



17th December 2021

## Message from the Principal



Christmas greetings from all of us at the Academy. We have had a wonderfully full and exciting autumn term. Students have embraced a return to normality and certainly want to make the most of their time at the Academy. Our Extended Curriculum provision has been phenomenal with so many clubs, visits and activities. I want to thank you for all your support; ensuring your child attends and arrives punctually every day, wearing correct uniform and with the right equipment ready to learn. But also for your support of our Chelsea Ways. We are sad to say goodbye to Ms. Singh and Mr. Hines but wish them well in their new roles.

As our chaplain, Mr Richards mentions later on in this newsletter, the CoE theme for this Christmas is *At the Heart of Christmas*. I hope that your hearts and homes are filled with joy as you share in the joy of Christmas or simply having a holiday over the next few weeks. It has not been an easy year

and we head into 2022 with growing anxiety over the continued pandemic. However our Academy community remains steadfast and strong - and very much Anchored in Christ.

Please keep an eye out for any communications over the holidays in case the situation changes and we have to rearrange the start of term.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Christmas.

Mrs Mariella Ardron

**Principal**

## Academic Update

We have had a wonderfully successful Autumn Term and I am grateful to the whole Chelsea Academy community - parents/carers and families included - for coming back together in September determined to give our students their best Term yet. For our Year 7s it shall be the first of many on their journey with us and for our Year 13s and some of Year 11s it was more meaningful than ever.

Our staff were determined to ensure that students were given every opportunity to flourish and throughout this eventful Autumn Term our newsletters, parent/carer updates and @ChelseaAcademy Twitter page have been flooded with reports and pictures from these brilliant learning experiences - from Debate Mate to theatre performances, drama workshops and careers fairs - to name but a few.

In the past 15 weeks the classrooms have been as busy as the extra-curricular calendar. Numerous external visitors have complimented the energy, enthusiasm and dedication the staff and students have for learning.

Curriculum Teams across all subjects have been working hard on curriculum plans for the introduction of our 3 Year Key Stage 3 so that our current Year 7s and 8s can engage in an even broader high quality curriculum for longer developing the knowledge, skills and cultural capital of the arts, humanities and languages before choosing their GCSE options in Y9 to start studying in Year 10. The newly designed Key Stage 3 curriculum is rich with academic knowledge, diverse voices and learning opportunities that enable all our students to feel included, inspired and challenged so that they can flourish.

Our current Key Stage 4 students in Years 9-11 have also enjoyed an exceptional return this year. They have been very engaged in these final few weeks of the term preparing for and sitting their Term 1 assessments. They recognise the importance of these assessments where they get the opportunity to demonstrate and apply their learning but also to gain valuable experience of managing their revision, ongoing learning and time so that they feel ready but supported in these important weeks. I am confident that their Term 1 Progress Checks will celebrate these efforts and give excellent guidance on areas that need further focus and support. Learning should be effortful, ongoing and challenging after all.

As always, take time to rest, recharge and reconnect over the holidays but remember for Years 7-9 Bedrock Learning is an ever constant for them to continue doing over the holidays - three sessions a week is the optimum expectation to guarantee access to more powerful vocabulary. If you want to know more about how you can continue to encourage (and learn too) at home, please see this [How to Guide](#).

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 begin our Christmas holidays, we have been asked by the Children's Commissioner to share [this guidance](#) on sexual harassment and keeping children safe online. Please take a moment to read through it as it includes some useful and practical advice for parents and carers. The overriding message is '*talk early and talk often*' and the guidance specifically aims to help parents create a safe, judgement-free space for their children to talk about what can be a very sensitive issue.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.

David Whitley  
**(Assistant Principal - Inclusion)**

## Head of Year Update - Year 7

### Go Ape

50 of our Year 7's who have been involved in our Stepping Stones mentoring programme went on a trip to Go Ape this half term. On the trip the students tackled some challenging team building activities and worked their way around the high ropes courses! A great time was had by all...even though a few of the teachers were not great with heights! It was a fitting end to a fantastic first term of Stepping Stones mentoring taking place at Chelsea Academy.



### Christmas Disco

Monday 13th saw our first Year 7 Christmas Disco! This was a great opportunity to reward our Year 7's who have made such a positive start at Chelsea Academy, despite having such a turbulent end to their time in Primary!

### Author Visit

Year 7 were treated to an Author visit which they thoroughly enjoyed! You can read more about this in Miss Allens section of the newsletter.

### **Eleni C**

We were very fortunate to have singer / songwriter and mental health advocate Eleni C come in to speak to our Year 7's about mental health and the best ways of overcoming anxiety. The students really got a lot from this session and were even treated to a few songs including her new single!



### **Prince of Egypt Trip**

60 Year 7 students were given the opportunity to hit the West End to see The Prince of Egypt. For many students, this was their first time seeing a show in the West End and it's safe to say that they thoroughly enjoyed it!

I would personally like to say a big 'thank you' to all of our Year 7 parents / carers for your support throughout the transition process and this first academic term. As I am sure you will have already seen, there is a slight change in the pastoral structure of Year 7. We welcome Mrs Vaghela back from her maternity leave to take over as Head of Year 7.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a restful new year!

Mr White  
**Head of Year 7**

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

The Year 8's have ended their first term on an absolute high!

Thank you to all Parents and Carers who attended our Parents Consultation Evening, I hope you found speaking to your child's Teachers very informative.

We had our Christmas lunch together on Wednesday, which was a lovely opportunity for the Learning Coaches and students to continue and share each other's celebrations from this term! On Friday the students came together for our first Eucharist at the Academy led by Reverend Jade..

We then celebrated all of our achievements in the Year Group assembly. Congratulations to all the students who have received awards and recognition for their outstanding achievements during this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you for all of your support to both our young people and the Academy. It is an enormous pleasure to be your child's Head of Year and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and here's to a fantastic 2022.

Mr Lehmer  
**Head of Year 8**

### Head of Year Update - Year 9

It has been a pleasure to take over from Mrs Borg whilst she is on maternity leave - Year 9 are a fantastic group of young people! The year group has been really welcoming and we have lots to celebrate over such a busy half term! It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parents Consultation Evening and I hope you found the meetings very informative. There seems to be great focus and motivation across the year group.

It has been great to see so many students involved in a range of events and activities across the Academy such as debate mate, sports matches and musical rehearsals. A highlight was the girls football match winning with an epic score of 17-0 and the Korean Club cooking a delicious dinner! I am so proud of how many different activities you have all been involved in.



We had a wonderful last week of term with a delicious Christmas lunch and our achievement assembly to celebrate lots of great successes across the year! I hope you all have a fantastic winter break and a Merry Christmas - see you in 2022!

Miss Lewis  
**Head of Year 9**

### Head of Year Update - Year 10

Our young people have once again shown me how incredibly strong and resilient they are by coming in this term and cracking on with their studies in the most mature and professional manner. In many ways this has been a more difficult return for them as with the returning freedoms have come more responsibility around the Academy and they have met this brilliantly. As I always emphasise in these messages, we are a team and a unit and we work together everyday to help each other succeed. All of them play their part in that wider team and I'm proud everyday to be their HoY.

Recently both Y10 football teams, boys and girls, have had recent victories: 2-0 and 17-0 respectively!



We took the whole year group on a careers workshop day at the Science museum as well as hosted mock interviews in the Academy. The students participated wonderfully and it gave them a great insight into their futures.

The year group also staged a one day Youth Cop26 to involve them in the climate change debate. Students excelled and really got involved and engaged in the issues - it was lovely to see them arguing and debating what needs to happen to help the planet!

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 bare going from strength to strength.

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 10**

## Head of Year Update - Year 11

It's been another extremely busy half-term for Year 11, with their main focus of the Mocks being at the centre of it all!

We've seen nearly 1,000 attendances to after school intervention clubs, which just goes to show how determined to perform well our cohort is. However, there has been plenty more happening than "just" hard work!

This half-term saw our outstanding students use their off-site lunch passes for the first time, with more and more students striving to achieve this reward for next term! We've also seen a range of activities take place to keep the health balance of work and play. We've taken part in a KS4 basketball match against Holland Park, and are looking to rearrange our football fixtures that have been postponed. We've been making sure we've represented our Houses in the inter-house activities for half-term 2, with great participation figures in the Dodgeball event, seeing Einstein crowned winners.

Our Year 11 Prefects have also been busy, supporting our Parents Evenings which have relocated from the video call to the Sports Hall, as well as other events.

We wish our community a restful Christmas, with the anticipation of the Mock results coming out soon after our return, along with our Year 11 Parents Evening the very next day (Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th January, respectively).



Climbing for success: Alikhan and Taichi scaling the over-hang wall in Climbing Club

Mr Daverat

**Raising Standards and Senior Pastoral Leader**

**Head of Year 11**

@y11\_ca

## Sixth Form Update - Year 12

Year 12 have had a fun end to the year; with a Christmas Jumper day raising money for Children in Need on the penultimate Friday, as well as a sharing breakfast and achievement assembly on the final day of term. I'm really proud of the high standards I've seen in Year 12 lessons, from their focus, to teachers reporting that their files are the 'best they've ever seen'. The small things count and will be a huge help to them when it comes to revision in Year 13. As a year group, all students have now read 'The Gilded Ones', have had reading group style discussions in Coaching Time and watched Namina Forma, the author, discuss her book online.

A highlight of our lecture series this term was a fascinating lecture by Dame Mary Beard, Professor of Classics at the University of Cambridge, who enlightened us all on the impact of the Romans on our modern world. I've since found that many of the Year 12s have independently read classical literature - an example of their ambition for knowledge.

As well as their academic work, Year 12 have been enthusiastically and very successfully getting involved in extracurricular, and extended curriculum activities. I was especially proud of the Year 12 Grocers' Team, who competed in the 'Livery Academy Awards'. I had the privilege to watch the team pitching their green business idea 'Terra Nova' to an illustrious group at Grocers Hall. Judges included Timothy Campbell MBE, the winner of The Apprentice. The Chelsea Academy team beat stiff competition from two other schools to win and were rewarded with £5000 to go to a charity of their choice. They will now go on to the next round at Mansion House in February.

The UK Maths challenge has been another fantastic success, and many students have also applied for opportunities such as Oppidan mentoring and Imperial College programmes. Our basketball team narrowly lost to Southfields but we are very proud of their perseverance.



Year 12 Grocers' Team with Ms Mussa



Year 12 Basketball Team.

Mrs Hogg  
**Head of Year 12**

### **Sixth Form Update - Year 13**

It's been a busy half term for Year 13 and as usual they have taken it all in their stride. The focus for Year 13 at this point in the year is future plans and end of term assessments. Talking through future pathways with the students is truly one of the best parts of being a sixth form Head of Year. Finding out more about the interests and achievements of the students has been really humbling and Year 13 are already reaping the benefits of their hard work. Last week the year group had already received 67 university offers with more coming in every day.

Thank you to those parents/carers who came to Parents Consultation Evening on 3rd December. It was lovely to finally meet some of you in person and I hope that you and your son/daughter found the teachers feedback insightful and helpful.

Our lecture series has continued this half term and we were incredibly lucky to have Dame Mary

Beard, Professor of Classics, with us in the penultimate week of term giving a lecture on Roman civilisation which was not only engaging but gave Year 13 a real insight into the world of university lectures and professional seminars.

I was thrilled to have some of the year group take part and help with the Chelsea Academy Christmas Concert on 8th December and likewise the Sixth Form Christmas jumper day helped to spread a bit of festive cheer.

As always thank you for your continued support and I wish you a peaceful and joyful break.

Miss Hetherington  
**Head of Year 13**

## Library Update

What a half-term! With KS3 library lessons, a book launch, an author workshop, and a visit from The Book Fairies, book chat has been prevalent amongst the students which has been a delight to see.

As you may know, Chelsea Academy has a partnership with First Story, a young people's literacy charity. Last Thursday we were delighted to finally celebrate the publication of two anthologies that were written by our students, after over a year of cancelled events and postponed publications. Students were able to read their work out to an enthralled audience, and were also able to sign copies of the anthologies like the fabulous authors that they are. We were even joined by Emma, the Programme Lead for London schools, and Antonia, First Story's CEO, who were full of glowing appreciation for our students and their successes.

Congratulations to Teodora, Dalya, Karim, India, Ellie, Lillyan, Roxanne, Marie, Ines, Abigail, Kyell, Angelina and Alejandra - I hope to see your names on covers in bookshops in the future!

Last week was extremely busy, as we also had a visit from award-winning author Alex Wheatle on Friday, who came to speak to our students in Year 7 and 8. Alex spoke to our students about his upbringing, his journey to becoming a writer, and how books and reading have inspired him throughout his life and career. At the end of the talks, I have never seen so many hands up to participate in the Q&A sessions!

Please take a look at our Twitter page @ChelseaAcadLib to see more of what we have got up to this half-term, and to keep up to date with future events!

Miss Allen  
**Library Manager**

## STEM Update

What a busy and exciting term we have had! So much more to come when it comes to STEM.

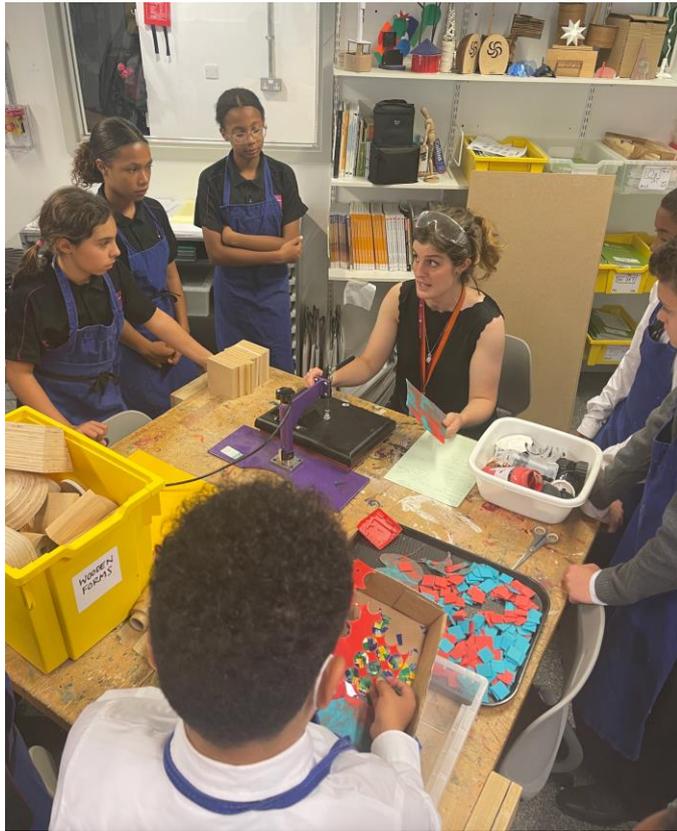
### **Year 8 Mars Rover Challenge**

Ever wonder what it would be like to be an astronaut? Working on the International Space Centre, or even helping land a rover on Mars? Some of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to engage in STEM learning and consider STEM career pathways through the Mars Rover Challenge. Students love collaborating, problem solving and working as engineers and computer programmers. However the best part of the challenge was them racing on our very own Mars terrain.

### **After school STEM Enrichment Clubs**

We have had a huge uptake of students engaging in afterschool STEM clubs this term. These include: CAD club, Robotics, Engineering Club, Sustainable Makers Club and Coding Club. It has

been great seeing students engage so positively with the opportunities we have offered them. The clubs will start up again next term and all are welcome to attend. Keep your eyes peeled for their launch in January.



Miss Warr demonstrating how to reuse plastics to make new productions to the Sustainable Makers team.

### **London Build Expo 21**

Year 9 and 10 had an exciting opportunity to attend the London Build Expo at Olympia London. Students had the opportunity to work with Architects MATT+FIONA on an architectural planning task, ride a Virtual Reality Roller Coaster, listen to industry experts about careers in Architecture, construction and engineering, ask questions about the work they do, see how A.I. is used in a Robotic arm in construction and also come home with a bag of goodies.

Although students had fun, they are now preparing to take all their learning experiences and apply this to the **Mayor of London Design Challenge** and develop proposals for a new village in the Royal Docks. We can't wait to see what they come up with!



Our students taking part in the MATT+FIONA seminar



Mimi work on the design of the interiors of an apartment



Is Jonah a future Engineer or an Architect? He has impressed all the professionals (in the background) with his concept model.



Some of our Year 10 students enjoy a VR roller coaster ride - I am sure we heard a few screams!

### **Arkwright Engineering Scholarship**

This half term we had a visitor come and talk to our Year 10's about the prestigious Arkwright

Engineering Scholarship. This is an exciting opportunity for future leading engineers to apply for this scholarship to support them through their 'A' levels. Not only is there funding to support your studies, but you are linked with other scholars, a mentor and STEM career events. If you would like further information about the scholarship please speak with me and / or look at the following link: [Arkwright Scholarships Trust](#)

We are launching our partnership with Arkwright Scholars by offering students the chance to take part in the Arkwright Engineering Challenge Club from next term. This will be a chance for students to engage in a range of challenges and build a portfolio of engineering challenges in preparation for the application for the scholarship. All students are welcome to come to the club, however applications for the scholarship are in Year 11.



Year 10 listening to a presentation about the Arkwright Scholarship.

We are looking forward to the next term and all the exciting STEM learning opportunities that are on offer. If you are up for the challenge keep an eye on your emails for announcements about key events coming up!

Term 1 has been jam packed in the English department!

We've been seeing loads of learning with our new programme - Bedrock - which all Year 7-9 have access to. It's a great way to increase vocabulary and embed understanding. Lots of students have told us that they're using words which they learnt on Bedrock so please encourage your children to keep this up!

Our Year 9 students were lucky enough to visit Shakespeare's Globe on the Southbank. They took part in the full Elizabethan experience by acting as 'groundlings' throughout the production. Luckily the rain didn't start until we were almost back at the Academy!

In Year 10, Miss Haynes' class took part in the Jack Petchey speak out challenge. This gave students a whole day to practise their speaking and presentation skills. By the end there were some excellent speeches. We're looking forward to hosting the regional competition here next term.

KS5 Media Studies attended a Media Studies lecture at the British Film Institute, where they got to develop their knowledge of the newspaper industry and join in with a Q&A with an editor from a national newspaper.

Year 10 Media Studies students have done excellent work developing their knowledge of camera angles - we've got some budding Spielbergs here!



**Music Department Update**

This term has seen a return to performing in front of audiences after a two year wait, and to say the Music Department was excited was an understatement!

Our Year 7 and 8 musicians performed at the Garrison Chapel with Opera Prelude to the Chelsea pensioners and handed out Christmas cookies. It was the first time that students had been in the same room as opera singers let alone performing with them. What a fantastic experience!

On Wednesday 8th December, the theatre was filled with parents and carers watching a wide array of musical performances by our talented musicians. It was a wonderful evening where we listened to pieces from Chopin to Bartok, from George Michael to Phantom of the Opera. We could not have been more proud of our students.

Our Year 13 students are busy practising for their final recital performances in January. We wish them the best of luck.



## Department Update

It has been an exciting time in the Geography Department this term with some very important events taking place and issues discussed. As the world came together for COP26 in Glasgow there were many opportunities for students across all key stages to further their understanding of climate change and the reasons why it is the duty of all of us to act now.

Students in Years 7 and 8 learned about the impacts of climate change and what changes they can make to help ensure that global temperatures do not exceed 1.5 degrees celsius.

All of our Year 10 students took part in a mock COP26 Youth Summit where they were given the unique opportunity to attend seminars on global priorities for climate, health and digital technology led by members of the actual COP26 Youth Team who presented at the summit in Glasgow. Students worked in teams representing each of the G7 countries and presented their own global priorities to representatives from companies including Land Rover and AstraZeneca, with the winning team being the one whose recommendations received the most votes.

Year 12 and 13 geographers visited the Chelsea Waterfront development this term and were given a tour of the former power station on Lots Road to support their understanding of the regeneration unit they are currently studying. Whilst on site they were able to see the progress that has been made and talk with the developers about how the project will change the local area and meet the needs of the local community.

As we move into the new term we will continue to forge links with the Chelsea Physic Garden with Year 13 students due to visit in January to work on their NEA projects.



## Reflection

The Church of England theme for this Christmas is 'The Heart of Christmas'. I have spent Advent leading Year 7-9 RE lessons with youth workers from local churches. These lessons have centred on the question; 'What or who do you care about at the moment?' When we stop and reflect on this question it gives us the opportunity to be thankful for our deepest connections. These meaningful connections may be with family, friends, faith and hobbies. I hope and pray that this Christmas you will have moments to stop and enjoy those things in your life that bring you light, peace and hope.

Happy Christmas and may God bless you in the new year!

Mr Richards

**Chaplain**

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

Cucina - Happy Holidays

Cucina IFG

# HAPPY Holidays

We hope you have had a productive term and are going to have a restful time over the holidays. From all of us at Cucina, we wanted to wish you Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year.

Cucina IFG

**For those of you celebrating Christmas, we've compiled a few tips from our Chefs to help with the Christmas Meal:**

- 1. Brine your turkey** for about 12 hours using 10% salt to water mix, 2 tbsps of sugar and some aromats (a few bay leaves, orange peel, cinnamon, cloves). This will help season your turkey and will help stop it from drying out.
- 2. Make your own canapés** - they're really quite easy to do and are the perfect way to involve the whole family and even better, are so much cheaper than buying them in.
- 3. Plan ahead** - the hardest part of a big meal like this is the timing. Write a plan and try to stick to it and make use of as many dishes that can be made ahead or frozen. Gravy is a great one to make in advance.

**AWESOME THEME DAYS COMING UP IN SPRING**

JANUARY	STUDENT LEFT NO OUT	VIVA VEGAN & VEGETARIAN
FEBRUARY	CHINESE NEW YEAR	Winter Olympics
MARCH	MAY THE FOOD BE WITH YOU	WILD WEST
MARCH & APRIL	EASTER Specials	WORLD HEALTH DAY
1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	CHINA	MEXICO
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	street food	street food

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