

Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Easter break, I write to you to reflect on another successful module at The Priory Pembroke Academy. Pembroke students continue to flourish; it is a joy to see the school's motto and values embodied in every aspect of student life both within and beyond the classroom. Every day, we see children improving their life chances and becoming true citizens of the world.

Some recent highlights include passion from our Year 7 and 8 students developing their sewing skills to create The Pembroke Heart, which will be part of the Lincoln Heart Trail displayed in The Waterside Shopping Centre this summer. This module, MFL ran a trip for Spanish students to dine at Ole Ole where they were able to try out their linguistic skills. They demonstrated great courage ordering and conversing with restaurant staff in Spanish. Curiosity meant a variety of different tapas dishes were ordered and enjoyed. Adventures were had on the Italian slopes over February half-term. Students showed great wisdom in improving their ski skills under the guidance of their expert instructors. All students were great advocates for the academy. We must also take this opportunity to make a special mention to Lily Plummer and Leah Cutler who have achieved a Performing Arts Scholarship - well done!

Transition assemblies and taster days for new Year 7 students joining Pembroke in September 2023 will begin next module. At least 120 students will be joining us in September in Year 7, with many more on the waiting list. This reflects the growth and ongoing success of the academy. At the other end of the Pembroke journey are Year 11. They are in the final run up to prepare for the summer examinations which begin in May. Year 11 continue to fundraise for their important celebration event with cake sales and cinema evenings; generosity has been shown with students supporting these events from all year groups.

Pembroke celebrated World Book Day with such passion that it lasted a full week. There were free books, quizzes, treasure hunts, stories read aloud in lessons and our annual Book Character Balloon Debate. Special mention must go to Hector, George P, Jaydan, Evan and Max B who showed huge passion and courage in debating in front of a large audience on World Book Day itself. The week showed that reading can mean so much more than just 'books'! Our PE department and sporting students have been so busy that it's hard to keep up! There have been a number of football, cross country, and dodgeball fixtures bringing much success; participating students demonstrated a great deal of resilience and passion in equal measure. Careers events continue with visits to post-16 places and careers interviews. This continues to widen their knowledge of the different industries and sectors of work to support in their future choices. Year 9 have chosen their options for GCSE subjects for Year 10 and 11. Now is the time for us to work on the timetable and confirm these option choices for the students. This is the first step they will take on the next exciting journey in their education.

The Thinking Reading programme is well underway with intervention ensuring that no child leaves Pembroke with a reading age below their chronological age. Sparxs Maths is also underway to generate a bespoke Maths homework curriculum for students.

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So many students have completed parts of our Pledge Programme and received their badges in our assemblies. 89 out of 126 Year 7 students have now achieved at least one pledge immersing themselves in The Pembroke ethos. The Knights continue to lead on the Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) making sure student voice is represented and heard.

The summer fair takes place on the 29th June, for students it starts at 2 and is open until 5, but is open to all families and friends in the Pembroke family from 3-5. Each form will have a stall filled with fun games and prizes. The fair will include a vast variety of exhilarating activities to keep you occupied during the event and, as per usual, all students and parents are welcomed. We just recommend you bring some money for both the stalls and refreshments.

Parents and carers can always keep up to date with the 'goings-on' by viewing the website, following us on Twitter @PrioryPembroke and searching for Priory Pembroke on Facebook. For more information, please see the front page our e-newsletter on the website at www.priorypembroke.co.uk.

Moving forward, it is important for us to reiterate our expectations on the standard of uniform. This is something which is often highly commended by visitors to the school and members of the public who see our students in the community. Please refer to the published uniform guidance on pages 12-13 of the student planner especially if purchasing new uniform over the Easter break. I would like to pay particular attention to trousers being grey and straight cut in style and the guidance on jewellery, which if not followed can cause a safety issue.

There are many reasons behind the use of a school uniform, not least the feeling of belonging to a community or family which is in adhering to our motto of Achieving Together. I would also like to highlight that wearing a school uniform takes away the difficult decision of "what do I wear today?" at the start of a day. Young people have enough decisions to make during the day, and removing one of these only supports them in their wellbeing.

I trust everyone in the Pembroke family will enjoy the rest over the Easter break and I look forward to seeing the students back on Monday 17^{th} April, 2023.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Black

<u>Associate Assistant Headteacher</u> *Be ready, be safe, be respectful.*