

Tuesday 2nd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher at The Priory Pembroke Academy. I am happy to take over the reins of such a great school with wonderful students and staff and I look forward to meeting you as supportive parents. There will be many opportunities over the coming weeks and months for you to visit and engage with us - further details will follow once the term has started.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Pembroke for the start of another school year and are confident they will continue to learn and develop to become true citizens of the world. To ensure that we fulfil every child's potential, we have made some updates to the Academy's behaviour procedures, which are outlined in this letter.

Firstly, we continue to recognise and reward the many positive things your child does in school and are always seeking ways to celebrate their successes with them. We value our suite of rewards which includes: Hot Chocolate Fridays; the 'Always Club'; the reformed Pledge Programme and rewarding every occasion a student exhibits one of our five school values. I am pleased to inform you that these will soon be visible on the SIMs Parent App so you can share and celebrate these many successes with your child at the earliest opportunity. As a school, we continually look for further ways to reward and recognise these positive behaviours and achievements. There are additional plans for a bespoke rewards system for each year group and we will take student voice in order to be most effective.

Last year, we also introduced some additional measures to ensure we responded effectively to the rare instances of less than positive behaviours exhibited by a small number of students. After listening carefully to staff, student and parent voice, we have made some refinements to this element of our behaviour policy for this academic year. Students will continue to receive three warnings in a lesson where their choices have disrupted learning. If a teacher's de-escalation strategies have been unsuccessful because a student has not modified their behaviour, the student will be removed from the lesson to a dedicated quieter space with a senior member of staff. Here, a student will be able to work with that member of staff to reflect on their choices and to continue to complete classwork. This also means that the students in the lesson the child was removed from can continue the lesson without their learning being disrupted.

Headteacher: Mrs H Spoors



Our student, staff and parent voice last year clearly showed that students who had been removed from a classroom were rarely able to attend their next normal timetabled lesson due to a lack of time to become truly deregulated with little quality reflection having taken place. To avoid this happening and ultimately further learning being disrupted, a child who is removed from a lesson will remain working in this quieter space with a senior member of staff for the next five periods. We are confident that this extended period of reflection with a senior member of staff will increase the chances of the student engaging more positively in the next lesson they attend. Any student who has been removed from a lesson will also be required to sit a 30 minute detention after school where a restorative conversation can take place with the teacher who removed them from a lesson. This detention will take place on the same day, and the relevant parent/carer will be informed of this in good time by office staff in order for any changes in end of day arrangements to be made.

We are confident that this further refinement to our rewards and behaviour procedures will further improve the classroom environment for all students, maximising their chances to learn and develop, and ultimately provide every child with the education they deserve.

If you have any questions, please contact the Academy in the usual way. I look forward to seeing your child on 4th September.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H Spoors Headteacher