



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

With Module 1 and 2 complete, we are now a third of the way through our academic year. Our new intake Year 7 have settled into life at 'big school' and our Year 11 are already looking forward to life beyond Pembroke. As all students will have been told in assemblies, time moves fast! It is our intention to ensure all students, across all year groups, leave Pembroke with good life chances and become successful citizens of the world. As ever, we must Achieve Together with all parents and carers in order to fulfil this ambition. I would like to reflect on this year's journey so far, and look forward to the New Year with recommendations of how you as parents can support your child at Pembroke.

Mobile phones and e-safety

The whole school drive on reducing the use of mobile phones has had positive outcomes so far. The Pembroke policy is for no student to be using mobile phones for any reason within the school hours. Learning in the classroom is detrimentally affected by the distraction phones can bring and, as some parents will be aware, social media usage can affect friendships greatly. Guidance released in October from the Department for Education backs schools to ban all mobile phone usage during the school day.

At Pembroke we also have our internet filtering system, called Smoothwall. The system blocks any websites that can be harmful or inappropriate for children. This system works when students log into their school account, but cannot filter their internet access through their network provider on their phone. In order to maintain the e-safety of all students we must insist that mobile phones are not used in school. I know phones can be a popular gift at Christmas time. I would urge parents to set up parental controls on any phones and electronic devices, and keep a close eye on the content children are accessing.

More advice for parents can be found through this link: [Support for parents regarding e-safety](#)

Attendance at school

Attendance has a direct effect on success. Nationally there has been a decline in school attendance since the pandemic, and the government, local authority, Priory Trust and Pembroke are working hard to improve attendance of children in order to improve their chances of success. Whilst 100% attendance would be 'perfect', we understand there may be the occasional absence due to illness. Therefore, the expectation is for all students to achieve more than 95% attendance at school. Parents of any student not meeting this expectation, for any reason, will receive communication from Pembroke and may be invited to meet with one of the Inclusion Team. It is at this point we will discuss reasons for absence and create a plan to make improvements.

Headteacher: Mr S Evans

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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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Further to this, please ensure you use the correct channels in the event of absence. The Pembroke stance on planned absence, especially for family holidays, is clear: in all but the most exceptional circumstances these absences will be unauthorised. Please contact the school to request a 'Request for leave of absence' form. In the case of emergency absences, please ring 01522 751 040, pressing option 3, or email pembrokeadmin@prioryacademies.co.uk.

Uniform

Uniform creates a sense of belonging and community within, and beyond, a school. Studies have shown school uniforms reduce peer pressure to conform to the latest fashion, increase equality between students and can improve academic outcomes. A further benefit is the streamlining of preparing for the day. Mornings can be chaotic enough without including the decisions on "what to wear today?"

Our uniform policy is clear and can be found on pages 12-13 of the planner as well as on our website through this link: [Pembroke Uniform](#).

In January we will be driving forward on standards of uniform, which have slipped in some areas. We need your support with this. Please ensure your child does not have piercings other than one stud earring per ear. Students should not be wearing any bracelets or necklaces. Painted, acrylic or gel nails are forbidden. Shoes should be smart and be able to be polished. Trainers are not allowed. Jumpers are optional and must be navy blue with a v-neck. Blazers are a compulsory part of the uniform. All PE kit worn must be Pembroke PE kit, and navy blue. Hoodies worn underneath blazers are forbidden.

We have high standards and will not apologise for this. If there are students not meeting expectations of uniform, we will address these and provide alternatives, or confiscate items of clothing if necessary. We do regularly review the uniform policy with the Local Governing Body and will welcome any feedback on uniform from parents to share with the governors.

IMPORTANT: Use of sprays

We have a number of students and members of staff who have medical conditions that can be seriously affected by the vapour from various spray products. These include aerosols, spray perfume, body spray and vapes. For the safety of all we must enforce a strict ban on all spray products at Pembroke. Any such product found will be confiscated. We thank you for your support with this by ensuring your child does not bring any spray product into school.

Reflections and resolution

Over 6 years Pembroke has grown at an immense rate. We are proud of this achievement. The numbers of parents placing Pembroke as their first choice when applying for schools are more than we can welcome into the school. In September 2024 we expect to hit the milestone of 600 students in school. As we have grown it is important we simplify our lines of communication. If you wish to contact Pembroke to discuss your child please direct your enquiry to their Form Tutor in the first instance. If necessary each Year Group also has a Head of Year, Inclusion Officer and link member of SLT. Please understand all staff have many roles in school and are not likely to be able to contact you back immediately. Thank you for your understanding in this.

As we break for the holiday we say good bye to Mr Podbury, Teaching Assistant, who is moving onto pastures new with a local charity. As well as this Mrs Young, Head of Year 10 and Science teacher, will be starting her maternity leave. We wish them both all the best. In Mrs Young's temporary absence Mr

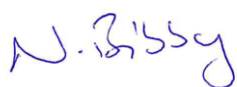
Float, English teacher, will be taking on the role of Head of Year 10,le with Mrs Daubney, Science teacher, becoming 11.3's Form Tutor. We will also welcome two new teachers, Mrs Achoja in Science and Mrs Mayer in English, and Miss Noble and Miss Ho into the Teaching Assistant team.

As ever, you can keep up-to-date with the busy life at Pembroke by following the school Facebook and X feeds. We also have recently published our Pembroke Press which can be found through this link:

[December's Pembroke Press](#)

The Christmas break and New Year are always a good time to reflect on our own successes and challenges. I hope the students are able to share with you their own achievements and how they have overcome any adversity, with resolutions on how they can be a successful citizen of Pembroke, the local community and the wider world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Mr N Bibby
Deputy Headteacher

