



The  
Portsmouth Academy

**Week 4B**

w/c 27 Sep 2021



# Parent Bulletin

## Hot Chocolate with the Head – Mrs Grey, Principal



I had another lovely meeting with some of our shining stars across the school last Friday. They gave both myself and our Head Girl some great feedback about the school and how they are getting on in their lessons, and all the other areas of school life.

Year 7 are absolutely loving working digitally and tell me that their teachers are doing a super job of planning lessons! Year 8 told me that they much prefer the timetable having five one hour lessons a day, rather than three 100 minute lessons, they all reported that they prefer the pace and the variety of their day that this brings. Year 10 report that their lessons are settled and that they feel that student attitudes to learning has improved considerably; this is great to hear as the school has worked hard with individuals who struggled to get back into a routine after the lockdown. Year 11 told me that they were nervous about their mocks but at the same time feel that they have the tools to support them to revise and that they had plenty of resources available to them.

One area which all students agreed should be an area of focus was around the use of poor language from some students. We are looking at this as part of our journey towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Our Year 11s are also starting to think about their next steps and college applications and whilst they are a little anxious about this, they know they will gain the support they need through our Careers education programme and personalised interviews.

I have been exceptionally proud of the student body over the past few weeks. This week we had some very important visits; PCC came in to look at our Student Engagement Department and were delighted with the support this team is able to offer some of our most vulnerable students. We also had a visit from Stephen Morgan MP, Peter Kyle MP, the Head of Microsoft Education UK and the Times Educational Supplement this week to look at our work with the city on digital learning. Our students were incredibly articulate about how our digital systems are supporting their learning and all our visitors have subsequently emailed me to let me know how blown away they were by both the school staff and the students.

## Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

There have been several communications that have been sent out this week and I would ask that you please ensure that you have read them. As ever, if you have any questions that are unanswered in the weekly bulletin/individual letters, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Regards,  
Lee Dolphin  
Senior Vice Principal

## Important Dates

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October

- Year 11 Mock Exams

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Early Dismissal

- Year 9/10/11 dismissed at 1:20pm
- Year 7/8 dismissed at 2:00 pm

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

- Open Evening 4:30pm to 6:30pm

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Period 2 start to lessons

- Year 9/10/11 start at 10:00am
- Year 7/8 start at 10:20am

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

- Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening

## At-Home Lateral Flow Testing

We would like to remind parents that throughout September, that it is advised that all students are to continue with the at-home lateral flow testing.

Year Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekly Test	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekly Test
11	Evening of Friday 24 September	Evening of Tuesday 28 September
10	Evening of Saturday 25 September	Evening of Wednesday 29 September
9	Evening of Sunday 26 September	Evening of Thursday 30 September
8	Evening of Monday 27 September	Evening of Friday 1 October
7	Evening of Tuesday 28 September	Evening of Saturday 2 October

If your child's test result is positive, we ask you to inform us by either emailing [absence@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](mailto:absence@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk) or completing the digital form at <https://bit.ly/3eL9VHM>

## 21:21 Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Learner – Mrs Gough, Associate Leader

The students here at The Portsmouth Academy (Year 7) are working hard to ensure that they have the 'Future Ready Skills' that they need for their future. The 21 key skills they are working on include:

Basic skills	Logging in and out (including passwords)	Creating and organising files	Uploading and downloading
Word processing	Typing and use of keyboard	Using Microsoft Word	Using Immersive Reader and other supportive products
Using the internet	Rules and safe use of the internet	Searching for information effectively	Using web based apps
Presenting and collaboration	Appropriate language and etiquette when collaborating/ presenting	Using collaborative software e.g. OneNote and Whiteboard	Using presentation software e.g. SWAY
email and communication	Appropriate etiquette of communicating on line	Using Microsoft outlook	Using teams chat function
Software	Using Microsoft Teams	Using Microsoft PowerPoint	Using Microsoft Excel
Hardware and operating systems	Effective use of Windows 10	Transporting the Device - reducing the risk of damage and theft	Attaching and removing other devices

One important skill many students struggle with is typing and using a keyboard effectively. Some are more used to touch screens and are slower at using a conventional keyboard. Here is a link to a typing tutor website, free and no sign-up required. It has a typing test, lessons they can work through and 'games' to develop the typing speed and accuracy that is needed. Practice makes perfect 😊

[TypingTest.com - Complete a Typing Test in 60 Seconds!](https://www.typingtest.com)



TypingTest.com - Test Your Typing Speed in 60 seconds  
Welcome to the #1 Typing Speed Test! Check your true typing speed, accuracy and skill level in just 60 seconds.

[www.typingtest.com](http://www.typingtest.com)

## Heads of Year

### Year 7 – Miss Piper

Thank you so much for your continued support with Year 7 and their transition to secondary school. They are settling in really well and making us all very proud already. They were the highest year group for habit points last week and 7SCO and 7GRZ won doughnuts in the attendance challenge. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Classcharts app and to download it to follow your child's progress in school. Please email me if you need your unique log in details and I can send them home with your child.

Date for your diary: 12<sup>th</sup> October is 'Meet the Tutor' Evening. More details will come out shortly.

### Year 8 – Mr Lock

Another successful week from Team #2025. I am incredibly proud of the 48 students who have already achieved their 25+ habit point postcard, these students will be celebrated in assembly!

This week's assembly theme will be how to be a valuable member of the community. This will lead on from last week's PSHE theme of teamwork and leadership. The students worked in small groups to build mini paper towers with limited equipment. The communication and resourcefulness from all groups was particularly pleasing.

Don't forget to celebrate reading at home through the Accelerated Reader programme.

***"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body"***

***(Sir Richard Steele)***

### Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

I am really pleased with the enthusiasm the year group are continuing to show this term. I have already sent a high number of postcards home for students who have earned more than 25 habit points, and I'm confident many will be earning their star badges before long!

Please could you continue to check your child leaves for school in the correct uniform in the morning. Overall, uniform looks great – thanks for your support with this.

In assembly this week, Mr. Hatherley talked about respect and what that means around our school. Could you please continue this conversation with your child at home?

Many thanks,  
Mr. Smith

**PSHE Theme:** Healthy Living

## Year 10 – Mr Parnell

I am pleased to report that the year group are continuing with their positive start to Year 10 and their formal start to GCSE subjects. The atmosphere in the options subjects has been particularly pleasing to witness.

We will be focusing on careers and future options in assemblies and PSHE lessons for the first half-term. Students will be planning their 'dream job', whilst considering all options. They will be given the opportunity to research colleges and courses available to them as they look to their life after TPA. Please do take the time to discuss this with them at home.

Regards,  
Mr Parnell and Mr Snookes

**PSHE Theme:** Planning for the future

## Year 11 – Miss Hart

Students are continuing to work hard for their mock exams next week. Please can you support the process by making sure they get sufficient rest, breakfast on the days of their mocks, a quiet space at home for them to work and are fully equipped with pens for their exams. If you require any support or would like further information on how you can support with their mock exams, please don't hesitate to contact me: [s.hart@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:s.hart@tsatrust.org.uk)

## Literacy Home Learning – Miss Fraser, Associate Leader

### Year 7 & 8

The English department at TPA believe that being able to read is the most important skill a child needs. Without strong reading skills, a child's life chances and opportunities for success are greatly decreased. We do everything we can to ensure that your child can read at age related expectations by the time they reach KS4.

Help us support your child by encouraging them to engage with the reading and literacy home learning programme we offer. Below are the details of the English home learning schedule that your child will be expected to follow.

Year	Week A	Week B	Access links
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 minutes of Lexia</li><li>30 minutes of personal reading (fiction) and completion of AR quizzes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 minutes of Lexia</li><li>30 minutes of Reading Progress</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="http://www.lexiapowerup.co.uk">www.lexiapowerup.co.uk</a></li><li><a href="https://ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1895606/">https://ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1895606/</a></li><li>Reading Progress is available via Assignments on Microsoft Teams</li></ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 minutes of personal reading (fiction) and completion of AR quizzes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 minutes of Reading Progress</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="http://www.lexiapowerup.co.uk">www.lexiapowerup.co.uk</a></li><li><a href="https://ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1895606/">https://ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1895606/</a></li><li>Reading Progress is available via Assignments on Microsoft Teams</li></ul>

Please note, *The Link* is open daily from 3-4pm for homework support. There are loan devices available and a team of Student Engagement Workers to support your child should they need it. If you would like more information about purchasing a device for your child please see: <https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/one-one-devices/>

If your child has forgotten their log in details for any of these programmes please ask them to speak directly to their class teacher. Or, you can email Miss Fraser (Associate Lead for English and Literacy) directly at [c.fraser@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:c.fraser@tsatrust.org.uk)



*What is Lexia Power Up Literacy?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJ7PTstf1R8>



*What is Accelerated Reader?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDSOfKeTfCk>



*What is Reading Progress?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9q0-rzT8IE>

## Maths Clubs

# Xtra Maths

**What:** Complete homework, revise topics you do not understand, do Extra-Maths!

**Why:** To get better at Maths. Every time you attend you will receive a raffle ticket into a draw for cinema tickets - you've got to be in it to win it!

**Where and when:** Room 211, Tuesday 3:10-4:10

## Attendance – Mrs Blake and Miss Osborne

### Top Tutor Attendance Stats!

Best Tutor Group	Percentage
7KEL	100
8GAM	95.8
9HON	88.5
10SMC	95.7
11YOU	87.5

A massive well done to **7KEL** hitting the top spot with 100% attendance this week! Each member of the tutor group will receive their reward on Monday morning in assembly. #TPAattendancesuperstars



**Attendance Attack** is making a comeback!! All pupils who attend on time for the whole day will receive a habit point! Next week, Attendance Attack is taking place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October! Let's keep the attendance celebrations flowing! #missschoolmissout #TPAattendanceattack

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents and Carers Need to Know about ...

# SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

On any social media platform, you'll often come across links to genuine-looking websites. They might include an exclusive offer for one of your favourite shops or invite you to complete a quiz in return for a particular reward. In some cases, clicking on these links takes you to a fake website where you are asked to provide your personal details. The whole enterprise is a ploy to capture sensitive details, such as your email address and password, which the scammers then exploit at your expense.

### Clickjacking for fake rewards

Here, the attacker tries to lure you into clicking a link by offering something in return, such as a free gift for completing a survey. However, when the link is clicked, it collects the details of whoever fills out the survey. This might include full names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Scammers could use these to hack into your other accounts or simply sell your data to other criminals.

### Malicious app downloads

Some cybercriminals design software that appears genuine or helpful (and is normally free) but has been created to steal your personal information. There may be a pop-up ad encouraging you to download and install the app. Once the app is downloaded, the attacker can see any personal credentials you enter, and could then use this information for their own gain.

### 'Payment first' scams

Prevalent on sites such as Depop, these scams have spread to Facebook since it added the Marketplace feature. A user lists an item for sale and requests payment up front. Most online stores work this way, but the crucial difference is that scammers ask for payment via PayPal friends and family – not goods and services. This means you can't dispute the payment; the scammer keeps your money, and you never receive the item.

### Threats disguised as quizzes

Most quizzes on social media seem harmless, but many come with hidden threats. When you submit your answers, you're also agreeing to terms and conditions which – in some cases – allow the quiz developer to sell your details to third parties. This puts you at greater risk of phishing attacks and spam advertising emails. It might also give the app permission to use information from your profile.

### Untrustworthy URLs

It's common on social media for URLs in posts to be shortened (to meet Twitter's character count, for instance). This may seem harmless, but it opens an avenue of attack for scammers who may be disguising a malicious link as legitimate. These links can install malware on the victim's device, which could lead to passwords being stolen or even be the precursor to ransomware attacks.

### Angler phishing scams

Using a fake corporate social media account, the scammer pretends to be from customer services. When someone complains about customer service on social media, the fake account messages them asking for their name, phone number and email. If the user provides this info, they are directed to a fake website where they enter their login details. The attacker can then steal their credentials or infect their device with malware.

## Advice For Parents & Carers

### Set strong passwords

Always ensure that your passwords are not easily guessable. Try to use a mix of letters, numbers and special characters so that criminals can't forcefully get control. You should also change your passwords every so often to provide further protection against your accounts being taken over. If you have any concerns about your account's privacy, change the password.

### Review your privacy settings

Regularly review your privacy settings on social media. You can restrict which parts of your profile can be seen and by who. We recommend making your personal information only visible to friends, which will help to limit the information a scammer could find out about you from social media. It's also safest to only accept friend or follow requests from people that you actually know.

### Protect your personal information

Never enter personal information on unfamiliar websites. If you were redirected to a site from a social media post or an email link, putting in your personal details could give key information away to a scammer. Fraudsters may pose as someone you know to try and get your address or bank details (or your family's). If this happens, block the user and tell your family, so the scammer can't try to deceive anyone else.

### Avoid opening suspicious emails

When you get an email, always check the sender's address before opening it. If it's an unexpected email and the sender is a stranger, mark it as junk (in case they try again in future) and simply delete it. They could be a scammer who's simply seen your email address on your social media profile. Being aware of phishing attacks is the primary method of defence against scam emails like this.

### Choose trusted download sources

Don't download apps or files from unknown sites – instead, use verified and trustworthy sources (such as Google Play or the App Store for download to mobile devices). You can recognise safe sources by their trust seals. The browser address bar on a secure site starts "https" instead of "http". A shield or lock symbol in the address bar also indicates that a site is secure.

### Install anti-virus software

Another key tip is to ensure that you have robust and reliable virus protection installed on any of your devices that support it. Anti-virus programmes will help to insulate you against cyber-attacks by blocking any malicious downloads or detecting any recently downloaded malware and removing it. Update your virus protection software regularly and carry out frequent scans of your device.

### Meet Our Expert

Formed in 2016, KryptoKloud provides cyber security and resilience solutions to its customers. With offices in the UK, the company offers managed service operational packages including cyber security monitoring and testing, risk audit, threat intelligence and incident response.

