



**PEMBROKE**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Head of Year 11, I am writing a short letter to introduce myself to you at this early stage of the new academic year. My name is Mr Lawson-Smyth and I look forward to a successful year with our students and yourselves.

After only a short period into the new academic year, I have to say how pleased I am with the way in which year 11 have settled into their new timetables and new routines. It has been lovely to see the positive manner in which the year group respond to the academy motto of 'achieving together', our three rules of 'Be Safe; Be Ready; Be Respectful' and of course, to our five core values of 'Courage, Curiosity, Generosity, Passion and Wisdom'. In lessons, it has been noticed by various members of staff how well students are responding to these values in their learning.

I am sure you will agree that year 11 is a crucial year for students, as they prepare themselves for life after Pembroke. As such, it was pleasing to welcome so many parents / carers into the academy for our most recent parents evening. Many students have begun to create and implement revision timetables, which I am sure will lead to positive and successful outcomes.

### **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

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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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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.

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 11**

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	School Photographs
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> November – Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Mock Examinations (All Subjects)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Westminster Trip
W/C Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Written Reports issued
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Mock Interview Day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Mock Examinations (Core Subjects Only)
W/C Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Module and ATL Grades
May – June 2023 (Dates TBC)	Summer Examinations

Year 11 students have made a settled and successful start to this year, and they should be as proud of this as I am.

Kind regards,

**Mr Lawson-Smyth**  
**Head of Year 11**