





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

- 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

Year 11 Revision Sessions Easter Sessions are currently operating as follows: WEEK TWO OF THE HOLIDAY 8th April – 12th April

- 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.



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FAREHAM DEBATING **COMPETITION 2024**



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.



YEAR 11 - FUNDRAISING /





Charity fundraising has been a key theme this term -



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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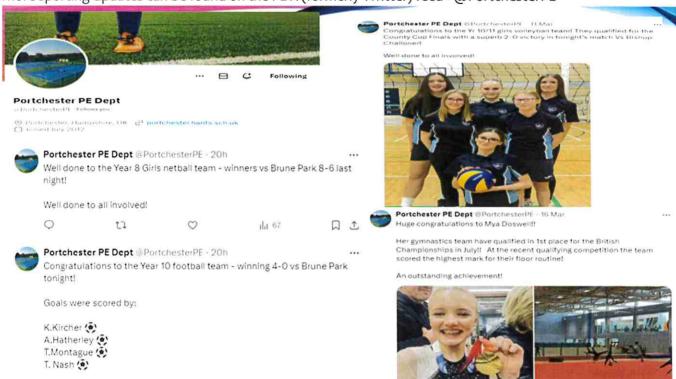








More sporting updates can be found on the PE X (formerly Twitter) feed - @PortchesterPE



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 15771 15654 16822 50 25 YR 7 Attendance 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 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 embly data and competitions weekly total 17334 16195 **HOUSE TOTALS** 16141



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New facilities after Easter



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

Year 9 and Year 10 summative data reports home to parents

Monday 13 May PTA Meeting – 6.30 pm in the Conference Room Wednesday 15 May Year 10 Parents' Evening – 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Tuesday 21 May Full Governing Body Meeting – 6.00 pm

Drop Everything and Read session – Period 1

Wednesday 22 May Year 7 and Year 8 summative date reports home to parents

Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May Half Term

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

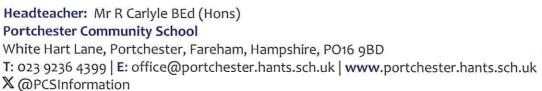
Wishing you a peaceful Easter Break. Term starts again on Monday 15 April 2024.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle

Headteacher









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 identify 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



EVERY DETAIL IS KEY

Which info should you be wary of 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 Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are fulled 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 Triends of riends of even anyone searching for you online because privacy settings are apaque. 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. on, 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 on online chat in games and take safeguards to protect



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 is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your 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 Gmall 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.







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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.



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 davesmith 1976@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 alrport, 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 usemame 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 Newsright, 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



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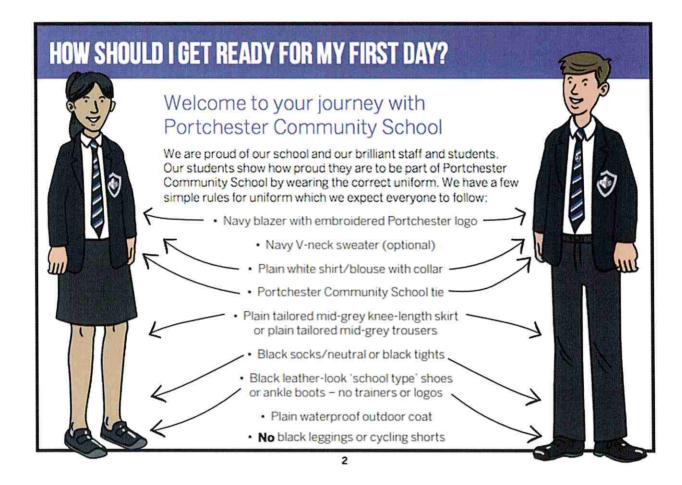
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Appendix 1





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