



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Wednesday 29th September 2021

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 Mr R Greene and I look forward to a successful year with our Year 9 students.

After three full weeks of the new academic year completed, I have to say how pleased I am with the way in which Year 9 have settled into their new timetables and new routines and the positive manner in which they are all responding to our 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 how well students are responding to these values through their learning. Students have already engaged with the Pembroke Pledge and many have signatures showing their participation in the wider aspect of school 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 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 never ceases to amaze me how much, and indeed what, is achieved, throughout the academy year by both students and staff and we hope that you enjoy reading about the many accomplishments that occur throughout the year.

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:

18th October: School photo

3rd March: Options evening

10th March: Year 9 Parents evening

19th April: Whole school photo

14th July: Sports day

18th July: Beach trip (TBC)

Attitude to learning grades received every module with Module grades received every term. Written report provided at the end of the school year.

Headteacher: Mr S Evans

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Attendance

As you are aware, attendance at school has a direct correlation to the progress made in learning and ultimately the successful outcomes for students. It is with this in mind that I would like to highlight the following:

The Department for Education's (DfE) guidance identifies that pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school. The government expects schools to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence (a child is considered to be persistently absent if their attendance drops below 90%). As you may be aware, the government have stated that, from 8th March 2021, attendance is mandatory and the usual rules on attendance apply. In the event that you have any concerns about your child attending the academy, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss available support.

The table below shows the number of days' absence over a year that equate to each percentage absence.

Percentage Attendance	Approximate number of days absent
95%	10 (2 weeks)
90%	19 (nearly 4 weeks)
85%	29 (nearly 6 weeks)

As an academy, our aspiration for all pupils is that their attendance is 100%, in order for them to get the best from their learning. I understand that there may be times when absence is unavoidable. However, where it is avoidable, I ask that you work with the academy and ensure your child(ren) is/are in school. In accordance with the Department for Education, any pupil with an attendance level of 90% or less, or who has more than 4.5 days of unauthorised absence in a 6-week period, may receive a fixed penalty fine.

Please be aware that if your child is unable to attend due to official public health advice, for example, they are asked to isolate due to being a close contact of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or they test positive themselves, you will not be penalised for this absence.

In respect of holidays during term time, in line with our [Attendance Policy](#) and the DfE guidance, the Headteacher will only grant a leave request in exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the academy). Parents/Carers who believe they have exceptional circumstances must make a request for a leave of absence to the Headteacher no less than one month prior to the holiday. If the circumstances are not considered to be exceptional, and permission to take a term-time holiday is not granted by the Headteacher, but the holiday is still taken, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by the Local Authority. Whilst I appreciate that families may have to re-arrange postponed holidays as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, I would ask families to avoid taking their child(ren) out of the academy during term time, when they have already missed so much learning time.

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.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr R Greene
Head of Year 9

