



14th February 2022

## Message from the Principal

What a half term we have had - it feels like we are making up for lost time. The Academy is so alive from 8am through to the early hours of each evening. Students are embracing every opportunity from Y11 Study breakfasts first thing to competing in matches and tournaments, going down to the river for rowing, practising for the brilliant production of Oliver and attending on site parents' evenings alongside you for the first time in many months. There is small group tutoring on Mondays and Wednesdays as part of our commitment to a 'recovery curriculum' and so many incredible trips. From the Lion King to the British Library and even Mansion House.

And every day at least 7 hours of brilliant classroom learning. Ambitious and aspirant students inspired by the outstanding teachers here at the Academy.

Staff have embarked on a year long journey to become a more racially literate school and part of that work has been to review and update our [Uniform Policy](#). It is much more reflective of our diverse student population and a more inclusive approach.

We have been asked to encourage students to have a covid vaccination if over the age of 12. We are not expecting to offer any more at the Academy at this time but please visit [this](#) site to find out where you can access vaccinations for your child.

I hope that the half term break is an opportunity for some rest and relaxation for your family. Students return on Tuesday 22nd February for the second half of the spring term.

My very best wishes,  
Mrs Mariella Ardron  
**Principal**

### **Chelsea Academy Foundation**

The Chelsea Academy Foundation provides exciting activities and support for students throughout their time here, from the beginning to the end of their Chelsea Academy journey. Here is a sample of some of our programmes:



**Year 7 getting off to a great start with First Story**



**Year 12 students visiting the University of Sussex**



**Y10 & 6th Form ready for Rowing**



**Friday night rowers**

### **HOW TO GIVE**

The [Flourish Fund](#) gives you the chance to contribute to the provision of these activities. If you would like to contribute to the Flourish Fund, please click [here](#) to give either as a one-off or monthly donation. This helps ensure that all our students can participate in our activities without worrying about the cost. Many thanks to all the parents who are already supporting us in this way.

- By giving **£5 per month**, you would pay for one student to take part in Debate Mate
- **£15 per month** buys Duke of Edinburgh expedition equipment for one student
- **£50 per month** pays for half a term rowing for one year group

### **Online Shopping**

You can also support us for FREE while online shopping by registering with [Amazon Smile](#) and [easyfundraising](#) - for every online purchase you make they will give a small donation (at no cost to you) to our Flourish Fund.

Businesses can now raise funds for Chelsea Academy Foundation via easyfundraising. If the company you work for, or one you have links to, would like to raise FREE funds for us, please invite them using [this link](#).

### Uniform Sale

After our successful second hand uniform sale last summer, we are excited to be planning another such sale this year. If you have any uniform items that are outgrown or no longer needed, please drop them at Reception. We will be in touch closer to the date in the summer term with more details.

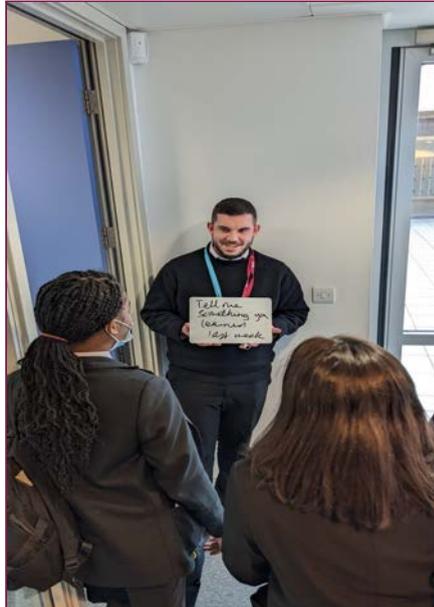
### Academic Update

*“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. **The important thing is to not stop questioning.**”*  
– **Albert Einstein**

Across the Academy our teachers have been learning to ensure our students flourish with a key focus on even more effective and skilled use of questioning in their lessons so that we are challenging our students to think harder and secure greater progress.

In this academic update we want to give you a snapshot of the excellent learning experiences students have engaged in this half term through their hard thinking.

Here Mr Findley is using his meet and greet at the door to assess what students remember from previous lessons and giving them the opportunity to do the important work of recall. This supports their long term learning.



In Mr DeCoursey's English lessons his Year 10s were doing all the hard work by collating key quotes, themes and character conflict from their study of Macbeth. Students seamlessly co-plan their own revision resource using their exceptionally well developed digital learning skills - a positive from all the lessons in lockdown. Using this format Mr DeCoursey is encouraging the students to own their own learning, think hard and actively construct their own schemas.



Nobody leaves Ms Salah's lesson without using her carefully targeted written questioning to close the gaps in their knowledge and understanding of key content. Here every student is given personalised guidance to secure their learning. Students are challenged to do even better, feeling her support and encouragement every step of the way.



In Mr Miller's History lesson students were highly engaged watching a short video clip about the Mangrove Nine. He often motivates students' interest through video and film before facilitating students to learn through discussion, this helps students to clarify their understanding of the topic.



Ms Elfersy's Chemistry class are all thinking hard about the impacts of pollution from fossil fuel power stations through structured discussion with their partners. Using this strategy challenges all students to think more deeply about the topic before sharing their ideas with the rest of the class.

If you want to continue the great classroom experiences at home you could try using this well-known question framework of Bloom's (1956). In this six-level hierarchy, lower-order questions gauge comprehension; medium-level gauge knowledge application, and higher-order questioning elicits synthesis, analysis and evaluation.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Knowledge</i>     | <i>'Can you remember...?'</i>                     |
| <i>Comprehension</i> | <i>'Tell me how this works...'</i>                |
| <i>Application</i>   | <i>'Where else have you seen this pattern?'</i>   |
| <i>Analysis</i>      | <i>'Explain to me what is happening here?'</i>    |
| <i>Synthesis</i>     | <i>'What conclusions can you draw from this?'</i> |
| <i>Evaluation</i>    | <i>'Can you measure how effective this is?'</i>   |

Mrs McGuinness  
**Vice Principal**  
**Quality of Education**

### Keeping Your Child Safe

#### **Young Minds: Advice for young people feeling down and unable to cope**

Young Minds have a website dedicated to advice for young people when they are struggling to cope. It covers a wide range of reasons why a young person might be feeling down or in need of support, as well as links to support services and tips to feel better. There is also advice for parents too. It is well worth having a look at.

You can access the website [here](#)

Mrs Whittle  
**Senior Vice Principal - Inclusion**

### Head of Year Update - Year 7

Year 7 has made a great start to 2022! I was extremely thrilled to see so many happy faces leaving Parents' Evening Consultation after so many positive conversations. It was great to finally meet parents in person and hear the fantastic feedback they had received. Thank you for your support and warm welcome back to the Academy after my year off, students and their families have made it very easy for me to return.

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their recent trip to see the Lion King which was a lovely afternoon treat. We are all very much looking forward to the Academy's production of Oliver which so many of Year 7s are involved in.

I hope you have a restful half term and I look forward to having more positive conversations with you soon. We hope to arrange some celebrations for the next half term.

Miss Vaghela  
**Head of Year 7**

### Head of Year Update - Year 8

It has truly been a very busy and productive half term for our Year 8s. There was a great turnout for Learning Coach Consultation Day and I hope you all had a good opportunity to share your child's progress. Supporting and encouraging them with their targets for the rest of this academic year is very important.

Congratulations to our Year 8 Boys & Girls football teams, these students have trained and played extremely well, demonstrating great sportsmanship during all their games. A huge well done to them all!

A highlight of this half term for Year 8's was a trip to see The Lion King musical at the Lyceum Theatre, this was truly a wonderful treat.

I would like to thank all Parents/Carers for your attendance at our Residential Trip Information

meeting. I hope you found the details provided useful. It's not long to go now until 16 March when we start our adventures!



Mr Lehmer  
Head of Year 8

### Head of Year Update - Year 9

What a wonderful start to 2022 for Year 9! Students have been working hard towards their targets following on from Learning Coach Consultation Day. Students have been making use of the online learning websites and apps to enhance their learning - the Bedrock competition has been a real highlight. It has been great to see so many students involved in activities outside the classroom.

I am excited to watch several of our year group in the production of Oliver - I hope many of you manage to watch too! Many students have enjoyed the police workshop, below are some photos of students wearing the uniform.

Enjoy your half term and I hope students return rested and ready for a focussed half term!



Miss Lewis  
Head of Year 9

## Head of Year Update - Year 10

Another great half term for Y10. Thanks for your involvement and support during LCCD as well as through all the difficulty of vaccinations/LFTs and isolating that has been happening through the last 6 weeks. It has been difficult and you have ensured our students are in and able to learn.

Y10 have continued with the mentoring scheme for younger students which earned them a reward trip on the last day of term. This has been wonderful to watch them engage with and support our younger students at CA and has made me very proud.

Y10s have played a massive part in the academy musical which was a great success and again wonderful for all students to have the chance to enjoy events like that again.

We have started extra tuition sessions for Y10s delivered by our top Sixth Formers which has been well attended and is a great way for students to get extra support in the areas they would like to improve.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all for our final Parent's Evening together as we near onwards and upwards into Y11 and beyond.

Mr Fisher  
**Head of Year 10**

## Head of Year Update - Year 11

Another half-term and another step closer to the summer exams!

Our year started off with the return of the live-feel distribution of mock results. Our cohort came to the theatre to collect the all important envelopes containing their mock results, and opened them with great anticipation - we wanted to give a real sense of what it will feel like in August 2022! Some cheers, some hugs, some surprises. We were delighted with so many of our Year 11s' performance in these big exams. The following day saw an online Parents' Consultation Evening whereby parents and students were able to really hone in on those next steps needed to ensure the required progress is achieved.

Our Study Groups were updated, and saw a large number of students move into either Study Group 1 or 2, which was fantastic to celebrate in assembly.

Although it is hard to believe, given such positive academic progress by the cohort, this half-term has not just been about work. There have been plenty of opportunities to get involved in the wider events of our community: our Year 11 football team won their first full match in calendar year 6-1, many Year 11 students have joined the eagerly anticipated return of the Chelsea Academy production, 'Oliver', and we've had a number of trips and visits to enjoy such as a GCSE History trip to the British Library!

As we approach half-term we wish for a relaxing break however, the studies must still take priority, we were greatly encouraged to see over 100 students signing up to attend interventions during the holiday!



Mr Daverat  
Head of Year 11

### Sixth Form Update - Year 12

Year 12: It may have been a short term, but Year 12 have thrown themselves into the new year and made the most of the huge range of opportunities available to them. I've been particularly impressed with some fantastic examples of servant leadership - including Year 12s enthusiastically offering their time to tutor Year 10 GCSE students, and Awaale refereeing the Year 10 basketball team match against Sacred Heart School.



Our Year 12 team who went through to the final of the Academy Livery Awards at Mansion House performed really well, coming in a very close second. I'm really proud of how hard they worked and their exemplary teamwork.



The lecture series has been fascinating this half term including Dr Katrina Pollock from Imperial College talking about her work on Imperial and Oxford vaccine trials.

Year 12 have had some opportunities to express their creativity and sportsmanship, and develop their interpersonal skills. During Wednesday's recreational session some Year 12s have been learning useful cooking skills - ready for university independence! Year 11 vs Year 12 basketball was also great fun. In addition, many Year 12 students have really enjoyed the 'Take the Lead' sessions run by the Old Vic Theatre, which have helped our students develop their interpersonal skills.

Amongst all of this, many students have grasped the opportunities we have shared for extending their academic learning - for example Christ College Cambridge's Women in Maths residential. Students should be actively looking at the Year 12 Google Classroom, as well as checking their emails and Twitter as this is where we can easily re-share opportunities. Please also ask your child to explain 'Unifrog' to you, and show you what they have found out so far!

Finally - our Twitter handle is @ChelseaAcad6thForm. Please do follow it so you are able to see opportunities that may benefit your Year 12 student!

Mrs Hogg  
**Head of Year 12**

## Sixth Form Update - Year 13

### Year 13:

Year 13 have certainly managed to pack plenty into the first half term of the new year. In total 143 UCAS applications were sent by the deadline of 26th January, the majority of which were current Year 13 students. Year 13 now holds over 320 offers between them including our first LSE offer in a number of years and our first offer to study Music composition at conservatoire. It has been so humbling going through this process with the year group, taking stock of their achievements and academic progress as they take their next steps to further education. We continue to support those students applying for apprenticeships or foundation courses and look forward to seeing the

emerging gap year plans for a number of students also.

This term we appointed Head Students from Year 13. A huge congratulations goes to Marisa Opoku, Lawren Tait and Robert Karapetian who successfully interviewed for the post and have already chaired their first student voice meeting with representatives from across the year groups. We are incredibly proud of how these students have presented themselves so far and can't wait to see them flourish as Head Students in the term to come.

A number of Year 13 students are lucky enough to be working with the Youth Construction Trust and Mr Flitcroft receiving weekly mentoring to prepare them for their future pathways and this also continues into next half term. We were honoured to host in person workshops this half term with Take the Lead from the Old Vic Theatre which several Year 13 students were involved with. They are very much looking forward to the performance of 'A Number' which they were kindly gifted tickets to taking place February 23rd..

This half term concluded with the Academy's production of Oliver! In which the parts of Fagin, Nancy and Bill Sikes were played by Year 13 students. As Musical Director it was a joy to work with some of my own year group and see the positive impact the sixth form had on some of the younger students in the cast. It was an exciting and rewarding way to end the half term.

Next half term includes Year 13 mock exams, Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition and National Careers Week so, as always, plenty to prepare and look forward to for the year group. I wish you and your son/daughter a restful break.

Miss Hetherington  
**Head of Year 13**

## Library Update

It's been a busy start to the year in the Library, along with the reminder that our new Library space has now been open for two years, so happy birthday to us!

We start every half term with Library lessons for Years 7 & 8, and this time students worked hard to make 'reading resolutions' as we thought about what 2022 might bring. Resolutions included 'I will read to my little sister every day', 'I will use my time on the train to listen to an audiobook' and 'I will visit the library once a week' - all noble pledges, and ones I hope to see the students persevere with.

Last week saw our students enjoying webinars and live author visits, including one on the power of storytelling with Nikesh Shukla, and one that discussed challenging gender stereotypes. Students had an opportunity to ask authors and presenters questions in real time, and a lot of excitement was felt when their questions were selected. We are grateful for partnership with the National Literacy Trust for this wonderful opportunity!

As we look ahead to the next half term, enthusiasm is starting to build in the Library and our wider Academy community for World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Plans are currently under wraps whilst we put the final touches in place - please do keep an eye on our Twitter page, @ChelseaAcadLib, to see what we have planned soon.

Miss Allen  
**Library Manager**

## Half Term Reading Recommendations

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

## Department Update - Drama

What a fantastic term Drama has had in Chelsea Academy.

In lessons Year 7 and 8 have been assessed on creating drama - rather than performing - they have been working in groups and the drama teachers have been looking at their co-operation, their ideas and their commitment to the group. At Chelsea Academy we believe that drama prepares students for life - those transferable skills, co-operation and communication, with the ability to work with ANYONE are so important for life.

Also in Year 7 we had a WHOLE YEAR GROUP trip to see the Lion King, a long running West End show with breathtaking music, puppetry and brilliant themes. We were able to offer this completely free! Taking 180 students onto the tube was super-fun too!



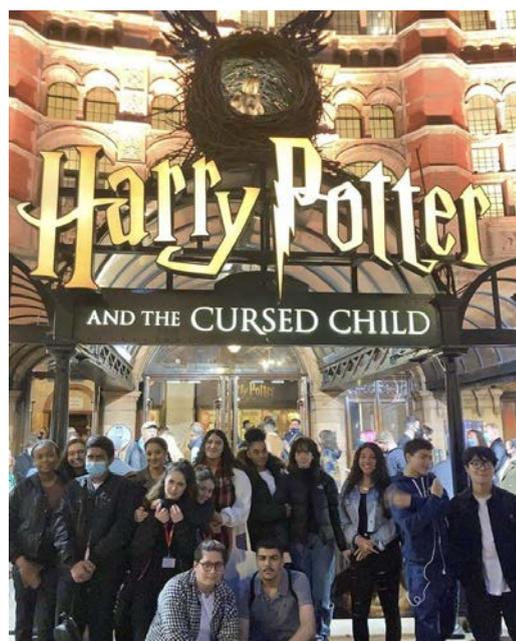
In Year 8 we have been working with Mousetrap UK to offer experiences spanning the whole range of theatre. We have offered elective workshops in stage make-up, combat, acting and clowning as well as taking 70 lucky students to see 'Wicked' in the West End for a heavily subsidised price.



Our GCSE cohort have also been doing amazing things. Year 10 went to Ashburnham Primary school and performed their own self-written plays with a learning message which were brilliant



Our Year 11 cohort have been working with some top industry professionals and managed to get free tickets to see both parts of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - wow! What a show! They are also working towards having plays they wrote performed at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square by professional actors in the first week back after half term. Please contact Mrs Tomlinson if you would like to come to see these!



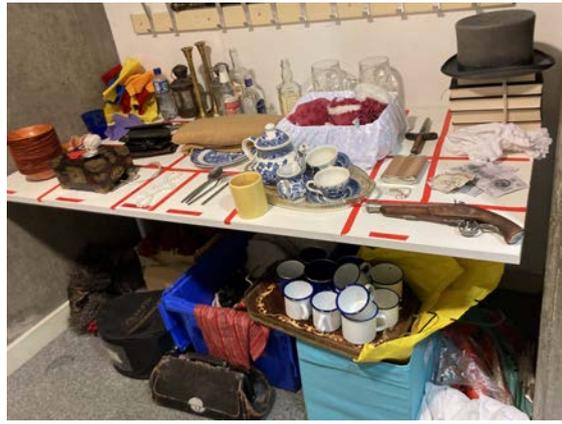
Meanwhile our Year 13 students produced a fantastic, thought provoking (and quite creepy) piece of theatre for the devised section of their A level. Titled 'The Scream' it was a piece looking at roles in society and how people can feel stifled, inspiration came from 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch and 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by R L Stevenson.

Our Year 12s have been working collaboratively with A level film studies students on two very exciting performance projects. It has been lovely to watch them bouncing ideas and expertise between themselves.



And finally in our extra-curricular news we have 20 students ranging from Year 7 to Year 12 preparing to take Internationally recognised LAMDA exams in solo acting before the Easter break. We also have a residential trip to Italy planned during Easter which is going to be so much fun.

At the time of writing, we have also just completed our run of 'Oliver!' our first show in 2 years due of Covid. The cast (the biggest we've ever had) have been absolutely amazing - dedicated, talented and fun to work with. We are so proud of each and every one of them and of all the students working backstage. We do hope you got to see it!



### Department Update - Computing

KS3 - The Year 7's have had a fantastic first term at Chelsea Academy, working through their Mission Booklets in September, being introduced to programming in the second half term and most recently learning about hardware and software. The students were tasked with gathering components to make a PC (virtually of course) and came up with some fantastic builds, including one that cost over £250,000 - I suppose at which point you have to ask if it's still a PC or a rocket.

The Year 8's meanwhile, having had a coronavirus-affected year 7 have had to catch up with work missed from last year. They have learned a bit about online safety, have also completed the hardware & software unit that the current Year 7's are doing, and most recently have been introduced to spreadsheets via Google Sheets.

It was great to see how despite the impact last year had on them, the Year 8's continue to give it their all and try to do their best.

At KS3, after the Easter break we will be beginning programming with Python with both the Year 7's and Year 8's and if your child enjoys programming then ask them to come down to the KS3 programming club on Tuesdays in Room 111!

KS4 - I've not seen a group of Year 9's like the ones we currently have in Computer Science. The attitude that they have to their work and the approach they take is amazing! If you tell them that you're going to be teaching them Year 11 work in a lesson, rather than giving up before starting they work harder to understand and complete the tasks. They've covered a number of topics so far including searching and sorting algorithms, binary, hexadecimal, binary addition and logic gates. And of course, lots of programming!

The Year 10's and Year 11's are getting back into the swing of things after experiencing normality and then abrupt chaos with the emergence of the pandemic. The Year 11's in particular are starting to change their attitude towards their work, realising the reality of the exams ahead and now with certainty (I hope) that the exams will go ahead, they're focusing on their learning and working very well!

KS5 - The Year 13 Computer Science class is the first class at Chelsea Academy to go through the new, improved Computer Science specification. The students have had quite a unique experience in both the interruptions (pandemic again) and having to get to grips with a very challenging course. There's been a lot of ups and downs but I'm happy to see that they are motivated and that this motivation has come at the right time.

Both the Year 12's and 13's have been given a fantastic opportunity to obtain a Microsoft Certificate in AI Fundamentals. AI is not taught as part of the specification so this is a great way to get introduced to the topic from one of the biggest companies in the world.

### Department Update - Geography

The Geography Department has had the help of many global events in teaching our ever-changing subject this month! The insurgency of Russia into Ukrainian borders has provided our Year 13 Geographers with renewed case study evidence for their Superpowers module where we focus on the 2012 Ukraine Crisis.

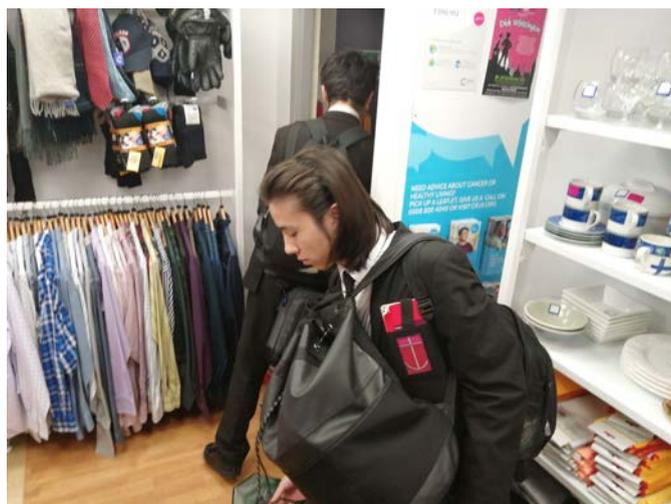
Our Year 8 students have had the opportunity to learn about the impact that overfishing has had upon Coral Reefs, specifically the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. They had the help of a brand new National Geographic article "How overfishing threatens the world's oceans—and why it could end in catastrophe" which allowed our Year 8's to practice their literacy and oracy skills in lesson, reading aloud and defining Tier 2 and Tier 3 words that we may not come across in our everyday conversation!

Talking of literacy skills, the Geography Department has created brand new reading and resources for KS3, KS4 and KS5 ! Keep your eyes peeled to see what will help you expand your Geographical knowledge outside of the classroom!

We wish our Year 13 students luck starting their NEA coursework! And hope they enjoy speaking to businesses and individuals in the local area, such as T and T Motors, a long established Chelsea car garage, The Chelsea Physic Garden, and our very own Mr Silverman to understand the local geographical identity of Chelsea and how it has changed over time.

### Reflection

Thank you to everyone who donated books and shoes to Cancer Research on World Cancer Day. This act of charity was an idea which the students themselves came up with and encapsulates our ethos of helping those around us. This half term has been a term of perseverance; persevering through cold and dark mornings and through studying and learning. My hope and prayer is that all our staff, students and parents may rest and recover during this half term break. May God bless you and your family.



Tim Richards  
Chaplain  
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Cucina - Celebrating Chinese New Year 2022





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