



The  
Portsmouth Academy

**Week 13A**

w/c 6 Dec 2021



# Parent Newsletter

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



I was joined in this week's Hot Chocolate by our Head Girl and another group of wonderful ambassadors for The Portsmouth Academy.

I asked them for feedback on a number of areas such as how they are using knowledge banks to help them remember more, how homework is supporting them and what additional support they feel they need to be successful in their academic learning. The children talked about the subjects where they are working with knowledge banks and how they found these to be a really useful tool to support their memory and also their in class learning. We are working hard at TPA to embed this practice across all subjects where it is appropriate. In terms of homework all students felt that it was being set. In year 7 and 8, the children felt that Reading Progress was making a difference and that when Microsoft release the feedback section for them it will be even better. Some children said that homework setting wasn't always as balanced as it could be with sometimes having a lot set on one week and then less the other. We are reviewing each department's homework strategy over the next two weeks for a relaunch in January. In terms of the children I spoke to, they did feel that they had everything they needed at home to be successful. Y10 and 11 said that they would like more period 6 classes so that they can work in smaller more targeted groups. This is again, due for a launch in January.

As always, my morning spent talking with the children was the highlight of my week!

## Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

As the days get colder and darker, and we approach the Christmas break, it is normal for tiredness to set in and the potential is there for standards to start to drop. Please can I encourage you to ensure that your child maintains kindness and Christmas cheer at a time when it can be easy to allow fatigue and emotions to take over. Kindness to all will allow everyone to reach the Christmas break happy and ready to enjoy a well deserved rest.

Upkeep of standards includes uniform (as always), and this now includes ensuring that your child has a face covering. These are now part of everyday life and we will not be providing students with face masks as the expectation is that they should have their own. These are to be worn in communal areas inside the building, such as corridors, the dining hall (unless eating) and the main hall. Students are not required to wear their covering outside or in the classroom.

A huge congratulations to Plato house who won the most habit points this term and hence win the ice skating trip, to take place over the afternoon of Christmas Jumper Day which will take place on Thursday 16th December. More information will follow next week.

Regards,  
Mr L Dolphin

## Important Dates

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day, Ice Skating Reward Trip

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term, early dismissal at 12:30pm. Please wear school uniform.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** – Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – INSET Day

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – Start of Spring 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.

Year Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekly Test	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekly Test
11	Evening of Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Evening of Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
10	Evening of Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening of Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
9	Evening of Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening of Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
8	Evening of Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening of Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
7	Evening of Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening of Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December

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>

## Heads of Year

### Year 7 – Miss Piper

Dear Parents,

Year 7 have had a fantastic week averaging 8 accolades for in class work each day. 7SCO are exceeding all targets with the most Habit Points and 7DAF won the attendance award this week. Ties are continuing to cause us some concern in school as students seem to be losing them easily. Please label the back of your child's tie with their name so if lost staff can return them to their rightful owners.

Kind regards,  
Miss Piper and Mrs Bothma

**PSHE Theme:** Theme relationships and teamwork – Why is teamwork so effective?

### Year 8 – Mr Lock

This week Year 8 have been learning about the UNICEF rights respecting school campaign. Mr Hatherley's assembly detailed some of the tasks we can do together as a cohort to contribute towards our bronze status. In tutor they learnt about human rights with a specific focus on article 2 – No Discrimination, and article 23 – Children with Disabilities. Each week they will be focussing on different rights that all humans have.

Next week Year 8 will be working through their Be Your Best Self Journals. This will help them reflect on their own progress and how they can apply the tutor activities, assemblies, and UNICEF tasks to their own lives.

Finally, Year 8 will all be completing a PASS test on Monday. These tests are designed to identify any underlying reasons for disengagement towards certain lessons or education in general.

### Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

This week Year 9 have had an assembly about the UNICEF Rights Respecting campaign, which aims to raise the awareness and importance of respect and human rights within school. I'd encourage you to continue this conversation with your child at home.

Recently in the year group, we have seen incidents of 'pack mentality', where students feel the need to get involved in incidents which do not involve them. This sometimes leads to the intimidation of students and is entirely unacceptable. The year group were spoken to about this in assembly this week, and I hope to see an end to this behaviour.

As the weather gets colder, could I please remind you that hoodies are not part of the uniform policy, and therefore should not be worn to school at all.

Last week I set each tutor group a challenge, to achieve over 200 Habit Points in a week. A massive congratulations to 9CRO, who were the only tutor group to achieve this!

Many thanks,  
Mr. Smith.

**PSHE Theme:** Sex and Relationships

## Year 10 – Mr Parnell

Just a reminder that the final PSHE careers lesson for Year 10 will be taking place this week. This initiative has been slightly disrupted due to the inclusion of other topics (anti-bullying; black history month etc..). This session will allow students to complete their 'Golden Tickets' which will then be passed on to the Careers adviser at the academy. Please discuss this with them at home; we would like them to 'aim high' and think about suitable college courses etc..

**PSHE Theme:** 'Golden Ticket' for Careers

## Year 11 – Miss Hart

This week the Year 11s received their mock results. We know that there was a mixture of feelings towards the results but what was positive to see was the students' resilience and the attitude of "I'll do better next time." I delivered an assembly the morning after and asked students to reflect on whether they had truly given 100% to the exams. Were they revising as well as they could have been? Were they getting a good night's sleep before the exams? Were they giving 100% in their lessons? Are they arriving on time to their lessons and are they fully equipped for their learning? Now is the time for students to really listen to their teachers' feedback on their exams and apply themselves, giving 100%, in preparation for the next round of mock examinations.

As a result of this round of mocks, students will be asked to participate in extra tuition, enrichment activities after school or complete additional tasks at home to support. Please ask your child about this and support us in helping your child to be as successful as they can be.

## Safeguarding – Mrs Rhodes, Designated Safeguarding Lead



Kooth is offering a parent and carer an online information session designed to help parents and carers understand how Kooth can support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

The session will cover:

- An overview of Kooth
- A live tour of the Kooth site
- An opportunity for questions and answers about Kooth

Please register for the webinar using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-kooth-parent-carer-information-sessions-tickets-164152609875>

## Attendance – Mrs Blake and Miss Osborne

Week beginning 15th November 2021

Year Group	Percentage
7	90.4
8	89.8
9	88.5
10	88.8
11	89.6

Best Tutor Group	Percentage
7DAF	95.6
8JAR	97.3
<b>9JAM</b>	<b>97.4</b>
10DOW	95.6
11YOU	96.7

**9JAM** had the highest attendance of all tutor groups across the school last week and received their reward in tutor time on Monday morning. Well done!

At the end of term, the tutor group with the best attendance of each year group will not only receive the year group attendance trophy but will also receive some treats to share on the last day of term. We have 2 weeks left for the tutor groups to increase their attendance and become the Autumn Term champions!!

**Attendance Attack** will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021! All pupils in school on time for the whole day will receive a positive habit point.  
#missschoolmissout #TPAattendanceattack #TPARocksAttendance



## Thumbprints

If your child's thumbprint for meal purchases has stopped working, please complete the online form below. They will have their thumbprint re-enrolled if you have given consent for the school to hold their biometric data.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha\\_kkmgEHn2jjmNvBw1WhDCSDdOii8qoP72iAFURVVVNVk4QUpRUjFDNFRUNVpERVIGSEUzMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvBw1WhDCSDdOii8qoP72iAFURVVVNVk4QUpRUjFDNFRUNVpERVIGSEUzMC4u)

If you wish to give consent for your child to have their thumbprint taken, please email the school office at [info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk)

## Christmas HAF programme in Portsmouth



Snow, twinkling lights and festivities - join us in celebrating the magic of winter with three days of creative activities leading to a performance for friends and family. You will create your own winter wonderland of 3D igloos which will then form the backdrop of a performance piece specially created by you working with professional artists who will support and guide you as you develop your show.

Have fun, make new friends and laugh (a lot) during the process! A hot lunchtime meal will be provided each day. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so make sure you book today to avoid disappointment.

This free programme is for any child in receipt of free school meals. Make sure you book in ASAP to avoid disappointment!

To book your place, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/haf-northernlights-a-celebration-of-winter-tickets-212487695417> If you have any questions, please email [info@artswork.org.uk](mailto:info@artswork.org.uk), quoting 'HAF Portsmouth Winter booking query' in the subject line.



Department  
for Education

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 & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

## What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

### COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user-friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

### WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

### CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

### BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

### RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

### EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

### CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations: the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all business that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

### STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

### Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London's School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PlateOrg.



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