



PORTCHESTER
Community School

Year 9 Newsletter
Summer 2024

Key Events

July 18th – Sports Day
July 23rd – Last Day of Term (school closes at 1.40 pm)
September 3rd – Years 7 and 11 only start AU1
September 4th – Years 8, 9 and 10 return to start AU1

Message from Mr James and Mrs Rose-White

As this academic year draws to a close, I am excited by the next step for our pupils. As they progress into Year 10, pupils will now begin their KS4 pathway with a renewed focus on those option subjects they have chosen. Further opportunities, such as work experience and planning for their Post-16 education, also begins. Pupils have enjoyed extracurricular activities, such as the trip to the Williams F1 team headquarters in Oxfordshire and, more recently, pupils have been working on an art project at the Pallant House gallery in Chichester, which will be exhibited this summer.

The year group have raised over £550 for our chosen charity, Sophie’s Legacy, via money collected at school for non-uniform days and via Albie arranging for me to have my hair cut, much to the amusement of all pupils! We have welcomed visitors into the school to support pupils’ progress and understanding of the wider world. A few highlights include the Tech Truck visiting to show pupils modern technology, and Portsmouth in the Community mentoring a group of pupils, which will continue into Year 10.



As well as pupils changing their classes next academic year with their option choices, there are changes to the make-up of the Year Team. Miss Vernon is sadly leaving Portchester for a new opportunity and her Tutor Group will now have Mrs Budd, Head of Drama, as their tutor. Miss Sharp is staying at Portchester, however, she is now going to be part of the Year 7 team. Mr Smith, Head of PE, will take over her current group.

Work Experience

In Year 10, pupils will have the opportunity to go on Work Experience. To help you and your child plan ahead, the proposed dates are Monday 31st March through to Friday 4th April. There is a cost attached at £28 per pupil, with those in receipt of Free School Meals receiving a 50% discount. The school will help pupils secure places, but we are aware that some pupils and their families know of friends and relatives where their child may wish to partake in their work experience. Please note, however, the fee is still be applicable due to DBS checks and insurance needed to cover your child.

Sports Day



Sports Day will be held on Thursday 18th July. Pupils are asked to come to school in their PE kit with the option of wearing a top that corresponds to their house colour. This is the first Sports Day for our newly revamped house system at school, and we hope all pupils will participate. There will be a mixture of traditional sports day activities as well as tug of war and fairground styled activities such as ring toss, crossbar challenge and tin can alley. Pupils will amass points for their house by participating in as many activities as they can.

Sporting Success



Congratulations to the boys’ basketball team who were crowned U14 Boys District Champions. I had the pleasure of watching the boys compete in a tightly fought contest. A great all-round team performance of defence and a POTM performance by Jon in scoring the most points in the game.

Punctuality and Attendance

I am pleased by the improvement made by pupils getting to school and class on time. The attendance this term has dropped from 92.8% in the first Autumn term to 89.9% in the last Summer term. This can be attributed to some illness, but also holidays taken in term time. Attendance is a key contributor to attainment, and I hope you will support your child in ensuring their attendance to be as good as possible as we enter KS4. Remember, even 90% attendance is still equivalent to 19 missed school days and 95 missed lessons.

Successful

Confident

Responsible