



PORTCHESTER
Community School

Year 9 Newsletter
March 2024

Key Events

April 15th – First Day of Summer Term 1

May 6th – Bank Holiday

May 24th – Last Day of Summer Term 1

Learning Around the School



Pupils have fantastic opportunities around the school to extend their learning through practical activities. In this last half-term, pupils have been making fajitas and dissecting hearts in their Technology and Science lessons.



Successful

Confident

Responsible



This term Alessia, Mathilde, Stanley and Alfie were part of a pupil panel to meet our local MP, Suella Braverman. The pupils asked challenging questions and endeavoured to have her actually answer the questions that were being asked.

Merits and Attendance

Year 9 pupils have amassed 30496 merits since the start of the academic year. The breakdown equates to a fantastic 1220 merits per school week.

In the last week, four pupils, Tabitha, Katy, Maxi and Paige were awarded their purple badges in assembly. This is achieved by earning over a 1000 merits since the start of Year 7 which is an amazing achievement.

In the Spring Term, attendance was 90.9% overall. There are eight pupils who had 100% attendance to start the year which is highly commendable.

Kingswood Trip

We are in the position of being able to offer all Year 9 pupils an opportunity to go on a residential trip in the final term of this academic year. The proposed date for this trip is Friday 19th July to Sunday 21st. Mrs Tonks has emailed a letter of intention to all parents/carers. Please could this be returned by 15th April at the latest.

Communication

Communication between staff and pupils will always be via Office365 (either email or a Teams message). Links to pupil's email and Teams accounts can be found in the pupil zone on the school website.

Options Update

Thank you to all those parents/carers and pupils that have handed their option choices in before the deadline. Mr Cousins will be going through the options and will be in touch as necessary. We hope to get all options confirmed to pupils by 6th May.



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Achievements Outside of School



It is always fantastic to hear about pupils in Year 9 doing things outside of school. I was fortunate to go and see Lexi and Riley box this last term. Mya and her gymnastics teams placed 1st in Youth Southern qualifiers and will now compete in the British Championships. Please do share with the school any of your child's achievements. It is always a positive conversation and something that can be shared in assemblies.



Charity

Whilst discussing ways in which we could raise money for our Year group charity (Sophie's Legacy) with a group of pupils, the conversation quickly turned to the idea of Mr James having his hair disappear and having a clipper (buzz) cut. What started as a bit of a joke, quickly escalated and I was having emails from a parent asking if I was serious. With a few qualifiers, such as the money raised had to be at least equivalent to £1 per pupil in the year group, I said I would honour the arrangement.

In future, I will have to think more carefully about who I motivate! But, all credit to Albie who went out into the community and raised over £400 for the charity. He also wrote to his local Tesco and secured a food voucher donation as well. On a Friday afternoon, prior to the Easter break, I agreed to allow Mr Cousins to cut my hair in front of the pupils.



My role was very minor in the charity fundraising and all credit again to Albie and those who supported him in raising so much money. I felt it important that the pupils found out more about the charity and the great work they do. We contacted the charity directly and we were very fortunate to have Sophie's mum come into school. She gave a poignant assembly to the pupils and I hope it motivates the body as a whole for our next charity fundraiser.