



Important Update – Friday 22nd May.

Dear parent / carer,

I am writing to you to provide a brief update regarding how we are welcoming some Year groups back to school based learning after half term **and what this means for your child who is not in the returning year groups.**

Summary:

- We will be opening our school for Year 10 from 8th June.
- The government will review whether or not other Year groups may be able to safely return to school in July. However, this will be determined by the national rate of infection and details have not yet been confirmed.

Distance Learning

All students not returning to school must stay at home and continue to engage with their distance learning.

Due to the need to use staff to provide school based learning for some Year groups there will be some changes in how we are able to support students with their distance learning. This should only affect a very small number of live learning.

For Year 11, we will be continuing to support them through Term 6 by pastoral support and our dedicated web page around transition to college.

I have been pleased to see the amount of positive engagement we have had from our students and this experience has allowed us to develop our digital learning as a school. Each day our teachers are telling me about something new or exciting their classes are doing.

Child care provision for children of Key Workers:

For the children of Key Workers requiring childcare this will continue to be provided here at The Portsmouth Academy, from 1st June. Parents should continue to provide **24 hours' notice** of their intention to use this provision. This can be accessed through the website. We will be reviewing the number of places we are able to safely offer and let you know if there are any changes.

How child care provision will work in our schools:

- Students should arrive at school at 8:40am at the Manor Road entrance
- Students will be provided with a coloured wristband to indicate their inclusion in this group. They must wear it at all times when in school so that we can keep different groups of students separated to maintain social distancing arrangements.
- Students will be expected to engage with the distance learning set for their year group.

- We have made the following arrangements for lunch: a dedicated time slot, ability to purchase food from the canteen if not accessing FSM, if your child is FSM then we will continue to offer a free hot lunch.
- Child care will close at 3pm and students will leave through the Manor Road gate.

Free School Meals:

If your child is entitled to receive free school meals vouchers you will continue to receive the voucher scheme until further notice.

Ways to remotely engage with your school

Whilst your child is remote learning, we would encourage them to actively participate in digital activities to engage with their class. This is a great way to build their online skills, meet with friends and speak to teachers.

- Live learning for each subject
- Tutor drop ins
- HOY drop ins
- Various social media outlets

Looking after your Well-being at home

This week is Mental Health Awareness week, and now more than ever it is important to take time to look after yourself and you families. We are all experiencing disrupted routine and restricted freedoms so having your children learning from home is bound to add extra pressure. We have a toolkit of well-being resources and activities for all ages to try together:

<https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/about/coronavirus/health-safety-wellbeing/>

Exams & Results

This pandemic has had a significant impact on many factors of the education system including exams. As you will be aware students, who were due to sit GCSEs have had their exams cancelled.

These moments are a big step in a child's school journey and across Term 6 we will be looking at different ways to celebrate all our students and their hard work, regardless if they return to school or not.

We will provide details later in Term 6 about how students will receive their GCSE results this August.

What does School look like for the students that are returning?

As you may have seen in my previous updates, we have put plans in place to welcome back Year 10 to TPA.

In order to do this safely we have introduced new measures such as; Family Bubbles, Bespoke Timetables and strict rules on isolation. Year 10 parents will be written to again the week after half term.

If you would like to see the details of what this means please check out the Coronavirus information page, specifically the *School Status* page: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

Where to look for further information

We have launched a dedicated website for information on our plans to return students safely to school.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is actively responding to ongoing developments with the Coronavirus outbreak and we will continue to update this page as the situation develops, adding in more information for your child's year group as we have it.

FAQs and information: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

If you have any questions regarding provision for your child in Term 6 please contact Mrs Holden:
l.holden@tsatrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Grey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs R Grey
Principal