Newsletter

Portchester Community School December 2021







Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your constant support during a very busy term. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, there is a wealth of really positive news regarding the children's studies and extra-curricular activities.

The designs at the top of this newsletter are the winners from the Year 7 Christmas Card Competition. Congratulations to Polly Judd and Lauren Smith for their winning entries.

End of Term arrangements - Friday 17 December 2021

Student Leaders have asked if they can raise money for their designated charities for the year through having an 'End of Term Christmas Jumper Day'. This is a great idea to support a festive end to term and help raise some money for worthy causes. If students wish to participate, they can donate £1.00 via their Tutors or the school bank before the last day of term in order to have a note in their planner to give them permission to wear their Christmas jumper. Staff are also encouraged to participate and donate.

On the last day of term, lessons will run for Periods 1-3 followed by a Teams Year Group assembly with Tutors followed by a festive Tutor period. The school day for students will end at 1.40 pm (hot food will be available during Break 1).

The charities selected by the students for this year are summarised below:



Year 11 - We provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. We campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding. We won't give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets support and respect.

We are Mind.

Year 10 - Our mission is to provide specially trained assistance dogs to injured and disabled men and women of both the UK Armed Forces and Emergency Services. We aim to provide help and practical support leading to an enhanced quality of life.

Year 9 - Our values drive the way we operate. We will always endeavour to be compassionate and non-judgmental. We assert that every individual is to be valued and respected regardless of their circumstances and any difficulties they may face. We respect the dignity of all our clients, and, for this reason, we offer a discreet and confidential service to anyone who needs to use it.



Years 7 and 8 - Get involved and support cancer research

Cancer is relentless. But so are we. Whether you fundraise, volunteer, pledge to leave a Gift in your Will or donate, everyone has a part to play. And every part supports life-saving research. Play your part and together we will beat cancer.

Changes to the INSET calendar for 2022

Tuesday 4 January 2022 - INSET Day - as planned.

Friday 28 January 2022 - INSET Day - as planned. Common closure day across Fareham and Gosport secondary schools.

Friday 18 February 2022 - Date changed from Monday 21 March 2022. This is due to the Department for Education's release of new GCSE information in light of a response to the pandemic.

Term starts again on Wednesday 5 January 2022 (Week 1)

Key dates for next term

Tuesday 4 January	INSET Day
Wednesday 5 January	Lateral Flow Testing Day (please see below)
Monday 10 January	TED Talk in the LRC (1.40 pm). Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) - Period 5
Wednesday 12 January	Student SMSC session - Period 3
Wednesday 19 January	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 24 January	Year 11 Mock Exams start
Tuesday 25 January	Governors' Committee Meetings
Friday 28 January	INSET Day – Fareham and Gosport secondary schools' closure
Monday 7 February	Year 9 Teenage Boosters/HPV
Wednesday 9 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 14 February	International Book Day. DEAR - Period 1
Friday 18 February	INSET Day. End of Term 3

To ensure a safe return to school, we will be completing Lateral Flow Tests with each Year Group within a given time period on Wednesday 5 January. Therefore, there will be a staggered start to the day.

Plan for the day – Wednesday 5 January 2022

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
8:45				Arrive	Arrive
Period 1				Testing	Lesson
10:05 Period 2				Lesson	Testing
11:35 Period 3	Arrive Lesson	Arrive Testing		Lesson	Lesson
12:40 Period 4	Testing	Lesson		Lesson	Lesson
2:10 Period 5	Lesson	Lesson	Arrive/Testing/ Lesson	Lesson	Lesson

If a positive Lateral Flow Test result is registered, the student will be directed to take a PCR Test to confirm if they have COVID-19.

Students will receive a single test unit for use in the Sports Hall upon their return to school. Should they require additional test kits, these can be collected from Student Reception as usual.

Students on transport will come into school at their usual time. They will work with members of the Learning Support team until lessons and testing starts for their cohort.

National Tuition Programme

Next term will see the launch of small group tutoring sessions for targeted students as part of a Government sponsored initiative to help student catch-up on basic skills. Sessions will be run across every year group in small groups of up to four focusing on students' need in English, Maths, reading and learning skills. Letters will be sent to parents in the New Year with invites to attend up to 15 sessions between January and June 2022.

Highlights from @PCSInformation and @PortchesterPE





Please see the school website and Twitter feeds for more details

I hope you and your family have a healthy and peaceful festive break ready for a busy New Year.

Yours sincerely

R Carlyle

Mr R Carlyle Headteacher