

Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that the opportunity to meet with your child's Learning Coach either last night or this morning, has been a valuable one. Thank you for making the time to attend the meeting. It was also excellent that those of you with a child in Year 11 attended the Progress Evening last week.

National Attendance Award

You may have seen from our Twitter feed or our website, that we won a prestigious national attendance [award](#) on Wednesday. We are thrilled with this award. Nationally attendance has been a challenge as all schools return to normal from the pandemic. This is a real celebration of how the Academy, parents and students have worked together to ensure we can continue to improve attendance.

RBKC Youth Mayor & Cabinet Elections 2023

These took place earlier this week and the Academy hosted a polling station yesterday. Good luck to our brilliant student Marie in Year 9 who is running for Cabinet Member of Education. The announcement ceremony will take place on Friday 20th January led by the RBKC Mayor - Councillor David Lindsay at Kensington Town Hall.

Jamie's Farm

Yet another very successful trip took place last week. Students had an incredible time down at the farm near Bath. Jamie's Farm supports students to be more focused and work at overcoming personal challenges, some of which prevent them from succeeding as well as they could. The students had a tough week, having to wake early and undertake a number of hard physical jobs on the farm each day as well as receiving some mentoring. Thanks to Ms. Sanders and Ms. Thompson for giving up their time to accompany our students - and to the Chelsea Academy Foundation who fund this residential.

Ukrainian Coffee Morning

A big thank you to Mrs Alvino, parents, carers and students who joined us for coffee and cake last Friday. Our Ukrainian students have settled brilliantly and taught us all so much.

NEU Industrial Action

You will be aware that the largest teaching union - the NEU - has planned for four days of industrial action (strikes) in February and March. I will be communicating further details about the partial closure of the Academy in due course. The majority of teaching staff are members of the NEU therefore like most other schools the majority of students will be accessing online learning from home on these days. The planned days are: **1st February, 2nd March and the 15th and 16th March.**


School funding has been woeful for many years and in real terms has not increased. For this academic year schools were not funded for staff pay increases but were expected to meet them; this has had a huge impact on school budgets, including here at Chelsea Academy. The stand the unions are taking is very important if schools and education are to be better funded. I fully appreciate the disruption partial school closure will cause for you but I also respect the right of my teaching colleagues to take this stance.

National Sleep Helpline

Please check below for a great free resource that can help parents and children to learn more about sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function. By helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school. At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely. This free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues). The Sleep Charity helpline is open 5 times a week, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariella Ardron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mrs. Ardron
Principal