



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The end of a calendar year is, as always, a good time to reflect on the events and achievements we have enjoyed at Pembroke. It is also a time to look forward to the New Year and resolve to develop further as a school community as well as individuals. Below is just a snapshot of what goes on at Pembroke! Please follow Priory Pembroke Academy on Facebook, or our Twitter page @PrioryPembroke, to see the full extent of the “Pembroke Offer”.

Click here to see the latest Newsletter – [Pembroke Press \(Dec 22\)](#)

Module 1 & 2 Reflection

Our sporting success goes from strength to strength! There have been a number of teams competing in a variety of sports. Our girls recently won a 5-a-side football tournament as well as enjoying a long away trip to Hull in the National Cup. Boys across the year groups have competed in many football matches with some varying results. Many of our students ran in the local cross-country, with some qualifying for the regional race and there have been fixtures home and away in badminton and rugby.

There have been many competitions for the students to show their passion, including “Inktober”, the Reading Challenge (see the student planner for more information), the Christmas Card and Christmas Bauble competition, the Halloween Writing Competition and the Great Pembroke Bake Off. Students, parents and staff have been generous in time, effort and donations taking part in our annual Wellbeing Walk and Macmillan Coffee Morning, our ‘wear something yellow’ for Children in Need and supporting the Community Speed Watch scheme.

In November, over 100 students visited London to see the production of “Woman in Black” and Year 11 visited the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court last week. These were both academic trips developing curiosity and supporting learning in the classroom with experiences in the ‘real world’.

Finally, the number of students receiving praise and awards for their wisdom and courage seems to be never-ending! Check the social media feeds for Hot Chocolate Friday, Pledges awarded, students ‘Knighthed’ and a very popular ‘Doughnut Day’.

Achieving Together in the New Year

At Pembroke, our intention is to improve life chances and create successful citizens of the world. However, we understand we cannot do this alone. With this in mind, it is important to share our experiences of some of the challenges that face young people in 2022, and ask for your support as parents in dealing with these.

Headteacher: Mr S Evans

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The Priory Pembroke Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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Attendance at school

You will have received a letter earlier this year detailing the guidance from the DfE and from Pembroke on student attendance. It is clear in statistics that students with higher attendance are more likely to achieve their goals, not only in their grades, but also in careers beyond their time in school. We ask parents to support in building their child's resilience in getting into school. Assess the reasons or 'excuses' children are giving to ask for a day off. Can they 'soldier through' the day? Children learn best when in a classroom with a teacher.

Further to this, please ensure you use the correct channels in the event of absence. The Pembroke stance on planned absence, especially for family holidays, is clear: in all but the most exceptional circumstances these absences will be unauthorised. Please contact the school to request a 'Request for leave of absence' form. In the case of emergency absences, please ring 01522 751 040, pressing option 3, or email pembrokeadmin@prioryacademies.co.uk.

Use of mobile phones and social media

Mobile phones and social media are powerful and important tools in the 21st Century. Although we as adults have had these introduced to us in our 20s, 30s or later, our children have grown with them as part and parcel of their life. It is important for us to recognise how they can be used effectively, and teach our children how to use them safely. We urge parents to discuss with their child their use of social media, what they post and how they respond to other posts. A useful phrase for assessing the suitability and appropriateness of a post is to ask the question: "would you show that post to your grandparent?" If the answer is "no", then the post is more than likely not appropriate.

For further information, guidance and support, please visit our website's e-safety page which can be found through this link: [Support for parents regarding e-safety](#)

Vaping: an issue in society

Vaping and e-cigarettes have been introduced to the market in the past two decades as a 'safer' alternative to smoking cigarettes. 'Safer', however, does not mean 'safe'. There are dangers associated with vapes, especially if used by children. Cancer Research UK state: "*E-cigarettes are not risk-free. We don't yet know their long-term effects, so people who have never smoked shouldn't use them.*"

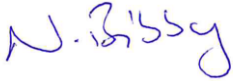
We are aware that some children are finding access to vapes, including disposable types of vapes such as "Elf bars". The vast majority of these do contain nicotine. Nicotine is a highly addictive chemical. Although there are no known side effects of 'passive vaping', the smell and smoke released when vaping is seen as anti-social by many people. Further to this, there are significant dangers to the environment of disposable, single-use plastic items and we all should be avoiding these in all forms.

We are urging all parents to discuss the dangers of vapes with their children, be vigilant around the possibility of their child accessing and using vapes, and supporting them and the school in taking appropriate action. The most recent advice we have received is to treat children using vapes in school in the same way we would those caught smoking. We will sanction where necessary, as well as provide education and support to help students avoid vaping in the future.

Reflections and resolution

As I said above, Christmas and New Year is a time to reflect on the year past and resolve to improve as individuals and a community in the year to come. At Pembroke, we are proud of what the students have achieved in 2022. Remembering back to January, Pembroke received an inspection from OfSTED, and we are proud of their judgement that we are a 'Good' school. We truly believe this is indicative of how we Achieve Together from students, staff and parents, to the wider local community. It will be interesting to hear in the New Year what the students have resolved to develop in their own lives. We look forward to sharing their journey in the months and years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



Mr N Bibby
Assistant Headteacher

