

19 September 2018

Dear Parent

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2018-19 school year at The Portsmouth Academy. Our new Year 7 have settled in extremely well and I continue to be proud of how well our school community get on with one another united by our school motto of 'Aspire and Achieve'.

Achievement in the 2018 GCSE exams was again excellent this year despite this being the first year in which all GCSEs are at a new, tougher standard, including more challenging content and questions. Nearly a quarter of all grades were at 7, 8 or 9, the equivalents of A* or A grades. Our exiting students fully deserve our praise and admiration for rising to the challenge this year's exams brought.

We are committed to ensuring that your child leaves our school with the best qualifications they can achieve, qualifications that will open doors in our thriving city, and beyond. Portsmouth is now the 9th fastest growing city in the country in terms of its economy; boom industries include construction; scientific and technical industries, and retail. We are currently reshaping our careers strategy to ensure that we are giving the best information, advice and guidance that we can to our young people, and inspiring them to shape their success and you will be invited to an event in the summer term to learn more about the opportunities that exist locally.

Our means of supporting our students to develop their character is through our ASPIRE Personal Development programme (Attendance, Safety, Preparation, Involvement, Respect, Excellence is a habit). As a parent, you can support us with this in the following ways;

- Ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time
- Supporting the school's behaviour tariff which is designed to keep students safe and making progress with their learning
- Checking that your child is fully prepared for the day with the right uniform; a pencil case; a reading book and their Truly Great Learning Companion planner (TGLC).
- Asking your child to log into Show My Homework and see what has been set for them and check they have completed it
- Encouraging your child to join in with schools clubs and trips (the clubs programme is on our website)

- Downloading the My Ed App (if not done so already) and keeping up to date with your child's attendance and habit points (are they making excellence a habit?); as well as checking the school calendar for key events that affect your child
- Ensuring that you attend all events - last year parents' evenings were not as well attended as I would like them to be and I would ask you to make a commitment to attend this year. The dates are below for your convenience.

Year 11 (1) 28th November 2018
Year 11 (2) 20th March 2019
Year 10 23rd January 2019
Year 9 13th March 2019
Year 8 6th February 2019
Year 7 8th May 2019

If you require any information about your child, or have any concerns about them, please contact their tutor in the first instance. Over the summer, we moved from Google to Office 365 and so our email addresses have changed. I am therefore providing your child's tutor's email address below in case you do need to make contact. Furthermore, there is space in their TGLC planner for you to correspond with your child's tutor if you have any concerns, particularly in relation to their homework.

I hope you will follow the students' events and achievements via our Facebook page 'TSAT-The Portsmouth Academy' over the coming year and I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child thrives in our unique 'thinking' school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Sheppard', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Natalie Sheppard
Principal