

INSPIRING CURIOSITY
& CREATIVITY

BUILDING COURAGE
& COMMITMENT

ENCOURAGING
COMPASSION &
COLLABORATION



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

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. 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. 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.

Mr David Wickes

Head of The Portsmouth Grammar School



**WATCH A MESSAGE
FROM DAVID WICKES,
HEAD AT PGS**

OUR AIMS AND VALUES

Our shared purpose is for The Portsmouth Grammar School to be recognised nationally for a curriculum design that is the envy of the sector and as a thriving, diverse community centred around core values and educational excellence.

It will be a School that continues to consistently prepare young people for a global world: a welcoming, forward-looking, ambitious, dynamic and sustainable School built on firm and historic foundations.

PGS CORE encourages our pupils to show curiosity, creativity, courage, commitment, compassion, and collaboration.

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.





We believe that curiosity enriches every aspect of our lives. We are inspired by ideas both inside and outside the classroom. We pursue our passions as we nurture a life-long intellectual, social, and moral love of 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.



CURIOSITY



OUR BIG QUESTIONS HELP US TO BE CURIOUS. WE WERE CHALLENGED TO CONSIDER WHAT MAKES SOMETHING A MARVEL OF THE WORLD, AND I REALISED EVERYTHING COULD BE A MARVEL!

Otto, Year 2



// MUSIC LETS YOU EXPRESS YOURSELF MORE EASILY – YOU CAN USE MUSIC TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS WITHOUT USING WORDS.

Addi, Year 8



CREATIVITY

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.

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

We believe that success comes in many forms. 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.

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.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

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

COMMITMENT





I ATTENDED THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY AS THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S CADET. YOU GET THESE OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE THE SCHOOL ENCOURAGES YOU TO ACHIEVE THINGS THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU COULD DO. MY SCHOOL LIFE, AND LIFE IN GENERAL, WOULD BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WITHOUT THEM.

Sophie H, former pupil (2024)



COURAGE IS STEPPING UP WHEN IT'S EASIER TO HOLD BACK, AND COLLABORATION TURNS MY EFFORT INTO SHARED SUCCESS. WHETHER I'M PLAYING BADMINTON AT GAMES OR LEARNING WITH FRIENDS IN THE MEDICS CLUB, IT'S THROUGH THE TEAMWORK THAT I GROW THE MOST.

Preity I, Year 12



COURAGE

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

CO-CURRICULUM

Spending time outdoors, being creative, courageous, 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.

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.

At the heart of our school lies a deep commitment to pastoral care and pupil wellbeing. Our approach centres on building strong, trusting relationships – not only with pupils but also with their families – creating a foundation of mutual respect and open communication. Every child is known, valued, and supported through personalised care that reflects their unique needs and circumstances. Regular one-to-one sessions with dedicated Tutors ensure that pupils are well supported, nurtured and encouraged to aim high in their academic and co-curricular endeavours.

In the latest #BeeWell survey, 20% more of our pupils said they knew where to go for effective pastoral support compared to pupils in other independent schools in the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) region – an encouraging reflection of the strength and accessibility of our pastoral care.

Our values of curiosity, creativity, commitment, collaboration, compassion, and courage underpin every aspect of this care, shaping a community where pupils feel inspired, resilient, and ready to flourish.



**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT PASTORAL CARE**

Our care continues beyond school with the Development Office helping our alumni – Old Portmuthians – stay connected and aid in their career aspirations.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
OLD PORTMUTHIANS**

COMPASSION



AT PGS PASTORAL CARE IS WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF DAILY LIFE. ROOTED IN A DEEP COMMITMENT TO PUPIL WELLBEING, OUR APPROACH CENTRES ON BUILDING STRONG, TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PUPILS AND THEIR FAMILIES, CREATING A CULTURE OF MUTUAL RESPECT, OPEN COMMUNICATION, AND PERSONALISED SUPPORT.

Mrs Laura Ryan, Deputy Head (Pastoral)



// I THINK COLLABORATION IS REALLY IMPORTANT
BECAUSE IT IS CHALLENGING DOING THINGS
WITHOUT SUPPORT SOMETIMES. I LOVE TO
WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE AS YOU GET TO
SEE SO MANY PERSPECTIVES.

Charlotte H, Year 6



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.

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.

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.





HOUSE SHOUT

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

350 INDIVIDUAL LESSONS WEEKLY
46 CONCERT PERFORMANCES EACH 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
INVOLVING ALL YEAR GROUPS

85.9%

GRADES AWARDED

A* - B AT A-LEVEL

9 out of 10

STUDENTS GO ON TO THEIR
CHOSEN UNIVERSITIES

69%

OF PUPILS GO
ON TO A RUSSELL
GROUP PLUS
UNIVERSITY

YEAR 12 PUPILS COMPLETE

2,650

HOURS OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE AND WORK
PLACEMENTS EACH YEAR





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 the 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 Thematic Curriculum.

The foundations provided during The 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
MORE**

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.

At The Portsmouth Grammar Junior School, our Thematic Curriculum empowers pupils to develop flexible, lifelong skills through a rich blend of academic and co-curricular experiences. Our curriculum, combined with a strong pastoral system and dynamic house structure, provides a framework for exploring a wide range of interconnected disciplines.



**FIND
OUT
MORE**

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.
- Be committed to succeed academically and personally.

A young boy and girl are sitting on a blue carpeted floor, leaning over a large, light-colored, textured rug. They are both smiling and looking at several small, white rectangular cards scattered on the rug. The boy, on the left, is wearing a red sweater over a white collared shirt and a dark tie. He has short dark hair and wears glasses. The girl, on the right, is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a red and black striped tie, and a red and black plaid skirt. She has long dark hair styled in two braids. In the background, a classroom is visible with a bulletin board covered in various papers and photos, a window, and colorful triangular bunting hanging from the ceiling. The text "COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN" is overlaid in the bottom left corner in a white, sans-serif font, with "CHILDREN TO LEARN" in bold. A red wavy line runs horizontally across the bottom of the page.

COUNTLESS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CHILDREN TO LEARN

A young Black girl with glasses and braids, wearing a school uniform, is smiling and talking to a boy in a classroom. The boy is seen from the back, wearing a white shirt. They are sitting at a desk with papers and a colorful bag. The background shows a window and a potted plant.

PUPILS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC,
COMMITTED LEARNERS

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
MORE**

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
MORE**

A young man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a school uniform consisting of a white shirt, a patterned tie, and a dark blue V-neck sweater, is watering a variety of green plants in a greenhouse. He is holding a bright green watering can and pouring water onto the foliage. The background is filled with lush green plants and the structure of the greenhouse.

SUPPORTING PUPILS AS
THEY MOVE TOWARDS
THE WORLD BEYOND PGS



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

At PGS pupils are encouraged to look beyond the walls of the classroom in everything they do, to think more deeply and widely about the curriculum and their academic interests.

Academic enrichment begins in the Junior School, from themed days around topic learning so they can engage in activities to gain a greater depth of knowledge, to clubs that broaden their experience and challenge them to try something new.

In the Senior School there are curriculum opportunities to extend learning including trips, guest lectures and entrepreneurship days. Our rich and varied co-curriculum offers clubs designed to inspire greater thinking. From the Athena Society offering a forum for curiosity, creativity and critical thinking and the

Debating Society that encourages analytical thinking to Now Create offering the opportunity to unleash creativity in a relaxed environment and the PGS Extend project to inspire independent research in the Sixth Form.

We aim to be fully inclusive and to encourage all pupils to take part in activities that both excite and challenge them, that inspire them to pursue their own interests and passions and to equip them with skills that will last them a lifetime.



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.



**FIND
OUT
MORE**





A HEALTHY AND POSITIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARDS
SPORT AND TEAM GAMES

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**

PERFORMING **ARTS**

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

Junior School pupils can take part in Dance, Drama and Music sessions led by inspirational, enthusiastic 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 pupil's 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**







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**

OUR COMMUNITY

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

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 participate in our programme of partnership events, from science and music workshops through to support for aspirant medics applying for higher education courses.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

PGS has active cultural and educational partnerships with a wide network of schools across the globe, including Kikaaya College School, Uganda; Colegio Santa María Marianistas, Spain; and College Saint-Louis in Cabourg, Normandy.

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.

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'.



LEAVERS' TEA

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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