



July 2019

Dear Parents,

Change and Continuity

It is with great pleasure that I write my first termly letter to parents as Principal of The Portsmouth Academy. Many of you will be aware that I have been a teacher at the school for almost 19 years and that I have worked closely alongside Miss Sheppard as part of the Senior Leadership Team for the past six years. The staff team here at The Portsmouth Academy are exceptional and are determined to ensure that your child has a positive and rewarding experience throughout their time here.

Whilst Miss Sheppard will no longer be Principal, she will still be working alongside us as Director of Education for Thinking Schools Academy Trust schools here within the city and will therefore retain very strong links with The Portsmouth Academy. A significant part of her role will be to support our schools in working together to ensure the transition from infant to junior and then junior to secondary school is as seamless as possible. Work in this area has already started with our Heads of Department collaborating closely with subject leads in junior schools to create a curriculum which accelerates and builds appropriately on children's learning.

I am delighted to be leading such a vibrant and forward thinking school and there will be some exciting changes over the coming year however, I hope that I also provide continuity as I know the school so well, to ensure students and parents feel supported.

Student Leadership

We have elected a new Executive Student Leadership team from our current Year 10 cohort and I am keen to work alongside them to really gain a perspective of how students want their school to feel, look and sound. We are building on the House system this year which will be led by Miss Masters who I would like to congratulate on her promotion to Student Personal Development Lead. She will oversee a team of House Champions from the staff body and also the House Captains from the student body. We are very excited about this project and the ground work with our new Year 7 has certainly started throughout the transition period. Mrs Wilson, our new Head of Year 7 led an absolutely phenomenal two days of transition and students were encouraged to win points for their houses and to really get behind their team. This was supported by our current Year 7 and 8 Ambassadors who were an absolute credit to their house and the school!

Enrichment

At The Portsmouth Academy we believe as much, if not more, can be learned through enrichment opportunities and I am delighted that our children have had a huge range of experiences offered to them. Trips and visits have included local landmarks and events such as year 7 visiting the Mary Rose, our students performing at the wonderful D-Day celebrations and an array of STEM trips and visits organised by our dedicated Science Technician. We have had two international trips go out this year which I am so pleased to see being supported and students eager to attend. The RE and Art trip to Amsterdam for Year 10 was an absolute success and our first Year 8 trip to Belgium for the WW1

Battlefields Tour was extremely popular and Miss Hudson was incredibly proud of the attitudes our students showed while visiting such meaningful sites. It is also great to see preparations being underway for our annual 'Fun in the Sun' event which is led by the student leadership team and is a wonderful event, raising money for our charities voted for by the children.

Teaching and Learning

In 2019/20 TPA will be running a Digital Learning trial in some subject areas where children will use Apple iPad technology to really transform their learning. They will utilise a core set of applications to build creativity into how they record and present their work. This trial will enable us to assess the impact technology can have on our students' learning. We will be working alongside Portsmouth College who are a fully digital college.

Online systems

- Ensure that you have a log in for Parent Pay, **we will no longer have a school 'bank' and so cannot accept cash for school trips etc.**
- Download the My Ed app and log in to receive updates and contact from the school.
- The My Ed App contains the full school calendar so you can check the INSET days, parents' evenings and other key events via the App and add them to your own calendar.

Site Update

You will have no doubt seen the developments at the front of the school with the builders having broken ground and put the steel structure in place for our exciting new Creative and Humanities block which will open in September 2020. This in turn will lead to development of resourcing within the school building with improved facilities for Design and Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Science laboratories and our Student Support Services. Work on modernising the windows will also enter its next phase within the main building.

Student Safety

If your child comes to school on their bike, please discuss with them the importance of road safety over the summer. When I am on duty at the back gate I have seen instances where students have cycled out onto the road and not looked to see if there is oncoming traffic. This is very unsafe, particularly as I do not see many students wearing helmets. The following website has some handy tips for road safety. <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-you-can-do/children-and-families/cycling-kids/cycling-safety-children> I also urge you to ensure your child has a lock for their bike or scooter as we cannot take responsibility for items brought onto school site.

Can I also ask that you do not park on the yellow lines outside of the school. They are there to keep your children safe. Staff will reinforce this from September when out on duty.

Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the following staff a very fond farewell. They have made a great contribution during their time at TPA and we wish them all the very best for the future.

- Hazera Begum – Teaching Assistant
- Ian Brightman – Teaching Assistant
- Claire Owen – Art and Textiles Teacher
- Simal Patel – Maths Lead Practitioner
- Jago Staplehurst – Science Teacher
- Joy Sturgess – Cleaning Supervisor
- David Thorn – Maths Teacher

I am delighted to be able to welcome new staff to the school from September – it has been a busy time for recruitment with our expansion. The following teaching staff are joining TPA;

| Name | Position / Subject area |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mr Muhammad Ali | Trainee Science Teacher |
| Mr Chris Andrews | Lead Practitioner for Maths |
| Mr Nick Blake | Music Teacher |
| Mr Junior Davies | Head of Year/ Maths & PE Teacher |
| Miss Sarah Gomez | PE Teacher |
| Mr Moudood Hassan | Science Teacher |
| Miss Rebecca Honour | Art Teacher |
| Miss Adelaide Lewandowski | French and Spanish Teacher |
| Miss Hellen Piper | Head of Year 10 & 11 / English Teacher |
| Miss Dominique Quinn | Teacher in Charge of Food & Nutrition |
| Mr Chris Smith | Curriculum Lead for Design & Technology |
| Mr Cliff Young | Curriculum Lead for Drama |

We are also increasing our capacity with our support team from September with the following staff joining us in the following roles:

| Name | Position |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ms Rebecca Andrews | Apprentice Receptionist/Admin Assistant |
| Mrs Karen Davies | Teaching Assistant |
| Mr Mark Denman | Deputy Head of Year |
| Ms Isabelle Hamlett | Teaching Assistant |
| Ms Mafalda Silva | Lunchtime Supervisor |
| Ms Claire Simpson | Cover Supervisor |
| Currently in progress | 2x Apprentice Teaching Assistants |

[Back to School](#)

School starts promptly at 8:40am on Thursday 5th September for our students. Please ensure they are fully equipped and dressed in full school uniform so that we can start the school year as we mean to go on. Information regarding uniform and equipment is on our website.

Have a wonderful summer!



Mrs Rachel Grey
Principal