



18 December 2020

Message from the Principal

Welcome to our second newsletter of the academic year. We have been pretty busy at the Academy! As I read through each section I am staggered by all that staff and students have achieved this term, despite the restrictions we have in place to be COVID secure. What strikes me most is the richness and diversity of provision. From the opportunities and bespoke support offered to our Year 13 students as they prepare to apply to university and the inspirational lectures that take place every Monday, to the excitement of a Year 9 coaching group receiving a reply from the national treasure that is Sir David Attenborough, and the wonderful joy of Year 7 students as they spent a day in 'STEM Immersion'. Our ever resourceful PE department has continued to come up with new and different ways to engage young people in sport and physical exercise despite current constraints. Our Academy vision: Learning Together to Flourish is witnessed every single day as students challenge themselves in so many different ways. The Year 11s have most certainly demonstrated perseverance and determination as they complete their mock exams this week.

As we head towards the end of term and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Son this Christmas time, our Chaplain Tim Richards reminds us of this simple but powerful recount of the birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Christmas can be a wonderful time but it can also bring stress and worry and that may be even more the case this year. However we do wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed Christmas and more than ever before, may the New Year bring happiness, joy and good health for us all. We look forward to seeing students back on Wednesday 6th January.

Mrs Ardron
Principal

Chelsea Academy Foundation

The Chelsea Academy Foundation [Flourish Fund](#) gives you the chance to contribute so that all students can join extracurricular clubs and trips and don't need to worry about the cost. One regular programme that we are proud to fund is the **Jamie's Farm residential trip** which uses 'farming, family and therapy' to re-engage students who are struggling with low grades, lack of drive and unhappy relationships.



(photo credit: Jamie's Farm 2020 impact report)

After a week running the farm (with supervision!), eating the food they have helped to grow, and exploring the countryside, students return to Chelsea Academy feeling successful and trusted. It's not a holiday, the follow-up programme helps students make their new skills work in the classroom.

"For the past two years, Jamie's Farm has provided a unique opportunity for some of our most vulnerable KS3 students to get out of London and experience life in a completely different setting. The richness of the activities at the farm (including bread baking, herding cattle, and helping deliver lambs) is underpinned by highly experienced therapeutic input from farm staff - designed to help each individual student on their own personal journey of holistic development. The generous support of the CAF has allowed us to offer this invaluable opportunity to a very economically diverse group of students - focussing on those who need it the most, rather than just on those who can afford it. Thank you to the CAF for your ongoing support."

Miss Sanders, Head of Individual Needs - Behaviour

Around 20 students are selected to attend every year; Chelsea Academy has found this a very good way to help students stay in education to gain the essential GCSE grades for their futures. The results speak for themselves:

- 89%** of young people who visited Jamie's Farm had a higher mental wellbeing score after visiting
- 80%** of those referred for increased attainment showed an improvement six months after visiting
- 66%** displayed improved engagement with school six months after visiting
- 58%** of those at risk of permanent exclusion before their visit were no longer at risk six months after visiting
- 63%** of those who visited displayed improved self-esteem six months after visiting.

(source: Jamie's Farm 2020 impact report)

If you would like to contribute to the Flourish Fund, please click [here](#)

Ways to give at no extra cost to yourself:

- Some parent donors ask their employer to take the money out of their salary before they pay tax which boosts the value of the gift without them doing anything! Some employers may also offer to match the donation. Our Fundraising Manager would be very happy to talk to you about how to arrange this: emily.standing@chelsea-academy.org
- You can also support us while online shopping by registering with [Amazon Smile](#), [Go Raise](#) and [easyfundraising](#); for every online purchase you make, they will give a small donation (at no cost to you) to our Flourish Fund, raising even more money for us to provide opportunities for our students.

Academic Update - KS5

The autumn term has been a busy one for our Sixth Form students. We welcomed 143 Year 12 students in September, and after a summer of cancelled GCSE exams, we were delighted by how quickly the newest members of this cohort settled down to their new subjects and wowed their teachers with their hard work. In Year 12 most of our students study three subjects for five periods a week per subject. We have also introduced supervised study periods to help Year 12 students structure their increased freedom of study periods within the Academy day. Members of staff have positively commented on the impressive way students are managing their own time during these sessions. Wednesday afternoons are when our Year 12 Enrichment Programme runs; this term students have been able to choose from basketball, football, robotics and drama LAMDA qualifications. We look forward to increasing this offer once we are able to relax some of the constraints within the Academy building.

Year 13 students started the academic year with a session about planning for the future, and we have not stopped thinking about our goals and aims since then. Interventions and support sessions have started for students in Year 13, including online Physics tutoring with Imperial College, History intervention focusing on revising topics learnt in Year 12, and extra spoken French practice with a French national. Last week our A level Drama students performed Caucasian Circle for part of their A level assessment, well done to the five students and Mrs Tomlinson for a wonderful performance. In lessons, Year 13 sat assessments in September in lieu of their AS exams to enable us to provide predicted grades for their UCAS applications. These students excelled at online learning in the summer, so we were not surprised to see some fantastic predicted grades and students applying to top universities. Seven students have applied for courses at the University of Cambridge and four for Oxford University. Thanks to help from Governor Cat Williams and her colleagues at Facebook, The Access Project and other links we have built have enabled us to arrange three or more practice interviews for all of these students prior to their actual university interviews. Whilst we will have to wait until early spring to hear back from Cambridge and Oxford and the relevant medical schools,

Year 13 students have already received 59 offers from 36 different universities including Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, UCL, York and Warwick.



Mrs Holgate
Assistant Principal - Post 16

Keeping Your Child Safe

In these very challenging times, we all need to take good care of our mental health. BelievePerform have developed a free resource called 'Ten Positive Mental Health Habits'. The link for this resource is [here](#). Please do take a look - I hope that you find it useful.

Mrs Whittle
**Senior Vice Principal
Inclusion and Child Protection Lead**

Supporting Young Carers at Chelsea Academy

At Chelsea Academy we are aware that some of our students are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At Chelsea Academy we are committed to ensuring that all students who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

At Chelsea Academy we believe we have the responsibility for ensuring all young carers are able to enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please let us know by filling in the google form using the link below. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, or have any further questions, please

contact your child's Head of Year and speak to them directly.

[Young Carer - Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2020](#)

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Miss Sanders

Head of Individual Needs (Behaviour)

Head of Year Update - Year 7

As you are probably already aware from either your child, seeing me at the school gate or meeting me in person, I am now very heavily pregnant and close to going on maternity leave. In order to ensure that we continue to provide effective support and pastoral care for Year 7 students, Mr Lehmer will take over the role of Acting Head of Year 7 until the end of this academic year. Mr Lehmer has been working at the Academy as Deputy Head of Year 10 and 11 for the past two years and has a wealth of pastoral experience working with Year 7s.

I handed over to Mr Lehmer in the Year 7 assembly this morning however, I will be working up until Friday so please contact me as usual until then. Mr Lehmer will send you an email later today to introduce himself.

It has been a pleasure working with you and your child. I look forward to visiting the Academy with my baby next year and then returning to work. Please be assured that I am doing an in depth handover with Mr Lehmer who I will continue to work with and support. I have every confidence that he will do a fantastic job.

Despite Year 7 missing the best part of their time in Year 6, their usual transition day and summer school they have settled extremely well into life at the Academy and are now part of our community.

The Year 7's will end their first term on an absolute high! On Thursday this week we will all come together for the Year 7 Eucharist service led by Reverend Sam Hole and Mr Richards, our Chaplain. After that, they will have their first sit down meal at the Academy, the Year 7 Christmas lunch, and then we will head to the Theatre for a Talent show, lots to look forward to and celebrate. We will end the term on Friday with a church service and our end of term Achievement Assembly. It will be a really special, festive and joyous day.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement during these unsettling times. I wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you and your child in 2021.

Mrs Vaghela

Head of Year 7

Head of Year Update - Year 8

Despite the challenges our Year 8 students have had to face this half term, with so many of them having to self-isolate and work from home, they have been resilient, positive, and shown a sense of understanding and maturity beyond their years. For this reason I am extremely proud of them. Year 8 students have received far fewer behaviour points and detentions this term than any first half term in previous years. They've now settled really well into their Coaching Groups and lessons, participating enthusiastically in our Pastoral Curriculum and their behaviour in all assemblies this term has been exemplary. Being in Year 8 'bubble' seems to have helped in terms of keeping students calm in the corridors and them being on time to all their lessons. They are currently working very hard in their lessons, preparing for and sitting their end of term assessments. We are looking forward to being able to celebrate all their achievements during the final week of term, with our special Year 8 Christmas lunch followed by a Christmas movie on Wednesday, and our Christmas service, Christmas Coaching Time Quiz, and Rewards Assembly on Friday. I'd like to

take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - here's hoping that 2021 will be much better than 2020!

Mrs Borg
Head of Year 8

Head of Year Update - Year 9

Our young people have continually surprised me this year. Initially they all returned to the Academy fully geared up to start their GCSEs, they approached their work and their teachers in such an impressive way. They have shown enormous capacity to deal with, and I'll be honest thrive, in such difficult and precarious times. We have had several absent from the Academy through self-isolation, some more than once! We have had some who have had really difficult times over this year and we've come through it all together. As I often say, we are a team and a unit. All of them play their part in that wider team and I'm proud everyday to be their HoY.

Recently we have brought a lot of joy and happiness to the bleak onset of winter, we have played football and games during lunchtimes and have engaged in fantastic activities with Learning Coaches and teachers across the school.

Students have excelled and shown their talents, with several gaining certificates in all sorts of extra curricular activities. We have had record numbers of students sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme launched a few weeks ago, as well as those interested in joining our affiliated Air Cadet Squadron in the New Year. These are all examples of what terrific young people we have in our year group.

The new year will bring new challenges but I am confident that we will be able to handle whatever 2021 has in store for us.

I sincerely wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and New Year and I'll see you all, to do it all again in January.

Mr Fisher
Head of Year 9

Head of Year Update - Year 10

Year 10 have had another positive term of learning, both in the Academy and virtually.

Whilst lessons were going on remotely for the students, the engagement was fantastic. There have been some phenomenal GCSE Pod usages from many of the students, and a number of them have been highlighted.

Going about lessons within the Academy has been an enthusiastic and joyful process, with a vast amount of Achievement Points being issued to the year group.

As we draw an end to the first term back, and as their final assessments conclude, attention turns towards celebrating all of the individuals who have made a success of their year so far. Hosting a Christmas lunch on Monday 14th, and an Achievement Assembly on Friday 18th, the final week is set to be one of celebrations. We wish the entire Year 10 community, including their families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Daverat
Head of Year 10

Head of Year Update - Year 11

Half-term 2 has been dominated by the Year 11 Mocks, and the students have absolutely done themselves proud in their approach, not only in the lead up to, but also throughout the exam

season.

Student engagement in lessons has been outstanding: vibrant, engaging and energetic learning time has been absolutely maximised. Pre and post Academy day intervention sessions have also been a wonderful success: over 130 individual students have amassed over 15,000 minutes or 42 Academy days worth of extra learning. Even during the two-week remote learning the student feedback was of encouragement and progress.

As we enter the final week of the two-week mock exam season, the students have relished in the opportunity to sit formal-style exams in preparation for summer 2021. The practice, both in exam content and style, will certainly put them in fantastic stead for those GCSEs come June.

However, at the conclusion of the week comes a well-deserved Christmas break, and a break that we would like to extend all of our best wishes towards for both the students and their families.

Mr Daverat
Head of Year 11

Sixth Form Update

We have enjoyed another interesting lecture programme this term for Year 12 and 13 students, mixing guests presenting online with face to face lectures where it was possible. We have been pleased to welcome amongst others, Michael Englard from the London Interdisciplinary School, Edward Lucas a local resident, writer and expert in Security, Glass Door the homeless charity, and members of Walpole group as part of our ongoing relationship with them to bring the world of work into Chelsea Academy Sixth Form. We have been delighted to see so many of our students grasp the opportunities available to them, including online work experience placements, programmes like The Access Project, The Social Mobility Foundation and the National Citizen Service. Last week we welcomed back Walter from the Oppidan Foundation to launch the mentoring programme to this year's Year 12 students. We were part of the pilot last year, and Head Student Tina came to speak to Year 12 about how she had benefited from being trained to mentor Year 7 students, alongside being mentored herself. This is an exciting partnership which we look forward to continuing this year.



Some of our Business and Economics students from Year 12 & 13 formed a team, supported by Miss Mussa to enter the Livery Academy Awards. Last week they presented their business plan for biodegradable take away and fast food containers, carrying out rigorous market research including working with Itsu. Our business mentors from MC Saatchi and Dalton Strategic Partnership were wowed by the students' research, team work, skills and presentation which had to be adapted to be completed over Zoom. The perseverance and dedication shown by these students was outstanding.



We are proud of the way our Sixth Form students have led on charity events, such as helping with the Christmas shoe boxes, and giving up their beds to support the Glass Door Homeless Charity. On Thursday 17th December Sixth Form students will wear Christmas Jumpers to raise money for Save the Children, and will end the term on 18th December with a cultural challenge to go somewhere in London and see something new. A walking tour along the Thames, a visit to one of the many free galleries or museums, or a walk around the older parts of the City of London looking out for those pieces of medieval London which are still there hidden amongst the concrete and brick of the modern city.

We wish all our students a safe and Merry Christmas, and look forward to all the hard work and enjoyment that the spring term will bring.

Mrs J Holgate
Assistant Principal - Post 16

Literacy Update

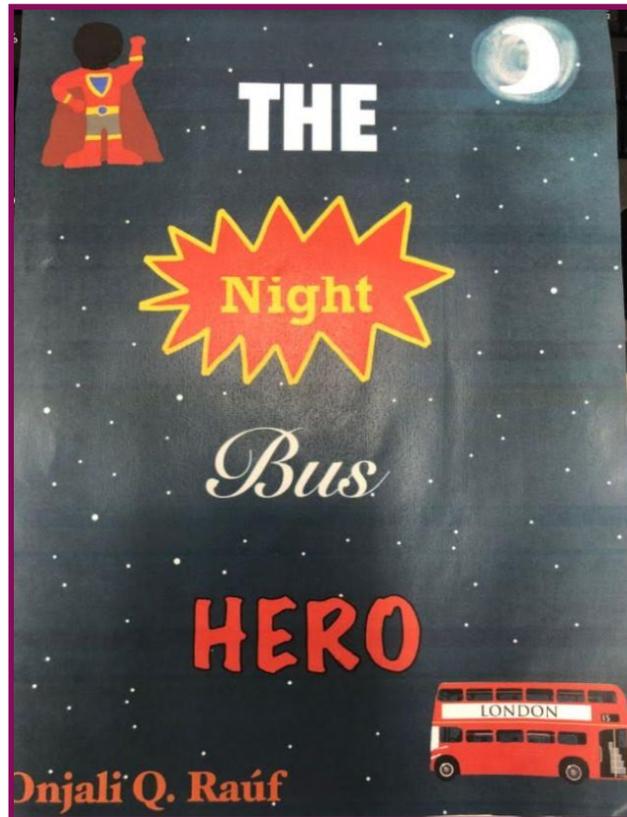
First Story

For the past seven weeks, a group of students in Year 7 have taken part in the First Story workshops that were advertised in the last newsletter. It has been a great privilege to watch them grow in confidence with their creative writing week on week, and I am already confident that their final anthology in the summer will be an incredible body of work. The Chelsea Academy First Story group was featured in First Story's November newsletter - you can read this [here](#).



'Design a Book Cover' Competition winner

After several amazing designs were entered as part of the 'Design a Book Cover' competition, it was a very tough decision to make in order to decide on the winner. Congratulations to **Ada Y in Year 8** who won with her re-design of Onjali Q Raúf's *The Night Bus Hero*.



Christmas Reading Challenge

The next competition that students can take part in is the Christmas Reading Challenge. Students have until Friday 8th January to complete eight challenges (collect challenge sheets from Miss Allen), and need to either speak to an adult at home or a teacher about each one, and obtain a signature as evidence. Students can hand their completed sheets into Miss Allen and will be entered into a prize draw! Please see [here for details](#).

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.

Christmas Holidays Reading Recommendations

Please [click here](#) to view the Christmas holidays reading recommendations from Miss Allen.

STEM Update

KS3 STEM Immersion Days

It has been a challenging yet exciting term in the world of STEM at the Academy. With the full support of our Leadership Team our KS3 students have had a fantastic opportunity to work in the D&T workshop on STEM related learning for 4 periods. They have engaged in learning about careers in Space Aviation, Robotics, Engineering and programming in a jam packed session of problem solving, building and programming Mars rovers.

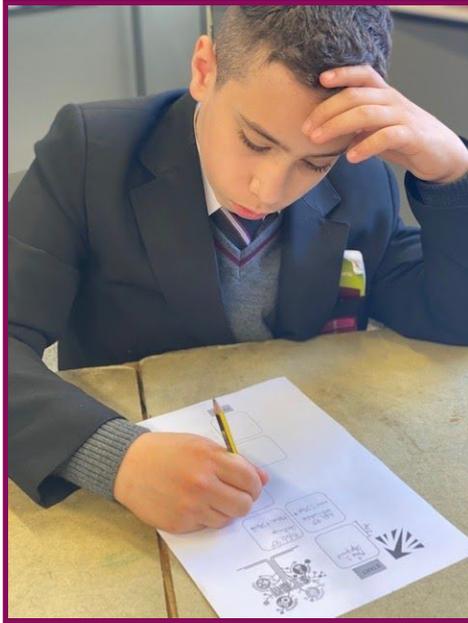
Due to the restrictions and government guidance, Year 7s have never been in the workshop before and loved the amazing opportunity it provided. They took it in their stride and engaged in problem solving by building and programming a robot in teams,

We endeavour to provide these opportunities for our students to ensure they have a broad curriculum offer even in the current climate.

Things to look forward to next term include: Year 8 STEM Day focused on Aircraft Engineering, STEM afterschool enrichment including Robotics, Girls Who Code, CAD club and Inventors Club.



Students learning how to drive their rovers



A diligent Year 7 student working out the programming for his rover.



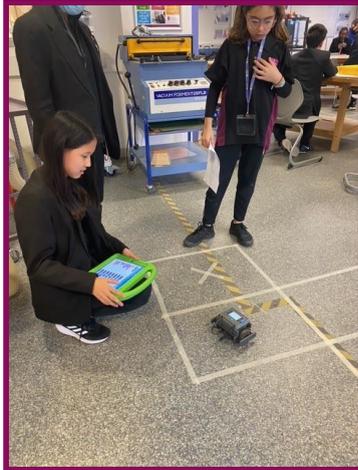
One of our teams writing the program for the automation challenge



Our own homemade Mars terrain made by Mr Whitehead gave students the chance to identify obstacles they may face on Mars.



The blind fold challenge where students had to give commands to the driver.



PE Department Update

This term has been a challenging one, but one in which the students have demonstrated great resilience. We had to change our curriculum to ensure we were 'covid-safe', which meant more outdoor PE and choosing activities where social distancing could be maintained. The students responded to these changes brilliantly and continued to enjoy PE.

We have implemented a number of changes that came to light after a comprehensive student survey:

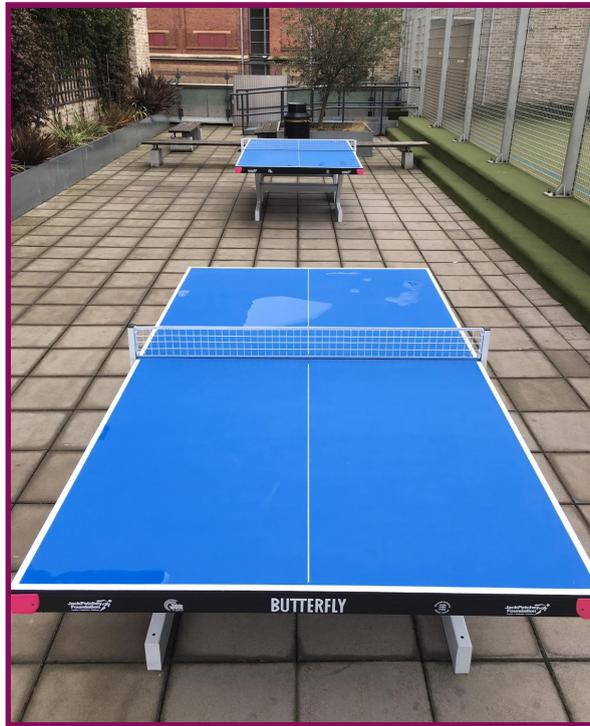
We have a new PE Kit, which includes a new training top and leggings. With students wearing PE kit to the Academy on their PE days this new kit has helped maintain our high standards. Click [here](#) to purchase our PE kit.

We also introduced options into Year 11 PE lessons to give students more choice and autonomy over the physical activity they take part in, which has had a huge impact on participation levels. We have continued our relationship with One Ldn gym, who provide us with high quality fitness lessons for Year 11.



With our 'Virtual Sports Day' going so well in the Summer (well done Faraday) we continued our online PE competitions into HT1 and ran our interhouse competition [virtually](#). Einstein emerged victorious. In HT2 we conducted our PE interhouse in our PE lessons with Lister coming out on top this time.

We were successful in our application to the Jack Petchey Foundation, who have kindly donated two new outdoor table tennis tables for our 1st floor roof terrace. Year 9 have loved using them at break and lunch time. This area is a great resource for PE lessons too.



We have partnered with Wallball UK to have three full size Wallball courts installed in our Sportshall. It is a fantastic sport and one that I know our students will enjoy participating in. Learn the game [here](#).

With a number of students having to self-isolate throughout the term we strengthened our online resources for students to ensure they stayed active at home. You can view and use the activities [here](#).

We started our after school sport programme, but unfortunately had to halt it due to the second National Lockdown. We will hopefully be up and running with a new [schedule](#) again in January.

PE Extra-curricular Clubs 2020-21

All clubs 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

If you have PE that day, then you will already be in PE kit. If not, just bring trainers.

When	Monday		Tuesday		Thursday		Friday
Who	Y9	Y8	Y7	Y9	Y8	Y10	Y11
How	Line up outside sportshall	Line up outside the MUGA	Line up outside sportshall	Line up outside the MUGA	Line up outside sportshall	Line up outside the MUGA	Line up outside the MUGA
Staff	Mr. Rowe	Mr.Pritchard	Miss Fawibe	Mr. James	Miss Johnston	Mr. Lehmer	Mr. Richards
Where	Sportshall	MUGA	Sportshall	MUGA	Sportshall	MUGA	MUGA
What	Badminton 	Football  Boys and Girls alternate weeks	Netball 	Football  Boys and Girls alternate weeks	Volleyball 	Football  Boys and Girls alternate weeks	Football  Boys and Girls alternate weeks

We have strengthened our Year 7 PE curriculum to include the teaching (and assessment) of 'fundamental movement skills' to help all students access the activities that we offer at the Academy. In the new year we will also be starting a Year 7 after school club focusing on the development of these skills.

Finally, for our fantastic participation in the School Games we were awarded two certificates. We are hopeful that fixtures and competitions against other schools can begin again in the new year.



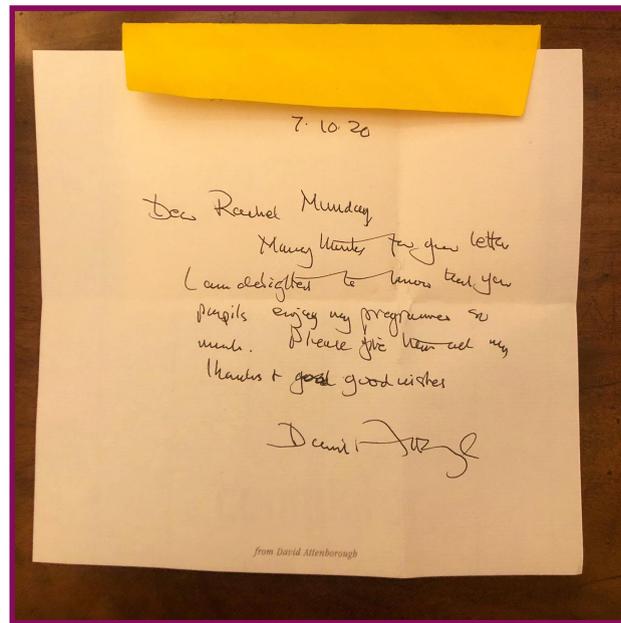
You can keep up with all things PE by following us on Twitter at @ChelseaAcadPE.

Geography Department Update

This term students in Year 9 wrote to David Attenborough to let him know how much they had enjoyed watching his recent documentary, 'A Life On Our Planet', they received a handwritten response from David Attenborough himself! This caused much excitement amongst both students and staff alike.

The Geography Curriculum Area would like to wish all our students and their families a restful

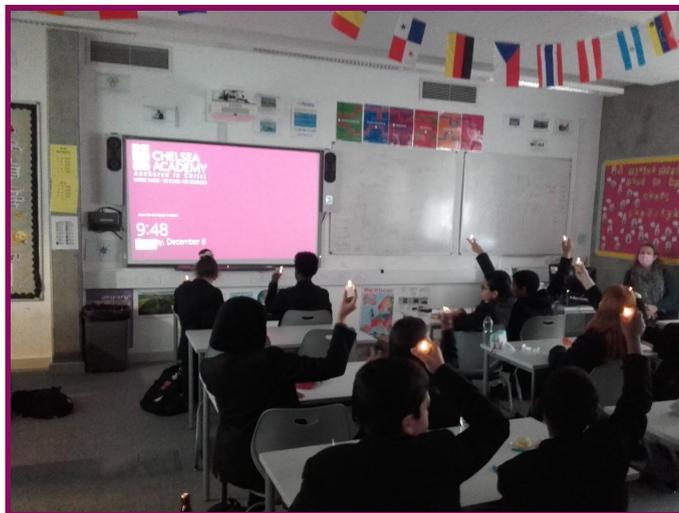
Christmas break and encourage you to watch 'A Life On Our Planet' if you get the opportunity.



Reflection

The Church of England theme this Christmas is Comfort and Joy. I hope that all of you can experience some much deserved time with loved ones this Christmas season.

I have been leading RE lessons this week and speaking to Year 7 and 8 students about Jesus being the Light of the World. Each student has been given a prayer bag with an electronic candle in to remind them of this Light.



Some Sixth Form students have also been 'Light Bringers' this Christmas by raising money for the Glass Door Homeless Charity by sleeping on a hard floor as opposed to in their beds. The fundraising page is [here](#) if you would like to make a donation.

I pray that this Christmas you may know hope and light.

God bless and Happy Christmas!

Tim Richards

Chaplain

tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org

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