



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

CREATIVE
INSPIRING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
INNOVATIVE
ADVENTUROUS

WELCOME

FROM THE HEAD



The Portsmouth Grammar School has a rich history, stretching back nearly 300 years, but we are very much a school that looks to the future, both as an institution and, more importantly, for our pupils.

We seek to draw out of them the skills, qualities and, above all, our core values, curiosity, creativity, commitment, courage, compassion and collaboration. This enables them not just to take their place in society, but to be people who seek to play an active role in shaping the world around them, making it a better place for others.

We do this in many ways throughout the school, but all that we do is underpinned by an inclusive community where people care for each other. We are ambitious for each of our pupils and wish to see them flourish, both now and into the future.

Please do come to visit us. There is no substitute for meeting the great people at PGS, I look forward to welcoming you to this wonderful school.

David Wickes

Head at The Portsmouth Grammar School



OUR **AIMS** AND **VALUES**



As part of the school community, each one of us aspires to the attributes of our PGS values.

In the Senior School and Sixth Form this is embodied in the PGS Core, which builds on the Learning Tree in the Junior School where the children aspire to the values of risk taking, co-operation, reflection, decision-making, making links in learning, perseverance, imagination, curiosity, courage, empathy, patience, trust, respect, responsibility and freedom of thought.

PGS CORE is introduced in the Senior School, encouraging pupils to show curiosity, creativity, courage, commitment, compassion and collaboration.

CURIOSITY

We believe that curiosity enriches every aspect of our lives. We are inspired by ideas inside and outside the classroom, and we pursue our passions, nurturing a lifelong love of learning.

CREATIVITY

We believe that creativity is the foundation of learning. We cultivate vision and imagination, embrace critical thinking, and we engage with diverse perspectives.

COURAGE

We believe that courage comes in many forms. We aim to be courageous through conscious risk-taking, making an active difference, and by viewing setbacks as opportunities to learn.

COMMITMENT

We strive to be the best we can be, and we are determined to make the most of the opportunities available to us. We care about things that matter, and we are committed to making an active contribution.

COMPASSION

We celebrate uniqueness and difference. We want individuals to be happy being themselves, and we believe that positive personal connections are powerful. By keeping kindness at the forefront of our interactions, we foster a culture of care, and we are forces for a positive environment.

COLLABORATION

We believe that we achieve more when we work together. We are generous with our knowledge, energy and time, and we seek to make a positive contribution to the communities within PGS and beyond.



WE ARE AMBITIOUS FOR
EACH OF OUR PUPILS AND
WISH TO SEE THEM FLOURISH.

David Wickes, Head



OUR AIMS FOR OUR PUPILS

We wish the members of our community to:

- Be happy and thrive
- Be curious and pursue success to the best of their ability
- Be courageous, prepared for the changing world beyond school
- Be committed to making an active contribution and live purposeful lives
- Develop a sense of identity and to be their own person

A JOYFUL LOVE OF LEARNING



Our purpose is to offer an outstanding education that prepares each individual to lead a fulfilled and purposeful life during and beyond PGS.

THE WHOLE PERSON

We focus on developing our students from all aspects, not only academically, but creatively. Everyone is different and we are committed to maximising each individual's potential.

SPIRIT AND CHALLENGE

PGS is committed to ensuring that when our pupils leave us, they are fully equipped to thrive in the world beyond school, taking opportunities with courage and shaping their own pathway.

THE POWER OF LEARNING

As a through school educating pupils from 2½ to 18 years on a single site, we have an unparalleled ability to offer continuity of educational excellence.

LIFE AT 25

We focus on life at 25, and our innovative Sixth Form curriculum has been designed to help pupils thrive at school, in higher education and at 25, whatever life brings.

OUR COMMUNITY AND CITY

Working in purposeful collaboration with our wider communities we broaden horizons and nurture a cosmopolitan outlook.

ACADEMIC LIFE



As a through school educating pupils from 2½ to 18 years on a single site, we have an unparalleled ability to offer continuity of educational excellence. We are a family community united by our culture of aspiration and engagement.


A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

At PGS, we want every pupil to be curious and courageous, above all, we want them to lead a fulfilled, purposeful, and enriching life when they eventually embark on the adventures that lie beyond school – whatever direction they choose to take. We focus on life at 25, and our curriculum has been designed to help our pupils thrive throughout school, in higher education and beyond, whatever pathway they take.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At PGS, we are committed to ensuring that each pupil reaches their potential.

Our dedicated team of Learning Support staff are based in a purpose-built hub where they work with children individually, there is close collaboration between parents, staff and the child to identify any emerging needs and to put in place effective support. Close attention is placed on providing seamless support during a child's journey through the school, including when they make the transition from Junior to Senior sections of the school. Pupils may be seen one-to-one or in a small group and lessons are usually on a half-termly rotation. The focus of support is always centred on the pupil's needs.

A group of school children in uniform are gathered around a large, reflective sphere. A girl in the foreground, wearing a black school jacket with red piping and a striped tie, is touching the sphere with her hands. She has a joyful expression, and her hair is blowing in the wind. Other children in the background are also looking at the sphere with interest. The sphere reflects the interior of a school building, showing a hallway and other students. The lighting is warm and focused on the children.

AT PGS WE WANT
EVERY PUPIL TO BE
**CURIOUS AND
COURAGEOUS**



WATCH A MESSAGE
FROM DAVID WICKES,
HEAD AT PGS

OUR SCHOOL IN NUMBERS

FOUNDED

BY DR WILLIAM SMITH IN

1732

WHO BELIEVED IN ACCESS TO A
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

A FORWARD-LOOKING

school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth

7.5 ACRES OF
URBAN CITY
CAMPUS

20 ACRES OF
PLAYING
FIELDS

643 METRES TO
THE BEACH

MUSIC

464 INDIVIDUAL **LESSONS** WEEKLY
60 **PERFORMANCES** A YEAR

SPORTS

80% OF PUPILS IN YEAR 7–11 TAKE PART
IN WEEKLY **SPORTS FIXTURES**
OVER 600 **SPORTS FIXTURES** EACH YEAR

DRAMA

600+ HOURS PER YEAR OF SCHOOL
PRODUCTION **REHEARSALS**
4 MAJOR **PRODUCTIONS** EACH YEAR

83%

GRADES AWARDED

A* – B

AT A-LEVEL

YEAR 12 PUPILS
COMPLETE

1,930

HOURS OF **COMMUNITY
SERVICE AND WORK
PLACEMENTS** EACH YEAR

97%

OF STUDENTS GO ON TO THEIR
CHOSEN UNIVERSITIES

71%

OF PUPILS GO ON TO A
**RUSSELL GROUP
UNIVERSITY**

PRE-SCHOOL



Nurturing and developing a lifelong love of learning is at the heart of the PGS Pre-School provision.

Our children benefit from a compassionate and supportive approach to personal development. It is important that our children feel happy, their contribution is valued, and they learn to value the contribution of others.

The children collaborate, learn and grow together under the guidance and care of the Head of Pre-School and a team of professional Early Years Assistants who prepare them for moving up to school.

The curriculum in Pre-School is structured around the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and centres on the development of the child in relation to key areas of learning and early learning goals.

Learning takes on a themed approach and is enriched with lessons in French, Music, PE and Cookery as part of the Junior School Connected Curriculum.

The foundations provided during Portsmouth Grammar School's Early Years ensure not only a smooth transition into Junior School but helps develop a creative love of learning that will ensure future success and happiness.



**FIND OUT
HOW TO APPLY**



A CREATIVE LOVE
OF LEARNING



COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN

JUNIOR SCHOOL



The Junior School at PGS is a creative and dynamic place for children aged 4–11 (Years Reception – 6) to learn.

There is no greater moment for teachers when children, through commitment and desire to learn, start to apply the skills and knowledge they have been taught to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

We believe our Connected Curriculum in the Junior School is the best preparation for success in Senior School, Sixth Form and Beyond. The Connected Curriculum provides countless opportunities for children to learn flexible and lifelong skills, through a rich curriculum and co-curriculum, enhancing their learning journey.



**FIND OUT
HOW TO APPLY**

Through consistently excellent teaching, we want our pupils to:

- Be curious about learning new transferable skills and knowledge.
- Be active, engaged, creative, reflective and persistent learners.
- Be courageous and take risks.
- Accept failure as part of the learning process.
- Work independently and collaboratively.
- Make decisions and exercise good judgement.
- Be compassionate.
- Committed to succeed academically and personally.

SENIOR SCHOOL



PGS offers girls and boys aged 11 – 16 outstanding academic, pastoral and co-curricular opportunities.

Our pupils flourish in a supportive and compassionate environment, achieving excellent results at GCSE. Pupils are enthusiastic and committed learners. They enjoy supporting others in their learning, using information and communication technology to enhance their understanding.

The Senior School is made up of two distinct areas: The Middle School comprising of Years 7 and 8 and the Upper School comprising of Years 9–11. Each stage has a unique atmosphere, acting as a school within a school and building strong foundations to move on to the Sixth Form.

We encourage pupils to be curious and independent in their learning. We want our learners to evaluate their progress critically and learn to optimise their potential by being courageous and setting themselves challenging goals and adopting effective study techniques. They should be willing to work collaboratively, with respect for each other's different creativity and mindful at all times of academic honesty.



**FIND OUT
HOW TO APPLY**



PUPILS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC,
COMMITTED LEARNERS



SUPPORTING PUPILS AS THEY MOVE
TOWARDS **THE WORLD BEYOND PGS**

SIXTH FORM



Studying in Sixth Form is a transformational two years of education. Studying subjects of your choosing, learning to study more independently and starting to look towards the future.

We offer a broad Sixth Form curriculum, which places a strong emphasis on academic challenge and enrichment.

Our Sixth Form A-Level curriculum offers all pupils the opportunity to undertake an Extended Project Qualification and they have access to a wide range of taught academic enrichment courses, to extend their learning beyond their core subjects.

The Pastoral Curriculum in the Sixth Form supports pupils as they move towards the world beyond PGS. Our dedicated Careers and Universities team provide Sixth Form pupils with support and guidance in applying to universities and other higher education pathways.

The Sixth Form academic enrichment programme at PGS is designed to allow pupils to excel in higher education, becoming deep thinkers, critical enquirers and intellectual risk-takers. The programme assists in securing places at the most competitive universities in the UK or abroad. We provide a dynamic and future-proof approach to academic enrichment that will give pupils the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to become innovators and leaders of the next generation.

Alongside this the Personal Enrichment Curriculum helps to form the pupil's personal development through exciting, rewarding and hugely enjoyable opportunities.



**FIND OUT
HOW TO APPLY**

EVERY CHILD IS VALUED



PASTORAL CARE

Excellent pastoral care is central to our ethos, and the care and dedication shown by staff at PGS is outstanding. Every child is valued; their personal development nurtured in and out of the classroom.

The Pastoral Curriculum at PGS enables pupils to develop an awareness of personal health and wellbeing, and an acquisition of life skills and attitudes which will aid them in managing their lives and relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.



**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT PASTORAL CARE**

Our care goes beyond school with the Development Office helping Old Portmuthians stay connected and aid in career aspirations.



**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT OLD PORTMUTHIANS**

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is one of the cornerstones of PGS ethos.

As one of the first schools in the UK to set up a pride society, we have created a school culture which unambiguously celebrates difference. At PGS, we want individuals to be happy being their true, authentic selves.

We do not seek to tolerate difference but to celebrate it through challenging all forms of prejudice, encouraging active commitment to equality, and promoting curious and critical thinking.

As a school, we understand that our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is an ongoing journey.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



CO-CURRICULUM

Spending time outdoors, being creative, learning and developing talents and skills – the co-curriculum at PGS exists to provide pupils with experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom.

Whether it is having a go on the climbing wall, conducting environmental investigations, learning outdoor survival skills, taking part in musical theatre, classical singing, chess, wildlife, photography or sport there are a huge range of opportunities for pupils from Pre-School to Year 13 to engage with and to grow with.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

The Pre-School children are regularly out and about on Southsea Seafront as part of their Beach School learning and the Junior School pupils often visit locations such as Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Kingley Vale and the local area to enrich their curriculum learning.

The focus of Outdoor Learning is to provide unique opportunities for our Senior School pupils to develop a sense of leadership while giving them a true sense of working as an individual and collaboratively.

The Outdoor Pursuits Centre provides a focal point for the pupils taking part in highly popular activities such as the Combined Cadet Force and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as well as a variety of other adventurous pursuits in the UK and abroad.

In the Middle School (Years 7 and 8) pupils have the opportunity to participate in the John Muir Award, undertaking a series of single days and overnight camps at an Outdoor Education site. It is a great grounding for pupils interested in pursuing The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
OUTDOOR LEARNING**

SPORT FOR ALL



Sport for all is our philosophy at PGS.
We want every pupil to enjoy taking part in sport and to achieve their own personal best, whilst supporting pupils competing at top national and international standards.

From the Junior School upwards we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to be actively involved in sport, regardless of ability, and that they develop a healthy and positive attitude towards sport and team games. We also ensure that children learn and gain confidence from making mistakes, developing skills and confidence appropriate to the level of each individual.

Our expectation is to deliver a premium sporting experience, within an atmosphere of courage, commitment and success.



**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT SPORT AT PGS**

A HEALTHY AND
POSITIVE ATTITUDE
**TOWARDS SPORT
AND TEAM GAMES**







PERFORMING ARTS



Music and Drama play a vibrant part of school life at PGS, at every stage.

Junior School pupils have the opportunity to take part in dance, drama and music sessions led by inspirational, passionate and creative teachers and every year the children work towards a year group musical performed in our very own theatre.

As pupils move into the Senior School as well as being able to develop their passion for music and drama through the curriculum, there are a range of co-curricular activities for pupils to take part in.

Involvement in the Performing Arts during a pupils time at school will not only add to their enjoyment but help to develop friendships, personal skills and a cultural appreciation that will enrich their adult lives.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
PERFORMING ARTS**

LEADERSHIP AND PUPIL AGENCY



At PGS we have the privilege of educating the leaders of tomorrow. We are committed to ensuring that when our pupils leave us, they are fully equipped to thrive in the world beyond school.

Young people understanding their place in the world and experiencing the true joy of helping others is a fundamental part of their education. Through our expansive network and many strategic partners our pupils are able to facilitate a whole range of fulfilling projects and initiatives in our local community. All our pupils learn to make a positive and rewarding impact on the world around them through collaborating in school councils, interest groups and as ambassadors.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
LEADERSHIP AND PUPIL AGENCY**









OUR COMMUNITY



Working in purposeful collaboration with our wider communities we broaden horizons and nurture a cosmopolitan outlook.

Located at the heart of Portsmouth and founded to serve the city, we are committed to working in purposeful partnership with a variety of partners across the city and local area, indeed, around the world. Through offering our pupils opportunities to engage actively with their wider communities, we help them to understand the value of making a positive contribution to the world around them, and we equip them with the skills and the qualities of leadership to do so.

COMMUNITY, ACTION, WORKPLACE SIXTH FORM PROGRAMME

As part of the Sixth Form enrichment curriculum, Year 12 pupils take part in our Community, Action, Workplace programme, spending one afternoon each week engaging directly with our wider communities. Pupils are able to select a contribution which resonates with them, while developing a powerful range of skills for the world beyond school.

PORTS FEST

An annual celebration of culture and the arts, offering world class cultural events at PGS and across Portsmouth, Ports Fest was founded by PGS more than 20 years ago. Working in close collaboration with the city's leading cultural institutions, the festival offers young people across Portsmouth the opportunity to get involved in a broad programme of creative cultural activities.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS



PGS runs a busy programme of partnership events with organisations throughout the city including schools, charities and care homes.

Each year, hundreds of local children are involved in our programme of partnership events, from science and music workshops through to support for aspirant medics applying for higher education courses.

SHAPING PORTSMOUTH

PGS is proud to be a Patron of Shaping Portsmouth and to contribute to this exciting city-wide initiative dedicated to the future of Portsmouth, bringing together business, education, and the community.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

PGS has active cultural and educational partnerships with a wide network of schools across the globe, including Kikaaya College School, Uganda; Chai Thom School, Cambodia; Marianistas, Spain; and Öckerö Gymnasieskola, Sweden.

ALUMNI

After PGS, we work hard to keep alumni connected. PGS Connect, a portal specifically for Old Portmuthians, allows us to share the latest school news and updates. Old Portmuthians can also connect with each other, offer advice, work experience and so much more! Alumni are often invited back to school for careers talks, CV and interview help and for reunion events, the first being 'Life at 25'.



**FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR
COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS**



BEING A MEMBER OF THE
PGS COMMUNITY
MEANS **SOMETHING SPECIAL**

EVERY ONE OF US HAS AN
IMPACT
ON THE SCHOOL CULTURE
AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE A
POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

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