

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write my sixth end of year letter to you, it is in extraordinary circumstances. This time last year I wrote to you about the 10 year celebration event we had just held, and how wonderful it was to see so many people who love and cherish the Academy in the same space. That idea of a big celebratory event seems very strange now, and yet I have been so heartened to see all our staff reunited for these last two days of term whilst we prepare the Academy for September (socially distanced, of course). It reminded me that this staff body really does love and cherish the community they've built with the students. Whilst I had never dreamed that my last term at Chelsea Academy would be carried out under these restrictions and with these challenges, I have huge faith in the community's ability to build itself back up in September under the leadership of Mrs Ardron, the new Principal. I also wrote to you this time last year about our refreshed vision and values, to carry the Academy into its tenth year. Our mission of "work hard, be kind, no excuses" will need to be at the heart of everything staff and students do when September comes: we are all going to find things strange, we are all going to need to work to make up the time that has been lost, and we are all going to need to be kind to each other as we readjust.

I usually take this opportunity to thank you all as parents and carers for your support. I often say something like "we couldn't do it without you". This year that has proven to be the case. Thank you for all the extra work you have undertaken to help your children continue their learning at home, for trying to answer those difficult questions, for providing paper to write on and tables to work at, and no doubt providing endless snacks for hungry teenagers whilst they studied! I am aware that for most families it has been a balancing act, and a difficult one, to do all this whilst working and looking after other children and family members too. Thank you from all of us for everything you have done to keep everything going.

Summer results arrangements

As you will be aware from earlier letters, there will be **no in person results days for students** this year. All students will receive their results to the Academy email address. These will be sent as follows:

- **Year 13** will be emailed their results just after 8.00 am on Thursday 13th August. The Sixth Form team will be on hand for advice and guidance on the day from 8am (via phone and Google meet) to ensure we continue to support students.
- **Year 11** will be emailed their results just after 08.00 am on Thursday 20th August. Enrolment into the Sixth Form will be done by google form and will be open at 9.00 am - again, all of year 11 will receive an email to their Academy email address inviting them to apply if they have met the entry requirements. We will be in contact with students who have met the entry requirements to discuss course choices throughout the day, and the pastoral team will be on hand on the day (via phone and Google meeting) to support students who are unsure what to do next.
- **Year 10** will be emailed their GCSE RE result just after 08.15 am on Thursday 20th August.

Start of term arrangements for September 2020

We hope to be able to bring you more details of how the Academy will reopen in September during the holidays. The reason for the delay is to take into account the Government's next update on the subject of school reopening which is not due until August 11th, and which may impact our plans. We are able to confirm the arrangements for the first week, and would ask you to make a note of these items in your diary:

- **Monday 31st August:** Bank holiday
- **Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September:** INSET days (Academy closed to students)
- **Thursday 3rd September:** Year 7 (from 10 am until 2 pm) and Year 12 (from 9.45 am to 1 pm) only

- **Friday 4th September: Virtual Learning Coach Consultation Day** (Years 7-11 and 13). Please book your appointments following the instructions in the letter from Mrs Whittle.
- **Monday 7th September:** Staggered return to school: more information will follow during the summer but you should expect your child to return to school this week.

Pastoral team 2020–2021

As always, your child's class teacher or learning coach should be the first point of contact (for academic and pastoral queries respectively). Your child may find they have a new learning coach next year so I cannot stress enough the importance of booking a virtual LCCD appointment in order to meet them early in the year. If the learning coach cannot resolve a pastoral issue, you may need to speak to your child's Head of Year. As always, our Heads of Year have shuffled around slightly, so please refer to the list below in September:

Head of Year 7: Ms Vaghela

Head of Year 8: Ms Borg-Cunen

Head of Year 9: Mr Fisher

Head of Year 10 and 11: Mr Daverat

Head of Year 12: Miss Hetherington

Head of Year 13: Ms Capewell

Goodbye to staff

At the end of the Academic year we always say goodbye to some staff and this year is no different. This year we must say a special goodbye and congratulations to Ms Michaelides who has been with us for over 10 years. Ms Michaelides' journey at Chelsea Academy has taken in many many changes, as she has progressed from one of the earliest employees, to Assistant Principal, and now she leaves us to become Principal of an international school in Cyprus. This is such a wonderful opportunity for her and her family and we wish her the best of luck in her new and exciting role. We also say goodbye to Mr Munn who is leaving us to become Head of English at a school closer to home and to Mr Henry who leaves us for a new direction outside of teaching. Thank you to them and the other staff that will be leaving us for pastures new after the summer.

Final Goodbye

As you may be aware I am leaving not just the Academy, but also the UK and relocating to Switzerland where I start as the head of an international school. It has been a privilege to lead Chelsea Academy over the past six years. I have loved working with you and your children and the inspirational staff and I am immensely proud of the school I am handing over to Mrs Ardron. Chelsea Academy is a calm, happy and successful school and has a wonderful future ahead. I hope to return to say a proper goodbye to the students next year but for now I just want to wish you a much needed relaxing holiday with your families, before students return to the Academy in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Williams

Principal