

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wish to start by thanking the many parents, carers and members of the wider community who have sent me and my team messages of support in this past half-term.

IPACA has an important term ahead and our immediate focus is on the effective delivery of this academic year. Many students have important examinations coming up and my team is 100% focused on delivering for each and every one of them. Next week our Year 6 pupils will sit their SAT examinations, we wish them well knowing that they are fully prepared to do their best. These will be closely followed by GCSE and A-Level examinations and KS1 SATs. We wish all learners well in these important examinations.

Alongside our immediate focus, many of you will know that Senior Leaders from Aspirations Academy Trust are spending the summer term reviewing the systems currently in place at IPACA, as well as consulting on the changes that will be implemented to ensure that all children reach their maximum potential long-term.

Aspirations Academies Trust have had an exciting two weeks on Portland, meeting with IPACA staff and parents to discuss their vision for IPACA going forward. Thank you to those people who came along to our recent Parent Forum attended by Aspirations Academies Trust and for those already signed up to visit their other schools in Bournemouth and Poole. Aspirations will notify us of future dates for parent information meetings.

It's not too late to sign up for a tour - **Tuesday 09/05/17 - 8:30-1.30 - Magna Academy**
Thursday 18/05/17 8:30-3:00 - AM - Magna Academy / PM - Jewell Academy

To book a place on one of these trips, please email eclayton@ipaca.org.uk.

Colleagues from Aspirations Academies Trust have shared the new name for the Academy, which will be Atlantic Academy Portland and the logo, which has been designed to reflect the Academy's geographical location near the sea and cliffs, as well as to complement the nature of the current Academies within the south coast district.

It is important to remember that while ideas have also been shared regarding streamlining the curriculum, carrying out building work to ensure the teaching spaces are fit for purpose and able to promote an all-through learning environment, rather than distinct primary and secondary phases... these at this stage are ideas very much still 'under development'.

It is critical that, as plans and opportunities are developed, Aspirations Academies Trust and IPACA are given the opportunity to work as professionals to develop a relationship. If we are to move forward together, in what potentially is a very exciting opportunity for our community, it must be done with proper due diligence on both sides.

With this in mind, I would ask parents and carers to not listen to gossip or rumour, to stay well clear of spurious Facebook forums which degrade me, my colleagues and put at serious risk the exciting opportunity for our community. Instead, please stay tuned to our official channels of communication which include this bulletin, our website and our Parent Forum events. When there is information to be shared, it will be shared in an effective and timely manner.

In the meantime, I would ask you to be patient.

What I can tell you is that every interaction we have had so far with Aspirations Academies Trust has been a positive one from initial discussions to Staff and Governor presentations, from representation at our recent Parent Forum event to our INSET day for staff visiting Magna, Jewell, and Ocean Academies. I am determined that we continue to build on this successful start.

Rome wasn't built in a day and our school has a long journey ahead to achieve it's potential. Let's work together to build success.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Gary Spracklen
Acting Principal

Forthcoming Key Dates

Gateway & Pathway

Thursday May 25th - Year 7 & 8 Parent Consultation Evening

Friday May 26th - Break up for May Half Term

Discovery/ Gateway Transition

Monday 8th May to Thursday 11th May - Yr6 SATs

Thursday 11th May - Parent Forum Meeting 2.00pm-3.00pm
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Friday 12th May - Gateway Transition Bake Sale

Friday 26th May - Break up for May Half Term



Year 6 SATs - Good Luck Year 6

Here's hoping all your hard work and dedication pays off and you achieve your full potential in your forthcoming exams.

Memory Stones Project

The Memory Stones Project - Over the past month several Year 10 students have become involved in the Memory Stone Project that is being co-ordinated by Portland Sculpture Trust in association with Brighton University. The long term aim of the project is to highlight the work of local artists, geologists, architects, ecologists, quarrymen and Portland industry and attract visitors to the sculpture park in Tout Quarry. Our students have been photographing the shadows that are cast by the stones each day, with the view to mapping the way the shadows move through the seasons. The work our students are doing will ultimately form part of a mathematical map that visitors will be able to access using QR codes and their mobile phones. If you would like to find out more, and get involved please contact Mr Dawson at the Academy.





On Your Bike - Now the evenings are so much lighter Mr Dawson's Friday Bike Ride Club are enjoying longer sessions exploring the highways and byways, quarries and tracks, and checking out some of the amazing views. Every week the group meet and set off on another adventure with a great sense of camaraderie. Friday Bike Club offers the opportunity to explore the locality together in safety and also hone those cycle safety skills and try some tricks and stunts. It's a fun way to keep fit and stretch those growing legs, why don't you come along? Remember helmets are compulsory. See Mr Dawson for more details.

Exploring Portland

Year 7 are currently undertaking the "Exploring Portland" project - Students are out and about Portland on Wednesday afternoons finding new places they have never been before and learning about the local environment and history. The walk to Portland Bill along the cliff was a real hit, Oliver said 'I loved seeing The Race from the cliffs and seeing all around us.' Groups go out and alternate each week, classroom sessions are focused on documenting their walks and discoveries either digitally or through art and creative writing. There will be a presentation evening at the end of the term where the students will share their work. Here are a few photos from the past few weeks.



Millionaire's Club

Gateway Transition readers have excelled themselves this year. Amazing progress in reading has been made and the new Millionaire Reader group is the largest ever with 13 members, one of whom has exceeded 2.4 million words read. Well done, Zachary, what a tremendous achievement. Congratulations also to Tara and Oliver who are close to 2 million words. It is such a joy to see the children enjoying their books, the AR programme is certainly proving effective.

Details about the Tynham Village readers' reward trip will be coming home shortly. This is an annual trip to the abandoned historical Dorset village with opportunities for photography, creative writing and history study. I think we will need a mini bus just for the brilliant Gateway Transition readers this year.

Well done everybody and Good Luck in your SATs next week.

Mrs Kelly

Fantastic Writing



We are all proud of Alice's achievement in having one of her poems published in the celebrated Young Writers competition.

Busta Rhyme gives students the opportunity to write a poem about something they feel passionately about. Lyrical poets express emotion through verse on all matter of subjects, from current affairs, religion and identity to love, loss and everything in-between. It's a chance to voice opinion, share a memory or dilemma, impart advice, or indulge in writing about something they adore.

Well Done Alice!

Keep FIT, Be ACTIVE

Early morning circuit training on Wednesdays has been a true success and attendance has been really high and very regular amongst the students.

Mr Coelho has been very impressed with the number of IPACA runners he sees on Saturday/Sunday morning at the Park Run in Weymouth.



Parents and Carers who are having trouble setting up their account can contact

cashless@ipaca.org.uk

Nursery

Parents entitled to childcare support can receive 30 free hours of childcare, please see poster/leaflet for more information or contact Kate Haskins at khaskins@ipaca.org.uk

Stay and Play - Come & and join us for a stay and play afternoon, every Thursday at Osprey Quay, 2:00pm -3:10pm

PTFA

The IPACA Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) have launched a lottery! This lottery is one of many fundraising initiatives that the IPACA PTFA are championing in order to raise funds for much needed outdoor play equipment.

There will be a guaranteed weekly winner from one of IPACA's pool of supporters and a further opportunity to win £25,000 in a weekly jackpot. The local prize currently stands at £20 and will increase as our supporters grow.

This weekly lottery will be drawn every Saturday evening and tickets cost just £1 per week. It's open to anyone in the UK so please spread the word to friends, family, colleagues and the local community.

To be included in the first draw, which will take place on Saturday 6th May 2017 please sign up by 3rd May. Go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Isle of Portland.

Good luck and thank you for your support!

We've sold 48 tickets so far, which gives a projected annual fund of £998.40 for IPACA...with your help, let's raise even more.

A huge thank you to the ladies who organised the recent Bingo night and for everybody who supported the event, a fantastic amount of £900 was raised which will go towards improving outside areas for all pupils.

Our next big event is our virtual Race Night, see poster for details. Tickets are on sale now at each campus. If you cannot attend but would like to support the event, we are selling horses in advance for £10 each. For this you get to name your horse, have your name or business name printed in 100 race Cards and be in with a chance of winning some cash if your horse wins its race. Why not get a group of you together to sponsor a horse or two? Contact me at jessicaj555@yahoo.com for more details. We are also looking for raffle prizes. If you have something you would like to donate, please leave at either campus or contact me to arrange collection, thank you.

Jess PTFA Chair

Parent Pit Stop

Opportunity to Meet Other Parents

Come in for a coffee and chat with parents of children from 0 -19 years old, living on Portland.

Make new friends and share experiences...
...it won't cost you a penny. The Pit Stop is free.

Tuesday	8:30am - 09:30am	Osprey Quay
Thursday	8:30am - 09:30am	Maritime House Race Restaurant

For more information, please phone the office on 820262



Senior Leadership Team

Acting Principal - Mr Spracklen gspracklen@ipaca.org.uk

Key Stage 4, Pathway Phase - Mrs Pearce,
rpearce@ipaca.org.uk

Key Stage 2 , King Barrow School - Mr Spracklen,

Early Years to Year 4, - Mrs Thomas, jthomas@ipaca.org.uk

Specialist Provision - Miss Axford, kaxford@ipaca.org.uk

Business Support Services - Ms M Smith,
msmith@ipaca.org.uk