



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback regarding the homework apps currently used at the Academy. As we continue to refine our homework provision, your insights are invaluable in helping us ensure that the system effectively supports students' learning and progress.

This academic year, we introduced SIMS Homework because of its integration with the existing parent and student apps, aiming to create a more streamlined experience. While the platform offers several benefits, we acknowledge that it has also presented challenges for families, students, and staff.

Feedback on the SIMS Parent and Student Apps

Many of you highlighted several positives, including:

- The ability to see what your child is learning and view the praise points they earn.
- Clear visibility of your child's progress.
- Being able to view homework tasks in order to support learning at home.

We are pleased that these features are helping families stay connected with their child's learning.

You also raised a number of concerns about the current system, including:

- Homework appearing as 'overdue' even when completed on external platforms.
- Additional submission steps creating extra work for both students and staff.
- Limited integration between SIMS and other homework platforms.
- Occasional lack of clarity in homework instructions.

We appreciate your honesty and have taken these concerns seriously.

Actions Already Taken

To support students in the short term:

- All students have received a step-by-step guide to submitting homework.
- Break-time support sessions for any students needing help accessing or using the SIMS Student app.
- Computing lessons have included a walkthrough of the homework submission process, with time set aside to check understanding.
- Your feedback has been shared with Priory Federation IT staff and the SIMS Homework feature developers to address the issues highlighted.

Next Steps Following Our Interim Review

To improve consistency and ease of use, the following measures will be introduced:

- Homework will continue to be set through SIMS Homework.

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- Staff will review and cross-reference work completed on platforms such as Sparx and Bedrock each week, marking tasks as submitted so they no longer appear as 'overdue'. Students may continue to submit their own work as usual.
- Achievement points will be awarded as a total number at the end of each module. This will register on the SIMs Parent app as 1 Achievement point, however the correct total will be visible inside the green circle. Updated achievement point totals will also be shared weekly with students during PD sessions. The first update will include points awarded so far this year.
- The 'homework missed' conduct point will be temporarily removed until we are confident that the system is running consistently.
- Science homework will move from Educake to Seneca Learning, aligning with Humanities and Technology for a more unified experience. Parents and carers will shortly receive an email to sign up for a Seneca Parent account, to enable you to view your child's assignments and their progress. Guidance on accessing and using Seneca can be found on the Academy website [Pembroke - A Priory Academy - Accessing homework: Guidance and support documents](#)

Staff have also received additional training to ensure a consistent approach to setting homework and recognising students' efforts.

Looking Ahead

We continue to work closely with SIMS as they develop their new parent app and homework platform, expected to launch later this academic year. Although we cannot guarantee that every issue will be resolved, we are hopeful that future updates will offer a smoother and more intuitive experience for all users.

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. By encouraging your child with their homework and by sharing constructive feedback, you are helping us improve our systems and strengthen the learning experience for every student in our Academy community.

If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Warnock
Assistant Headteacher