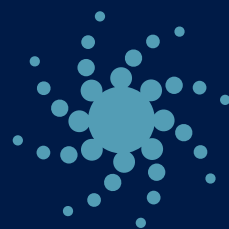


ASPIRE & ACHIEVE



The Portsmouth
Academy



Welcome

Welcome to The Portsmouth Academy. We hope that it will give you a flavour of the exciting education we offer. We warmly invite you to come and see us in action, to truly gain a sense of our school.

The Portsmouth Academy provides an education to our students not just to support their academic progress but to develop them to grow into self-reflective learners who have the knowledge and skills to become valuable members of any community.

The Portsmouth Academy has an extremely dedicated staff team who are proud to work in a school situated in the heart of its community and which also has community at its heart. Our goal here is that every child who wears our uniform feels a sense of belonging and pride, that it means something positive for them to be a part of their school and that they feel proud of their community both within the school gates and beyond.

We believe strongly in nurturing children throughout their time at The Portsmouth Academy to build positive habits, develop an awareness of their strengths and support them in developing areas they would like to improve. We work with them so that they are aspirational and ready for their next steps and, most importantly, understand their role and place both within their local community and beyond.

The thinking school approach to education is unique to this secondary school in this city and we believe that it genuinely transforms the life chances of our children, not just because of the excellent outcomes our students achieve but also as

it teaches them the critical thinking skills they need to be resilient in an ever changing world. Alongside this we recognise the need for our students to be digital citizens and understand how access to technology can support learning as a tool.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to The Portsmouth Academy.

Please contact the school reception to find out about our open events, to book a tour, or indeed to book a meeting with myself.



Best wishes,
Rachel Grey, Principal

“The school has a strong culture of safeguarding. Pupils feel safe and are kept safe because staff understand their responsibilities and know their pupils well.”
Ofsted

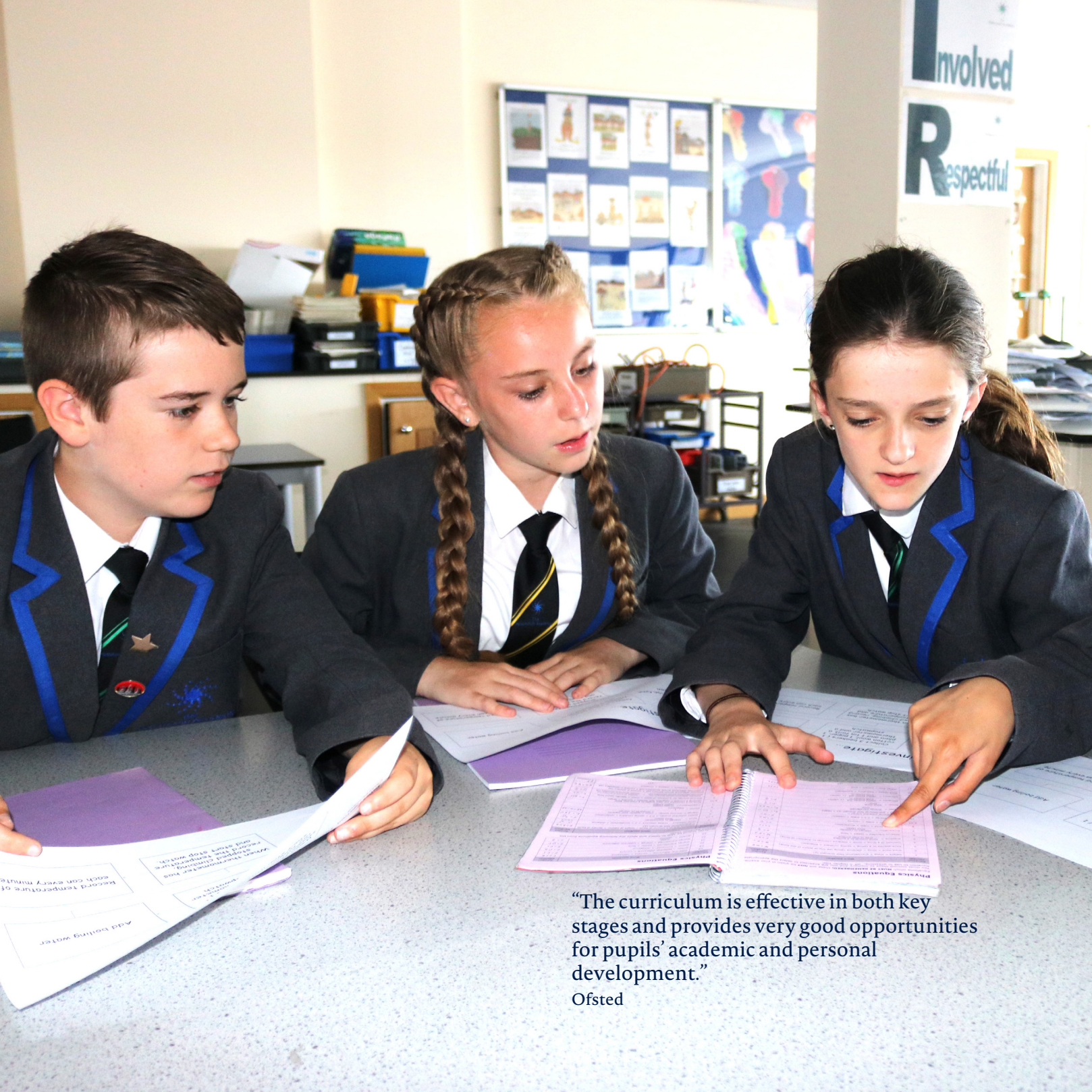
Our Curriculum

Our expert subject leaders have designed a curriculum which creates enthusiastic and engaged learners. Students at The Portsmouth Academy study a large range of subjects as it is vital that children are given the opportunity to explore their learning and develop knowledge across a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. Throughout every subject and discipline, plans are founded on the values of:



“Leaders ensure that the well-planned curriculum provides pupils with a firm foundation for the next stage of their education. Consequently, progress is now significantly above national averages in a range of subjects, including both English and mathematics.”

Ofsted



“The curriculum is effective in both key stages and provides very good opportunities for pupils’ academic and personal development.”

Ofsted



Thinking About Our Thinking

Every student is a unique individual who is capable of great things and it is our responsibility to teach them how to learn effectively.

As a fully accredited Advanced Thinking School, teaching students to be reflective, critical and evaluative is at the heart of everything that we do; we provide our students with a 'thinking toolkit' to help them map and organise their thinking. Increasingly, evidence suggests that this approach is one which will not only support students to achieve academically, but enable them to succeed and make a difference in the modern world.

Our common language for learning enables students to understand their thinking processes, how they learn best and identify cross-curricular links with ease, thereby supporting them to learn effectively.

Our staff are deeply committed to researching, understanding and implementing findings from the science behind learning which enables our methods to evolve and ensures students at our school have the best possible experiences.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

Aristotle



Being Our Best Selves

It is important to our school culture that students aspire to be their best self in everything that they do. Our rewards system is built around students developing 'Habits of Excellence'. Derived from the work of Art Costa, these 16 habits empower our children to be creative and critical thinkers who are resilient and able to problem solve effectively – all key attributes which are required beyond the school gates.

Our school is organised into a year group structure which we believe best supports students in their personal development, and allows us to provide timely interventions at critical points throughout a child's school journey. We place great value and importance on our students feeling a sense of belonging and therefore run a House System alongside our year group structure. The four houses allow our Year 7 students to join a 'family' of older students, with strong role models from the upper school leading each house.

Students are rewarded with 'Habit Points' which feed into the house competitions. Rewards for the winning house are given at the end of each term and have included ice skating trips and bowling. We have found this strategy effective in building a sense of pride, community and healthy competition.

"Students receive high-quality information and careers advice about the post-16 choices they make."

Ofsted







Shaping Our Success

The personal development of our students is vital for them to be able to reach their full potential. We know that successful people are able to both reflect on their strengths, and know the areas which they wish to develop in order to be successful in the next stage of their journey.

Our Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) programme is planned to incorporate extensive careers education, healthy lifestyles and relationships, internet safety, and mental health and well-being. All students will have access to excellent careers advice and guidance, at least one visit to a university within their time at The Portsmouth Academy, the chance to meet with a range of employers and an invaluable period of work experience.

At The Portsmouth Academy we also believe that students should be the drivers for change within the school. With this in mind, we have developed a strong culture of student leadership which all year groups have the opportunity to be involved with. The school's Student Council meet regularly with the Student Executive Team to discuss improvements they would like to see within the academy. They also run a half termly 'Question Time' where a panel takes questions from the floor to debate.



“The school’s programme provides students with an arsenal of strategies so they ‘bounce back’ from adversity while remaining highly ambitious for their future. This programme incorporates careers and college programmes and is positively influencing students’ next steps.”

Ofsted

A Firm Foundation

At The Portsmouth Academy students follow a broad and balanced curriculum, supporting them to develop long term knowledge and skills which can be effectively deployed in new circumstances.

Our excellent teaching staff are deeply passionate about their subjects, and have created an engaging curriculum, developing a cultural understanding of the modern world, Britain and Portsmouth at its heart. We place great importance on the arts as we know that these subjects; support students' mental health and well-being, allow a creative outlet, and build vital knowledge and transferable skills for them.

The new building and facilities, which opened in September 2020, house a state of the art music recording studio, a new Drama studio, humanities rooms and an art department with panoramic views over the city to inspire our students. The development of our Design and Technology suite of rooms, which are well equipped with cutting edge technology, will lead to an exciting opportunity for our students to learn technical skills which will support them in the modern workplace.

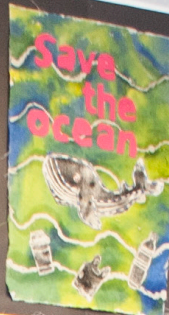
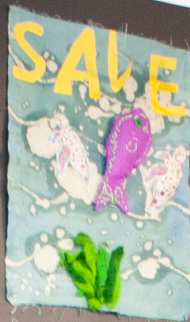
It is our goal that students leave The Portsmouth Academy having had a full and rich experience of education and the opportunity to find their talents and excel in areas they enjoy.



“Teachers’ strong subject knowledge, effective planning, probing questioning and use of thinking time, in line with school policy, are identifying misconceptions and deepening students’ knowledge and understanding.”

Ofsted





Enriching Experiences

We offer a vast array of trips and visits each year to destinations ranging from the Historic Dockyard - where students get to experience Portsmouth past and present - to further afield excursions such as; Wales, Germany, Belgium and France. The focus of these visits are vast and include kayaking and mountain climbing, practising a foreign language or to reflect on conflicts such as WW1.

In school, students benefit from a diverse range of events such as engineering workshops, author visits and first aid training. Students are offered free music lessons in a variety of instruments or singing, taught by qualified teachers in either individual or paired lessons. They are encouraged to take grading exams and are given many chances to perform in concerts, including our annual Carol Service in St Mary's Church and our Summer Showcase.

Alongside this we are always proud to present our annual production which brings our performing arts teams together to showcase the creative talents within the academy.

Our Physical Education department also offer a range of clubs which support students' health and well-being, whilst also developing their sense of competition and pride in representing the school and feeling part of a team.

Thinking Schools Academy Trust

The Portsmouth Academy is proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) which is a highly successful and respected Trust comprising both Primary and Secondary Schools. We believe we are 'stronger together' and our primary aim is to improve the life chances of all our children and young people.

Our Trust comprises a number of secondary and primary schools from Medway and Portsmouth that are all committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole school integrated approach to cognitive education. We are passionate about the difference this makes in nurturing adaptable and resilient thinkers. Indeed, through this approach to the teaching of thinking, we believe it "makes learning irresistible".

"Students have various opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. The taught curriculum, together with assemblies and visits from outside speakers, ensures that all students learn about world issues, develop a social conscience and respect the differences between religions and cultures within their local community."

Ofsted



The Portsmouth
Academy

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**THINKING
SCHOOLS**
ACADEMY TRUST