Peacehaven Community School

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Year 11 Newsletter 1

Belonging 2026 - 2027

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first term together in Year 11, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a positive and important start to this crucial year.

Year 11 is a significant milestone in a young person's school journey. With GCSEs beginning to feel much closer, there can naturally be an increased focus on revision, mock examinations and future plans. However, alongside academic success, one of the most important things we can offer our young people is a **sense of belonging** – feeling valued, supported and proud to be part of their school community. One way we have tried to embed this early in the year is with the addition of the leavers jumpers and adapted uniform. This has given the Year 11 students a sense of individuality and privilege as the oldest students in the school.

It has been wonderful to see our Year 11 students continuing to grow in confidence, develop their relationships and take greater responsibility for their learning. Whether through their interactions with staff, the support they offer one another, their involvement in school life or the small everyday moments that make a difference, these experiences all contribute to creating a year group where students feel they belong. I have been impressed with all the students' application and commitment to the morning and after school intervention sessions. There feels a real sense of appreciation with the personalised interventions that are focused on filling their gaps and consolidating necessary knowledge.

Belonging matters. When young people feel connected to their school, know that people care about them and understand that they are an important part of something bigger than themselves, they are more likely to feel confident, engage with their learning and persevere when things become challenging. As we move through the year, we want every pupil to know that they matter, that their contribution is valued and that there is a team of people here who want to see them succeed. The feedback from the students on Drop Down Day demonstrates that they understand the time and effort that went into providing them with an extremely valuable experience within the Maths and English lead lessons. The students themselves should be praised for the way they conducted themselves throughout the day - they were absolutely fantastic.

Of course, Year 11 also brings its challenges. The expectations are higher, the workload can feel demanding and the pressure of examinations can sometimes seem overwhelming. Our message to students is simple: **you do not have to navigate this year alone**. We are here to encourage, guide and support them, celebrating their successes while helping them learn from setbacks and keep moving forward.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in this journey. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership with the school. By working together, we can help our young people feel secure, motivated and ready to make the most of the opportunities ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in particular for your support with blackout app integration, this really has made a positive impact on focus in and around school and your attendance to support your child at the Post 16 event. It was so lovely to see the students have the confidence to engage with staff/adults outside of PCS.

As we look towards the next term, our focus remains on building a strong Year 11 community where students attend regularly, participate positively, support one another and take pride in being part of our school. Every day is an opportunity to strengthen that sense of belonging and take another step towards a successful future.

I am incredibly proud of the potential within this year group and look forward to seeing what they can achieve in the months ahead. Let us continue to remind them that t**hey belong, they are valued, and they are capable of achieving great things.**

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back ready for the next stage of our Year 11 journey as the first set of mock exams begin.

Kind regards,

Miss Kate Leggett