



## THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headmaster: James Priory MA

3 October 2011

Dear Parents

### **The International Baccalaureate – Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the IB works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Many pupils at Portsmouth Grammar are well prepared for this style of learning and therefore have an opportunity to demonstrate this through the CAS Programme within the IB.

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. It is one of the three essential elements in every student's Diploma Programme experience. It involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the Diploma Programme. CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning.

The three elements of CAS are:

**Creativity** – arts and other experiences that involve creative thinking.

**Action** - physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing the academic work.

**Service** – an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The rights, dignity and autonomy of all those involved are respected.

There is an impressive variety of co-curricular activities on offer at Portsmouth Grammar School, many of which your son or daughter will be aware of, and I hope this provides an opportunity for them to take full advantage of these opportunities and perhaps try something new. Full details of these can be found both in the Yellow book and the CAS Handbook.

The Diploma Programme is designed to encourage independence and resourcefulness, so pupils are expected to set up some projects for themselves and take ownership of their own development and it is anticipated that some pupils and their families will prefer to arrange some activities for themselves; There is little doubt that pupils will benefit more if they make the initial contact and arrange all subsequent details for themselves. As with a minority of the activities identified on the attached document, where pupils are not supervised by PGS staff, pupils will need to enter into a direct

relationship with the organisation concerned. On occasion an institution may ask your son/daughter to undertake a CRB check if they will be working with children and/or vulnerable adults. We would advise you to take sensible precautions to ensure that such activities are appropriate, properly organised and safe.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address or by email [a.cross@pgs.org.uk](mailto:a.cross@pgs.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Ms Alexandra Cross  
CAS Coordinator