

PORTCHESTER Community School

Year 8 Newsletter December 2023



Key Events

Friday 15th December – Last day of term (school finishes at 1.40 pm)

Wednesday 27th March 2024 – Year 8 Parents evening

INSET days 2024

Tuesday 2 January 24 Friday 26 January 24 Monday 18 March 24

Message From Mr Shaul

As we approach the end of Autumn term 2 and lead up to the Christmas break, school always feels so busy! In particular I am looking forward to the Christmas Concert on Thursday 14th December and the end of year Assemblies are always a good way to celebrate the pupils' achievements and hard work.

December's theme of the month has been 'high expectations' and many Year 8 pupils' have received merits for setting their sights high and making sure that they are working to the best of their ability all the time. The vast majority of the year group do this daily, and I am proud of them for this reason.

Since September, the year group has also welcomed eleven new year 8 pupils starting with us. An increase in numbers has caused a rethink in the balance of the year group and resulted in some changes to the x and y banding for some pupils. I would like to thank pupils and parents for their understanding with this matter. Best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas.

Pupil Leaders

The choice of charity was voted for by the Year 8 pupils and brilliantly coordinated by the Year 8 Pupils Leaders. We will be supporting the Rowans Hospice this year and the first fundraising event will be the non-uniform day on Friday 15th December. Every £1 donated will be gratefully received by the charity and we will be holding further events to support our charity this academic year.

<u>Picture:</u> Year 8 Student Leaders (Nov 2023)



Year 8 Sporting success





Well done to both the boys' and girls' Cross-Country teams who placed 2nd and 3rd in their respective events. Notably, Logan Port won the boys race and Isla Middleton finished 5th in the girls' race.

Theme of the Month



December 2023 – High Expectations



January 2024 - Good Character

Merit update for Year 8

Year 8 have achieved over 20,000 merits since the start of Year 8. Tutor group 8TWW are still leading the way with 4,140 merits.

The top 10 merit achieving pupils at this stage are:

Ed Barry (8TWW) - 246
Hannah Waddington (8TWW) - 232
Izzie Manchip (8FMR) - 228
Marc Daye (8LHJ) - 226
Ollie Street (8TWW) - 224
Ryan Cai (8LHJ) - 222
Declan Butler (8LHJ) - 219
Florence Butcher (8TWW) - 212
Callum Lillington (8ALS) - 211
Fletcher Stephenson (8LHJ) - 207

Year 8 trip 2024

Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in the Calshot trip in July 2024 to make it financially viable or worthwhile.

Speaking to some of the pupils and parents it was felt that the cost of the week-long trip was a significant factor. However, many pupils and parents liked the idea of an end of year trip to reward pupils hard work and endeavours. Therefore, I have begun the process of investigating possible alternative options for this trip.

Successful Confident Responsible