



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

The Priory LSST Year 9 Handbook

2022-2023

Head of Year welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

As I look ahead to the year in front of us, I feel optimistic and excited for the year group by the sheer number of opportunities and challenges ahead. Students have chosen their options and are beginning their GCSE courses, with a timetable that they have been able to mould around their own personal interests. Extracurricular opportunities for students abound, with a wide variety of musical, artistic and sporting opportunities available, in addition to many others such as Duke of Edinburgh and the Combined Cadet Force.

The importance of this year cannot be understated. It is the time where students will begin their GCSE subjects, and it is crucial that they hit the ground running. An ability to work independently and continue to grow their subject knowledge outside the classroom through homework, revision and activities of personal interest will make their GCSE studies both more fulfilling and more rewarding. At the end of Year 9 it is important that students can look back and know that they spent this year wisely, putting themselves in the best possible position to succeed.

As a year group, we aim to promote and establish values that will allow every student to grow and flourish. Following our academy motto of Courage and Courtesy, in addition to a strong work ethic, will allow both individuals and the year group as a whole to be able to achieve their full potential, both this year and throughout their time at the academy. Year 9 is a time of change, a time of growth and a time of exploration and I hope that we can all work together to ensure that everyone's experience of it promotes respect, progress and a consolidation of everything we have learned so far about life at the Priory Academy LSST.

This handbook contains vital information about all aspects of Year 9 and should be used as a starting point for any questions. However, if at any time throughout the year you would like to discuss with us anything relating to your child's education, I would encourage you to make contact with either their Form Tutor or Subject Teacher in the first instance. Our Pastoral Manager Mrs Caig and I are also available to help and support both you and your child with any queries or concerns that you may have.

I look forward to working with you and your son/daughter over the coming year.

Mr B N Smith
Head of Year 9

bnsmith@prioryacademies.co.uk

Trust and Academy ethos

The Trust's Mission:

To improve the life chances of our pupils and so become true citizens of the world.

The Trust's Motto:

sic itur ad astra

'by the good deeds you do, you will be remembered in the stars for eternity' Aeneid, Virgil.

The Trust's Values:

Nurturing deeply cultured, reflective and philosophical thinkers of the future;
Empowering intellectual curiosity, active learning and inquisitiveness;
Fostering empathy, mutual respect and courtesy in a global community;
Championing integrity, resilience and the value of personal endeavour;
Igniting a sense of awe and wonder, moral conviction and ambition.

The Priory Academy LSST Motto:

Courage and Courtesy

The Priory Academy LSST Values:

Instilling an attitude of hard work and determination in pursuit of our goals;
Developing an enthusiasm for learning and igniting imagination to become our best;
Fostering a tolerant, helpful and polite approach to each other and the environment;
Encouraging positive well-being and self-esteem;
Nurturing confidence and bravery to embrace new challenges.

The Priory Academy LSST Contract:

When students begin their education at The Priory Academy LSST they, along with their parents/carers, are asked to sign the Priory Contract. This is a demonstration of their commitment to the Academy and an acknowledgement of the responsibility they have as part of a community of learners.

As a student I pledge to...

- ☐ Have the highest possible expectations for what can I achieve at The Priory Academy LSST and beyond;
- ☐ Behave well in class, in, to and from the Academy and whilst on academy activities;
- ☐ Wear my uniform smartly and in accordance with the Academy's expectations;
- ☐ Come to the Academy every day;
- ☐ Focus on learning – maximise learning;
- ☐ Complete my homework thoroughly and on time - work independently;
- ☐ Set myself challenging targets and devise appropriate plans to achieve them;
- ☐ Commit to extra-curricular activities;
- ☐ Participate positively in academy activities;
- ☐ Take responsibility for the environment and the wider community;
- ☐ Inform a member of staff if I am concerned about anything or anyone.

As a member of staff, where relevant, I pledge to...

- ☐ Ensure that students achieve their full potential;;
- ☐ Be proactive in ensuring excellent student behaviour
- ☐ Ensure that students wear their uniform appropriately at all times;
- ☐ Encourage the highest levels of attendance;
- ☐ Ensure that lessons are highly effective and result in learning – *maximise learning*;
- ☐ Set and mark homework in accordance with Academy policy;
- ☐ Assess progress, and ensure that students are both aware of and achieving their targets;
- ☐ Support and contribute to the Academy's extra-curricular and residential programme;
- ☐ Support and run events in the Academy;
- ☐ Develop community links for the promotion of positive educational activities;
- ☐ Be aware of student concerns and communicate them effectively and appropriately.

As a parent I pledge to...

- ☐ Encourage my child to make the best possible use of the opportunities provided;
- ☐ Support the Academy in ensuring that my child appreciates the Academy's views on the importance of good behaviour;
- ☐ Support the Academy in enforcing the uniform expectations;
- ☐ Encourage my child to achieve the highest levels of attendance and communicate with the Academy on attendance issues;
- ☐ Support and help foster a positive attitude to learning;
- ☐ Encourage the completion of homework;
- ☐ Work with my child to set targets for progress;
- ☐ Encourage my child to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity;
- ☐ Encourage my child to take part in Academy activities;
- ☐ Encourage my child to contribute to the community through voluntary or charity work;
- ☐ Communicate any concerns I have to the appropriate member of staff.

Year 9 Pastoral Team

Head of Year	Mr B Smith (Mod 1 – Mrs R Curran)
Pastoral Manager	Mrs R Caig
Enrichment Leader	Miss H Masterman

Tutor Group	Form Tutor
9.1	Mrs K Evans/Mr D Clews
9.2	Mr T Leatherland
9.3	Mr G Bradwell
9.4	Mrs N Brown
9.5	Mrs L Hanson
9.6	Mrs I Curtis/Miss L Hammatt
9.7	Mr A Willett
9.8	Mrs F Jays/Mr E Amoh
9.9	Mrs L Boiling/Mr K Alston

Term Dates 2023-2024

Module 1	Tuesday 5th September 2023 to Friday 20th October 2023 <i>Holiday: Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th October 2023</i>
Module 2	Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 15th December 2023 <i>Holiday: Saturday 16th December 2023 to Tuesday 2nd January 2024</i> <i>Includes Public Holidays: Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th December, Monday 1st January</i>
Module 3	Wednesday 3rd January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024 <i>Holiday: Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024</i>
Module 4	Monday 19th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024 <i>Holiday: Friday 29th March 2024 to Sunday 14th April 2024</i> <i>Includes Public Holidays: Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April</i>
Module 5	Monday 15th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024 <i>Holiday: Saturday 25th May 2024 to Sunday 2nd June 2024</i> <i>Includes Public Holidays: Monday 6th & Monday 27th May</i>
Module 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024

Key dates for Year 9

Event:	Date:
Parents' Evening	25 th January 2024
Written reports released	End of Module 6
Reading and Spelling Tests	Wb 11 th September 2023

Communicating with the Academy

Under normal circumstances your child's Form Tutor is the first person who should be contacted. If it is a subject specific query then please contact their Subject Teacher. More serious issues may require communication directly with the Head of Year. We politely ask that if you have a concern you wish to discuss that you ring the Academy in order to speak to the relevant member of staff. Teaching staff are not always easy to contact directly but the reception team will always attempt to contact them as soon as is practical. Please be assured that if a member of staff cannot speak with you at the time of your call they will be in contact at their earliest opportunity. Any emails identifying concerns will be responded to, but the member of staff may contact you by telephone to discuss the matter. Please be aware that anything sent in the evening and at weekends may not be responded to until the next working day. We thank parents/carers for their cooperation in this matter.

Attendance Information

The Academy expects that a student's attendance will be 100% in order to ensure that they are able to perform to the best of their ability. To help maintain attendance levels please can we ask that any appointments are made outside of the academy day where possible. However, we understand that some absences are unavoidable and we wish to work with families in these instances. Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy if there is anything you wish to discuss with regards to attendance and what can be done to support you/your child. If a student is absent from the Academy then they will be expected to catch up on any missed work and their Form Tutor and subject teachers will support them with this. The government recognises students as persistently absent if their attendance drops below 90% for the academic year, or is below 90% in any six week period. Understandably we would like to avoid this wherever possible and so it is vital that we work together in ensuring high levels of attendance.

First day calling

If your child is going to be absent then please contact the Academy in the morning, stating a reason for their absence. If your child's absence goes beyond one day we need to be contacted on each subsequent day of absence.

Year 9 Subject Information

During the week your child will complete 25 timetabled lessons in a range of subjects. The timetable will follow the breakdown in the table below.

Subject	Lessons per week
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	5
Modern Foreign Languages	3
Physical Education	2
Religious Studies	2
GCSE Option A	2
GCSE Option B	2
GCSE Option C	2

Year 9 Attainment and Progress Information

Year 9	Attitude to Learning	Achievement	Parents' Evening	Full Written Report
Module 1				
Module 2	✓	✓		
Module 3			✓	
Module 4	✓	✓		
Module 5				
Module 6	✓	✓		✓

Attitude to Learning (AtL)

AtL grades are awarded on a six point scale. Grades are given in letter form (A to F). All staff use the descriptors relating to our Academy values in the table below when deciding on AtL grades.

	Grade	Resilience	Innovation	Aspiration	Inspiration	Respect
Outstanding	A/1 This student:	consistently embraces challenge and responds positively to setbacks	actively explores different approaches and methods to find the best solution	aspires to be the best that they can be and takes pride in their contribution to academy life and the wider community	consistently sets a positive example to others	is kind and considerate to others at all times and is tolerant of others' views
Good	B/2 This student:	tries hard to complete tasks as instructed and asks for help when needed to overcome challenges	tries to look for solutions rather than problems and can display creativity in thinking	has high expectations of themselves and responds to and acts on verbal and written feedback to improve	makes positive choices and sets a good example to others	is polite and considerate of others and tries to listen carefully to teachers and students
Requires Improvement	C/3 This student:	will attempt to complete tasks and knows where to find support but sometimes gives up a little too easily	will attempt new things but only if they believe it will benefit them and is reluctant to engage in the range of opportunities available	completes the minimum amount of work required but will do more with encouragement and reminders	occasionally takes advantage of positive influences around them but could make more positive choices in lessons	usually considerate of others but occasionally needs reminding of manners
Concern	D/4 This student:	fails to embrace challenge and gives up if tasks require effort	appears unwilling to try new things and creates barriers to learning	displays little drive and motivation and does not appear to want to do well	Rarely makes positive contributions and often distracts others and disrupts their learning	struggles to communicate positively with others, showing little understanding of their views and feelings