Periods 1 and 2.
- Tuesday 24 November – iMedia and Hospitality Mock Exams - Periods 3 and 4.
- Wednesday 25 November from 4.00 pm - Year 11 Parents' Evening.
- W/B Monday 7 December – Speaking Assessments for GCSE French and Spanish.
- W/B Monday 14 December – GCSE Art Mock Exams, one day per group.

Following a review of pupil progress data, we will be launching the second round of Subject Enhancement Sessions for key pupils in English, Maths and Science. There will be three sessions before the Christmas break and three sessions in the New Year.



Remembrance 2026 - On Wednesday 11 November at 11.00 am, the whole school participated in a collective act of Remembrance supported by key representatives from HMS Collingwood. Pupils read poetry, laid wreathes, and reflected in silence to pay their respects to anyone who has or continues to serve in the Armed Forces or has been affected by conflict across the world.

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

Rock of Ages – School Production: November 18/19/20





Wow – an amazing production, bursting with energy and talent. We are so lucky here at Portchester Community School to have so many talented pupils who rise to the challenge of this production under the guidance and wisdom of Mr Webb and Mrs Budd. Pupils from Year 5 came into school this week to watch the final rehearsals – they left singing classic tunes such as 'The Final Countdown' and 'Don't Stop Believing'.

Safeguarding - With the release of *Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6)* this week, we would like to remind families that the game carries a **PEGI 18** rating due to its adult content, including violence, strong language, sexual content, drug and alcohol use, and in-game purchases.

As many young people may be interested in the game, we encourage parents and carers to:

- Discuss why age ratings are in place and why this game is not suitable for children.
- Check and update parental controls on gaming devices.
- Set clear boundaries around spending and screen time.
- Be aware of peer pressure as children may hear friends talking about the game.
- Maintain open conversations about gaming and online safety.

Research suggests that violent games do not directly cause violent behaviour, but age-inappropriate content can affect young people's wellbeing, sleep and emotional regulation.

Please see the link to National Online Safety for further information National Online Safety. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding team.



Literacy and Reading updates

As you can see from the certificate, Portchester pupils are World Record Breakers! Pupils and staff from school joined over 153,800 others in participating in the 'most people reading on-line in a 12-hour period' – Congratulations to all those involved!

Portchester Community School also benefitted from a DfE initiative as part of the National Year for Reading. We received over £1,000 of additional funding to buy new books for our LRC – there are over 150 new titles of fiction and non-fiction books available for pupils to enjoy across the school.

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

Improving attendance remains a key priority for the school. Independent research from the Fischer Family Trust highlights the very clear link between good attendance and strong academic outcomes. Mrs McMaster will be communicating with parents regarding key aspects of support that we are offering families to support, sustain or improve individual pupil's attendance.

In summary, the key strategies are:

- Providing tissues and hand sanitiser in classrooms and encouraging ventilation to reduce the spread of illness.
- Offering flu vaccinations for pupils in Years 7-11 on 4 December in partnership with the School Nursing Team.
- Introducing access to telephone consultations with the school's Public Health Nurse for parents seeking medical advice.
- Providing mental health and wellbeing support for Year 11 pupils and parents ahead of mock and final examinations.
- Delivering staff training with the Educational Psychologist on attendance-related issues such as emotionally based school avoidance and neurodiversity.
- Planning parental workshops in the New Year with the Mental Health Support Team on supporting young people experiencing anxiety and low mood.
- Continuing attendance rewards and incentives in the lead-up to Christmas.

If you have any attendance concerns for your child, please contact the relevant Year team for support.

GOV·UK

THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION – SCHOOLS TO BE TRULY PHONE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS.

Key Details of the Ban and Guidance

Stricter Rules: Under the updated measures, pupils will not be allowed access to or carry mobile phones in their bags or pockets throughout the entire school day—including lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtimes.

Implementation Methods: Schools are expected to adopt whole-school strategies to keep phones completely inaccessible, such as using **lockable pouches**, **collection points at the start of the day**, **secure lockers/storage**, or **banning phones from the school site altogether**.

Timeline: The updated statutory guidance is set to come into full force from **September 2027.**

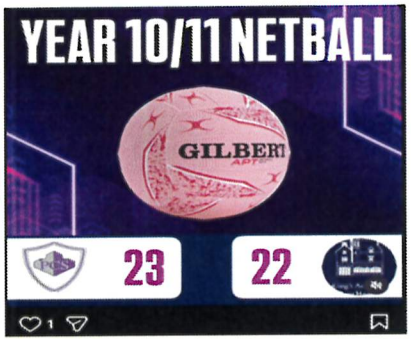
Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)
Portchester Community School
White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD
T: 023 9236 4399 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk
𝕏 @PCSInformation

PE HIGHLIGHTS FROM INSTAGRAM











Key Dates for Parents:

Monday 23 November 2026	INSET Day 3
Wednesday 25 November 2026	Year 11 Parents' Evening from 4.00 pm
Wednesday 2 December 2026	Captain from HMS Victory visiting school Certificate Evening for Year 11 Pupils
Friday 4 December 2026	Flu vaccinations for all year groups
Friday 11 December 2026	Trip to Lille leaves
Tuesday 15 December 2026	Full Governing Body Meeting – 6.00 pm
Wednesday 16 December 2026	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 December 2026	End of Term. School closes at 12.50 pm

Thank you for your sustained support.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

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