



Portchester Community School Easter 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of the Spring term approaches, I thought it would be an opportunity to reflect on a really positive term for the school. Key events and activities have included:

- A full Section 5 Ofsted inspection that shone a light on the school's values supporting pupils to become 'successful, confident and responsible' individuals. Pupils reported that they feel happy and safe. The school has a 'highly committed staff with a 'strong team ethos'. Provision for pupils' Personal Development has been graded 'Outstanding', with strong oversight by Governors. The inspection also highlighted the need to improve some consistency across the curriculum and some behaviour at unstructured times. Further information will be coming out to parents and pupils regarding changes to school procedures from the start of the Summer term. Mr Toone, Assistant Headteacher, has written to all parents this week detailing some of the supportive changes being made at school after the Easter break.
- Year 11 close their final Spring term with us preparing for the GCSEs and planning for appropriate post 16 destinations. Many pupils in Year 11 have secure plans for the future and we are working tirelessly to support them to achieve the grades they need to move on. Please see below for the planned Easter revision sessions. The full GCSE timetable is now on the school website.

Year 11 Revision Sessions Easter Sessions are currently operating as follows: WEEK ONE OF THE HOLIDAY - 2nd to 5th April	Year 11 Revision Sessions Easter Sessions are currently operating as follows: WEEK TWO OF THE HOLIDAY 8th April – 12th April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music - Tuesday 2nd April 9am – 3pm • D & T Graphics - Tuesday 2nd April 9am-3pm • Media – Tuesday 2nd April 9am-12pm (HJV) • D & T Graphics – Wednesday 3rd April 9am-3pm • D & T Materials – Tuesday 2nd April 9am-3pm • D & T Materials – Wednesday 3rd April 9am-3pm • English - Thursday 4th April 9am-12pm (TJW/PJQ/MR) • CRE - Wednesday 3rd April 10am-12pm • Hospitality/Catering –Thursday 4th April 10am–2pm • History - Friday 5th April 10am-1pm, HUB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French - Monday 8th April 10am-12pm – Foundation • French - Monday 8th April 10am-12pm – Higher • Drama - Tuesday 9th April 9am-3pm • Drama - Thursday 11th April 9am-3pm • Geography - Wednesday 10th April 9.30am-12.30pm • Art - Tuesday 9th April 9am-12pm • Science - Thursday 11th April 10am-12pm • History - Wednesday 10th April 10am-1pm • English - Tuesday 9th April 9am-12pm (HJV/RM) • Computer Science – Monday 8th April 9am-12pm • Spanish - Monday 8th April 10am-12pm - Foundation • Spanish - Monday 8th April 10am-12pm - Higher

- Year 10 finish this term out and about in the community completing their Work Experience programmes. More news and pictures to follow once staff have made visits and followed up this work.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

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FAREHAM DEBATING COMPETITION 2024



WINNERS.
PORTCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Portchester Team – Jessica Parsons and Ksenia Simms. Special thanks and congratulations to Rosie McElroy and Lexi Lewis for winning their debate about the UK becoming a republic.

World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024, provided a lovely opportunity for some dressing up in school – especially the English department! The LRC hosted a huge range of activities with prizes for the best designed bookmark and best ‘extreme reading’ photograph. More pictures on the school X (formerly Twitter) site.



Charity fundraising has been a key theme this term -

YEAR 11 – FUNDRAISING /



YEAR 9 FUNDRAISING!



our wonderful PTA raised over £400 with their Chocolate Bingo event.

Another £400 was raised by Year 9 following Mr James receiving the clipper treatment from the demon barber of White Hart Lane - Mr Cousins! There was also a much-appreciated donation from our local Tesco supermarket. Year 7 have been holding an Easter raffle to raise money for Cancer Research – the prize draw for the Easter Egg and Chocolate bundles is on the last day of term. Fingers crossed for a winner!

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More sporting updates can be found on the PE X (formerly Twitter) feed - @PortchesterPE

Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE - 11 Mar
 Congratulations to the Yr 10/11 girls volleyball team! They qualified for the County Cup Finals with a superb 2-0 victory in tonight's match Vs Bishop Challoner!
 Well done to all involved!

Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE - 20h
 Well done to the Year 8 Girls netball team - winners vs Brune Park 8-6 last night!
 Well done to all involved!

Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE - 16 Mar
 Huge congratulations to Mya Doswell!!
 Her gymnastics team have qualified in 1st place for the British Championships in July!! At the recent qualifying competition the team scored the highest mark for their floor routine!
 An outstanding achievement!

Portchester PE Dept @PortchesterPE - 20h
 Congratulations to the Year 10 football team - winning 4-0 vs Brune Park tonight!
 Goals were scored by:
 K.Kircher
 A.Hatherley
 T.Montague
 T.Nash

Our new House system has been running for a whole term now and pupils have really engaged in a range of activities and events. Portsdown House are currently in the lead with Castle and Solent battling it out for second place. The Summer term has a wealth of activities planned so it's all to play for. The keys to success are strong attendance by all members of your House and a willingness to have a go at something new or different.

HOUSE TOTAL SPREADSHEET

	PORTSDOWN	CASTLE	SOLENT
WEEK BEGINNING March 11 - March 15			
Total (since 01 Jan 2024) from Class Charts	16822	15771	15654
Assembly data & competition total from last week	242	241	227
ASSEMBLY DATA			
YR 7 Attendance	50	25	30
YR 7 Quiz	0	18	8
YR 7 Merits Top 6	11	4	16
YR 8 Attendance	30	25	50
YR 8 Quiz	2	14	14
YR 8 Merits Top 6	34	4	6
YR 9 Attendance	40	30	35
YR 9 Quiz	18	6	16
YR 9 Merits Top 6	12	6	18
YR 10 Attendance	35	35	35
YR 10 Quiz	20	16	14
YR 10 Merits Top 6	18	0	18
Assembly data and competitions weekly total	270	183	260
HOUSE TOTALS	17334	16195	16141

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New facilities after Easter



FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW!

An investment of over £142,000 by the School and HCC

Open after the Easter Break

I hope that you will agree that this has been a very busy, but positive Spring Term. From September, pupils have been awarded over 147,000 merits. Year 7 are leading with over 40,000 having been awarded. Many pupils are now wearing a near rainbow of award badges. Each Year Team has produced a more detailed Newsletter that will be sent directly to the parents of each cohort. This Newsletter closes with Key Dates for next term, the next helpful parent guide to keeping children safe on-line, and a huge thanks for your sustained support and engagement.

Key Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Friday 19 April | Governor Monitoring in Maths |
| Sunday 21 April | Green Power Challenge Trip to Goodwood |
| Wednesday 24 April | SMSC Gold Award Verification Day |
| Saturday 27 April | PTA Coffee Morning and Preloved Uniform Sale |
| Monday 6 May | Bank Holiday |
| Thursday 9 May | Year 11 GCSE written examinations formally start |
| Monday 13 May | Year 9 and Year 10 summative data reports home to parents |
| Wednesday 15 May | PTA Meeting – 6.30 pm in the Conference Room |
| Tuesday 21 May | Year 10 Parents' Evening – 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm |
| Wednesday 22 May | Full Governing Body Meeting – 6.00 pm |
| Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May | Drop Everything and Read session – Period 1 |
| | Year 7 and Year 8 summative date reports home to parents |
| | Half Term |

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Please ensure you see Mr Toone's letter regarding expectations for next term.

Wishing you a peaceful Easter Break. Term starts again on Monday 15 April 2024.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

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Personal data is a strange commodity. Cyber thieves can buy huge quantities of personal data on the black market for very little, yet your own personal data is hugely valuable to you. If your personal data falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, bank fraud or something even more sinister such as stalking. The severity of that threat is multiplied when it comes to the personal data of children, when threats such as internet grooming begin to emerge. The bad news is that children aren't always great at safeguarding sensitive information, which is why they need parents' help and guidance. That's why we've created this guide to show you how you can protect your own and your family's personal data.



What parents need to know about PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA



EVERY DETAIL IS KEY

Which info should you be wary of sharing online? Aside from the obvious, such as full names, date of birth and address, think of the type of information you're asked for when answering security questions for services such as online banking. The name of your first school, your mother's maiden name, the names of your pets, your favourite band. Data thieves will harvest as much of this information as possible, so don't make it easy for them by publishing it anywhere online.



SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are lulled into thinking that only their friends can see such information, but that's rarely the case. Such information can easily be shared with 'friends of friends' or even anyone searching for you online because privacy settings are opaque. Keep social media profiles to the bare minimum. If you wouldn't be comfortable hanging a sign with that information on your front door, don't enter it into social media sites.



DANGEROUS GAMES

Online games are a particular risk for children. Many of the most popular games – such as Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox – have voice or text chat facilities, allowing them to talk to fellow gamers. Or, sometimes, people pretending to be fellow gamers. It's very easy for children to be seduced into divulging personal data such as their address, birthday or school. It's critical parents both educate children on the dangers of online chat in games and take safeguards to protect children.



IMPOSTERS AND PHISHING ATTACKS

Even if you're scrupulous about keeping your data private on social media, it's easy to be lulled into handing it over to imposters. There are two golden rules for you and your children to follow: 1. Never divulge personal information to phone callers, unless you can be absolutely certain you know who they are. 2. Never click on links or open attachments in emails or social media, unless you're 100% certain they are genuine. So-called phishing emails are growing ever more sophisticated, with fraudsters able to replicate the exact look of bank emails and even include details such as account numbers and IDs.



THE RISKS OF PASSWORD SHARING

Password sharing – using the same password for multiple sites – is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your personal data. Hacking of major websites, including usernames and passwords, is common. If you're using the same password for a hacked site as you do on your Gmail account, for example, you're handing data thieves an easy route into your inbox, where they will doubtless find all manner of sensitive information, such as bank emails and contacts. Your email account will often also let them reset the password on multiple other accounts. Don't share passwords; use password managers to create strong, unique passwords for every site.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS

Many security software packages have features that look for personal data leaks or prevent people from entering it into risky sites in the first place. For example, Bullguard Premium monitors dangerous sites for usage of data such as your email address, debit card numbers, passport number and more, and then sends you email alerts and details of how to take remedial action if it spots them being used. Such software also issues warnings if it sees personal data being entered into unprotected, high-risk sites.



KEEP DATA GUARDED

Don't give the thieves a head start by handing them pieces of sensitive information for free. For example, it's very common to see email address such as davesmith1976@gmail.com – an immediate clue that you were born in that year. If you have a less common name than Dave Smith, thieves could immediately start using that information to cross reference against public records or other database breaches, allowing them to start building a profile of information about you. Likewise, don't use your date of birth in a password. If that's hacked, you've handed the thieves another big clue.



DON'T OVERSHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The biggest threat to your child's privacy is you. Parents often overshare personal information on social media: full names, names of schools, children's birthdays, names of their friends. All of this can be easily gleaned to build profiles that could be used to groom your child in online games or in real life. Exercise extreme caution with social media posts concerning your children.



BE WARY OF SHARED NETWORKS/SYSTEMS

Avoid entering any personal data into a web browser when you're using public Wi-Fi (in a coffee shop or airport, for example) or when using shared computers. Shared Wi-Fi connections are much easier to eavesdrop on than your home network, especially if they are not password protected or the password is shared freely with customers. Don't do online shopping, banking or enter any logins/passwords when using shared Wi-Fi. Likewise, if you're using a shared computer at work, for example, as it's very easy for a browser to save logins that could be used by others.



PLAY SAFE IN ONLINE GAMES

Children must be taught to treat strangers in online games with the same caution as they would treat strangers in the street. Don't allow children to use their real name as their username in games to prevent imposters conning kids into thinking they are real-life friends, and only allow them to add friends in the game that they know in real life. Regularly ask to monitor your child's friends list in such games and ask them to identify who the players are. With younger children in particular, ask them to only use voice chat in family rooms, so that you can hear conversations.



Meet our expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as *The Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.





BJT/JAE
28 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Post Ofsted Actions for Further Improvement

As we continue to celebrate the fantastic efforts and achievements from our recent Ofsted inspection, the Senior Leadership Team have been conducting a full review of the feedback received.

Although our Ofsted inspection was overwhelmingly positive, as a school, we strive to be the best version of ourselves to benefit all our pupils. With this in mind, the Senior Leadership Team will be resetting and amending some of our processes to continue to have high expectations of all pupils. We require you, as valued parents and carers, to continue to support us so that these adjustments can be put into action after Easter, and, therefore, we can hit the ground running in the new term.

- ✓ To ensure that our pupils are appropriately dressed and equipped for the day, please can you ensure they have a full school bag which includes a pencil case with stationery.
- ✓ A small proportion of pupils this term have come into school wearing trainers and/or branded sweatshirts. Please ensure they are wearing correct uniform, which includes a navy blazer, with an embroidered Portchester logo (please see Appendix 1 for further guidance).

The feedback from our Ofsted report suggests *that “some pupils do not always meet the school’s high expectations for behaviour outside structured learning times.”* The impact of this means some pupils do not always arrive ready to learn. To respond to this feedback, the following amendments are going to be implemented from the Summer term:

- Leadership detentions are going to return to **90 minutes** – it means that most pupils will value the deterrent and, therefore, make positive choices.
- Closer monitoring of **punctuality at the start of the day and to lessons** – three late marks within a week will result in a Leadership detention.
- **Persistent lateness** at the start of the day will be challenged and could result in a Penalty Notice being issued.
- Extra staff presence during **transition times** to encourage pupils to be punctual to lessons.

Finally, these amendments will not impact the vast majority of our pupils but will ensure that disruption is minimised so that your child can learn.

I thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

B Toone

Mr B Toone
Assistant Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

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Appendix 1

HOW SHOULD I GET READY FOR MY FIRST DAY?

Welcome to your journey with Portchester Community School

We are proud of our school and our brilliant staff and students. Our students show how proud they are to be part of Portchester Community School by wearing the correct uniform. We have a few simple rules for uniform which we expect everyone to follow:

- Navy blazer with embroidered Portchester logo
- Navy V-neck sweater (optional)
- Plain white shirt/blouse with collar
- Portchester Community School tie
- Plain tailored mid-grey knee-length skirt or plain tailored mid-grey trousers
- Black socks/neutral or black tights
- Black leather-look 'school type' shoes or ankle boots – no trainers or logos
- Plain waterproof outdoor coat
- **No** black leggings or cycling shorts

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