



1st January 2021

School re-opening in January 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and that work has continued over the Christmas holiday period. I would like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many working over the holidays.

INFORMATION RELATING TO SCHOOL RE-OPENING IN JANUARY 2021

The Government has now announced that secondary schools will re-open on a phased basis, this means at The Portsmouth Academy:

If your child is classed as vulnerable or if you or your partner is a critical worker, then your child will return to school from Tuesday 5th January. They will receive face-to-face teaching in school when they return.

- Please note that The Portsmouth Academy is running an inset day and the first day of term for these students will be **Tuesday 5th January**
- Students in Year 11 will return to school based learning on **Monday 11th January**. Your child is expected to engage fully with their **remote learning between 5th - 8th January** so that they keep up with their education – including morning registration. Staff will be delivering revision lessons on line to prepare students for their mock exams, which will go ahead as planned from 11th January.
- If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 or 10 then they will return to school on **Monday 18th January**. Your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning during **the weeks of both 4th and 11th January** so that they keep up with their education. **During the week beginning 4th January, online provision will begin on Wednesday 6th January**. This is to ensure that the school has had adequate time to prepare and train relevant staff in the testing systems and processes.
- All children accessing on-site provision **must** wear full school uniform.

As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our school continues to be as safe as for pupils and staff, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance.

We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, keeping you informed every step of the way, while following Government rules and advice.

IMPORTANT

Following the Christmas break, if your child or anyone in your household has developed symptoms **on or after Wednesday 23rd December do not return to school on Tuesday 5th January**. Please book a test and seek advice from the nhs.uk website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

In this instance please contact the school office from Monday 4th January, and we will advise you on the self-isolation measures.

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION

I appreciate that for many parents, the closure of your school will cause further disruption. We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education of childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If you wish to use this provision please complete the form at the following web page by 11:00 on Monday 4th January.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvDeipcZ-i35FnXnFLpag28hUOUpPUFNMSUFGVUtRSDfTRkVIUU9SMzZTSC4u

You must give the school 24 hours notice that you need to use this provision so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving 24 hours' notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is being introduced within secondary schools. We will be working week commencing 4th January on how we will implement testing within our school and will I will write to you again to keep you updated with further information.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. If you have any questions, please email info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy New Year. Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Grey
Principal

The Portsmouth Academy

Am I a 'critical worker' to the COVID-19 response?

[Click here for current list](#)

YES

NO

Are both parents/carers
'critical workers' to the
COVID-19 response?

Keep your child at
home as per the
school's re-opening
system. They will be
able to access
learning from home.

YES

NO

Are you able to keep your child
safe at home?
i.e. That at least one parent/carer
is working from home

Please keep your child
at home as per the
school's re-opening
system. They will be
able to access learning
from home.

YES

NO

THE SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

School will need to establish:

- Proof of critical worker status (pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID etc.)
- Parent/Carer permission via completion of the enrolment form