



# Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a very enjoyable holiday and have not experienced too many wet days over the six weeks. Talking to the children, they all appear to have had a really good time regardless of the weather, and, to a person, they seem very cheerful, enthusiastic and pleased to be

back at school as indeed do all the staff! I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all new pupils and their families; I hope that the first two days have been happy days for both you and your children and that this marks the beginning of a long and very happy relationship with PGS.

The first day of term is one of my favourite days of the year when I see all the children again; noting how much they have 'grown up' during the holiday: Reception children are always so proud of their 'lion' blazers, Year One children look so smart wearing collars and ties for the first time and Year Six children are very proud of being in the final year of the Junior School. I also love seeing former Junior pupils in the various different year groups of the Senior School, most especially those who have just become Sixth Formers, and quite clearly have matured into young adults, as well as those who have just left the Junior School who appear so pleased to be in the Senior School. One of our major roles is to prepare and equip our pupils for each new stage of their educational experience and it is very rewarding to see them taking new challenges in their stride developing with confidence and making such significant progress over the years.

It is also at this time of year that I find out how well our former pupils have done in the public examinations of GCSE and 'A' level. This year, once again, I am exceedingly proud and delighted with all of their performances. I was particularly pleased to learn that an impressive fifteen of them gained 4 grade 'A' passes and nine gained 3 grade 'A' passes at 'A' level. The GCSE results were equally impressive with 28 former pupils gaining all A's or A\*'s. Three former pupils deserve a special mention: Daisy Price and Davis Laundon for gaining 11 A\*'s and Grace Howson for achieving a remarkable 12 A\*'s. What was also noticeable, and equally as important, was that no former pupil in either 'A' level of GCSE has appeared to have underachieved, indeed many pupils have surpassed expectations. In the hope that some of them might be reading this letter, I would like to send them all my hearty congratulations!

It was a time of special celebration over the Summer holidays for Miss Chambers, Miss Jubb, Miss Turner and Miss Davies who were all married and for Miss Charter and Miss Drury who became engaged. I am sure you would like to join me in sending them our warmest congratulations.

Over the holiday, 48 pupils and a number of staff and parents experienced a very enjoyable and successful Brass Band trip to Italy; they departed on the first day of the holiday and returned six days later. Based at Lake Garda, the trip embraced visits to Verona, Venice, Monte Baldo, Malcesine Castle, Limone, a boat trip on Lake Garda and, most importantly, two

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Concerts, both of which were received most enthusiastically. It was a hugely successful trip in every possible respect and I am most grateful to Mr Brown for organising and running it; so ably supported by staff members, Mrs Nash, Mrs Minall, Mrs Tyacke and Mrs Holloway as well as many parents.

All staff spent the last two days of the school holidays having INSET (In-service educational training) that included sessions on: Child Protection, Risk Assessments, the teaching of spelling and constructive marking. The new Chairman of Governors, Brian Larkman, addressed all members of staff explaining that, as an 'old boy', he feels indebted to the school and, as such, now looks forward to contributing something to the school in return by supporting and influencing its future development. He mentioned how very impressed he was, when he re-established close contact with the school in 2002, with how the school has developed and all it has achieved over recent years.

This term, we welcome two new members of teaching staff, Miss Judith Hardy, who is 20 form teacher and KS1 Maths Co-ordinator and Mrs Angela Porter, as an additional learning support teacher. We also welcome two new Teaching Assistants: Miss Jo Gaughan in 2M and Miss Sarah Foster in RY.

In closing I would like to encourage all parents to attend the start of year curriculum information evenings over the next two weeks on the following days: Tuesday September 8th (Years 3 and 4), Thursday September 10th (Years 1 and 2), Monday September 14th (Years 5 and 6) and Thursday September 17th (Reception). Not only do these evenings provide valuable information that enable parents to help support their children's education over the year but also they present an ideal opportunity for parents to socialise with the staff and other parents. I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend, please note that there will be a pre-season staff training and coaching session at the Hilsa Playing Fields tomorrow and, as such, the first Saturday morning sports session for the pupils will be the following Saturday, September 12th.

Philippa Foster



Brass Band trip to Italy

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## INFORMATION AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### HILSEA GAMES—SAT 5th SEP

There will be no Hilsea games for pupils this weekend—all sessions start next Saturday 12th September 09.30-10.45.

### AFTERNOON GAMES—IMPORTANT REMINDER

The timetable has been adjusted to allow the afternoon Games session to begin directly after lunch thus creating sufficient time for us to RETURN ALL PUPILS FROM HILSEA for collection at school at the normal time of 3.35pm.

### CLUBS FOR THIS TERM

On Tuesday the club letter, tennis letter and Co-Curricular Brochure will be coming home with your child. Please read carefully and return the slip(s) as soon as you can, ensuring that you have included a contact number. We have a large variety of clubs and would like to thank all the staff concerned for their enthusiasm and commitment. We all hope that your children enjoy the Co-curricular programme this year.

### JSA BARN DANCE

Come along and have fun at the JSA Barn Dance on Sunday 20 September 2009 from 2pm - 5pm. Family Fun, dancing, snacks, Bar, Raffle. Meet other parents new and old. Support the JSA. Tickets £6.00 each (available from Junior School Office)

## BADGES

### RED BADGE

Congratulations to **Olivia Hooper**  
for gaining her Red Badge.

### GREEN BADGE

Congratulations to **Alice Leonard**  
for gaining her Green Badge.

## MENU WEEK 2

## HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: **Henry Buckle** for writing numbers to 100, **Oscar Cannon** for his outstanding performance on the trumpet winning the Year 3 music competition, **Charles Elliott** for his outstanding performance on the guitar in the final of the music competition, **Douglas James** for his outstanding performance on the piano in the final of the music competition



# SPORT



## SATURDAY SPORT

**NO HILSEA GAMES**

**NO FIXTURES**

## WEEKDAY SPORT

### ***POLITE NOTICE***

*There are occasions when weekday games sessions have to be cancelled even when the weather would appear to be fine. We strongly recommend that you make it a weekly habit to telephone the games line number on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The date is always stated on these occasions to ensure that there can be no misunderstanding. It would be appreciated if you could avoid ringing the Junior School Office for this information to leave the office free to deal with other communications.*

### **FIXTURES—Wednesday 9 September**

**U11A & B Netball v St Hilary's (away)**

**U10A & B Netball v St Hilary's (away)**