



The
Portsmouth Academy

Week 23A

w/c 7 Mar 2022



Parent Newsletter

Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a restful half term. It has been wonderful to welcome our students back into school this week and to see them again after the surprise ending to the last half term! I hope that Storm Eunice did not cause you any inconvenience or harm.

This week we have begun conducting assemblies again in the main hall and it has been a delight to gather as year groups and to be able to talk to the school en masse in person. There are some minor niggles with standards, but as ever the vast majority of students conduct themselves admirably with correct uniform. Please remember that your son or daughter will be challenged by staff on the gate in the morning if their uniform is incorrect and that confiscation will take place.

While COVID measures have now been removed, please can I remind you that it is not appropriate to come to the school to speak to a member of staff without notice, and to arrange an appointment with the member of staff. This is particularly relevant in the mornings when senior and pastoral staff are on duty from 8.20am until 9am.

There is plenty to look forward to this half term as the days get longer and the weather starts to improve! Please keep an eye out for our new parent newsletter which will be launching soon.

Regards,
Mr Dolphin

Important Dates

Monday 7th March

Barcelona 2023 Sports Tour Trip Parent Information Evening 6:00pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 9th March

Year 11 Parents' Evening 3:45pm -645pm

Book appointments on the TPA website: <https://www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk/parent-evenings/>

Tuesday 15th March

Early Closure

Students will be dismissed from school at the following times:

1:20pm – Years 9, 10 and 11

2:00pm - Years 7 and 8

Big Cook, Little Cook Competition

The Big Cook Little Cook House competition was held last half term. Students paired up with a member of staff to bake and decorate donuts. Portsmouth author Jane Dunn was asked to select the winner. The winning student will receive copy of her cook book and both staff and student a wooden spoon and certificate. A big thank you to Mr Kelly for asking Jane Dunn to judge the competition.

House points go to:

1st place Plato Miss Andrews

2nd place Hypatia Miss Piper and Miss Bellazrak

3rd place Socrates Miss Blackmore

4th place Aristotle Miss Gomez



Message from Jane Dunn:

Hey guys, I would like to start off by saying a HUGE well done to all the bakers that took part in the Big Cook, Little Cook competition at The Portsmouth Academy.

All of the doughnuts look AMAZING! I'm so glad that you had so much fun making them. They all look so good and I'd love to try them all!

Doughnuts are, without a doubt, one of my favourite things and it was so hard to pick a winner, but.....

the winner is...

the owner of these incredible mint chocolate donuts, Elizabeth! Congratulations!



Heads of Year

Year 7 – Miss Piper

What a great start to the term Team 2026 have accrued a total of 41008 habit points. This is a record for the school, at this time in the school year. Go Year 7!

Well done to Elizabeth on her win in Big Cook, Little Cook and to MK from 7FLE for completing all of the challenges on Lexia or reading intervention programme.

We have had lots of children ask us about the war in Ukraine and how this will or could affect them. As a result of this we will be holding assemblies this week and following this with a focussed PSHE lesson on the effects of the conflict – especially on children.

How can you help?

Please encourage your child to talk to you and ask questions about the Ukrainian conflict and if you subscribe to a newspaper or website can you share articles with them that they could bring into school to share in tutor.

Kind regards,
Miss Piper and Miss Bothma-Lubbe

Year 8 – Mr Lock

It has been a positive start to term 4 for #Team2025. There has been an increased focus on tutor time routines and basic standards of uniform and behaviour. These basic components play such a big part to the success and harmony of the school so please continue to support us by making sure your child is in full school uniform including, shoes, tie and blazer. You will have also received a letter reminding students of the necessary equipment needed such as pen, pencil, rubber, ruler etc. Once again, these items are non-negotiable, and all students must have them in order to reach their full potential in every lesson.

Our PSHE theme next week will be focussing on the current situation in Ukraine. Your child will inevitably be curious about the conflict and have several questions, hence why we will be running lessons, tutor activities and assemblies on it next week. We would encourage all students to read up on the events over the weekend in preparation for their PSHE lesson period one on Monday.

Finally, another big well done to 8JAR who achieved the most habit points this week with a total of 219.

Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

It has been a good start for Year 9 this half term, with lots of enthusiasm shown around the Academy. So far, the year group have achieved which is a fantastic total – well done, Year 9!

This half term, we will be focussing on ensuring all students have the correct equipment for their school day. Could you please ensure that your child is arriving at school prepared for the day ahead, with a fully-stocked pencil case.

On Monday, the year group will have a PSHE lesson focussing on the situation in Ukraine. I have spoken with some of the students about this situation, and they are, understandably, concerned about this topic.

Could I ask that you please encourage your child to read up on the situation ahead of the lesson and continue the conversation at home.

Many thanks,
Mr. Smith

Year 10 – Mr Parnell

I am pleased to say that the students have settled back into TPA after their half-term break. I continue to be impressed by the focus and attitude that I am witnessing in the vast majority of areas.

You should have received a letter regarding the equipment drive at the moment at TPA. Tutors will be completing regular equipment checks during tutor time to ensure that students have the correct equipment. Please can you support with this.

Our PSHE topic of the week is on the theme of 'sexual harassment'. Obviously, this is a serious and sensitive issue and one that we will ensure is delivered in an appropriate manner. Please feel free to discuss this topic with your children at home.

Regards,
Mr Parnell

Year 11 – Miss Hart

We are excited to be able to welcome you back in to the building next week for parents' evening and have those all-important conversations with you regarding your child's GCSEs. As well as discussing your child's achievement in the mocks, you will also be able to collect a timetable of the summer examinations. We will be launching this with students next week and encouraging them to begin creating a revision timetable to follow. Please don't forget to get your appointments booked in! They fill up quickly. Students will also earn 50 TPA points for attending on the day.

As of next week, we are introducing Well-Being Wednesdays to Year 11. Whilst we recognised that students had gaps in their knowledge and therefore set up that tutor time would be used for revision. We also recognise that our Year 11s are feeling the pressure of their upcoming exams and therefore want to give them some time in the week in which we can let them explore different ways of "switching off" (which doesn't involve them going on their phone!) They will spend Wednesday tutor time picking an activity with one of the Year 11 team which they feel will help them in switching off.

For the last few weeks students have been independently revising in PSHE lessons. However, this Monday students will be learning about the Ukrainian conflict and will have an opportunity to discuss their thoughts and feelings on the subject in a safe open forum with their tutor.

Thank you for your support – I look forward to seeing you next week.
Miss Hart

Year 11 Countdown

There are **38** school days left until GCSE exams begin.

Safeguarding – Mrs Rhodes, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Current information regarding Ukraine

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety (Metro)

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

Help for teachers and families to talk to students about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-students-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

Tips for parents and caregivers on media coverage of traumatic events (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, US)

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/tips-parents-and-caregivers-media-coverage-traumatic-events>

Information produced previously about war and international violence

How and when to talk to children about war, according to a parenting expert (Independent)

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/children-war-talk-russia-ukraine-b2023695.html>

Year 9 French and Spanish Speaking tests

Year 9 will be sitting their first ever formal speaking tests in French and Spanish next week. Each student will be given a 5 minute slot in which to meet their teacher in the office next to room 126. Please ask your child to check on Teams or with their class teacher if they are unsure of their time. Students will be coming out of their timetabled lessons to sit these tests and must make sure they arrive on time. The students have 5 minutes to talk to their teacher about a photo and some questions they have already prepared in lessons. If you could encourage your child to revise for the test and maybe even listen to them practising that would be amazing.

Thanks for your support,
Mrs Scarcliffe, Miss Pzonak and Miss López

Attendance – Mrs Blake and Miss Osborne

14th February – 17th February 2022

Year Group	Percentage
7	92.6
8	90.7
9	91.0
10	93.1
11	87.7
Whole School	91.2

Well done to Year 10, who, for the first time this year, had the highest attendance of all the year groups during the last week of term.

The race is now on for the Tutor Group Attendance Trophies. The tutor group in each year group with the highest attendance will retrieve the trophy from the current title holders on the last day of the Spring Term!

Attendance Attack will be taking place on **Monday 7th March 2022**, the day all students are due back to school after the Half Term break. The easiest habit point a student will ever receive!

#TPARocksAttendance #MissSchoolMissOut #TPAAttendanceAttack

Literacy Activities – Miss Fox

This week we celebrated World Book Day with several activities and competitions for students to take place in. KS3 students were provided with a book token which they can exchange for a brand new and exclusive book which is completely free. The books available to use this swap can be found here, <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>. Alternatively, you can use this token to get £1 off any full price book or audiobook.

Next week we will be celebrating DEAR week – ‘drop everything and read’ where students will spend the first 15 minutes of each lesson reading. Students are encouraged to bring their own book to school, or alternatively, they are welcome to visit the library to loan a book out.

We will also be launching our first Reading Club, which will be taking place every Tuesday lunchtime in the library as well as a Chess Club which will be run every lunch and break time, leading up to a tournament that will take place before the end of term. Students are also always welcome to stay after school in the library to get support with homework or do revision.

Barcelona Sports Tour Parent Information Evening



BARCELONA 2023 **Sports Tour**



Parent Information **Evening:**

Monday 7th March
6:00-6:30pm
Main Hall @TPA

SportsSchool

Multi-Sport Festival Tour
Barcelona coast, Spain



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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WINK

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private – so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count – possibly including users with sinister intentions.

ACCIDENTAL OVER-SHARING

Many young people don't consider privacy when they choose to share their social media usernames on their Wink profile. This allows other people to connect with them on multiple platforms, strengthening their online presence and reputation. Some children post photos which reveal aspects of their personal life to other users – showing their house, school, friends and family, for instance.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many popular messaging apps contain profiles featuring profanity, nude or semi-nude photos and users openly looking for a "wifey" or "hook ups". Users can send messages anonymously, which engenders a sense of power and freedom. Children often engage in inappropriate behaviour more willingly when it's anonymous, even if it's not the sort of thing they would take part in normally.

Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on one another's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

CYBERBULLYING

Being anonymous online provides some users with an incentive to bully others through toxic private conversations. Anonymous bullies can send hurtful messages or pressure young people into sending inappropriate content. Being a victim of cyberbullying can result in children becoming depressed and showing low self-esteem. If your child is exhibiting these signs, it's time to step in.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Wink encourages repeated engagement through signing in daily, making connections, building up a message 'streak' and publicly sharing stories. The reward is 'gems', which allow users to connect with more people, play games and edit their profile background. This can lead to children spending an excessive amount of screen time on the app, which of course can be detrimental to their health.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you *do* decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider exploring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

Before having a chat with your child about screen time, ask yourself if you're being a positive role model. Get your child thinking about how much time they spend on the app: is it healthy? Is it affecting their offline relationships with people? Is it impacting their mood? If so, you could suggest some activities you can do together which aren't so reliant on digital technology.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

While it's not always easy to talk about inappropriate content with your child, it's crucial that they understand the impact of sending or receiving it. They also need to feel that they can speak to you about it without worrying about consequences. Emphasise that, if your child receives any messages that make them feel uncomfortable, they can block the sender and report them to the app.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

It's essential that young people understand that once content goes online, the sender no longer has any control over where it will end up. While your child may feel like they can trust their online 'friend', that person is still a stranger. Even sharing one inappropriate image, for example, could then be used as leverage – as their 'friend' threatens to release it publicly unless the child sends more.

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Remind your child that not everyone online is who they say they are, and some users have harmful intentions. If someone on Wink is asking them lots of personal questions or suggests meeting up in real life, these are definite red flags. Encourage your child to ask for help if they're unsure about a particular profile. Remember, the app has a block button: your child shouldn't be afraid to use it!

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: <https://www.getnetwired.com/2014/>

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