



The
Portsmouth Academy

Week 7A

w/c 18 Oct 2021



Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

We have had a massive drive on improving uniform standards at the academy this week and it has been wonderful to see the students looking so smart and representing the school with pride. Thank you for your continued support with maintaining these standards as per the home-school agreement and for ensuring that your child is dressed appropriately each day for school.

As a school, we use a system called 'Class Charts' to issue rewards and sanctions and there is a really easy to use student-friendly and parent-friendly app which allows you and your child to see their habit points and check their timetable in order to remain organised and have awareness of conduct at school. We will be expanding the functionality of the app over time and so if you have not yet downloaded it, please do so (search for 'Class Charts' on your phone's app shop) and you can log in. You will need a personalised code to access your child's information, which their tutor can provide for you with ease.

This week we have a staff INSET day on Friday which means that your child's last day of term is on Thursday 21st October. For parents of Year 11, you will have received a letter detailing the arrangements for mock exams upon our return in November and the expectation for this year group around revision completion over the half term period. Please check the website if you have not read this letter.

Regards,
Mr L Dolphin

Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher – Mr Hatherley, Vice Principal

Last Friday, I met with students for Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher. It was a great way to start a Friday morning with lots of positive feedback from the students.

The students spoke about how they are finding school at the moment and how they have adapted as a community.

They gave positive responses such as:

- They love the extra-curricular activities and the sports fixtures
- They enjoy using the MUGA at lunch time to play football.

- Behaviour in lessons is good and the Choice, Chance and Consequence system is clear and students know and understand this system.
- Students like the Class Accolades and think it's nice to share their work with the Senior Leadership Team and their Heads of Year when they attend the accolades.
- Students love the Recognition Board in classes and being rewarded in lesson. It makes them feel good about themselves.

Some things the students felt could be improved were:

- Uniform needs to be better.
- The corridors are busy and some students are using the wrong stairs to come down.
- Students would like more opportunities to go on school trips.

It was lovely to see how engaged all the students are and to celebrate their achievements so far this year.

Key Stage 3 - Miss French, Assistant Principal for KS3

Year 7 GL assessments final catch up week (18-21st Oct 2021)

Our Year 7s will be completing the PASS element of the GL assessments on Monday, followed by some catch up sessions for the different progress tests and CAT4 tests. If your child has missed any of the assessments, there will be an opportunity to complete them in the final week before half term.

Monday 18th October 2021 – all of our year 7s will complete a 20min PASS assessment with their tutors during PSHE in period 1. The PASS test looks at student wellbeing focusing on three areas – how a pupil feels about themselves, their engagement with the curriculum, and their feelings about school.

Thursday 21st October 2021 – Catch up session for GL CAT4 tests. If your child was absent during the first round of testing, they will be invited to attend a session after lunch on Thursday to complete their CAT4 test.

Meet the Tutor Evening

It was lovely to meet so many of you on Tuesday at Meet the Tutor evening, if you were unable to attend remember you can keep an eye on their progress at school through the Class Charts app (available on Apple and Google Play stores). Please contact your child's tutor for the access details if you have not already done so.



Important Dates

Wednesday 20th October: Year 11 Intervention Evening

Friday 22nd October: INSET Day – School closed to students

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October: Half Term

At-Home Lateral Flow Testing

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

Additional Lateral Flow Tests will be distributed to students next week.

Year Group	1 st Weekly Test	2 nd Weekly Test
11	Evening of Friday 15th October	Evening of Tuesday 19th October
10	Evening of Saturday 16th October	Evening of Wednesday 20th October
9	Evening of Sunday 17th October	Evening of Thursday 21st October
8	Evening of Monday 18th October	Evening of Friday 22nd October
7	Evening of Tuesday 19th October	Evening of Saturday 23rd October

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

Heads of Year

Year 7 – Miss Piper

It was great to see so many of you at our Meet the tutor event on Tuesday night. The tutors really valued this time to get to know you and I hope you found the event useful.

Year 7 are averaging 190 positive habit points per tutor group per week at the moment; this is excellent news. Well done to 7CUT, 7FLE and 7KEL who are leading the way! I have also awarded 21 students with their first bronze star in assembly this week for personally accruing over 50 habits points alone. This is a fantastic milestone this early on in the term. Well done. You can track habit points yourself using the Class Charts app. If you need your log in details for this please contact either myself or Mrs Bothma-Lubbe.

Year 7 will complete their final assessment on Monday which will help us determine their learning style. They will complete this test in class on their device. If you have not done so already can I urge you to provide your child with a set of headphones as part of their school kit. These are incredibly useful for them in all lessons where they can use sound to support their learning.

Regards,
Miss Piper & Mrs Bothma-Lubbe

PSHE Theme: We will continue next week on the theme of relationships and friendships in school by discussing why friendship is important to our well-being and how we can make the right choices. We will also begin to think about how we can support anti-bullying week which is in November.

Year 8 – Mr Lock

Year 8 are averaging 151 positive habit points per tutor group per week at the moment; this is excellent news. Well done to 8GAM, 8JAR and 8SMA who are leading the way! I will be awarding 31 students with their bronze star in assembly this week for personally accruing over 50 habit points. This is a fantastic milestone so early on in the term, well done! You can track habit points yourself using the Class Charts App. If you need your log in details please contact your child's tutor.

Please remember that for most queries you should contact your child's tutor first before contacting the Head of Year/Deputy Head of Year. Of course, if the matter is more serious both myself and Miss Byrne will be available.

Kind regards,
Mr Lock & Miss Byrne

PSHE Theme: We will continue next week on the theme of relationships and friendships in school by discussing why friendship is important to our well-being and how we can make the right choices. We will also begin to think about how we can support anti-bullying week which is in November.

Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

Our behaviour reset this week has worked really well to realign the behaviour and expectations of our year group, and I'd like to thank you for your support with that. Uniform across the year group looks fantastic, so please do continue to encourage your child to follow the uniform policy when they arrive at school.

A massive well done to 9CRO, who have a staggering 962 positive habit points so far this year. They are closely followed by 9HAS, with 937. I look forward to celebrating with the first tutor group to reach 1000!

We are seeing a gradual increase in the number of parents who have downloaded the Class Charts app, which will massively help with your communication with school. If you have not yet done so, please do download the app. If you need assistance with this, please contact your child's tutor.

The theme of our assembly this week was 'society', and what makes a society work well. Please do continue this discussion at home.

Many thanks,
Mr. Smith

PSHE Theme: Mental Health

Year 10 – Mr Parnell

Year 10 are averaging 252 positive habit points per tutor group per week at the moment; this is excellent news. Well done to 10BLA, 10MAS and 10SMC who are leading the way!

We are also gradually increasing the number of parents who have downloaded the Class Charts app and this is certainly helping our line of effective communication between home and school. Please can you do this if you haven't as yet.

I am delighted with the amount of Year 10 students who have signed up to extra-curricular activities; it is important for their all-round development at TPA.

I am also pleased to share with you that Portsmouth College presented to our students during this week's assembly – please discuss the content of this with your child.

Regards,
Mr Parnell and Mr Snookes

PSHE Theme: Black History Month

Year 11 – Miss Hart

This week, Year 11 were informed that their postponed mock examinations will recommence after half term. The original timetable will be followed and students who missed any exams when the mocks originally began will have the opportunity to take these exams.

The Year 11s are continuing to work hard and are doing exceptionally well in lessons. We awarded our first bronze star for 50 habit points this week and I have written a large number of Head of Year postcards for students with 25 habit points or more – these have been sent out and should start to arrive in the post. If you are curious as to how many habit points your child has, and what for. Please contact your child's tutor who can give you the access code to access the Class Charts app. This app will give you live updates on your child's behaviour throughout the day.

I am super proud of the Year 11 football team. They deserve a massive congratulations on the two wins that they have had in the last week.

Have a great week.

Miss Hart

PSHE Theme: College and apprenticeship applications

Last Musician Standing Competition – Miss Francis, Curriculum Lead for Music



'Last Musician Standing,' is a competition showing some of the best musical talent from The Portsmouth Academy.

On the 6th and 7th of October auditions were held in front of a panel of staff and each act performed to try and secure their place in the live final. Audition stages were extremely good and the talent was very high across all year groups. Over 60 acts originally signed up to audition so it was a tough decision, but after much deliberation the final ten acts were chosen along with four potential 'wildcards.'

The four wildcard audition performances were then shown in tutor time and staff and pupils voted to determine which act they thought should be entered into the live final as the 'wildcard.' All students / teachers voted and one act S. O. (7CUT) was put forward into the live show making eleven final acts:

D N (9HON), H P (9HON), A H (9PEA) & D F R (9SCA)	L C (10WIL)
A H (9PEA)	R G (11FRN)
H W (10TRA), R N (10DOW), T G (10SND)	R C (11YOU)
MK (10SMC)	L B (11 FRS)
M G (10SMC)	L G (11 BEG)
S O (7CUT)	

Each act will have an opportunity to perform in the live final on Thursday 18th November in front of a panel of professional judges. They will be in with a chance to win:

1st Place - £100 worth of music vouchers from GAK.co.uk and a professional recording session at Southsea Sound studios.

2nd Place - £50 worth of music vouchers from GAK.co.uk.

3rd Place - £25 worth of music vouchers from GAK.co.uk.

'Up and Coming' award – A terms worth of free lessons on their chosen instrument at The Portsmouth Academy.

+ More prizes to be announced

Parents, friends and students are invited to come along to watch the live event on Thursday 18th November, tickets are free, but you must request tickets by completing the forms quiz below. Tickets will be sent out nearer the event.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Q6yWLnvnvs>

Let the battle commence...

MyEd App

We are experiencing an issue with the MyEd app where if parents close the app shortly after sending the message but before it arrives in the school's inbox (it can take 10-15 seconds for the message to arrive) the message will not be sent until the parent opens the app again. We are currently working on resolving this.

In the meanwhile, we suggest that parents do not close the app straight after sending the message, and to check the indicator under the message and make sure that it turned to green before they close the app (you might need to navigate away from the inbox and back again for it to show green).

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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about



TINDER



WHAT IS TINDER?

Tinder is a free online mobile dating app regularly used by more than 60 million people worldwide. Users sign up and are matched with other people based on various preferences, such as location, age and shared interests. The user can swipe right to show interest in a profile (and connect as a match) or swipe left to ignore (decline) the match. If two users both like each other's profile and become a match, they are then able to communicate with each other directly. Tinder is officially for over 18s only – but until very recently, the age verification was easy to bypass and therefore Tinder is likely to have a proportion of users who are under 18.

AGE RATING
18+

USING THE APP ...

FAKE PROFILES

Tinder doesn't require much information for a user to create a profile, which means that there's no verification of people's details. Therefore, you may have very limited information about who you are actually speaking to. This can include not knowing the real age or identity of a person that you're matched with – making it far easier to be taken in by fake profiles.

PRESSURE TO MEET

While people can find love through the app, Tinder has become synonymous with casual or short-term relationships. It allows for quick conversations which can put pressure on matches to meet up as soon as possible. This may put young users at risk of meeting individuals they don't know much about or who are only looking for sexual encounters.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Tinder let users share some of their personal details – such as name and age – and link their Tinder account to Facebook. The app allows searches of a specific location, which could lead to a user discovering a young person's exact location. It's also possible that photos uploaded to Tinder could be saved and used in other ways without consent or notification.



UNDERAGE USE

Before raising the age limit to 18 in 2016, Tinder itself admitted a proportion of its users were in the 13–17 bracket. Evidence suggests the app remains popular with teens: Tinder has recently improved its age verification, but many under 18s had already joined using a false date of birth.

UNDER 18

EMOTIONAL HARM

The idea of instant feedback and satisfaction can put young people at increased risk of emotional harm. They may feel pressure to look or act a certain way and with begin to measure their self-worth based on how many matches they receive. This can have a negative long-term influence on young people's mood, self-esteem and confidence. It also strongly implies that compliance is a way to fit in and be liked.

Advice for Parents & Carers

COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Be candid with teens about the possibilities of online dating – but also discuss the potential dangers. An honest chat can help them feel more comfortable about coming to you with any future worries or concerns. This can reduce any stress they are feeling and increase their sense of security.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Tinder gives users the option to "unmatch" with someone they have previously connected with, as well as to report any inappropriate interactions they experience. If an account appears to be suspicious, then it's important teens are aware that they can unmatch with a user, block them and report them to the app itself. They can also report any inappropriate or offensive messages.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Teenagers should seriously consider what they include on a Tinder profile. They should never disclose sensitive details – and be cautious about sharing their phone number, date of birth, email address and location. Using different profile pictures on their various social media accounts makes it tougher for someone to track them down.

MONITOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH

With cyber bullying presenting a significant risk, it's important that young people stay aware of their own emotional state. How do they feel before and after they use Tinder? Help them to identify when it might be time to take a break from the app and consider ways they can improve their mood. They should also know who they can speak about how they are feeling or any negative experiences they may have online.

BUILD IN SAFEGUARDS

It's vitally important that young people take precautions if they want to meet up with someone from Tinder. This should include meeting in an extremely public place and telling a friend or family member where they are going in advance. It may be useful to decide on a code word that a young person can include in a text or call to their friend or family member, to signal that they feel unsafe on the date.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Rina Bojaj is a Counselling Psychologist who has worked in mental health since 2004 (for the NHS, statutory organisations, in the corporate world and the voluntary sector). Her areas of specialism include dating and relationships counselling, and she has diverse experience in helping people from a range of backgrounds.



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SOURCES: <https://tinder.com> | <https://apps.apple.com/uk/app/tinder-dating-now-friends/id547792004>
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/feb/24/tinder-dating-app-social-networks>