

Thursday 16th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good couple of weeks since our return from half term? A slightly longer newsletter this week with some very important information so please do read through to the end.

Grenfell anniversary

We have been praying and reflecting on the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell tragedy this week and will mark it with Green for Grenfell on Friday. You will have received a separate communication about this but we want to encourage all our community to wear at least one green item in memory of all those touched by Grenfell.

Sports Day - Change of date due to RMT/ London Underground Strike update

After considerable thought and consultation I have finally made the reluctant decision to change the arrangements for Sports Day, which was due to be the same day as the planned transport strikes next week. Given there is set to be widespread and significant disruption across the London transport network on that day, I cannot safely staff the event as nearly all of the staff use the train or tube to travel to the Academy and as you know we do not have any on site parking. Fortunately we have been able to confirm an alternative date at Battersea Park for Tuesday 5th July, and we are just working on an updated plan for the day which we will be able to share in the coming days. It is a real highlight of the Academy calendar so I am delighted we have been able to secure an alternative date.

Due to the disruption to public transport on Tuesday 21st June, please note the Academy will be closed to all students unless they are taking a public examination. Senior leaders and invigilators will be present to manage examinations. There will be remote learning in place for all students Y7-10, and Y12 are to use the day to revise for their UCAS exams, which start on Thursday 23rd June. Your child should log on ready for Coaching Time at 8.40am and their usual timetabled lessons will be delivered throughout the day until 3.30pm. Teachers will be online for the duration of the lesson.

In order to ensure I can safely open and staff the Academy, the Academy will start for all students at 9.45am on Wednesday 22nd June, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th June. Students will go straight into P2. This is because many stations will be closed and services will not start running until 8am on Wednesday and Friday. On Thursday 23rd June there is a further RMT strike so whilst we will be open, there is a later start to allow students and staff to get in.

I really am sorry that we have to close for one day and run slighter shorter days next week but believe it is the best option in the circumstances. I am aware of at least two other RBKC secondary schools closing on Tuesday for the same reasons. If the strikes are called off at the start of next week then we will of course revert to normal start times and the Academy would be open for normal lessons on the 21st June.

Year 12 UCAS Prediction Exams - from Wednesday 22nd June

From 22nd June to 4th July, Year 12 students will be sitting their end of Year 12 UCAS prediction exams. These exams have been written to assess students' learning over the course of Year 12 and to replicate the style of exams that will take place at the end of Year 13. We know that our current Year 12 students had their GCSE courses disrupted and did not have the experience of sitting formal GCSE exams, which is why it is so important that we give them an experience of sitting similar exams this year. Exams are timetabled for the morning and afternoons; when students are not in an exam they should be in the Academy following their normal timetable. All students are expected on site every day from 8:35am.

Chelsea Academy Cultural Day - Thursday 7th July

We are dedicating this day to celebrating and sharing the diverse cultures of our students and staff. On the 7th of July, students are invited to attend the Academy, in any cultural clothing that they wear at home, or to cultural events. Changing room facilities will be open from 8.15am, if students prefer to arrive in uniform, and change into cultural dress at the Academy. Students who don't have any specific items of clothing that they associate with their/their family's culture can either wear clothes in the colours of a country or region's flag that they associate with (but no football/sports tops), or, if not, they must wear blue and/or green, to represent the colours of the globe. There will be a range of activities during break, lunchtime, and after school to celebrate the diversity of our staff and student communities. Lessons during the week will also take opportunities to celebrate our diversity. How brilliant that this day is student-led and a group of sixth formers have worked hard with Mr. Browning to arrange our inaugural Cultural Day.

Summer Arts Showcase - Thursday 7th July

This year our Summer Arts showcase will be a combined Music, Art and Drama event. Parents and carers are cordially invited to come along and join us in celebrating the work of some of our most talented Chelsea Academy students. Entrance is free, although there will be a collection bucket available for those who wish to make a contribution. Doors will open at 5pm and refreshments will be served in our Food For Thought area. The showcase itself will commence at 5.30pm and will last for approximately one hour.

Y10 Work experience - reminder

We are still looking for placements for Year 10 work experience. The dates for 2022 will be Monday 11th - Friday 15th July inclusive (five days) and we understand that work experience will reflect current working practices and as such could include examples of hybrid working (both in the office and working remotely). If you can help us this year, please email Mr Flitcroft on james.flitcroft@chelsea-academy.org or use [this link to submit your details](#).

Changes to local bus routes - consultation by TFL

You may have seen that TFL are consulting with Londoners on a proposal to remove a number of bus routes, where similar routes run (or could be adjusted to cover the proposed removed service). One of these is the C3, which TFL proposes will be covered by a slightly amended Route 27, although it seems a change of buses would be needed. A number of other routes which are regularly used by students will be affected, including the 14 and 11. This change would affect a large number of our students. If you are concerned about the removal of these routes, please consider replying to the consultation. Details of how you do this can be found here: <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/busreview> The deadline to respond is 12th July 2022.

Our theme this week has been gifts. Here at the Academy we are grateful for our God given gifts and pray that we may use them wisely. On that note we are being gifted a new Chaplain from Monday, after a few months' gap. I will introduce him to you in a later newsletter but ask that you keep him in your prayers as he starts his work at the Academy.

Have a lovely weekend - hopefully a slightly cooler couple of days to come!

Yours faithfully



Mariella Ardron
Principal