



The
Portsmouth Academy

Week 24B

w/c 14th Mar 2022



Parent Newsletter

Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

A reminder that this week, we will be closing early on Tuesday so that staff can undertake Trust-wide CPD. Your child's P5 lesson will be set online to be completed at home, so please ensure they log into Teams.

Students will be dismissed from school at the following times:

1:20pm – Years 9, 10 and 11

2:00pm – Years 7 and 8

Years 7 and 8 will still be able to get their lunch, but if your child is in Year 9-11 and usually gets a free school meal, they can collect a trip lunch (sandwich, fruit and water) to take home with them from the canteen. If you would like your child to collect this lunch, please fill in this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/8FBQYPp4Ex>

On Tuesday 3rd May, the school will be closed for Jubilee Bank Holiday. Due to the additional bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee falling in half term, Portsmouth City Council has announced that schools are to close on that date.

Regards,
Mr Dolphin

Heads of Year

Year 7 – Miss Piper

Team 2026 continue to make us very proud and have accrued a total of 41543 habit points. They continue to smash records for us along with this I am very proud to say that over 100 students still have never received a single negative habit point. This shows their resilience and commitment to their learning journey at TPA. Go Year 7!

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.

Year 8 – Mr Lock

I'd like to start off on a positive note regarding the year 8 Rugby team. A massive well done to the boys who won the Boundary Oak 7's tournament Shield on Wednesday. Well done boys, you did your school proud! Next week teachers will be focussing on positive reinforcement and 'do now' activities to refocus #Team2025 in afternoon lessons. This coupled with a continued drive on equipment and uniform standards during tutor will continue to push the cohort in the right direction.

Our PSHE theme is moving onto harassment and understanding how the #MeToo movement provides support for those struggling with harassment and how best to deal with it.

It has been another good week for 8JAR who topped the habit point totals with 207, closely followed by 8PAY with 195. However, it has been a very positive week in general with over 1,308 positives awarded. With positive habit points on the rise and negatives on the decline it has been an excellent week for Year 8.

Finally, reminder that your child will be finishing at 2pm on Tuesday 15th March due to staff training.

Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

Since returning after half term, we have focussed on equipment checks in tutor time. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child comes to school with the correct equipment – this makes a big difference to their learning day. We have also been closely monitoring uniform and, whilst uniform standards are high across the year group, there are some students who are missing ties. Could I please remind you that ties are available to purchase through PlusPay.

This week, the year group have earned 180 Positive Habit Points, which is a great total. The tutor group with the most habit points is still 9JAM, who are leading the way with 531, closely followed by 9BCK with 517 – well done to Mr James' and Miss Backhouse's tutor groups!

This week's PSHE lesson and assembly focused on the current situation in Ukraine. This is a topic which the students are naturally curious about. As this is a constantly updating situation, please do continue to have a conversation with your child about this at home.

Many thanks,
Mr. Smith

Year 10 – Mr Parnell

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is in the correct uniform. We continue to set high expectations in this regard as we strongly believe it sets the tone for the day. Please make sure that your child is dressed in the correct uniform in the morning so that their day can start smoothly and positively.

The PSHE topic this week was on the Ukraine conflict. Students were presented with the historical context as well as the humanitarian angle; they were given opportunities to discuss this very sensitive and distressing topic and also ask any questions that they might have.

In Mr Snookes' absence Miss Crown is currently filling in as Deputy Head of Year; please direct any queries to your child's tutor in the first instance and they can forward to Miss Crown (or myself) if needed.

Regards,
Mr Parnell

Year 11 – Miss Hart

Thank you all so much for attending the TPA Parents' Evening for your child this week. It was so lovely to see so many of you. It was a really positive evening and I know that lots of discussions were happening about how you are able to better support your child at home with their GCSEs.

Our lovely staff are holding a number of revision sessions before school, at breaks, lunches and after school to help support students. Your support in encouraging your child to attend these sessions is greatly appreciated. There will also be booster sessions offered in the Easter Holidays so please look out for further information regarding this.

This week we launched Well-Being Wednesdays with Year 11 and all students joined one of the year team for a mindfulness session. It seemed to help the students improve their mood which was reflected in a decrease in the amount of negative habit points Year 11 received as year group on Wednesday. We'll be completing the same next week.

I hope you have a great week,
Miss Hart

Year 11 Countdown

There are **33** school days left until GCSE exams begin.

House Events

Upcoming Events

Week 3

- House Chess 3-4pm, Library, Wednesday 16th March
- Friday House Champion Assembly (digital)

Week 4

- Charity colour run – Open to staff and students (Date TBC ASAP)

Week 5

- House KS4 Basketball, Monday 28th March, 3:00-4:30pm
- Netball, all years, Tuesday 29th March, 3:00-4:30pm
- House Champion celebration assembly (digital)

Week 6

- House Reward afternoon, Tuesday 5th April, Main Hall 1:20-3pm
- Egg Hunt Day Thursday 7th April, reward to be collected after school

Attendance – Mrs Blake and Miss Osborne

28th February – 4th March 2022

Year Group	Percentage
7	93.3
8	90.5
9	92.2
10	90.8
11	85.7
Whole School	90.7

Well done to Year 7, making their way back to the top of the leader board for their weekly attendance!

Best Tutor Group	Percentage
7CUT	98.7
8LOP	95.5
9PEA	97.8
10TRA	95.5
11BEG	95.0

Congratulations to the tutor groups from each year group with the highest attendance LAST week. 7CUT were the weekly overall winners yet again so they received their reward on Monday.

Attendance Attack will be taking place on **Thursday 17th March 2022**. The easiest habit point a student will ever receive! #TPARocksAttendance #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 of many issues 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 NFTs (NON-FUNGIBLE TOKENS)

A non-fungible token, or NFT, is a unique digital record of a particular file – such as an image, audio track or video (non-fungible meaning it can't be replaced by an identical item). NFTs let digital content producers like artists and designers control how their work is distributed and monetised. The offline equivalent would be owning a limited-edition art print, signed by the artist, with a certificate of authentication. The value of the tokens is incredibly volatile, unregulated and very much based on hype, publicity and marketing. These digital assets – typically collectibles, avatars for social media profiles or character add-ons for online games – are traded in specialised marketplaces using cryptocurrency.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FAKE COLLECTIONS

When searching for a particular collection of NFTs, it is common for fake versions to display alongside the originals, which can easily fool a less experienced buyer. Larger projects will be verified, but small ones will not, so check the volume that has been traded and check the activity to verify authenticity – fake collections will have almost no trading history.

LACK OF CLARITY

Buying a limited-edition print of a painting isn't the same thing as owning the original. Likewise, when someone buys an NFT, they're not acquiring ownership rights to an original work. Some buyers don't realise that – since many NFTs are publicly on view – purchasing one doesn't stop other people from making their own copies of your NFT (by saving a screenshot of it, for example). Sneak peeks of NFTs can also falsely advertise what the purchaser is investing in, leaving buyers disappointed in what they actually receive, and as they are unregulated, there isn't a procedure for returns and refunds.

IP THEFT & "WASHTRADING"

Many online thieves steal NFTs to sell, while another common scam is "washtrading". Here, an unscrupulous trader creates aliases to buy the same NFT multiple times at increasing prices (so A sells to B for 10, who sells to C for 100, who then sells to D for 300 – except A, B, and C are actually all the same person). The goal is to lure in naive speculators with the illusion of a juicy opportunity.

STORAGE ISSUES

An NFT is cryptocurrency which is linked to an additional file containing a digital asset. Due to the cost of storing data on a blockchain, it's typical for a project founder to store only the NFT's transaction record "on chain" to prove ownership – with the accompanying asset stored "off chain". Whether that storage is in the cloud or on a personal server, it must be permanently secure or the asset could be lost. So in a large number of cases, the NFT contains a link that points to the image data: it is not the image data itself.

TRANSACTION COSTS

Issuing an NFT requires "minting" it and any future sales require updating a blockchain ledger to transfer ownership. The cost of this – depending on the blockchain and market conditions – can vary wildly, based on supply and demand of "block space". In 2021, the fees paid for NFT transactions on one blockchain regularly cost more than the value of the asset itself, often by hundreds of US dollars.

PHISHING EMAILS & REPLICA SITES

There have been instances of messages being sent advertising the availability of new NFTs with a link to a fake website with a very similar URL to an authentic site. Users then link their cryptowallet to the site, are able to "mint" the fake NFT, and once you press "confirm", the cryptocurrency leaves your wallet and you are left without the NFT you were promised, and very much out of pocket.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHECK AUTHORSHIP

Don't buy NFTs from unknown sources, and be wary of trading outside of official marketplaces. Branded NFTs, like those sold by sports franchises, are typically available via a platform that's easy to authenticate. However, NFTs sold by individual artists can be harder to verify. Research their online reputation to ensure they have a consistent track record of authorship and a recognised cryptocurrency wallet before you send a payment.

WALLET SECURITY

Wallet security can be the difference between keeping NFTs secure and having them stolen. There are two primary types: a hot wallet (such as metamask) is used for minting NFTs and general day-to-day interactions with third-party sites. A cold wallet (or "vault") is for storing high-value assets, as interactions can't take place without physical confirmation on the hardware. Only buy these from official sites and not from third-party sellers (including Amazon).

DON'T GAMBLE

Beginners should avoid investing significant sums of money and gambling on future NFT prices. Anyone can create NFTs: this potentially infinite supply of "limited-edition" collections means that, eventually, 99% of NFTs will likely be worth nothing. The market is largely based around building hype and making people believe that the next project will be the one that makes them rich. Take time over your decision and ensure you fully understand a project before getting involved.

SPOT THE SCAMS

Learn what type of message a hacker will leave. They'll often try to create the illusion that you're one of a select few who has this incredible, limited-time opportunity. These can appear on official pages via hacking, so be wary of this pressure-buying tactic. Hackers also send links outside official channels, such as on message boards and private messages. Turn off direct messaging from the server when you join, and never click links that aren't on a project's official page.

RESEARCH THE SPACE

If you're interested in NFTs and you've learned the basics of cryptocurrency, talk to people who are already involved in the space (like an NFT alpha group) on authentic marketplaces. Research the projects you're considering investing in to avoid scams: follow the project on Twitter or Discord and review the work they've done before – avoid artists and teams who insist on remaining anonymous.

Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is Associate Professor at the UCL School of Management and a researcher at the UCL Centre for Blockchain Technologies. 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 startup advisor. He tweets at @PirateOrg.



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