



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

# **The Priory LSST Year 8 Handbook**

**2023-2024**

## Head of Year welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 is a crucial time in the education of any pupil and I am looking forward to being your child's Head of Year in the coming years. In the upcoming months, we will be asking pupils to be making choices about which GCSE's they wish to pursue and we really hope that all of them will be embracing the challenge of this year so that they can be sure of where their passions lie when the time comes. I would encourage students to research career paths and seek advice from staff on Year 8 options evening to support their choices.

For many students, Year 8 is a time to take on new challenges and widen their horizons, both in terms of academic studies and extra-curricular activities. Within lessons, they will study a wide variety of subjects and they will notice that the work at this level is more challenging; this offers them the chance to really push themselves. There is a range of extra-curricular options available to them both within the Academy and the wider community, ranging from the arts to the sports field, house events to personal challenges and even CCF after Easter.

As a year group, we aim to promote and establish values that will allow every student to grow and flourish within a respectful and courteous community. Resilience and aspiration, in addition to a strong work ethic, will allow both individuals and the year group as a whole to be able to achieve their potential, both this year and throughout their time at the Academy and beyond.

This handbook contains vital information about all aspects of Year 8 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. Mrs Fields has joined the year group as our new Pastoral Learning Mentor and will be supporting students with pastoral issues.

I look forward to getting to know your child this year and having the privilege of sharing in their highlights, celebrating their successes and guiding them through the coming year.

Miss K Tunnard

Head of Year 8

**[ktunnard@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:ktunnard@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 8 Pastoral Team

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Head of Year</b>      | Miss K Tunnard |
| <b>Pastoral Manager</b>  | Mrs G Fields   |
| <b>Enrichment Leader</b> | Mr D R Hill    |

| <b>Tutor Group</b> | <b>Form Tutor</b>                             |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>8.1</b>         | Dr K Stephens (Mrs L Smith from October 2023) |
| <b>8.2</b>         | Miss A Watt                                   |
| <b>8.3</b>         | Miss F Lawrence                               |
| <b>8.4</b>         | Mrs S Swaby                                   |
| <b>8.5</b>         | Mrs B Coupland                                |
| <b>8.6</b>         | Mrs R Marsh                                   |
| <b>8.7</b>         | Mrs S Pomeroy                                 |
| <b>8.8</b>         | Mrs H Nicholls                                |
| <b>8.9</b>         | Mr M Billings                                 |

## Term Dates 2023-2024

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

## Key dates for Year 8

| Event:                   | Date:                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Parents' Evening         | 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023       |
| Written reports released | End of Module 4                     |
| GCSE Options Evening     | Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 |

## 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 8 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                  | 3                |
| Modern Foreign Languages | 3                |
| Geography                | 2                |
| History                  | 1                |
| Religious Studies        | 1                |
| Physical Education       | 2                |
| Art                      | 1                |
| Drama                    | 1                |
| Information Technology   | 1                |
| Music                    | 1                |
| Technology               | 2                |

## Year 8 Attainment and Progress Information

| Year 8   | 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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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 |