

Wednesday 24th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

An Introduction from Mariella Ardron, Principal from September 2020

I wanted to write to you and introduce myself. As you are aware Mr. Williams is leaving the Academy to take up a Principal post in Switzerland. In February I was delighted to be appointed as Mr. William's successor by the Governors. I know that Lady Sassoon, the Chair of Governors wrote to you at the time regarding my appointment.

I have been working in London schools since qualifying as a teacher in 1995. Since 2004 I have been working at Springwest Academy in Hounslow; the last four years have seen me lead the academy as Principal. I am passionate about the role schools and teachers play in the life of a young person. I believe that every child has the right to an outstanding education which sets them up for a happy, healthy and successful life. Our children's life chances are significantly improved when they leave school with a strong set of qualifications and can progress onto an appropriate pathway at university or alternative. As a practising Anglican since childhood, the opportunity to lead a church school is a true privilege.

As Principal but also as the mother of three children, all of whom will be in secondary school in September, I know how important the role you play as parents is. Our partnership with you is a precious thing and we will work together to ensure your child's time at Chelsea Academy is a rich and rewarding journey. Our mission at Chelsea Academy is to Work Hard, Be Kind and make No Excuses. That mission seems especially relevant for these times. The last three months have been an unprecedented time in all our lives and I am very conscious that the impact of your child or children having missed many weeks of school is huge. Working together, the Governors, Mr. Williams, the Leadership Team and I have begun to plan for the safe return of all our students. We want nothing more than to have every child back at the Academy and to reestablish normal schooling in September. At the time of writing the government has clearly stated that this is what they are working to.

We also recognise that the students will need our reassurance and support to successfully re engage in school and in learning. We will all need to Work Hard, Be Kind to one another and make No Excuses; to ensure that we close those learning gaps and get learning back on track. I am also conscious that for some students the return will cause considerable anxiety and challenge but I know that the experience and expertise of the pastoral team will make the return for these students successful. Children are incredibly resilient and thrive on routine and normality. When we all return to school in September it will be essential for us to quickly reestablish learning routines and the rhythm of the Academy day. As more detail comes out from the government about easing lockdown restrictions, we will be able to plan for September. Please be aware that depending on this and given the physical limitations of the Academy it may take some weeks to have all students back in school for five full days a week. However I will ensure that you are informed and updated over the summer.

I am greatly looking forward to formally starting my role as Principal in September. A few weeks ago I wrote to the staff and spoke of the 1 Corinthians 13 verse that exemplifies the Academy's motto: Anchored in Christ. Speaking of love Paul writes: 'it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things'. The past 3 months have seen many of us juggling all of these. We are now emerging into a post-pandemic world and the new normal will be different. An adjustment for us all. However together we can be full of hope and faith for a new beginning.



Anchored in Christ

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I look forward to meeting many of you in the autumn term, although this may have to be later in the term than I would like. In the meantime I wish you and your family a safe, happy and restful summer break.

Yours faithfully

Mariella Ardron
Principal Designate