



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

11th September 2023

Dear Parents / carers

In February 2023, we invited parents and carers to complete a questionnaire reviewing our homework procedures as part of our on-going school improvement work. The feedback we received has contributed to the development of a new Independent Learning policy. This will be launched to students on Monday 11th September 2023, and will require access to Microsoft Teams.

Independent Learning

Purpose

Independent learning (previously called homework) helps to reinforce what students have learned in the classroom. When students are assigned independent learning, they have the opportunity to practice and apply the concepts and skills they have learned in class. Independent Learning helps to develop good study habits. They must learn to manage their time effectively in order to complete the assignments on time. This helps to build discipline and responsibility, which are important life skills that will serve students well both in and out of the classroom, and prepare them for the requirements of key stage 4 courses.

However, Pembroke Academy recognises that family life and commitments beyond the school day are different for everyone. Therefore, independent learning will only be set where there is a clear purpose:

- to enhance the core curriculum;
- to drive learning forward; or
- to help students commit learning to their long-term memory.

Setting of Independent Learning

All compulsory independent learning tasks can be found in students' planners as well as the Module Curriculum update which is sent via In Touch and posted on the Academy [website](#). Every module, there will be at least one compulsory task for each subject that your child must complete, increasing to at least two in Year 10 and 11. They will have one week to complete this from the time it is set by their class teacher. It is vital that this important task is completed as it will be directly linked to the core curriculum.

Mathematics will continue to set weekly homework through Sparx Maths for all year groups.

Some students and families would like to engage in independent learning more regularly to enhance and extend learning. To support this, each subject will provide a variety of additional independent learning opportunities linked to the topic being studied. These opportunities will enhance the core curriculum, but will not prevent

Headteacher: Mr S Evans

The Priory Pembroke Academy, Croft Lane, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4JP

Tel: 01522 751040 **Email:** generalenquiries@priorypembroke.co.uk **www.priorypembroke.co.uk**

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

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

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access to lessons for students who are unable to complete additional tasks. Students will be able to select from a range of different tasks should they wish to complete them. Additional Independent Learning tasks will be available to students through Microsoft Teams. A guide to setting up a Teams account can be found on the Academy website.

Subject points and/or values stamps will be awarded for every piece of independent work completed. Students will be encouraged to complete as many of these additional independent learning opportunities as they can.

Independent Learning Feedback

All independent learning completed will be recognised, with students receiving subject points and/or stamps. Some tasks will also contribute to the Reading Rewards and Pembroke Pledge.

Some tasks will use self-marking or instant feedback platforms, for example Seneca Learning, Duo Lingo or Sparx Maths.

For open-ended tasks, students will receive whole class feedback, identifying strengths of work submitted and any common areas for development.

Accessibility

Students who do not have access to the necessary resources at home are invited to join the weekly Homework Club (Monday – Wednesday, 3.05 - 4.00). Staff are on-hand to provide additional support and guidance with both compulsory and additional independent learning tasks.

Any student with access issues who is unable to attend homework club should contact their form tutor in the first instance to look at alternative methods of providing these independent learning opportunities.

For further information, please go to Independent Learning section of the Academy website

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Warnock
Assistant Headteacher