

7 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support during a very busy Spring half term.

As you may be aware, the school was inspected by Ofsted on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 January. This was a full Section 5 Inspection that included Deep Dive activities in English, Maths, History, Technology and PE. Many thanks to the parents who completed the Parent Survey on-line and submitted letters and notes to the Inspection Team. The pupils were a real credit to the school during the inspection process, many completed an on-line survey, had their books and coursework reviewed, were interviewed by Inspectors, and welcomed them into their classrooms. I am still awaiting the final report which I will share with you as soon as I receive it. There has been a lot of media coverage of Ofsted recently and, while this inspection was very pressured, the inspection team were very professional, and worked positively with the school throughout the inspection process.

Year 11 pupils have engaged well with their Pre-Public Examinations for each of their GCSE subjects. The Year group should be commended for their positive attitudes and readiness for this challenge. The Pre-Public Examinations continue after the half term break. Pupils have the opportunity for additional revision over the half term – a detailed schedule of sessions will be shared with pupils by the Head of Year.

A group of Year 10 and Year 11 pupils are spending the first part of their half term break in Berlin. The History team have planned an action-packed trip – this includes visits to: The Berlin Wall Memorial, Stasi Prison, The Olympic Stadium, and the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. We look forward to hearing of their adventures and sharing pictures on their return.



Also, this half term has seen a huge group of Portchester pupils perform in the **Dance Live 2024** competition at the Portsmouth Guildhall. The Star Wars themed piece was performed to an audience of over 1600. We are awaiting copies of the final video and images from the evening to share with friends and families. A highlight of the evening was Jonathan Hodgson being given a special award for his stunning visual effect work on the LED screens.

Our new **House system** is now up and running. All pupils are contributing merits to the House totals through great work in lessons and participation in key events run after school.

For more information of the key events, please visit the @PortchesterPE X (formerly Twitter) feed.

The current points scores are very close - any House could take the lead position.

Portsdown – 6758/Castle – 6845/Solent – 6305.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

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

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X @PCSInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



The recent House football competition was very successful. February sees an Extreme Reading Challenge!

HOUSE COMPETITION - FOOTBALL

Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE · 22 Jan

A fantastic House competition saw Team Castle win the Year 9 football tournament!

Portsdwn claimed 2nd place with Solent finishing 3rd!

- 30 House Points
- 20 House Points
- 10 House Points

Well done to all involved!



Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE · 22 Jan

In the Yr 10 football competition Team Solent claimed top spot! Castle finished 2nd, with Portsdown in 3rd place!

- 30 House Points
- 20 House Points
- 10 House Points

A great turnout! Well done to everyone who represented their House!



February's House Competition

- House point for every entry!
- Most original picture wins 20 house points
- Runner up 10 house points
- Entries to be given or emailed to Mrs. Norton (LRC)
- Competition closes 1st March

February House Competition

EXTREME READING

Take a photo of yourself reading a book in an unusual, fun but SAFE place! The most original picture will win.



Activate Window

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Day	Break	Lunch	After School (3.15 - 4.15pm)
Monday	Year 7 Computers (for homework) - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Social and Games Club - Mrs Kingston and Mrs Davis, Year 7 in IT2. Forces Club - Mrs Sharp, Mrs Richards and Miss Jones (Week 2) in E5. Senior Student Leaders Meeting - Mrs Grew in H6. Quiet Study and Reading - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Further Maths - Mr Castle, Year 10 and 11 in M1. Green Power Engineers - Mr Lumb, Mr Lakin and Mr Walton in T5. Dance Live - Mrs Budd and Mr Webb in the Studio. Homework Club - LSA's in the LRC.
Tuesday	Year 8 Computers (for homework) - Mrs Norton in the LRC. LOSTQ - Mrs Ford (Week 1) in PE1.	Board Games Club - Mrs Fuller, Mrs Cope and Mr Ateni in the LRC. Lego Club - Science Team in S2.	'Wanna Talk' - Mrs Mudge in Year 11 Hub. Homework Club - LSA's in the LRC. Art Club - Mr Grant, Years 9 and 10 in T5.
Wednesday	Wellbeing Wednesdays (colouring, puzzles, craft & chess) - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Quiet Study and Reading - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Homework Club - LSA's in the LRC.
Thursday	'Books and Biscuits' - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Newspaper Club - Mrs Richards (Week 2) in E5. Year 9 & 10 Computers (for homework) - Mrs Norton in the LRC. French Quietlet KS4 - Mrs Lanham in IT1. Quiet Study and Reading - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Homework Club - LSA's in the LRC.
Friday	Fun Fridays (board games & computer games) Mrs Norton in the LRC. Congregational Prayer - Mr Ahmed (Week 1) in M7.	Origami Club - Mrs Touray in M4. Booklet Spanish - Mrs Sharp in M11. Quiet Study and Reading - Mrs Norton in the LRC.	Triple Science Club - Mrs Hodgson in S5. Dance Live - Mrs Budd and Mr Webb in the Studio. Homework Club - LSA's in the LRC.

OTHER NEWS – SITE UPDATE

THE NORTH TOILETS REFURBISHMENT CONTINUES.

- The Local Authority has awarded the school a further £200,000 to replace and upgrade all the windows at the Castle Street Centre.



Please see below for the key dates information for the next half term.

Also enclosed with this Newsletter is a parent copy of the National College information about supporting our young people staying safe on-line – this one is entitled, 'On-line Content – 10 tips to keep your child safe online', and a summary of the Year 9 Parents' Evening feedback forms.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

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ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



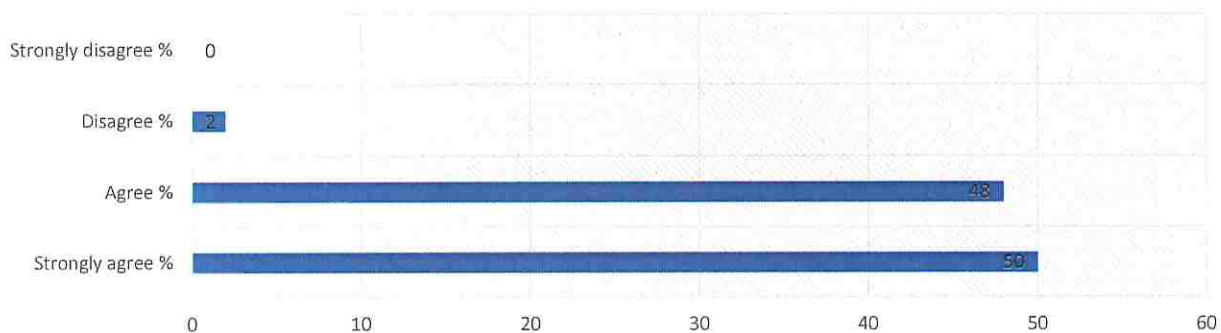
10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

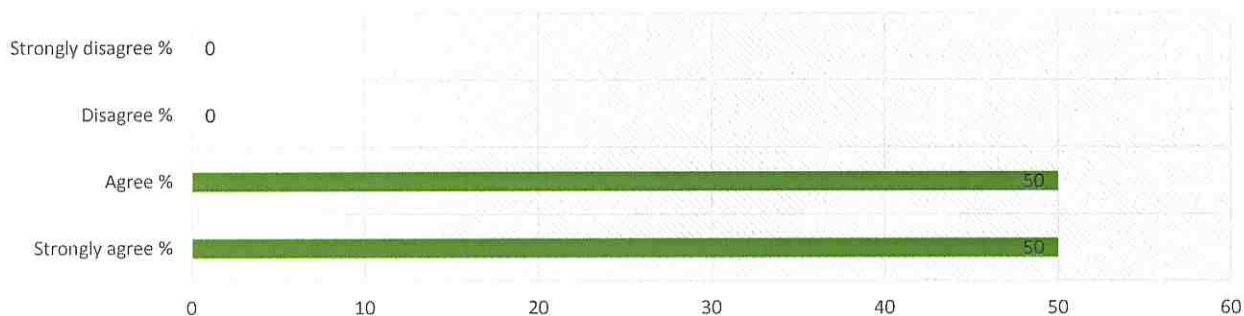
Year 9 Parents' Evening
7th February 2024 - Parent feedback summary

65 returns from parents and carers attending the Parents Evening. 54% of the cohort
Individual comments and responses in the open box are followed up by the appropriate member of staff.

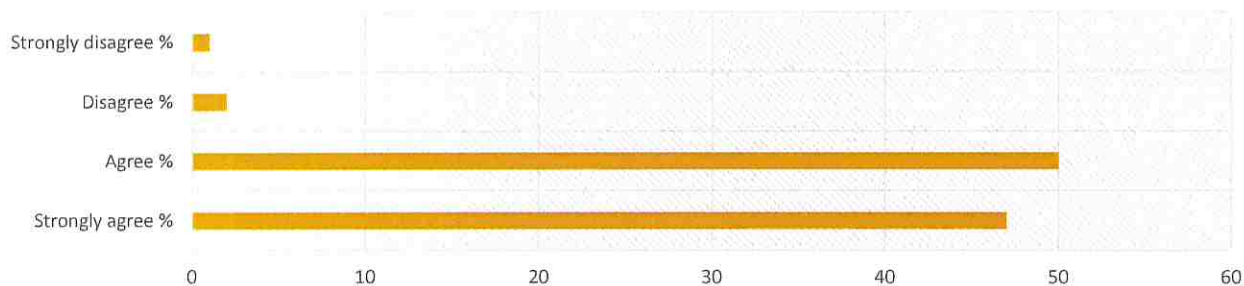
My child makes good progress at the School



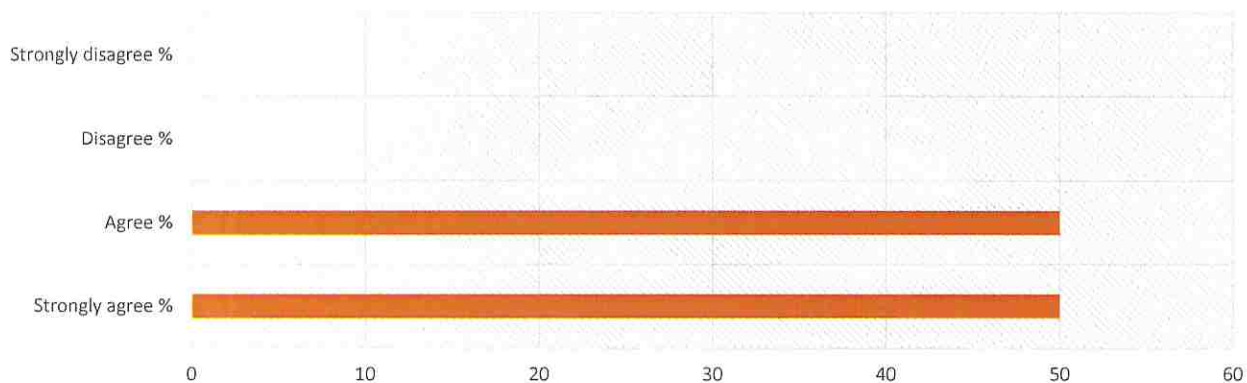
My child feels safe in school



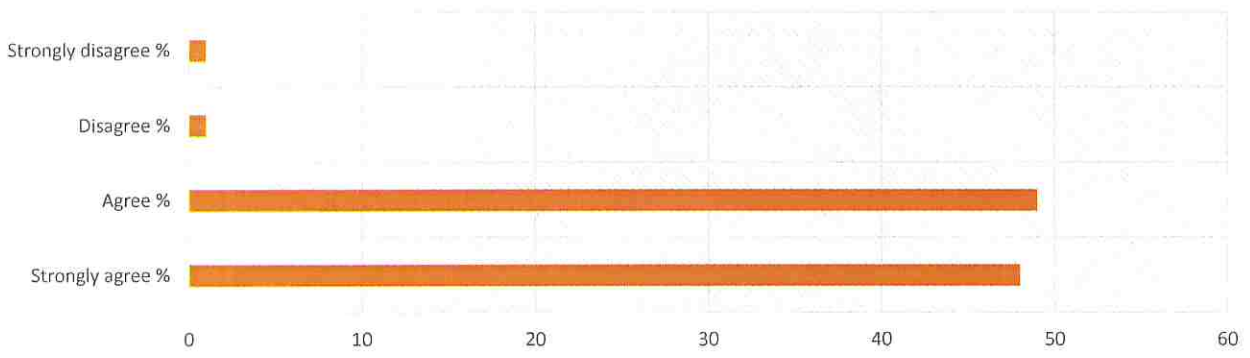
Communication between home and school is effective



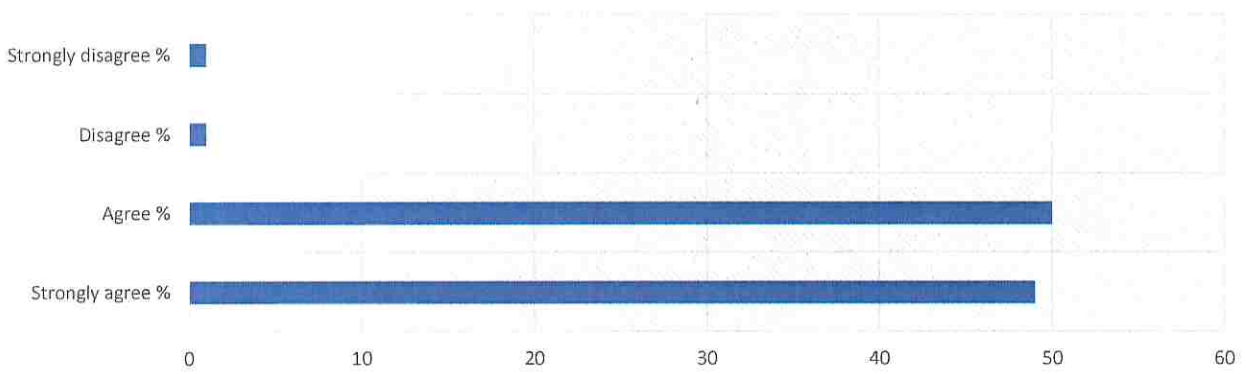
There is a good range of subjects available.



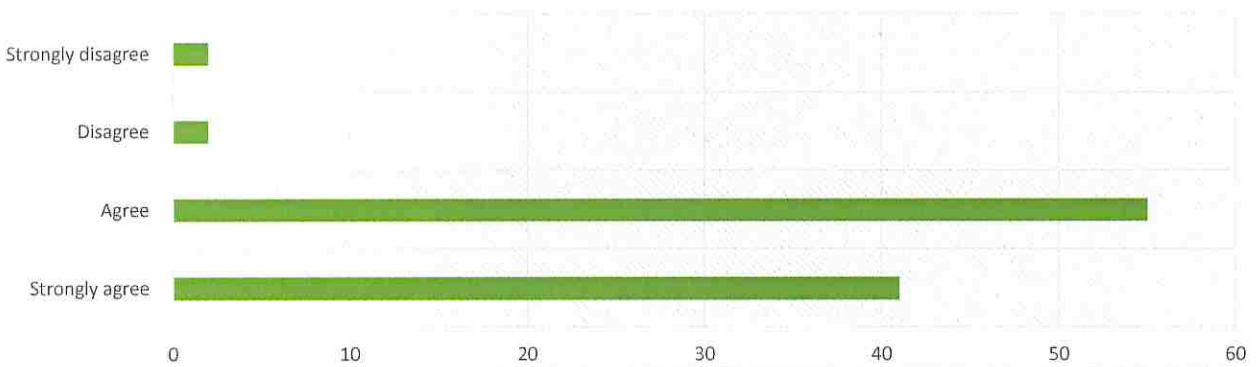
My child can take part in clubs and activities



The school supports my child's wider development



If SEN/D - support helps them succeed.



I would recommend the school to other parents

