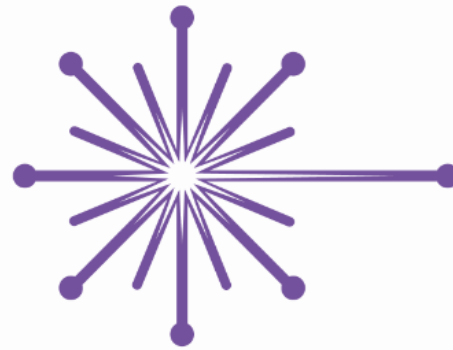




THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

The Priory Academy LSST

Year 8 Handbook

2026-2027

Head of Year Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer

It is my honour to introduce myself as Head of Year 8. The up-and-coming year is an exciting and important one. We will see the conclusion of the KS3 curriculum and the selection of GCSE options to begin in Year 9. This is a time when students start to shape their interests and think about the future pathways they may wish to explore.

Lessons will continue to develop and build upon the content that the students have learnt in Year 7 culminating to an exciting opportunity to choose their subjects for Year 9. They will be able to explore new interests and fascinations. I strongly encourage them to look at the opportunities afforded to them and seek to explore these to their full extent.

Year 8 will provide many challenges to our students, varying from the pace of the curriculum, new teaching groups, extra-curricular activities and exciting adventures in their own lives. The year group achieved so much in Year 7, and we have plenty to celebrate. I hope that we will see this drive continue through Year 8 and beyond.

I continue to encourage the year group to emulate the core values of our school and keep in mind the concepts of Respect and Resilience. These values help students grow, develop confidence, and build the foundations they will need in the years ahead. Combining these with a strong work ethic and drive to succeed will ensure that each of our students see success and reach their full potential.

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 contact either their Form Tutor or Subject Teacher in the first instance.

As we progress through the year, I look forward to getting to know your child and to support them to success. I hope they will share their achievements and interests with us as the year unfolds.

Mr D Hill
Head of Year 8

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 - This motto underpins all that we want our students to be during their time with us and when they leave. We want our students to have the courage to do what is right and follow their dreams, and to do so with courtesy and the utmost respect for others and their environment.

The Priory Academy LSST Values:

Aspiration: Instilling an attitude of hard work and determination in pursuit of our goals.

Inspiration: Developing an enthusiasm for learning and igniting imagination to become our best.

Respect: Fostering a tolerant, helpful and polite approach to each other and the environment.

Resilience: Encouraging positive well-being and self-esteem.

Innovation: Nurturing confidence and bravery to embrace new challenges.

The Priory Academy LSST Contract

The Priory Contract forms an important part of the home-school agreement that every parent/carer and pupil accepts upon joining the academy.

As a student, I pledge to...

1. Come to the academy every day and be punctual both to the academy and to lessons
2. Have the highest possible expectations for what I can achieve at The Priory and beyond
3. Behave well in class, in the academy, to and from the academy and whilst on academy activities/visits
4. Wear my uniform smartly and bring the right equipment, in accordance with the academy's expectations
5. Adhere to the academy's expectations with regards to mobile phones and other devices
6. Focus on learning - make every lesson count
7. Complete my homework thoroughly and on time
8. Set myself challenging targets and devise appropriate plans to achieve them
9. Participate positively in academy life and commit to extra-curricular activities and the academy's enrichment offer
10. Take responsibility for the environment and the wider community
11. Inform a member of staff if I am concerned about anything or anyone

As a parent/carer, I pledge to...

1. Encourage my child to achieve the highest levels of attendance and to communicate with the academy on attendance issues
2. Encourage my child to make the best possible use of opportunities provided
3. Support the academy in ensuring that my child appreciates the academy's views on the importance of good behaviour, respect for others and celebrating diversity
4. Support the academy in enforcing the uniform and equipment expectations
5. Support the academy in enforcing expectations with regards to mobile phones and other devices
6. Support and help foster a positive attitude to learning and to celebrate success
7. Encourage the completion of homework and reading for pleasure
8. Work with my child to set targets for progress, and to support them to ensure preparedness for learning through healthy sleep habits, diet and regular exercise
9. Encourage my child to take part in academy activities, including extra-curricular activities
10. Attend Parents' Evenings and engage with communications from the academy
11. Communicate any concerns I have to the appropriate member of staff

As an academy, we pledge to...

1. Encourage the highest levels of attendance
2. Ensure that students achieve their full potential
3. Be proactive in supporting excellent student behaviour
4. Ensure that students wear their uniform appropriately at all times

5. Ensure that the academy's expectations with regards to mobile phones and other devices are reinforced to pupils through the modelling of good practice
6. Ensure that lessons are highly effective and result in learning - make every lesson count
7. Set and respond to homework in accordance with academy expectations
8. Assess progress, and ensure that students are both aware of and supported to achieve their targets
9. Provide an extra-curricular and educational visits programme
10. Ensure that students feel included and have a sense of belonging
11. Be aware of student concerns and communicate them effectively and appropriately, in line with Trust procedures

Year 8 Pastoral Team

Head of Year	Mr D Hill
Pastoral Manager	Mrs S Simpson
Enrichment Leader	Miss S Ward
Learning Strategies Coordinator	

Tutor Group	Form Tutor
8.1	Miss E Phynn
8.2	Mrs H Pickworth
8.3	Mrs K Ballard and Mrs K Grimes
8.4	Mrs N Eglinton
8.5	Miss K Blackman
8.6	Mrs S Nuttall
8.7	Mr W Eastham
8.8	Mrs K Willumsen
8.9	Mrs E Davenport

The Academy Day

Activity	Start	End
<i>Movement Time</i>	8.20am	8.30am
Personal Development	8.30am	8.55am
<i>Movement Time</i>	8.55am	9.00am
Period 1	9.00am	10.00am
<i>Movement Time</i>	10.00am	10.05am
Period 2	10.05am	11.05am
<i>Break time</i>	11.05am	11.25pm
Period 3	11.25am	12.25pm
<i>Lunchtime</i>	12.25pm	1.00pm
Period 4	1.00pm	2.00pm
<i>Movement Time</i>	2.00pm	2.05pm
Period 5	2.05pm	3.05pm
Enrichment Activities	3.10pm	4.15pm

Term Dates 2026-27

Module 1	Monday 7th September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026 <i>Holiday: Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November 2026</i>
Module 2	Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026 <i>Holiday: Saturday 19th December 2026 to Monday 4th January 2027</i> <i>Includes Public Holidays: Friday 25th December, Monday 28th December & Friday 1st January</i>
Module 3	Tuesday 5th January 2027 to Friday 12th February 2027 <i>Holiday: Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st February 2027</i>
Module 4	Monday 22nd February 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027 <i>Holiday: Friday 26th March to Sunday 11th April 2027</i>

	<i>Includes Public Holidays: Friday 26th & Monday 29th March</i>
Module 5	Monday 12th April 2027 to Friday 28th May 2027 <i>Holiday: Saturday 29th May to Sunday 6th June 2027</i> <i>Includes Public Holidays: Monday 3rd & Monday 31st May</i>
Module 6	Monday 7th June 2027 to Wednesday 21st July 2027
Staff training days	Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2026 Monday 4th January 2027 Three full staff training days, two days commuted to twilight sessions.

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 with their 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 or email generalenquiries@priorylst.co.uk. 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 in a timely manner.

Please be aware that anything sent in the evening and at weekends will not be responded to immediately and staff will make contact at the earliest opportunity between 8am - 4pm.

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.

Term time holidays

Due to current regulations the Academy cannot authorise holiday requests unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you believe this may be applicable, then please complete an absence request form (available on the Parent section of the academy website: [Absence Request Form](#)) outlining the circumstances and send this into the academy reception. Where a student's attendance is below 96%, or there have been previous attendance concerns, the Academy may not grant permission for a request for absence (even in exceptional circumstances). We would ask that holidays continue to be taken during the 175 days when students do not have to be in attendance.

Registration

All students are expected to be present for morning registration, this will be undertaken at 8.30am by their Form Tutor. If any student arrives after 8.55 am then they must sign in with a receptionist, either at Main Reception or Sixth Form Reception. If students have to leave the site before the end of the academy day, then they should have a note from parents/carers which must be shown to their Form Tutor during morning registration or details emailed to Mrs S Simpson. They must ensure that they sign out at either reception before they leave. If students are unwell during the day then a receptionist will contact home – we ask for safeguarding reasons that students **do not** contact home directly.

If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, then please contact your child's Pastoral Manager:
Year 8 Mrs S Simpson ssimpson@prioryacademies.co.uk

Accessing the Site

During the academy day all visitors must report to reception.

If you are collecting your child at the end of the day by car from our Cross O'Cliff entrance then we politely ask that parents/ carers park on the tennis courts and not at the front of the academy building. We would like to make parents/carers aware that the academy gates will not open until 2.45pm. Therefore, we politely ask that you do not try to access the site before this time. For safeguarding reasons we ask that parents/carers wait in their vehicles and do not walk around the site. If you need to speak with a member of staff we ask that you go to main reception where a member of the team will be able to assist you.

If you are collecting your child from the Sixth Form site then we ask parents/carers to be respectful of the residents on Urban Street and the businesses on Clayton Road and Newark Road. Please support the Academy by being mindful of not blocking the roads or turning/parking on the zebra crossing.

Before and End of the Academy Day Guidance

Students are not permitted to be in the academy buildings before 8.20am. If it is raining then students are permitted to stand on the carpeted area in the entrances to the buildings and in more severe weather staff will take the appropriate action.

For health and safety reasons students should not be on site unsupervised at the end of the day. Any student who is being picked up after 3.30pm must attend a supervised club or wait to be collected from the bus bays at the front of the Academy site.

Uniform

We strongly recommend that parents/carers refer to this list when buying uniform to prevent any items needing to be changed. The list is also available on the Academy website: <https://www.priorylsst.co.uk>

The expectation is that students wear their uniform correctly and with pride when travelling to and from the Academy.

On educational visits, where full uniform does not need to be worn, students should wear smart trousers or skirts and appropriate tops, shirts or blouses with no offensive logos. It should be remembered that on such excursions the students are representing the Academy and their appearance should reflect that.

Uniform – Compulsory Items	
Blazer	Navy blue with academy badge.
Skirt	Knee-length classic style half-pleated skirt in Trutex Harrow grey. The skirt is currently available from Uniform Direct, who will be able to advise you, and will be available from other suppliers in due course. Straight style skirts are not permitted.
Trousers	Trutex Harrow grey (straight, classic style – no stretch fabrics, turn ups or flairs). Trousers should not be cropped (there should be no gap between the bottom of the trouser and the shoe).
Tie	The Priory Academy LSST tie - worn so that there is no gap between the bottom of the tie and the skirt/trouser waistband. From September 2026 there will be specific ties for each House group with a stripe correlating to the colour of the House – Alexandria – Red, Avalon – Green, Castille – Blue, Sempringham – Yellow. These House ties will take the place of the House Badge. This new tie will be compulsory for all new Year 7 students from September 2026.
Shirt	Sky blue worn with academy tie. The shirt must be tucked in with the top button fastened at all times.
Socks	Mid grey or black ankle socks if worn with trousers. White ankle socks if worn with skirt. No logos or designs. No trainer socks.
Shoes	Black with flat or low heels (less than 5 cm from where the heel joins the shoe). No platform or ballet style shoes. Shoes must be of a solid construction, and suitable for a busy academy environment. Boots are not permitted.
Academy bag	Navy blue or black. Plain in style – no large logos. No other colours are allowed. Reflective stripes are permitted. Handbag style bags are not appropriate. The bag must be suitable for academy use. If a plastic bag is needed it must be navy blue. A small key ring may be attached to the zip or handle to help identify bags.

Uniform – Optional Items	
Jumper	V-necked jumper: Plain Navy blue. No logos.
Coat	Navy blue or black, plain in style, with no large logos or stripes or trimmings such as fur hoods. Reflective stripes are permitted. Hoodies are not permitted.
Tights	Grey cotton tights in Year 7 to Year 9. 70 denier charcoal or black opaque in Year 10 and Year 11.
Shorts	Traditional school style (knee length), Trutex Harrow grey. Shorts are to be worn with the usual academy shirt, which must remain tucked in and worn with the academy tie and blazer unless directed otherwise. Grey or black socks are to be worn with shorts.
Scarf	Navy blue or black, plain in style.
Hat	Navy blue or black, plain in style.
Gloves	Navy blue or black, plain in style.
Earrings	A single pair of spherical plain studs, or a single plain stud. These should be worn on the lower lobe of the ear (only one stud per ear). Hooped earrings cannot be worn for health and safety reasons.
Jewellery	No jewellery other than plain earrings (see above) and one plain ring – no protruding stones.
Hair bobbles/ Alice band	Navy blue or the colour of the hair, plain in style.
Hair slides	Navy blue or the colour of the hair, plain in style.
Hair styles	Hair should be smart and safe for a working environment. Any long hair may be required to be tied back at a member of staff's discretion. Extreme hairstyles (as decided by the Academy) are not permitted: e.g. no tram lines/edges/steps. Hair colour must be natural and one shade throughout.
Muslim Hijab	If worn it must be navy blue.
Make-up	Not permitted for students within Years 7-11. This includes no nail varnish being permitted and students are not permitted to get artificial nails of any description. False eyelashes are also not permitted.

Pre-loved Uniform

At the Academy we have a large store of pre-loved uniform. Whilst we cannot guarantee that we will have every item in every size, we do encourage families to make enquiries through reception should a piece of uniform need replacing.

Physical Education Uniform

Please find below the kit that will be required for students to take part in their core Physical Education lessons safely.

PE Uniform

Item
Priory Academy LSST Polo Shirt
A choice of: • Priory Academy LSST PE shorts; or • Priory Academy LSST base layer PRO leggings; or • Priory Academy LSST slim fit track pants. • Priory Academy LSST skort
White sports socks
Training shoes – please ensure these are appropriate for sport
Swimming costume/trunks/shorts
Swimming hat
Swimming goggles
Navy rugby/football socks
Football boots/rugby boots and shin pads
A hair bobble for students with long hair
A choice of: • Priory Academy LSST hoodie • Plain navy hoodie or sweatshirt – this must be completely plain with no logos or brands
As male students also study contact rugby they will need: • Air-flow reversible sports top – navy and purple (this item can also be worn instead of the hoodie or team top) • It is also highly recommended that they have a gum shield.

Optional additional items include:

- UD base layer top – navy

For students choosing to study GCSE PE and Sport Studies in Years 9–11:

- Priory Academy LSST – white GCSE PE polo shirt

Additional items may be purchased as an option from the club shop – <https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/The-Priory-Academy-LSST-School-Uniform.html>

General comments for all

- Students with long hair will be required to tie it back so that no part of it will affect their ability to participate safely (including fringes that enter the eye line).
- All items of jewellery will need to be removed for practical activities. Please be aware of this when having ears pierced.
- All items of kit **must** be clearly labelled.
- Shin pads and gum shields are highly recommended for rugby.

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. During Personal Development time, students will follow our Awareness curriculum with their Form Tutor.

Subject	Lessons per week
Science	3
Maths	3
English	3
Modern Foreign Languages	3
History	1
Physical Education	2
Technology	2
Geography	2
Religious Education	1
Information Technology	1
Drama	1
Art	1
Music	1
Extended Studies	1

SEND

Here at the Academy our Learning Strategies department support all students with SEND. During the transition process the department will have liaised with Primary Schools to transfer all relevant information for supporting students that currently receive support. For further information please visit the Academy website at [The Priory Academy LSST - SEN Information Report \(priorylsst.co.uk\)](http://The Priory Academy LSST - SEN Information Report (priorylsst.co.uk)).

If you have any SEN concerns regarding your child, our Academy has a designated Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo), Mrs J Lea, who can be contacted on 01522 889977 or via generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk

Year 8 Assessment, Recording and Reporting Information

Marking

Students' work is marked regularly. In order for all students to achieve highly, they should understand what they are to do in any piece of work that is to be assessed. In addition to a teacher marking a piece of work, there are other forms of assessment used such as peer and self - assessment. Regularity of this marking will vary between subject areas.

When work is marked by the teacher, in accordance with departmental guidelines, formative comments will sometimes be given. These formative comments may include praise as well as ways in which the student could improve the work further in order for them to achieve their target levels and potentially move beyond.

Students' books should show: pride in their work; subject knowledge and practise of skills; regular review; actions following responsive feedback; progress.

In addition to formative comments, some pieces of work may be assessed using a summative assessment level, a comparison against target comment or an examination grade.

Reports

Reports, sent home to parents and carers, are produced regularly and provide valuable information on the progress that our students are making. The table below shows what information you will receive and when you will receive it during the academic year.

Year 8	Attitude to Learning Grade	Achievement	Parents' Evening	Written Report
Module 1				
Module 2			X	
Module 3	X	X		
Module 4				X
Module 5				

Module 6	X	X		
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Attitude to Learning (AtL)

The AtL grade is awarded on a 4 point scale. Scores are given in letter form (A to D). All staff use the descriptors 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
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Pathways

In Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8) students will be assessed by their teachers and placed within one of four pathways. Working Towards Standard (WTS), Expected Standard Foundation (EXSF), Expected Standard Established (EXSE), and Greater Depth Standard (GDS).

Twice a year we will report alongside Attitude to Learning an 'achievement' grade for every subject using the pathway system.

Year 8 Homework Expectations

The Academy feels that homework plays an important part in helping to raise levels of achievement. Homework will be set in each subject throughout the week. If you feel there are any problems with homework, please contact the Form Tutor.

At The Priory Academy LSST, homework is not an add-on, nor is it an option, but is an integral part of the life of our students. Our staff set homework regularly according to a timetable and assess it carefully. Your co-operation in this matter is absolutely essential if we are to achieve the best for your child.

As a guide your child should be set between one and one and a half hours of homework every evening. At the beginning of the year this will be comprised of three pieces of approximately twenty minutes each. As the year progresses this should lengthen to approximately half an hour per piece.

Please find below a guide as to how much homework your child should expect to receive each week. Your child's homework will be set via satchel:one, where you are able to keep a track of what is due and when.

Subject	Homework sessions per week
Science	2
Maths	2
English	2
Modern Foreign Languages	1
History	1
Physical Education	1
Technology	1
Geography	1
Religious Education	1
Information Technology	1
Drama	1
Art	1

Music	1
Extended Studies	Ongoing research

Year 8 Equipment Expectations

The basic equipment that all students should bring to the Academy each day is:

Pen;

Pencil;

Ruler;

Calculator.

In addition to this, students are expected to bring a reading book with them each day for use in Tutor Time and during English lessons. Reading regularly is an essential part of educational success and we place great emphasis on students reading for pleasure to support their education. There is a recommended reading list for students in Year 8 available on the website here: [CEA9776FB5873CE106DCCE16204F33D9.pdf \(priorylsst.co.uk\)](https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/CEA9776FB5873CE106DCCE16204F33D9.pdf)

The Enrichment Passport

The Academy takes great pride in the accomplishment of our students, and we wish to celebrate the many achievements which occur beyond the classroom. The Enrichment Passport has been designed to support and encourage a student's personal development as well as capturing their successes throughout the year. Through this record we seek to acknowledge and celebrate the many challenges which are overcome and the triumphant accomplishments, no matter how small.

At the start of every year students will be presented with their own Enrichment Passport. The Passport is divided into five sections based on our Academy Values; Innovation, Aspiration, Respect, Resilience and Inspiration. Their challenge for the academic year is to complete as many activities in each section as possible. We hope that students take this opportunity to push themselves and try new things so that they are able to look back on and reflect upon a year of exciting and varied accomplishments.

Please refer to our website (under 'Extra-Curricular') for further information on the type of activities that might count towards The Enrichment Passport as well as an extensive reading list for students in all year groups.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Academy offers an exciting extra-curricular programme designed to provide a variety of activities for all students. Participation in extra-curricular activities presents an opportunity for students to pursue a passion, take on a new challenge and work as a team with others. The importance of such pursuits in shaping an all-round character should not be underestimated.

For information on clubs and activities please see our website (under the 'Extra-Curricular' tab).

The Academy's Enrichment Leaders will guide students through the House system and keep them up-to-date on the latest activities. There is more information on the House system on our website (under the 'Extra-Curricular' tab).

The Academy Website, SharePoint and the Home Gateway

www.priorylsst.co.uk

The Academy's website is a one-stop resource for information on all aspects of The Priory Academy LSST. Some of the information you will find on our website is:

Academy Ethos;
Trust Policies;
Uniform List;
Curriculum Guidance;
Extra-Curricular Provision.

One area in particular which is worth a visit is the News tab. This area of the site is updated regularly and celebrates the many achievements of our students and staff.

On the website's home page, you will find a tab along the top which says 'Home Gateway'. This allows students to remotely access their academy desktop (via Citrix) from home, which is invaluable if they are completing homework or wish to do any further reading and research. Access to this requires the student's log in credentials. Students can also access their emails and SharePoint on this page without having to log into Citrix. SharePoint is the Academy's intranet system and by logging into this area students can access department information, year group information and welfare advice and guidance.

Mobile Phones and Use of Digital Systems Guidance

Students are permitted to use mobile phones before 8.20am and after the end of the academy day once they are out of the building (providing they are not taking part in any academy activities). During the academy day mobile phones must be switched off and kept in bags.

To access the Academies policies regarding E-Safety please visit the Trust website – www.prioryacademies.co.uk The policies can be found under 'Trust Policies' in the 'ICT' section.

Access to social media sites is not permitted through academy systems. If, as parents/carers, you allow your child to access social media then it is strongly encouraged that you oversee what they do and encourage them to share their activity with you in order to promote safe and positive use. Younger students need more guidance as they start to use social media and so with the education provided by the Academy and support from home a collaborative approach should ensure that students stay safe. Advice and guidance on Internet Safety can be found on our website (under the 'Parents' tab).

Online Safety is embedded throughout the curriculum and is a key part of the Academy Awareness Programme followed by all students.

In Touch

The 'In Touch Communication System' enables the Academy to correspond with parents/carers via email and text message. We use the text message system for first day absence and attendance communication. In the event that your child is absent from the Academy and we have not had any correspondence from you a text message will be sent to a designated contact and you will be able to

reply to the text message to confirm the reason for your child's absence and their expected return date. The email system will be used for sending out letters from the Academy.

For each child the Academy will have a designated contact (the parent/carer who is priority 1 on the contact list) and a designated email address and mobile number. This can be changed at any time by visiting main reception, speaking with one of our receptionists and completing a new Data collection form. Parents/carers will be able to 'opt out' of this system; in this instance parents/carers will receive paper communication.

Sims Parent App and ParentPay

There are two systems for parents/carers to use which help communications and process payments made towards activities for our students. These both link with our school information management system (SIMS) which means all information is accurate and up to date.

SIMS Parent App

Our parent app and website will allow parents/carers to access information at their own convenience via smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

You can also review **and request changes** to the data held direct from a smartphone or through the website.

What information is on SIMS Parent App?

- Academy term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button;
- Access to update contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency;
- If parents have more than one child at school, access to information for all the children, from the same app;
- As the year progresses a view of assessment information, as it is published, normally at the end of each module.

ParentPay

ParentPay is web based and will ensure parents/carers can make payments securely for trips and events, as well as providing consent. Once registered parents/carers will be able to make payments easily and securely online rather than give students cash/cheques to bring into the Academy. This is also how parents/carers pay for their children to use the academy's catering facilities using a biometric till system. Children do not use cash in the dining rooms but instead use the 'credit' parents have added using ParentPay. It is used for all academy trip/event payments, payments towards Priory Leisure, CCF and DoE activities.

Parents/Carer with older children already in attendance will not have to register again for either system when other family members join the Academy.

Satchel:One

Satchel:One is an all-in-one platform designed to make life easier for students, teachers, and parents. Here's how we use it in our academy:

- Homework Management: Teachers assign and track homework. Students can easily see their assignments and deadlines, and as parents, you can stay informed about your child's homework, helping them stay on top of their tasks.
- Awarding House Points: We celebrate student achievements and positive behaviour by awarding house points. You can see the house points your child earns and join in celebrating their successes.
- Student Notices: Important notices and announcements are shared through Satchel:One, ensuring students never miss out on crucial information. As parents/carers you too, will have access to these notices.
- Behaviour Logging: Our staff logs detentions and track student behaviour through the platform. You will be able to view any logged detentions or behaviour notes, so you're always aware of your child's conduct at school.

Students can sign in easily using their Microsoft 365 school account, ensuring secure and seamless access. Parents/carers will be provided with a parental code which will link your logon to your child. With Satchel:One, you'll have a clear window into your child's school life, making it easier than ever to support their education.