



# The Priory School

Educating Students for Success in Life

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Headteacher: Mr Geraint Edwards

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SH/JW

Dear Parent / Carer

## Year 9 Computing – 9X/Cp5

In Computing we have been working on a number of projects that require students to lead their own learning. We encourage students to make their own choices, and we try to teach them how to 'learn' to use the computer through experimenting and finding their own instructions, instead of teaching them step-by-step led by a teacher all the time. Technology is moving so quickly we need to prepare students as they will not have someone standing over them telling them how to use the newest type of computer in ten years' time! It is important students learn these vital digital literacy skills to enable them to succeed in the future.

Unfortunately a small number of students have decided they prefer to have their teacher to tell them how to do everything and are immediately giving up or saying they 'can't do it' or 'don't understand' without even making an attempt with the activities they have been given. I have observed this a number of times in different lessons, and I am confident the activities the students have been given are appropriate for their ability, and it is therefore only their effort that is letting them down.

We can only ask students to try their best, and if they have made a respectable attempt with their work their teacher will always be there to support and guide them with their learning when they get stuck. But we can no longer allow students to take advantage of not making any attempt, and then blame their lack of work on other factors.

We are now making it really clear what the students need to attempt in each lesson, and if they fail to make any effort we will be setting afterschool sessions for them to catch up for wasted time. The lesson targets are set to a level that every student is easily able to achieve within an hour.

Please could you speak with your child to encourage them to always try their best in lessons, as our end goal is to ensure that all students leave Year 9 with a range of useful digital literacy skills and computing knowledge, regardless of whether they are continuing the subject into their GCSE exams or not.

Finally, a massive thank you to the students that continue to always try their best, put in lots of effort and persevere when they come across a problem. This is reflecting massively in their progress grades, and we will continue to ensure we give out extra rewards to praise them for their fantastic work.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's Computing work, please do not hesitate to contact me – [sam.hanking@priory.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sam.hanking@priory.herts.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

*S Hanking*

**Mr S. Hanking**

Acting Head of Design, Technology and Computing