

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear parent / carer,

It certainly is beginning to feel more autumnal now than when we first returned. The air is colder, we've had rain this week and the nights are drawing in. Please do encourage your child to wear a warm coat or plain jacket to and from school. These should be dark coloured and without a logo. We would of course strongly encourage your child to wear the very smart, branded Chelsea Academy jacket! I do know from my own children that getting them to wear a coat is a battle in itself. However students are having to wait outside each morning as we only bring them in at their allocated time and unless the weather is very wet students will continue to wait outside and to have as much of their break and lunch outside rather than inside.


We are very excited to be resuming some of our excellent extra curricular provision after half term. Clubs and activities are an essential part of Academy life and of our reopening. As you can understand we are having to manage this in quite a controlled manner. Students will need to sign up for clubs and activities and these will be run for one year group on any one afternoon. As soon as we are permitted we will extend our extra curricular offer as this has always been an incredibly strong aspect of the academy.

When I last wrote to you a fortnight ago I said I had been getting into as many lessons as possible and was so impressed with the way in which students are embracing their learning once again. Be assured staff are working hard to identify learning gaps and to ensure that the curriculum is adjusted to revisit and consolidate knowledge and skills covered during lockdown. We will be sharing details of some bespoke sessions running at October half term for Year 11 and 13 students that our own staff are leading on. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that it is essential that students are in every day unless they are too ill to attend or if they are displaying any of the three coronavirus symptoms. The impact of even two missed days on a child's learning is significant, especially given the time lost earlier in the year.

Hopefully you will have seen from our Twitter feed our post about First Story. This is a charity we work in partnership with to develop the creative writing skills of our students. The result of this year-long programme is an anthology of the students' work, both poetry and prose, which is professionally printed and, usually, we hold a book launch in Nomad Books, our local children's bookshop to celebrate their success. The programme was cut short last year due to lockdown, but the students continued to refine their work from home which has resulted in this year's anthology. A beautiful anthology has been produced. Well Done to Ms. Allen and to all the students involved in the creation of this wonderful text!

We are busy these next few weeks welcoming small tours of Y6 parents so that in the absence of an open Evening they can see the Academy at work. We have also made a fantastic film where staff and students share what is so special about our Academy. Do visit our website to view it. A reminder that on Friday 9th October the Academy is closed to students due to a staff INSET day.

Wrap up warm and have a lovely weekend.



Mariella Ardron
Principal