



27 October 2020

Message from the Principal

As I write this I find myself reflecting on this quite extraordinary half term. I have been warmly welcomed by you as parents, by the fantastic staff team and of course by the wonderful students themselves. Governors entrusted me to reopen the Academy in September and to ensure learning resumed for every child. We have done that with great success and I am very proud of our community. Our vision: Learning together to flourish has been very real in the last seven weeks and calls to mind this verse from John 10:10:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The two Ofsted inspectors that came to the Academy on Tuesday went away in no doubt that we continue to provide an excellent education and outstanding pastoral care despite the restrictions of COVID-19. I will share the brief letter that will be sent to us as soon as I have received it. Remember these current visits are not inspections; we will not be issued with a new Ofsted grade.

I have just left the last of five assemblies delivered this week to celebrate Black History Month. It was a wonderful and rich blend of staff and students presenting on black culture and history and what that means to our community. For me that sums up the Chelsea Way, where working together we all inspire, educate and excite.

Please ensure your child(ren) conforms with the Tier 2 restrictions over half term. None of us want to be in the position where students are sent home unnecessarily and the best way is to protect ourselves from getting the virus. And remember every child must return to the Academy on Monday

2nd November with a face covering. London remains at risk of higher rates of virus transmission. We must do our bit at the Academy to reduce this risk wherever possible.

I hope you have a pleasant week ahead.

Mrs Ardron
Principal

Digital Systems

Interested to know your child's attendance, behaviour, timetable or you wish to update your contact details.

You can already do this using the SIMS Parent App however, after half term we're introducing a new web and app based system that is easier to use. It's called Edulink One. Please do sign up when you receive the sign up email.

Don't forget, we have a number of digital systems to help your child with independent learning. These systems include:

[Google Classroom](#)

GCSEPod

SAM Learning

Hegarty Maths

[Click here for more details](#)



Chelsea Academy Foundation



Chelsea Academy Foundation (CAF) supports our students in achieving their potential by providing opportunities to learn about career and study pathways available to them. We were delighted that this year's A level results were so strong and that all Year 13 leavers have moved to a confirmed employment, training or university place. Thanks to the CAF's partnership with Brunel University, students from Year 10 onwards can become familiar with university campus life and ways of teaching, while our work with The Access Project is focused on supporting students who aspire to attend Russell Group universities, through mentoring, university application workshops and interview practice.

As a result of these combined programmes, 42% of our students have taken up places at world-class Russell Group universities this year. We are very grateful to all who give generously to support our students in this way. If you would like to know more about donating to our Flourish Fund, [click here](#) or email caf@chelsea-academy.org.

Do remember that you can support us very easily at no cost to yourself by registering with [Amazon Smile](#) and [easyfundraising](#) and selecting Chelsea Academy Foundation as your preferred cause; for every online purchase you make, they will make a small donation to our Flourish Fund, raising even more money for us to provide opportunities for our students.

Academic Update

The Academy has returned to life and it is wonderful to have the students and staff back in classrooms doing what we know at Chelsea Academy we do best, teaching and learning. The return to school life has been excellent and the students are the embodiment of our Christian values celebrating joy, perseverance and forgiveness as they thrive in their learning.

Key Stage 3:

Year 7 have had a strong start to their academic journey at Chelsea Academy. It was a great pleasure to see that despite missing out on their SATs in Year 6, they had a really positive attitude to sitting their CAT Tests and Reading Assessments. The outcomes of these tests will help ensure that the Year 7 students are challenged and supported as necessary in their learning as they begin

their secondary education.

All Independent Learning is accessible for students and guardians through their Google Classroom accounts. Guidance and support on using this platform effectively can be accessed through the parents section of the Chelsea Academy website.

Year 8 have returned with a great sense of maturity and motivation to learn. They have made positive gains in making up for the missed learning opportunities during the Academy closure. Year 8 teachers have been working in lessons to identify and address gaps, supporting student progress in a variety of low stakes assessments aimed at engaging and motivating students as they make up for missed learning. Year 8 engagement in Google Classroom has been excellent. It is a great platform in developing student responsibility and independence. Any missed learning due to unplanned absence is easily accessed via their own Google Classroom accounts. The expectation for all our students to 'work hard and no excuses' is stronger than ever!

Key Stage 4:

GCSE studies have started for Year 9 and they have engaged positively in their new classes. Years 10 and 11 continue to demonstrate great perseverance in their attitude toward their studies. Year 11s, in particular, know how important every lesson is in the build up to their future exams. We continue to work with them and help them prepare for any eventuality. We are committed to our vision for a broad and balanced curriculum that enables students to be successful whatever they choose to do after Year 11. This continues despite the uncertainty of the 2021 exams.

Although restricted by the limitations of the zoning required to ensure a Covid safe environment, the students have been very mature in their approach to their learning. Attitudes are positive and in regular conversations with students they display a determination to do well. They understand that it's not possible to fully enjoy certain subjects, for example the Performing Arts due to limited access to the drama studio or subjects that need specialist equipment of which we have an incredible array. It is a credit to them that in true Chelsea Academy style they continue to persevere finding joy in learning regardless, whilst showing kindness and charity to their peers and teachers.

Regular assessment is ongoing for all KS4 students in all subjects. Teachers are using lesson time to identify and address immediate gaps in student knowledge and skills. Formal assessments will take place towards the end of HT2. In order to ensure that all students are effectively supported and challenged we will be carrying out standardised Reading Assessments after the HT break.

KS4 Independent Learning

At home it is incredibly important, now more than ever, that students continue to build on their Independent Learning skills. Google Classroom is a powerful platform that ensures that students have access to learning at home. All IL is assigned through Google Classroom and students can manage their IL through the individual classes, the calendar overview and/or by using the 'To Do' list. Guidance for parents/cares on the effective use of Google Classroom is available via the Chelsea Academy website.

Ms N McGuinness

Vice Principal - Quality of Education

Keeping Your Child Safe

In this section of the CA newsletter we provide regular and up-to-date advice to support you in keeping your children safe.

As half term approaches - and with so many restrictions on social activities - it is inevitable that our students will spend large amounts of their leisure time accessing the internet and social media sites. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of three 'Top Tips' for safe online IT use at home:

1. **Communicate** - Talk to your child about what they are accessing online, discuss who

they are talking to, take an active interest in the amount of time they are spending - and ask them about sites/apps they are using.

2. **Be Aware of Key Risks** - Use [this](#) excellent NSPCC website to help you
3. **Agree Boundaries** - Set clear rules for when your child is allowed to access online content - and for which content they are/ are not allowed to access.

Lastly, as a pastoral team, we have found [this short video](#) really helpful and interesting. It interviews parents who work for Google and asks them to share the approaches that they take when dealing with their child's access to online content.

Thank you,

David Whitley
Assistant Principal - Inclusion

Head of Year Update - Year 7

The Year 7s have ended their first half term on an absolute high! As a year group they have settled in very well to life at the Academy. They have made great first impressions amongst staff and the wider community. They seem to already be familiar with our ethos and values and demonstrate these everyday. Two weeks ago Mr Richards arranged a collection for our local food bank and the Year 7s brought in bags and bags of donations, they were incredibly generous!

Attendance has been high in Year 7 and we hope to maintain that until the end of the year. Achievement points will soon be in the hundreds!

We look forward to returning to the Academy after half term when the clubs will be starting and Year 7 students can get involved in the extra curricular activities that we have to offer.

Mrs Vaghela
Head of Year 7

Head of Year Update - Year 8

Our Year 8 students have made a wonderful start back at the Academy, adapting surprisingly quickly to all the new systems that have been put into place to keep them safe. They cheerfully sanitise their hands on entry, go directly to their year group area and remain there for the rest of the day. It's lovely to see how happy they are to be reunited with their friends and teachers after spending such a long time apart, and how much effort they are putting into their work in all their lessons.

Year 8 punctuality has shown a marked improvement as has behaviour in lessons. As their Head of Year, I am extremely proud of Year 8 and hope that this positivity continues for the rest of the year. I am particularly impressed by their exemplary behaviour during our year group assemblies and the reflective atmosphere that fills the room. I know that our students are very much looking forward to the resumption of after-school clubs after half term, and I want to encourage them to take part in as many as possible. So far it has been a joy to work with Year 8 students and parents and I'm very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Ms Borg-Cunen
Head of Year 8

Head of Year Update - Year 9

I am immensely proud of the entire year group for returning to the Academy with the attitude

they've shown and the level of engagement and enjoyment in lessons, it has been a fantastic first half term. Year 9 students have shown great resilience and adapted well to the enforced changes that have been necessary.

GCSEs have begun and Year 9 have all risen to the challenge. I think it's fair to say that it has been a different level to last year and the standard and expectations required by their teachers will rise year on year, however Year 9 have shown fantastic capacity and I am so optimistic for the prospects of our young people.

Mr Fisher
Head of Year 9

Head of Year Update - Year 10

Our return to lessons has been positive across the year group. Students have all kept their same Learning Coaches from the last academic year, so the friendly and familiar faces in Coaching Time have remained.

Making use of the Science and Maths part of the Academy, Year 10 have been settling back into their KS4 lessons with enthusiasm and interest.

The social space of the Sports Hall for break and, in particular, lunch has allowed for sporting activities to take place in line with the current PE guidelines for schools. Some fun and new competitive games have been developed!

We are eagerly awaiting the results of our student and Learning Coach vote of the flagship community charity that Year 10 will be supporting this year. With a shortlist of six fantastic charities, the students are spending this week casting their vote, with the winner being announced in our first assembly back after half-term.

Mr Daverat
Head of Year 10

Head of Year Update - Year 11

#GCSEs2021 has been trending on social media since we returned to the Academy in September. After months of home learning, the focus now shifts towards lessons, teachers and exams...and what a terrific return it has been. Student engagement in Year 11 has been exceptional, and the staff are delighted to see them return to lessons.

With their own entrance and own area, Year 11 really are forging an excellent community amongst themselves. The positivity towards learning and progress can be seen from 8:30 on Monday right through to 15:20 on Friday.

With revision and interventions already up and running, and with more to be set up after the half-term, we find ourselves eagerly waiting for the holidays to pass so that we can get back to getting in those extra hours in preparation for our mocks in December.

Like Year 10, we are also awaiting the results of our student and Learning Coach vote of the flagship community charity that Year 11 will be supporting this year. With a shortlist of six fantastic charities, the students are spending this week casting their vote, with the winner being announced in our first assembly back after half-term.

Mr Daverat
Head of Year 11

Head of Year Update - Year 12



It has been my pleasure as Head of Year 12 to welcome a new cohort of students to Chelsea Academy Sixth Form. As a year group they have made a strong start and demonstrated themselves to be humble, resilient and flexible. In addition to starting A level study the Year 12's have thrown themselves into the extra curricular opportunities available to them.

For the first time the Deputy Head Students will be selected from Year 12 and we have had an overwhelming number of applications of extremely high quality.

A number of Year 12's have secured places on the NCS Autumn 2020 programme, whilst individual student highlights including gaining work experience with Access Aspiration and reaching the final of 'Day in Your Life' photography competition in collaboration with the Saatchi gallery. The Year 12's positive start has left me feeling encouraged about what is to come this year.

Ms Hetherington
Head of Year 12

Head of Year Update - Year 13

It has been wonderful to welcome the Year 13s back for their final year at the Academy. The students have settled back into their academics and have been busy researching and preparing their personal statements and applications for university, apprenticeships and gap years. We are well underway with the Head Student process and I was immensely proud of how the students conducted themselves during their leadership presentations to their peers and to the staff body. It has been a great start to the term and I hope that they can maintain this momentum for the remainder of the year.

Ms Capewell
Head of Year 13

Literacy Update



Reminder for current LRC procedures

Whilst the LRC remains temporarily closed at break and lunch times, the mobile library has been and will continue to visit bubbles, for the time being, on the following days:

- Monday → Year 7
- Tuesday → Year 8
- Wednesday → Year 9
- Thursday → Year 10
- Friday → Year 11

Sixth Form are permitted to visit the LRC at any point, provided there is not a lesson taking place.

- Not sure which book to read? Fill out [this form](#), and Miss Allen will send a personalised recommendation! Alternatively, students can enter a few details [here](#) if there is a particular book they want to read that we have in the LRC.
- Has your child read an amazing book and wants to tell everyone about it? They can review their book [here](#), and reviews will be on display in the LRC and around the Academy.

Scholastic Book Club

We're delighted to have Scholastic Book Club available to Chelsea Academy students this term. By browsing the latest books and ordering this link, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards to spend on books for every £1 spent. Purchased books will be delivered to the Academy and distributed to students directly when they arrive. Please place your orders online by 31st October.

Exciting opportunity!

Calling all Year 7s! We are partnering with First Story for the fourth year in a row to deliver a wonderful creative writing programme. Starting Thursday 5th November, students will meet on a weekly basis, alongside children's author Irfan Master, to create a professionally published anthology of their work. We will then celebrate their success with a book launch in the summer term. Students should speak to either Miss Allen or Miss Spearpoint to sign up or for more information. [See here](#) to find out more. Please note that to accommodate social bubbles, this year's First Story programme is open to Year 7s only.

Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

Chelsea Academy are privileged to have been selected as a judging panel for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize that celebrates the very best in children's science fiction and non-fiction books. This year, students can join in online from the comfort of home by logging onto Google Classroom and entering code 'uayujuu' to join. Commencing Monday 19th October, students will be able to read an extract from one shortlisted book each week and can review to vote for their favourite. Please see here to find out more.

Tips for encouraging reading at home

- Ensure your child has a book with them every day. Books can be brought in from home, your local library or the school library (students can use the forms above to reserve or

request books). If you notice that your child has had a certain book for a long period of time, encourage them to change their book if they are not engaging with it; life is too short to spend time reading books you are not enjoying!

- Look for books that have a connection to your child's hobbies or passions. For example, if your child is a keen footballer, Kwame Alexander's *Booked* is an excellent one to try. It is also worth looking at what they are watching on Netflix or Youtube and checking if there is a book equivalent (i.e. the Lemony Snicket book series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*).
- Ask questions about what your child is reading and express enthusiasm about the characters. Ask them to read-aloud their favourite passages and try to read the book yourself once they have finished reading it.
- Encourage the listening of audiobooks. Your local library will have free, downloadable books, plus Audible have a plethora of audiobooks available too. Listening to audiobooks will help your child learn new vocabulary, hear reading aloud being modelled, and expose them to accents and dialects they may not be familiar with. Listen as a family on a long car journey or through a speaker at home.
- Check the [LRC website](#) for recommendations and reading activities, and do not hesitate to contact me if you require any help or advice with your child's reading.

October Half Term Reading Recommendations

***A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll**



A book of hope, resilience, and using your voice to affect change. *A Kind of Spark* follows the story of Addie as she endeavours to make a difference within her community and commence on the path of self-acceptance.

***A Kind of Spark* is recommended for students in KS3.**

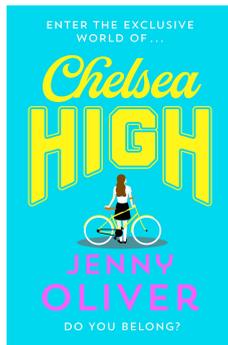
***What Momma Left Me* by Renée Watson**



With each chapter named after a line of the Lord's Prayer, *What Momma Left Me* is rooted in Christianity. Thirteen-year-old Serenity grapples with her faith throughout the novel as she struggles with growing up combined with family breakdown. Perfect for fans of Jacqueline Wilson.

What Momma Left Me is recommended for students in KS3 and KS4.

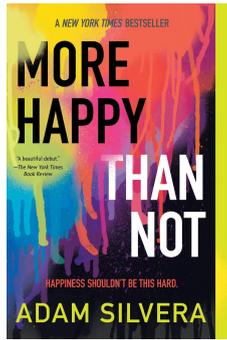
Chelsea High by Jenny Oliver



Dubbed the teen romance novel of 2020, this one has been on my radar ever since its release was announced last year! Set in a secondary school in Chelsea... need I say more?! A funny and quirky book, perfect for a rainy Sunday afternoon. Recommended for fans of Holly Bourne and Jenny Han.

Chelsea High is recommended for students in KS4.

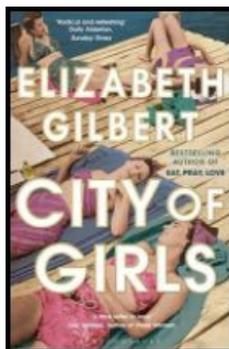
More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera



Set in the Bronx, New York, the story follows 16-year-old Aaron as he navigates life after his father's sudden death. Aaron makes a new friend who changes his outlook on life, love, and what he is able to achieve. Equal parts achingly funny and heartbreaking; *More Happy Than Not* is also recommended by Mr Whitley!

***More Happy Than Not* is recommended for students in KS4 and KS5.**

***City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert**



The novel follows the life of nineteen-year-old Vivian who, seeking excitement in Manhattan, gets caught up in the drama of her aunt's failing off-Broadway theatre. A true coming-of-age story, with the glitz, glamour and heartbreak of 1940s New York.

***City of Girls* is recommended for students in KS5.**

Reflection

Dear Parents and Carers,

The theme of the week w/b 19th October is 'Work hard' and our verse is 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' (Colossians 3:23). Students and staff have certainly worked hard and shown plenty of heart this half term both inside and outside of the classroom. A particular highlight for me was the Harvest collection where we collected 50 bags of food for the Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank. Thank you very much to everyone who donated.

I recently hosted our first parents prayer session online, the date for our next meeting is Thursday 7th January. This session will take place in the evening and all parents are very welcome to attend.

Prayer is an essential part of life at Chelsea Academy, I begin staff briefing every Monday with a

prayer, and staff and students begin each day with a prayer in Coaching Time and assemblies. We are 'Anchored in Christ', and our Academy prayer asks us to always remain anchored in Christ; 'Our Leader, Our Example and Our Guide'. I hope and pray that Christ leads and guides us this week and over the half term break too.

Lastly, lots of our local Churches such as St Andrew's (Chelsea) HTB, St. Luke's (Sydney Street) and St. Matthew's (Fulham) are offering 'Christianity Explored' and other courses and services online to help people grow in their understanding and faith in Jesus Christ. Please do head to their church websites for more information if you would like to find out more.

Peace be with you all and God bless,

Tim Richards

Chaplain

tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org



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