



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive period for Atlantic Academy and to thank you for your continued support.

This term has been characterised by hard work and commitment from both students and staff. Across the academy we have seen purposeful classrooms, students engaging well in their learning and a real determination to do their best.

One of the most encouraging improvements this term has been in attendance, which has risen significantly. Coming to school every day really does make a difference, and it has been wonderful to see so many students making that commitment. At Atlantic, our vision centres on Self-Worth, Engagement and Purpose, and it has been pleasing to see these values reflected in the way our students approach their learning and school life.

It has also been a busy term for enrichment beyond the classroom. Students organised and ran a basketball tournament for Weymouth and Portland primary schools, explored the regeneration of Bristol through Geography fieldwork, visited Leonardo's Helicopter Base to learn more about STEM careers, and travelled to Poole to explore the world of Warhammer. Students were also honoured to attend the investiture of the new High Sheriff of Dorset, competed in a netball trip to Bath, and worked with the Royal Navy to develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Following recent internal assessments, we will be reviewing Year 9 teaching sets to ensure students are supported and challenged appropriately. This may mean that some set changes take place next term as we continue to refine our provision.

We will be saying goodbye to two valued members of staff this term. Mrs Luke will be retiring after nearly 29 years in education on Portland. During that time she has taught teachers, parents and now the children of many former students; a wonderful reflection of the impact she has had across generations on the island. We thank Jackie for her commitment and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

We will also be saying goodbye to Ms Stone, who is leaving us to move to a school in Dorchester. We are grateful for her contribution and wish her every success in this next stage of her career.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication and care, and our families and wider community for the continued support and growing parent engagement across the academy.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming students back next term on Monday 13th April.

Warm regards,

Miss M Heppell  
Principal - Atlantic Academy Portland



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