



**PEMBROKE**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Head of Year 9, I am writing a short letter to introduce myself to you at this early stage of the new academic year. My name is Mrs Young and I look forward to a successful year with our students and yourselves.

Since starting with Pembroke in September the main thing I have been incredibly impressed with is the kindness and generosity across the year group – there are always students who are willing to lend a hand to others and help out. It has been so nice as a Head of Year to receive positive emails about so many of Year 9 going above and beyond: from helping lost Year 7 students find their way; completing demonstrations and being expert tour guides at open evening to showing excellent leadership and sportsmanship in football matches and PE lessons. Visiting Year 9 in lessons, it has been wonderful to see how many of them are always ready and eager to learn – it is wearing my stamp out! It seems to me that the students have all settled in to their new timetables and routines exceptionally well and I am looking forward to supporting them through the exciting challenges the rest of this year may hold!

### **Uniform**

It is pleasing to see the vast majority of our students wearing the Pembroke uniform with pride. We have high standards of uniform and make no apologies for this. Many visitors to the school and members of the local community comment on how smart our students are. We believe that if a student looks smart, they feel smart, and therefore work smart!

I would like to point parents and students in the direction of the uniform policy published on our website and in the student planner on page 11 (the PE uniform is detailed on page 12). In particular please be aware that trousers should be straight, classic style; jewellery is limited to one pair of plain stud earrings and one finger ring; a watch can be worn around the wrist. We will work with students and parents to ensure uniform worn meets our expectations. If there are any queries regarding this please feel free to get in touch.

### **Recording behaviours to support learning**

At Pembroke we have always had an ethos of celebrating positive behaviours, and we do this through stamps in the planner, Hot Chocolate Friday, positive phone calls home, Value Postcards and celebration assemblies at the end of modules, as well as many, many more means. I urge parents to go through the planner at least once a week with their child, signing where indicated, and celebrate the successes. Experience has taught us that this is an effective method of understanding 'what goes on' at school.

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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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More recently staff and students at Pembroke have had a voice in reviewing and refining how we deal with disruption to learning, also known as 'low-level disruption'. We have introduced a more comprehensive method of recording low-level disruption, to support our strategies to tackle this. As our behaviour policy states: *"all students have the right to learn; all teachers have the right to teach"*. This, coupled with our three rules of Be Ready, Be Safe and Be Respectful, are a driving force behind our work in this area.

Our aim is for all students, teachers and parents to see a benefit within lessons and learning. The vast majority of parents will see no difference in our recording of behaviours, as we know the vast majority of our students are Ready, Safe and Respectful in all areas of Pembroke life. However, staff are recording disruption to lessons, including when a student has needed to be removed, and this data will inform conversations with students and parents in order to find the right support to improve behaviours where necessary. If you have any queries or comments on this, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

### **Keeping up-to-date with Pembroke Life**

There is so much which goes on during the academy week and we are very keen to share this with you at home. Our website, [www.priorypembroke.co.uk](http://www.priorypembroke.co.uk) is regularly updated with news stories (under the heading 'News') and contains information about extra-curricular activities and clubs which run each module (in the 'Extra-Curricular' section). It is here that you view the range of clubs and activities on offer this Module. These clubs and activities are updated on a module by module basis. We are on Twitter so please follow us @PrioryPembroke for the latest news and information and we also have a Facebook page (search for Priory Pembroke). It is quite incredible what the students at Pembroke can achieve, and social media is an easy way for parents to keep up-to-date!

With Module 1 now in full swing, students and staff as well as parents and carers are very busy. On top of all the module grades given each module, below is a list of key dates for your calendars to help you with organisation and planning:

### **Key dates for Year 9**

Parents Evening: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Woman in Black Trip: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Mock examinations: 12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June (TBC)

Photograph day: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Written Reports issued: Week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> July

Options Evening: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Year 9 students have made a settled and successful start to Module 1 and they should be as proud of this as I am.

Kind regards,

**Mrs A Young**  
**Head of Year 9**