

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The last fortnight has flown by and our students have responded so positively to being back in classrooms and learning face-to-face. Our attendance figure, whilst slightly under what we would normally report at this time of year, is higher than the average in RBKC and significantly higher than the national figure. This is excellent! We would like to try and see fewer students arriving late. It might be that your child has to leave the house slightly earlier in the mornings. A huge thank you as well for ensuring your child is doing their Lateral Flow Test twice a week and the results are logged. This ensures we can keep our Academy community safe and this in turn protects us all. Students have also been brilliant about wearing their masks in classrooms.

I know that we have all been shocked by the recent and tragic event of Sarah Everard's murder. Consequently there has also been significant press coverage of the issues that women of all ages, but especially young women, are faced with. These issues range from women's personal safety when out and about but also the attitudes, derogatory comments and actions they are often confronted with. Importantly we must also be aware of the needs of our male students and how we support and educate all our students to better understand the issues.

Here at Chelsea Academy we have always taken a very strong line on the need for all our students and staff to feel safe and free from harm of any kind. Our Personal Development curriculum is a key part of our proactive approach and sits alongside daily coaching time to educate our young people. We will be delivering a bespoke lesson to all Year 7-10 students next week on a number of the issues that are currently topical. The Year 11 and Sixth Form team are also considering how best to support and educate our students in Year 11-13. We are also looking at establishing a forum where students can meet and share their concerns or worries.

End of term arrangements

We are really delighted that we can end the term with our Easter services next week. As you may recall we could not do this at Christmas. Years 7-10 will attend an Easter Service, Awards Assembly, Coaching time and an inter house quiz next Thursday, before finishing at 12.10pm. There are separate arrangements for Year 11 and the Sixth Form and the respective Heads of Year will communicate this with you. Term restarts on Monday 19th April for all students.

School Street

Please see the [survey](#) linked below for you to circulate to staff and parents. The decision on whether to extend the trial, make it permanent, or remove the scheme will be made in the coming weeks. Your feedback is vital to inform the council's decision.

Shout

The Diocese of London is partnering with the mental health charity Shout (<https://giveusashout.org/>) to offer and promote a 24/7 text in support service for anyone requiring support. The text service is entirely run by Shout's trained volunteers, and they partner with organisations/individuals to help promote the service. The Diocese of London is promoting the service to its communities, encouraging them to text the word 'Neighbour' to Shout's support number if they are struggling to cope or need support. When people text in using a keyword, they are connected to one of Shout's trained volunteers as normal, who offer them support over text.

Testing

RBKC have asked us to share that there are home testing kits available at: Kensington Town Hall, Chelsea Old Town Hall and Kensington Leisure Centre. If you would like to collect kits for you and your household please do visit any of these venues; the kits available free of charge. Cases of the virus in RBKC are low and falling every

week. The rate is significantly less than the rest of London and half of the current national rate. This is excellent news. We must all continue to observe lockdown restrictions and maintain the home testing regime so that we can protect ourselves and our loved ones. Please read through the following reminder from the DfE:

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to the Academy, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- **test on Sunday 18th April, in preparation for the first day of the Summer term on Monday 19th April, to find and isolate any positive cases**

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#).

Chelsea Academy Foundation – easy fundraising and raffle

Don't forget you can help raise funds for the Foundation at no cost to yourself, by registering for Easyfundraising [here](#) and Amazon Smile [here](#). Once you've done so, email caf@chelsea-academy.org to be entered into a raffle to win a prize hamper. The deadline is Wednesday 31st March.

I hope you and your family have a lovely weekend. We look set to have some beautiful spring sunshine over the next few days. Let's give thanks that warmer and brighter days, in every sense of the word, are coming.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal