



## THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headmaster: James Priory MA

*jep/dck*

29 September 2010

To Parents of all pupils in Year 11

Dear Parents

Your son or daughter has now embarked upon a very important year in their academic life. Year 11 is, of course, their GCSE year, but it is also a year in which pupils are given the opportunity to consider their longer term ambitions, university possibilities and Sixth Form courses. I look forward to interviewing each pupil personally as part of this process.

Our pupils have the significant advantage of being able to choose between the IB Diploma Programme or A Level in Years 12 and 13. To guide them and you through these decisions, we have an extensive programme of events and interviews. Further information about the IB Diploma is available in the Guide to Sixth Form Courses which each pupil will receive, as well as on the school website at [www.pgs.org.uk](http://www.pgs.org.uk). Mr Simon Taylor, our Director of IB is also happy to answer any queries and can be contacted at [s.taylor@pgs.org.uk](mailto:s.taylor@pgs.org.uk).

The **Sixth Form and Beyond Evening**, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16 November, offers a series of presentations for parents on A Level and IB, the life of the Sixth Form and University. This is followed by an initial indication of pupils' subject choices which will be further refined at the **Sixth Form Subject Forum**, from 6.30 pm on Monday 10 January, an evening when pupils and parents can visit departmental stands and discuss their options with Heads of Department and individual subject teachers. Please note that the **GCSE Trial Examination** period for Year 11 pupils will be from 24 January – 4 February 2011 inclusive.

Date	Event	For
Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 October 2010	Individual interviews with Heads of Year team	Pupils
November	Interview with the Headmaster	Pupils
Tuesday 16 November	Sixth Form and Beyond presentations and activities Day	Pupils
Tuesday 16 November at 7.30 pm	Sixth Form and Beyond Evening	Parents
End of Autumn Term	Initial Indication of Sixth Form choices	Parents and Pupils
Monday 10 January 2011 from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm	Sixth Form Subject Forum	Parents and Pupils
Wednesday 2 March 2011 from 6.00 pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening	Parents and Pupils
March 2010	Firm Choices for Sixth Form Options	Parents and Pupils

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*Founded by William Smith MD, 1732*



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All Parents  
29 September 2010

The Sixth Form is very much the culmination of the educational experience we offer and it is our expectation that pupils will wish to complete their school careers with us. Pupils who are already in Year 11 do not need to apply for places in the Sixth Form. The standard period of a term's notice applies to any pupil wishing to continue their studies elsewhere. Do please feel able to contact us, however, if you would like to discuss your son's or daughter's aspirations further.

All pupils are also automatically considered for academic scholarships in the light of their GCSE results in the summer. Scholarships and bursaries previously awarded in the Senior School continue throughout the recipient's time in the Sixth Form.

We ask all our pupils to undertake some work experience during the summer holidays following their GCSE examinations. The range of placements organised by pupils is usually most impressive. We are convinced of the value of such an experience and it is an expectation of all those entering our Sixth Form that they will have undertaken a placement. It is certainly not too early to be thinking about arranging something for next summer. This is often best pursued through contacts with family or friends, although the careers department at PGS will be happy to advise. Your son or daughter will receive more information from Mr Hogg, Head of Careers, during the course of this term. He can be contacted on [careers@pgs.org.uk](mailto:careers@pgs.org.uk).

We would normally expect pupils to have achieved at least four grade As in GCSE subjects relevant to their Sixth Form choices and at least three other B grades. This guidance applies to both A Level and IB. It is our experience that pupils thrive in the Sixth Form if they have achieved this minimum standard.

If we have any concerns about an individual pupil's ability to manage the transition to the Sixth Form, we will expect to be in contact with you during the year to see what further support and guidance can be offered. Similarly, if you have any questions or concerns at this important stage please do not hesitate to contact us. Tutors, Heads of House and Heads of Year remain available for individual support throughout the year.

I do hope this proves to be an enjoyable and successful year for your son or daughter, and look forward to seeing you at the Sixth Form and Beyond Evening on 16 November.

Yours sincerely