



RC/hst

11 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Transition arrangements for 2023/24 - Portchester Community School**

Congratulations on being allocated a place at Portchester Community School for September 2023. Your child will be part of the largest new cohort of students we have had in recent years. This signals the growing popularity of the school of choice for the parents and children of Portchester and the surrounding areas.

At Portchester, we aspire to be the most vibrant, creative and successful school we can be. Our recent Local Authority Inspection visit highlighted a number of key strengths. Below I have detailed what the students reported to the inspectors;

- During the pupil voice session, pupils said they value the support of their teachers across many aspects of school life
- **Year 7** pupils spoke positively about their **experiences of transition** and of life in secondary school. Most interviewed had attended summer school and taken part in curriculum lessons and offsite visits. This, they said, had helped to manage their anxieties over transition, in that they had been able to meet new friends and also work with pupils in Years 10 and 11
- The Year 7 pupils were asked to identify pieces of work in books which showed the **progress** they had made across the year to date. With little delay, they were able to do this across a range of subjects, including French, Art, History and Science
- Year 7 pupils also spoke with enthusiasm about **clubs** they could attend, including girls' football, craft, badminton, gym, volleyball and library/board games club
- Pupils said there was a **good balance** of support at the school between academic progress and wider wellbeing
- Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about the **student leadership team**, which is active in the co-leadership of many aspects of school improvement
- They said that poor behaviour is rare, but where it exists, it is 'nipped in the bud' quickly by teachers, supported on occasion by a duty teacher where necessary
- They said the school is **'inclusive, responsive and really supportive'**.
- They spoke clearly about what they felt is a **strong culture of safeguarding** and spoke of strong levels of trust in adults across the school

It is a really exciting time at Portchester Community School as we plan for the next cohort of students and parents. As a parent myself, I recognise the importance of this decision and I know that the transition to secondary school is a major change.

We work closely with each of our cluster schools and aim to make the transition process as smooth as possible. Key staff will be visiting the primary schools next term. They are:

- Mr Toone – Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Kingston – Head of Year 7
- Mrs Howell - SENCo

### Information regarding dates and visits

- **Wednesday 5 July 2023 – Transition Day for Year 6**

All new Year 7 students will visit us here at the school for the day. Students should arrive in the school hall for a prompt start at 8:40 am. We expect students to wear their current Year 6 uniform. They will also need to bring writing equipment for the day, a packed lunch and drink and trainers to change into. During the day students will be introduced to our exciting Summer Transition project and given details about this year's Summer Activity Sessions being held here at the school.

Our catering company, 'Radish', will be providing a free snack and drink at first break

The school day finishes at 3:10pm

- **Wednesday 5 July 2023 – Transition Evening for Parents (starting at 5.00 pm)**

Your child and one adult are invited to attend this essential opportunity to meet the Year Leader, Pastoral Assistant, SEN Team and members of the school's Senior Leadership Team. Unfortunately, uniform will not be on sale during this event. Uniform is available via Skoolkit's website: [www.skoolkit.co.uk](http://www.skoolkit.co.uk) or by visiting their Fareham store

- A small number of students and parents have requested after school tours of the school or would like to meet a member of the Senior Leadership Team or SEN Team, prior to the Transition Day. Should you wish to make an appointment, please call the school on 023 9236 4399
- Students will also be receiving 'Welcome Postcards' from their form tutors and link LSAs

### Summer School- August 2023

Last year we ran a successful Summer School which was funded by the Department for Education, we are looking to organise our own Summer School again this year. This will involve students participating in a range of activities such as sports, creative arts, cookery and some off-site visits for example, to Portchester Castle. Students will be able to meet key staff and their peers as well as familiarise themselves with the school site.

More information will be shared on the Transition Evening.

### Student Information Forms

Please click the link below to complete your confidential data collection form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nmt9kvSQcEqfP6Sn6ltdd6JUcvTJ4-lKtnRbjY2XwegUMjJCMzJEMkpKVEJLWUk1N1FMMFRaRUhHMy4u>

Parents and Carers must complete this carefully to ensure contact information, medical requirements and any other special information is used accurately to support your child while here at Portchester Community School.

**Please complete this form by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

### **Arrangements for the first day in September 2023**

The first day of the new academic year is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. This is a staff training day.

### **The first day for new Year 7 students will be Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.**

Year 7 students will need to arrive in the school hall by 8:40 am, in full school uniform, to meet their tutors and have a welcome assembly.

Please take some time to browse the school's website for more detailed information about the school and follow events on the school's Twitter feed on @PCSInformation.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

*R Carlyle*

Mr R Carlyle  
Headteacher

National SMSC Quality Mark Gold Award 2021.

- 'The importance of all students achieving the best possible qualifications and that students develop inclusive, caring and positive values is evident throughout the school.'
- 'Inclusivity, recognising and celebrating diversity is a hallmark of the school.'
- 'The staff are clearly passionately committed to improving the learning and life chances of all students.'