

RC/JAE

1 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your sustained support during a very busy term. I hope that this letter finds you and your family well as we approach the festive season.

This half term has seen our Annual Inspection visit by the Local Authority – Mr Kingswood from Hampshire County Council undertook the formal inspection - this reviewed our examination outcomes, assessed the quality of teaching, and sampled pupil voice across the school. A summary of the outcomes are detailed below.

- *The Headteacher has again appointed new leaders and teachers to strengthen the school's curriculum offer and its capacity for improvement, with notable appointments in mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) having early impact.*
- *Lesson visits showed a consistent approach from staff and good learning behaviours and rates of participation from students. Student interviews bear out this enjoyment of school, and the learning and care they receive is clearly appreciated.*
- *The school has a strong safeguarding culture and policies and approaches which secure good behaviour and result in low levels of suspension. Attendance currently is broadly in line with national, including for disadvantaged students and is well above for SEN students. The well communicated whole school drive to improve attendance supports this.*
- *Senior and middle leaders understand the most important priorities for improvement for 2023/24 and have clear plans for their areas. As with previous years, these have been clearly articulated to them by the Headteacher.*

### Year 11 GCSE Certificate and Awards Evening – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

It is our pleasure to welcome back last year's Year 11 and their parents and carers for the GCSE certificate and formal Awards presentations. Amongst the celebrations and pride there is also the recognition that for these pupils four out of their five years in secondary school have been in the shadow of the covid pandemic. Lockdowns, school closures, working on-line, wearing masks and high levels of anxiety have characterised their time here at Portchester Community School. It is to the credit of these young people that they have worked hard and moved on to impressive post-16 destinations. It will be great to see them all when they return for the evening.

### Uniform


Thank you for your sustained support with keeping the standard of uniform across the school very high. The vast majority of pupils are consistently well dressed and wear their uniform with pride. Nothing detailed below is new, but a small number of pupils need reminding of the following:

**Headteacher:** Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

**Portchester Community School**

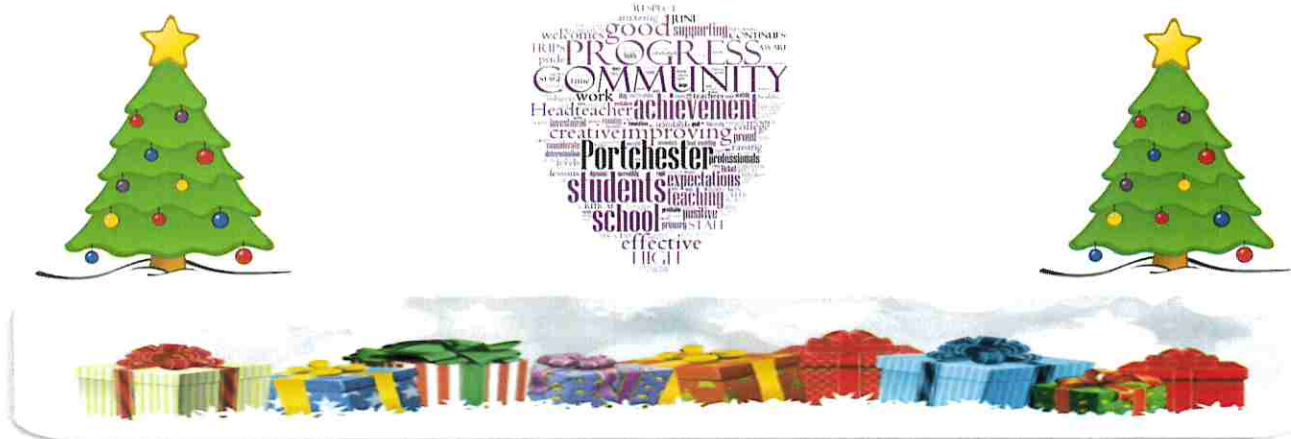
White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

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### Uniform Regulations

It is not possible to list all the items which are not allowed. It is important to wear the uniform smartly and with pride. These are examples of items that are not allowed:

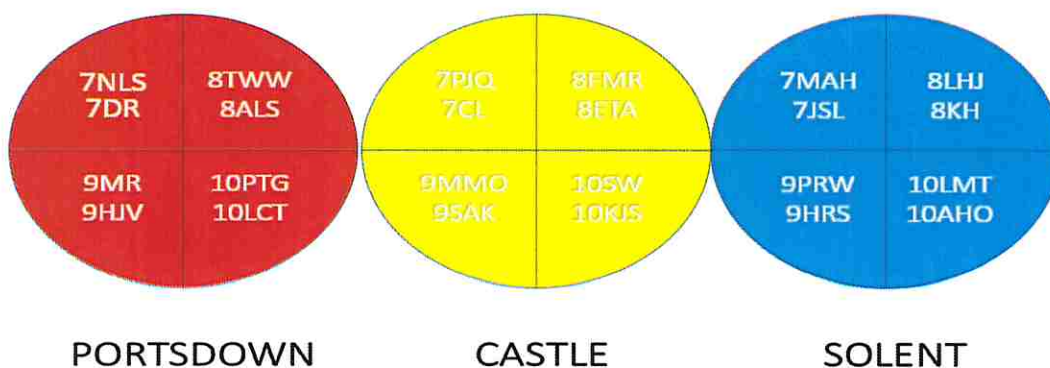
- 'Hoodies', sweatshirts, or cardigans
- Denim, leather, or leather-look jackets
- Logos, large lettering on outdoor coats
- Tight-fitting trousers, jeans, cords, or lycra skirts
- Slits up the side of trousers and skirts and wide flared trousers
- Canvas shoes, trainers or any footwear considered dangerous
- Extremes of hair colour and styles, e.g., high contrast (short/long/multi-coloured), including tramlines and unnatural colours
- Hair must not be shorter than a Grade 2
- Body and facial piercing, tattoos, tongue studs and dermal piercing
- Nail varnish/artificial nails/false eyelashes

The full policy is detailed on the school website.

**New House System.** The New Year will see the launch of a new House system. In 2008 the School launched a House system that has run under the names of DaVinci, Lennon, Henry, and Kelly. Current Pupil Leaders want to introduce a new system to support academic achievement, artistic endeavours, and sporting performances. Mr Smith and his team have worked throughout this term to create a new, dynamic, and inclusive system to engage and motivate pupils. There will be three new Houses, **Portsmouth / Castle / Solent** – tutor groups and staff from each Year have been allocated a House to represent. Please see below for details.



## THE HOUSE SYSTEM 2024



**Headteacher:** Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

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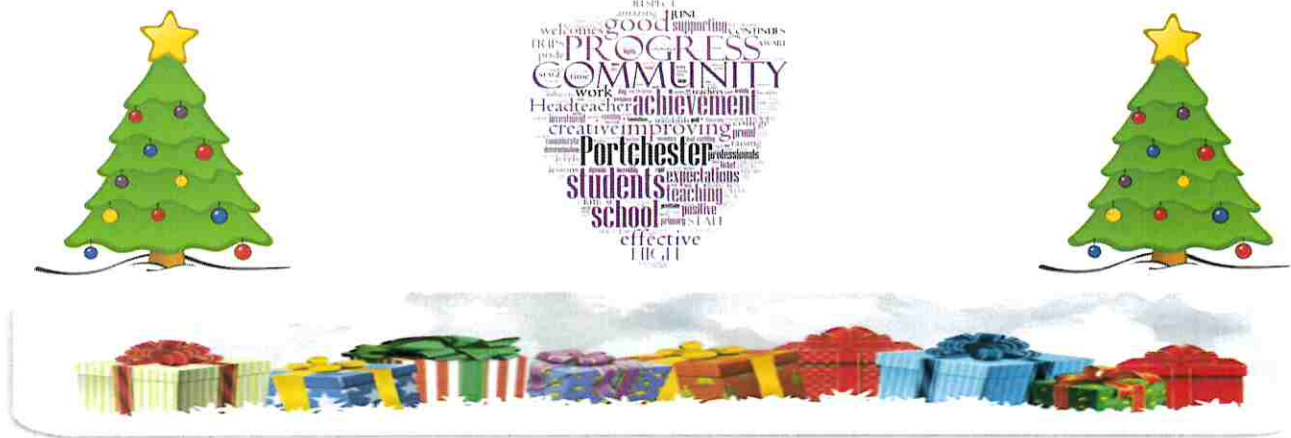
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Pupils have been asked to design new logos for each of the new Houses that will be made into badges / certificates and signage around the school – prizes will be awarded for the winning designs. At the start of next term, the first House Assemblies will be held with detail of new events and activities for the pupils.

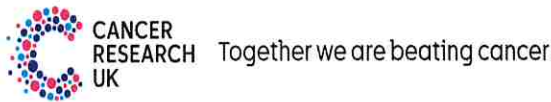
### End of Term Arrangements – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Our Pupil Leaders have asked if we could end the term with a Non-uniform / Christmas Jumper Day. This will take place on the last day of term – Friday 15th December 2023. Pupils are asked to pre-pay their £1 donation either through the school bank / their tutors or online before the last day of term.

The Year Group totals will be collected by the Finance Team and allocated to the Year Group charities in the New Year. Staff are also encouraged to participate and donate to support their Year Team’s charities.

This Year’s cohort charities are.

#### Year 7 Cancer Research



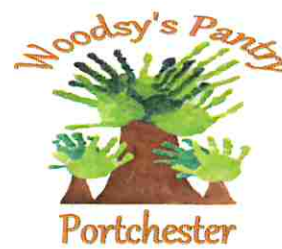
#### Year 8- Rowans Hospice



#### Year 9 – Sophie’s Legacy



#### Year 10/ 11 – Woodsy’s Food Bank



On the last day of term, lessons will run for Periods 1 and 2 as normal.

Period 3 will be a Key Stage 3 assembly and Key Stage 4 tutor based festive quiz.

Period 4 will be a Key Stage 4 assembly and a Key Stage 3 tutor based festive quiz.

The school day for students will finish at 1.40 pm (hot food will be available during Break 1 only).


Also enclosed with this festive Newsletter, is an opportunity for parents to join our Governing Body – do you have a little bit of spare time and could help oversee the running of the school? Please contact me for an informal discussion or follow the detail on the handout.

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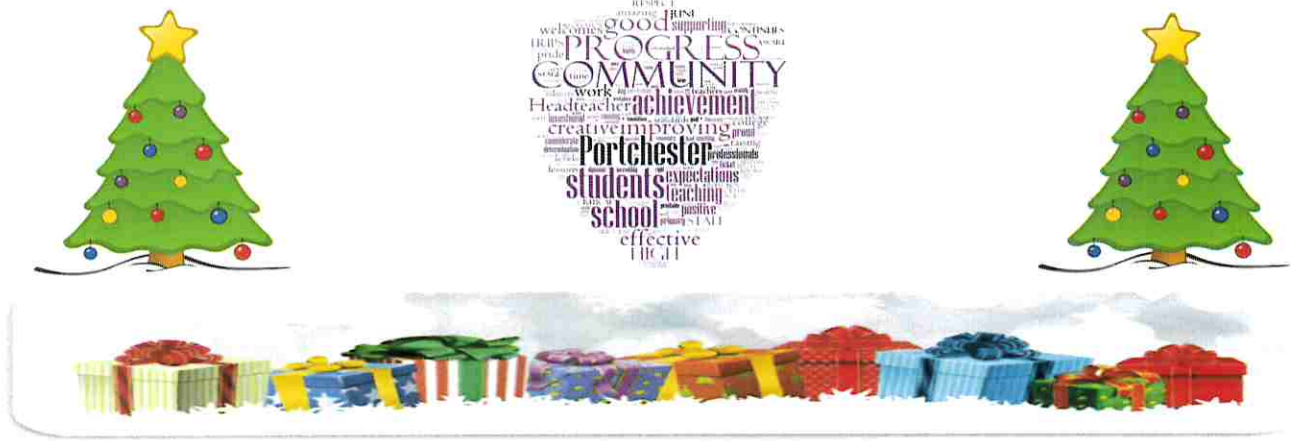
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### Key Dates for Next Term

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Year 10 Maths and Science Assessments. Year 11 Art mock.
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – PTA Christmas Social Meeting 6pm Conference room – new members welcome.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Year 10 English Assessment a.m. Year 11 Art mock.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Full Governing Body Meeting – new Governors welcome – see above information.
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Christmas lunch in school / Ex Year 11 Certificate and Awards Evening – 6pm
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Christmas Concert – more information to be placed on the school website.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Last day of term – see above for details.
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 – Inset Day – school closed to pupils.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 – All pupils – first day of Spring Term.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> / Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> / Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Introductory House Assemblies.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Visit to school by local PM – TBC.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – PTA Coffee morning / Pre-loved Uniform sale.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Full Governing Body Meeting.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year 7 Parent’s Evening.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Teenage Booster sessions.
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 – PTA Meeting – new members welcome.
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Fareham and Gosport Secondary School Closure Day – Inset.
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Dance live at the Portsmouth Guildhall.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – History Berlin Trip

Parent feedback from our recent Year 11 Parents’ evening is enclosed for your information. More Parents Evenings are scheduled for the New Year, however, if you have a pressing concern please contact the appropriate person directly – all email addresses are on the school website.


Thank you for your sustained support this year. I hope that you and your family have a healthy and peaceful festive break.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle  
Headteacher

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Opportunity  
Make a difference



# Apply to be a parent governor

We are currently seeking applicants for the opportunity to join our school's governing body

## Successful applicant(s) will:

- join a friendly and dedicated team;
- be supported to develop useful new skills and knowledge;
- work with school leaders to assist children and young people to fulfil their aspirations;
- give something of significant value back to our community.



Please get in touch to find out more about this opportunity

Closing date  
January 12<sup>th</sup> 2024



Contact Mr R Swain – Clerk to Governors  
Telephone 023 92364399  
Email [Clerk.governors@portchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:Clerk.governors@portchester.hants.sch.uk)

You can find out more about the governing body on our website:


[www.portchester.hants.sch.uk](http://www.portchester.hants.sch.uk)  
Under the Vacancy and Governor tabs  
For more information about being a school governor in Hampshire visit:  
[hants.gov.uk/governors-volunteer](http://hants.gov.uk/governors-volunteer)

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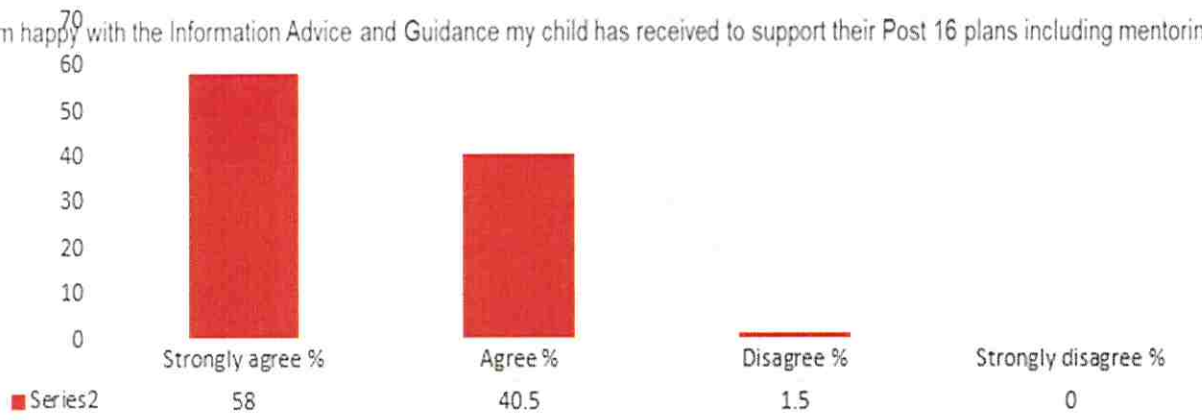
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### Year 11 Parents' Evening 29th November 2023 - Parent feedback summary

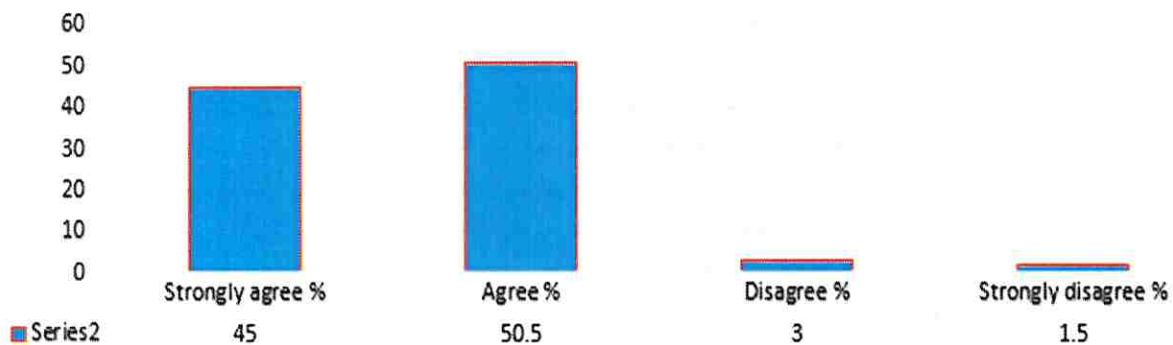
I am happy with the Information Advice and Guidance my child has received to support their Post 16 plans including mentoring.



### My child feels safe in school



### Communication between home and school is effective



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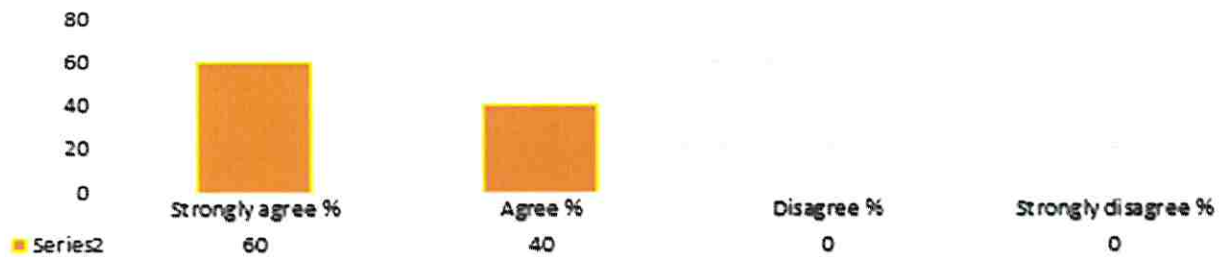
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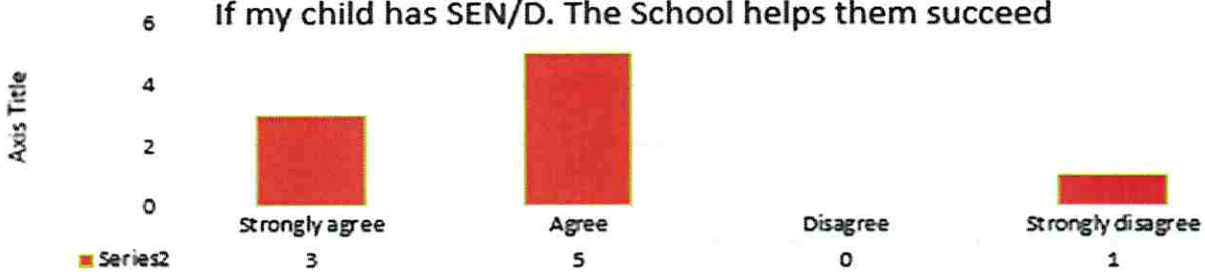




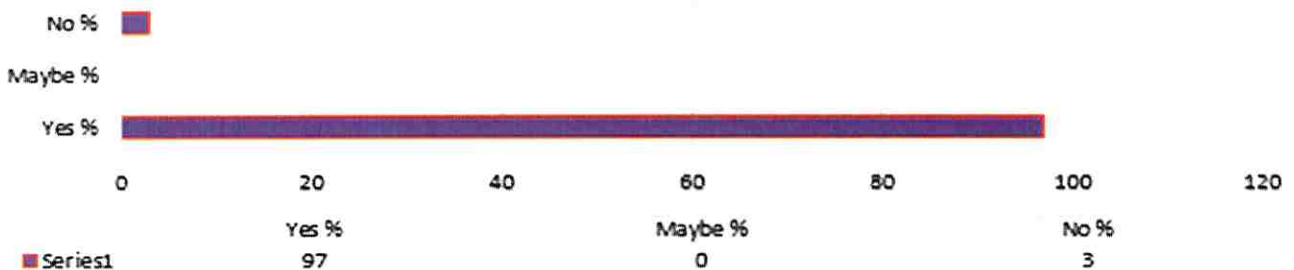
### The School supports my child's wider personal development including support for their GCSEs



### If my child has SEN/D. The School helps them succeed



### I would recommend this school to other parents



#### Summary information

Cohort	131	100%
Attendance	109 / 131	83%
Surveys	68 / 109	62%


Any comments or Disagree / Strongly disagree responses are followed up with calls and emails

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