



20 October 2021

## Message from the Principal

I am delighted to share our first Academy newsletter of the academic year with you. It has been such a privilege to welcome back students this term with the most normality we have had in nearly two years. Being able to welcome you on site has also been excellent and something we have all very much missed.

Please take the time to read what your child and their year group has been up to over the last 6 weeks as well as some important academic and pastoral/safeguarding updates. We know that parenting teenagers whilst wonderful, can also be a challenge and we want to support you in the best way we can.

Hopefully the slightly longer half term break will give you and your family the rest and relaxation you deserve. Please note that the Academy cannot authorise term time leave except for exceptional circumstances. We very much look forward to seeing students back on Monday 1st November at 8.35am. Please do ensure your child completes a LFT on Sunday so we can continue to protect our wider community. As you know we are hosting the vaccinations on this and the following day. Please see separate email communication about this.

We have an exciting opportunity for a part time food technology technician. It might be a perfect opportunity for a parent or carer. Do take a [look](#).

I hope you have a lovely break.

Mrs Ardron

## Principal

### Academic Update



Chelsea Academy is open! Students, teachers and all the Academy staff have enjoyed the joys of a full Academy return with complete access to all the state of the art facilities that the Academy has to offer. All year groups can finally engage in the full curriculum with wonderful learning experiences throughout the Academy food rooms, DT workshops, Art rooms, Drama Studio, Science Labs and Computer Suites. Teachers have returned to their own classrooms creating more specialist environments for students to study Geography, English, Citizenship, Languages... across the Academy, students can immerse themselves fully in “the best in all that has been thought and said” - *Matthew Arnold, Poet.*

Our curriculum teams have been working hard to ensure that students get the very best and are given every opportunity to build further on the learning they have achieved over the past 18 months. Students are working closely with Year Leaders whilst support is offered with remote learning, face to face lessons and independent study as directed by their teachers - in particular for our Year 11s and 13s as they prepare for their 2022 exams. A whole series of wrap around support is in place for the KS4 students to ensure they are given access to every opportunity in securing academic success - this includes study and I.L. Clubs both before and after the Academy day, specialist intervention, access to online learning platforms through g/classroom and the student CALC, mentoring, CIAEG and curriculum lectures to share specific study strategies across a range of disciplines from Science to Art.

The 3 year KS3 is being carefully considered and designed by our expert Curriculum Leaders. This is an exceptionally exciting phase for us at Chelsea Academy and promises to give all our students even greater access to a broad, balanced and holistic curriculum as they prepare for future GCSE, A Levels and beyond.

All our Year 7-9 students have access to [Bedrock Learning](#) through the student CALC. At the Parent/Carer Expectations it was noted that all 449 students are expected to complete at least 3

sessions per week - two for English I.L. and one as an additional session to empower them with even better vocabulary capabilities.

As parents/carers you have also been given access codes so you too can support this literacy programme at home.

A video tutorial from Bedrock is available here: [Parents/Carers - Bedrock Dashboard](#)

Your support at home is integral to the work we do at Chelsea Academy to develop your child's learning. Thank you for this ongoing commitment in helping us to *'learn together to flourish'*.

Mrs 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 we approach 31st October many of our students may be considering 'Trick or Treating' For Halloween. Please ensure that your child is aware of the significant safeguarding issues involved in some Halloween related activities. Please make sure you know exactly where your child is at all times. In addition, over half term, clocks will go back an hour and summer-time will end. The links below will help remind both parents and students about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

Road Safety: A Parents' Guide

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Cycling after Dark

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Have an enjoyable - and safe - half term break!

Mr Whitley

**Assistant Principal - Inclusion**

## Head of Year Update - Year 7

Welcome to Chelsea Academy!

I can not believe that we have already completed our first half term as a Year Group! I am really excited by the potential and enthusiasm of our new Year 7's and am looking forward to working closely with you as parents and carers as the year goes on, to ensure our students are getting as much out of the Academy as possible.

We were delighted to see over 100 students attend our Summer School which was action packed, full of fun and exciting activities ranging from cooking to trampolining! Students also received top class tutoring from Keystone Tutors who worked on a booster programme of Maths and English.

All of our Year 7 coaching groups have now attended a spiritual retreat for a full day at St Luke's Church. During the retreat, students took part in ice breakers, team building activities, various meaningful activities based around our notion of being 'anchored in Christ' and we even learnt the Academy Hymn. I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Thompson and Mr Richards for all of the time and effort that they put into organising these - I know that the students took a lot away from these days.

It has been great to see that the Year 7 students have been immersing themselves with extra-curricular activities. We have seen record numbers of students sign up for the Academy

Musical, First Story (which is where the students get the opportunity to publish their own book!), sports clubs, coding and much much more! Please continue to push your child in terms of getting them to sign up to extra curricular clubs as this is a vital part of our extended curriculum.

I would like to say a big 'Thank you!' to all parents and carers who attended our Year 7 parents information evening. Understandably, when starting a new school, you as a parent / carer are going to have lots of questions to ask. We hope that this evening was successful in terms of providing you with the information that you needed and answered any questions you may have had.

If you have not done so already, I would really encourage you to follow the @chelseaacademy on Twitter as this will display live updates of everything that is going on at the Academy.

Mr White

**Head of Year 7**

### **Head of Year Update - Year 8**

Welcome back,

Thank you to all Parents / Carers for your attendance at our Open Evening, I hope you found the information provided helpful. The Year 8 students who helped with tours really were a credit to you, it is lovely to see them taking such pride in their Academy. I would like to say a big thank you to all of these Students - you did a fantastic job!

I believe that manners and the way our pupils conduct themselves, both in the Academy and when out in the community, are of the utmost importance.

As part of Chelsea Academy's Extended Curriculum programme we are planning to take all Year 8 students on a two day educational, outdoor, residential trip from Wednesday 16th March – Friday 18th March 2022. Land & Wave is a popular outdoor educational learning centre in Dorset. A letter will be going out today to all parents and carers with full information.

I wish you all a peaceful and safe half term break.

Mr Lehmer

**Head of Year 8**

### **Head of Year Update - Year 9**



It's great to have had all our Year 9 students back together for what has already been an action-packed first half term! I'm proud of the way they have adapted to going back to near normality in terms of no longer having year group bubbles and being able to access subject-specific classrooms again, and the added responsibility that this brings with it. It was lovely to meet most of you during our LCCD back in September and we really appreciate you coming in to meet your child's learning coach to help set targets for your son or daughter during this all-important first year in Key Stage 4. Our students have settled extremely well into their new Options classes and seem to be enjoying them immensely.

Our Year 9 students are also lucky enough to have received a Chromebook each, which they have been using for interactive lessons at school and to complete their independent learning at home. If this trial goes well, we will extend it to more year groups next year. So far, our Year 9s have been extremely conscientious in looking after their Chromebooks, and I have been very impressed with their sense of gratitude and responsibility.

Year 9 also benefited from a whole year group trip to the Globe theatre to watch a wonderful performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream and experienced what it must have felt like for a Jacobean audience to be able to stand close enough to the stage to be able to physically interact with the actors. Their behaviour on the way to and from school was a real credit to them!

From the 1st of November Ms. Lewis will be taking over as Head of Year 9 to cover my maternity period. She has lots of experience in the pastoral team at Chelsea Academy and is very much looking forward to working with Year 9. I hope that you will join me in welcoming her to the team! We will have an extensive handover during the first 2 weeks of HT2 so that I can pass on all the information about our Year 9 students to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible and our students have a very successful year ahead.

Thank you so much for all your support!

Mrs Borg  
**Head of Year 9**

**Head of Year Update - Year 10**

It's been a very busy and difficult return with some huge adjustments needed by all of us. 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 10 students have shown great maturity and adapted well to the new changes and returned freedoms that come with added responsibility, and they've done a really good job.

GCSEs are now well and truly underway and they have lifted their engagement to meet their teachers' heightened expectations. 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 again in Year 11, but from what I've seen they will meet these challenges head on.

Year 10 will include important developments, such as work experience in the new year as well as the RE exam at the end of the year which should be their priority throughout the year. Please continue to be their support at home and I will continue to support both them and you throughout this final year together.

Mr Fisher

**Head of Year 10**

### Head of Year Update - Year 11

It's been a fantastic return following the summer holidays for our Year 11 students, and it's been so encouraging to see them take on the challenges and responsibilities that come with being in Year 11.

None more so than seeing a select few manage to negotiate a tough application and interview process to become Year 11 Prefects for 2021/22. Teams Alpha and Omega are now up and running, supporting the Academy through various tasks and events - and it is a role that will look most favourable on their future application letters to colleges and universities!

Settling into their classes for the year ahead has helped the cohort step up to the proverbial plate with regards to academic progress, and with the launch of our morning and afternoon intervention support for all students, a real sense of hard work in order to improve their personal progress is definitely filtering through.

Whilst naturally academics have taken priority, our students have been able to also get involved in various other activities that have run: theatre trips, inter-house competitions, Brunel visits etc. The students really have had a wide range of engaging activities to keep them flourishing!

Whilst we do look forward to our much anticipated half-term break, we are also delighted to run small workshops and a Study Zone for those who want to spend a few hours over the holiday to ensure they stay on top of their work. With a relaxed and studious atmosphere, it will allow our Year 11s to begin to develop those independent study skills needed as they set their sights on Chelsea Academy Sixth Form, and beyond.

Mr Daverat

**Raising Standards and Senior Pastoral Leader**

**Head of Year 11**

@y11\_ca

### Head of Year Update - Year 12

Year 12 have made a great start to their 6th form experience, working hard in their subjects whilst also enthusiastically engaging with the extra-curricular opportunities on offer. I'm really proud that I've had so much feedback about their engagement in these areas; from mentoring younger students, to Duke of Edinburgh, and coaching in the House Basketball competitions. They've also

all been really enjoying the opportunities during Period 5 on Wednesdays, particularly the cooking, the skills of which will prepare them well for more independent living!



Year 12 Interhouse Basketball helpers

Year 12 is a key time to explore opportunities, both for personal growth, and also to prepare material that can be used on their UCAS form, to demonstrate the brilliant students that they are. Please continue to encourage students to take up the opportunities they are offered. With this in mind, Year 12 is also a key time to begin to consider their choices for after their A Levels, for example by visiting universities that they might be interested in over half term. If you don't already, please follow @ChelseeaAcad6th on twitter where we share opportunities for students as well as celebrate their successes.

As with Year 13, Year 12 have been fortunate enough to hear from some fantastic speakers in the lecture series, including Effie Kanyua, Director of PR and Comms at Hearst UK. She really engaged the students with her honesty about the resilience she needed to make it to her position, and her current work on publications such as Elle and Mens Health.

Thank you for all your support in enabling our students to make a smooth transition into Year 12, I hope you have an enjoyable and productive half term.

Mrs Hogg  
**Head of Year 12**

### Head of Year Update - Year 13

Year 13 have thrown themselves into the first half term of this academic year and it has been a joy to continue our work on further study provision with the year group. Last week marked the early entry deadline for those students wishing to apply to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and other specialist courses. This year more than any other it has already been such a humbling experience as Head of Year to read about their life experiences and share in their enthusiasm about their futures as part of this process. We are very much looking forward to progressing the UCAS applications of the remainder of the year group in the coming months and sharing in their achievements once the offers begin to come in.

Year 13 were brilliant ambassadors for the Academy during our most recent Open Evening for prospective students, demonstrating practicals in Science, performing recitals in Food for Thought and acting as tour guides for parents. We were really grateful for the students' support in showcasing our amazing Academy.

Year 13 have been fortunate enough to hear from many engaging speakers during this half term lecture series including Effie Kanyua Director of PR and Comms at Hearst UK. She really captivated the students attention with her informative lecture regarding her work with current publications such as Elle and Mens Health.

Once again thank you for your continued support as parents and carers and I wish you and your families a restful half term.

Miss Hetherington  
**Head of Year 13**

### Library Update

After a year of restrictions and year group bubbles, it has truly been a delight to throw open the doors of the library this term to all of our students. The library is now back to full capacity, with students making the most out of the space, and are reading more than ever before! Excited book chat is rife amongst the students, and the buzz of hearing them help each other with their school work has been wonderful.

We now also have a new team of Student Librarians who have been the most eager group I have ever recruited. They could not be more willing to offer their time, or to work out how they can help next, which has meant that the students are really keen to take ownership over their library space.

Finally, our First Story partnership is back up and running this term, which we have now been able to open to all year groups again given bubbles have been relaxed. Despite only running for two weeks, I have been so impressed with the creativity of the students involved and how willing they are to share their creative writing with each other. There are a final few places available for the programme, so please do encourage your child to speak to me if they are interested. You can find out more about the programme [here](#).

Miss Allen  
**Library Manager**

### Half Term Reading Recommendations

Please [click here](#) to view the October half-term reading recommendations from Miss Allen.

### Reflection



The theme of the week for the last week of this half term is servant leadership. This value has certainly been shown by staff, students and parents. I am reminded that even the greatest leaders take time to rest. Jesus Christ sought out solitude for reflection and prayer. I hope that this half term may be one in which you can have moments of rest and peace.

God bless.

Tim Richards

**Chaplain**

[tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org](mailto:tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org)

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