



20 October 2023

## Message from the Principal

I hope this half termly newsletter finds you and your family well? 2023/24 has started very successfully at the Academy and with everything we have been up to, we all need a proper rest over the next ten days or so!

As you know we had a visit from Ofsted at the end of September. I have yet to receive the Ofsted report and as soon as I have and can share that with you, I will. Needless to say I am proud of all that my staff and our students have achieved over the last few years. This is a fantastic Academy and the inspectors congratulated us on so much of what they say over the two days they were here.

As an Academy community we have continued to pray and reflect on the tragic situation in the Middle East. We know that students and staff on both sides of this conflict have been personally affected and our thoughts are very much with them. Teaching our young people the need to love one another, be kind, understand and accept differences, and live together peacefully is key to our Christian ethos. Those of us old enough to have lived through The Troubles in Northern Ireland will know that with prayer, diplomacy and perseverance peace is indeed possible.

I am so pleased that we have our third Culture & Identity Day on Friday 17th November. Students and staff will be very much encouraged to come in their cultural dress and enjoy a day of music, dancing and international inspiration! More of that to come.

Half term 2 starts on **Thursday 2nd November** at the normal time of **8.35am**; all students will start the day with extended Coaching Time and an assembly.

I hope you manage to spend some quality time with your child over the half term break and I look forward to seeing many of you at Progress Evenings next month or the Christmas Concert in December.

With my best wishes,

Mrs Ardron  
Principal

## Chelsea Academy Foundation

The Chelsea Academy Foundation provides exciting activities and support for students throughout their time here, which allow all our students to flourish.



Our new rowers, ready for an evening session on the river

### Flourish Fund

Donating to 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 of our students can participate in 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 support one student in peer mentoring
- **£15 per month** pays for two students to join debating for a year
- **£30 per month** pays for half a term rowing for one year group

**GIVING**  
TUESDAY

We are looking forward to taking part in Giving Tuesday this year, on 28 November. Please help us celebrate all we do to support our students' wellbeing, and look out for more information as we get closer to the day.

### Online Shopping

You can also help support the Chelsea Academy Foundation at **no cost to you** by choosing us as your charity when shopping online! If you register here with [easyfundraising](#) and choose the Chelsea Academy Foundation as your chosen charity, then for every online purchase you make, they will give a small donation (at no cost to you) to our Flourish Fund.

Businesses can also 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](#).

Mrs. Hitchcock

**Fundraising & Development Officer**

### Academic Update

And just like that.... A new academic year is well underway. We have had a strong start to 2023/24 and the whole community has embraced our mission: Work Hard, Be Kind, No excuses.

There is no better time than a new academic year to practise good learning habits through Independent Learning (IL)

At home you can help through your involvement in your child's commitment and dedication to IL

The Education Endowment Foundation has conducted a substantive amount of research into the value of IL (or homework) for secondary school students:

*1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 5 months), particularly with students in secondary schools.*

- At the Academy we set student IL (homework) via google classroom and have invested in a wide range of digital platforms to support your child's learning, revision and reading at home.
- You can easily access logins to the digital platforms [here](#)
- Mr Rowe has also created a guide to our digital platforms: [Digital Learning](#)
- Ms Rickford our AP for Teaching & Learning has created a walk through video guide to support parents/carers with learning at home. You can access it here: [Study Support at Home](#)

*2. Some students may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported (e.g. through providing homework clubs for pupils).*

- Our library is open Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday from 8am and until 4.45pm. Students are welcome to use the library, which is supervised by [Miss Kempley](#), to do their IL before/after school in a productive environment.
- The SEN Team also run IL Club for students - by invitation.
- Here is a useful timetable that can be printed out and used at home to help your child plan out their IL and revision schedule: [CAW4IL](#)
- More information on IL and how you can support at home is available [here](#) on the website.

We end our first Half Term celebrating Black History Month 2023 and the theme this year, '[Saluting our Sisters](#)' has helped us to share the incredible contributions of black women who are often

overlooked. Here is a poem created and shared by one of our very own brilliant black young women, Nayasa Ismaiel, in honour of the black women who inspire her.

**Dear Black Women, a poem by Nayasa Ismaiel Y10**

Inspirational black women, shining bright like stars,  
Breaking down barriers, reaching for the highest bars.  
From Lauryn Hill's lyrics that touch our soul,  
To Serena Williams, dominating the tennis court with control.  
To the black women in our lives, superheroes today,  
Thank you to our mums, grandmas and aunties those who get little pay,  
Pay for their endless hard work and the worries in their life,  
All the microaggressions, the trouble and strife  
"Oh your hair is so exotic" and "wow your so loud",  
No matter what the haters and racists say, we will stand proud  
Proud of our struggles, strength and power,  
Working hard every hour  
And to the little girls today, the black women of the future,  
You are enough, although times will get tough.  
Us the black women of the past and present will take care of you,  
School will be hard and you are smart and brilliant and although your peers and teachers may not want you to,  
Want you to do well and to be great in life,  
So do what you please and be ambitious, show us your light  
We celebrate strength, resilience, and grace,  
These women inspire us to embrace our own race.  
So let's raise our voices and give them a cheer,  
For the powerful black women who inspire us, near and dear!

Ms. McGuinness  
**Vice Principal**  
**Quality of Education**

**Keeping Your Child Safe**

**Knife and Weapon Crime**

Knife and weapon crime is not as common as many people assume - and it is certainly not an issue that we regularly deal with in the Academy. However, the sad reality is that there are instances of

violence involving weapon use (particularly knives) amongst teenagers in London, and the effects of such incidents can be devastating for all of those who are affected. It is important that you talk to your child about the significant dangers involved in carrying a weapon of any type - as well as the risks of associating with others who do.

This teen-centred [online resource](#) created by Childline provides some useful information and guidance on the subject. You may find it helpful.

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

### Head of Year Update - Year 7

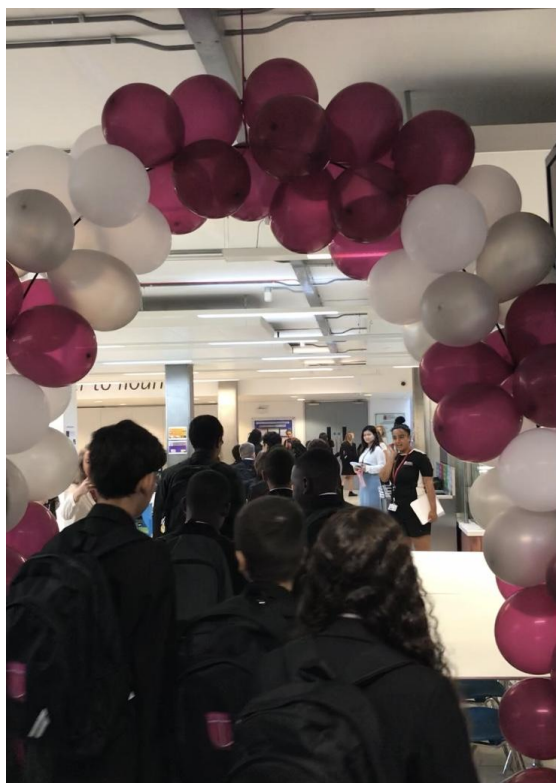
It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to the Academy. Year 7 induction day on Wednesday 6th September was one of the final events in our transition programme. Students spent the day in their coaching groups meeting their Learning Coaches and taking part in icebreaker and orientation activities.

Over the course of the next fortnight every coaching group attended a spiritual retreat at St Luke's Church run by our chaplain Mr van Kan. I was fortunate enough to attend most of these retreats alongside Year 7 and it was lovely to see the students grow in confidence and have the opportunity to explore our Christian values and explore some of those deeper questions with their peers.

I was grateful that so many parents/carers attended both the Year 7 Information Evening and Learning Coach Consultation Day. I enjoyed meeting some of you for the first time and hearing about how your children have found the transition to secondary school. We have lots of exciting opportunities ahead for Year 7 that I look forward to sharing with you.

I am thrilled that the Year 7 football team has already taken off and that we have Year 7 already signed up for this year's musical 'The Addams Family'.

I hope you have a restful half term. Thank you for all your support so far.



Miss Hetherington  
**Head of Year 7**

### Head of Year Update - Year 8

Year 8s have had a great return to the Academy. They have had a really positive and active involvement in our year group assemblies, showing their servant leadership. We are looking forward to all of the year group joining our amazing Extended Curriculum offer after half term, hopefully attending one club each! I look forward to a positive half term leading up to Christmas, celebrating our successes as a year group and working on our year group identity.

Miss Spearpoint  
**Head of Year 8**

### Head of Year Update - Year 9

It's been a pleasure to kick off the school year in Year 9, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have our incredible students and their families with us once again.

The start of a new academic year is always a special time, filled with anticipation, fresh beginnings, and the promise of growth and achievement. I am excited to have our Year 9 students back in school, and we are eager to support and help them through this coming year. They bring such enthusiasm and energy.

One of the highlights so far was our Learning Coach Consultation Day. It was wonderful to see so many parents and guardians taking an active interest in their child's education. The opportunity to meet you in person after so long, discuss your child's progress, and set goals for the year ahead is invaluable. Your engagement and support make a significant difference in our young people's academic and personal development.

In the coming months, we have many exciting events and opportunities in store for Year 9. This will include the selection of their options subjects early in 2024 which is a really big milestone. I encourage you to stay involved, attend school events which provide information about the GCSE option process and continue to support your child's academic and extracurricular endeavours. Your presence and involvement are greatly appreciated by Ms Skrobanska and myself and allows us to support you and your child fully.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to us as always.

Wishing you a fantastic and fruitful year ahead!

Mr Fisher  
**Head of Year 9**

### Head of Year Update - Year 10

As always the start of the year is an exciting time. Not only is this the start of a new academic year but the beginning of Year 10's GCSE journey.

I am excited to have our Year 10 students back in school, and eager to support and help them this coming year. As a new member of staff at Chelsea Academy I'd like to thank students, parents and carers for the warm welcome.

Learning Coach Consultation Day was a great success. It was wonderful meeting so many of you. I have been blown away by the enthusiasm from parents and carers that take an interest in their child's education. Your active participation in your child's learning is instrumental to their academic and personal growth.

Mr Silverman and myself will endeavour to best support our young people in their academic journeys and encourage you to stay involved, attend school events, and continue to support your child.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to get in touch.

Miss Fox-Clark  
**Head of Year 10**

### Head of Year Update - Year 11

What a great start to this very important year for our Year 11 students.

The first half-term is always about hitting the ground running and making sure our students have settled in. We have seen such drive and determination amongst the cohort, throughout their core mock exams. It has been so beneficial to discuss these results at our learning coach consultation day as well as creating targets to ensure students meet their individual goals.

We've celebrated Leon Bavar becoming a published writer in his piece 'Border?'. He entered the Trinity College Cambridge Competition; The Litmus School Writing Project.

Next half-term sees our internal Open Evening and Year 11 Expectations Evening (9th November) and a key focus in the preparation for Mock exams - which will run in the December fortnight. In

half-term 2 we will introduce our study groups and have a wide range of intervention sessions available which students can go to.

We will also welcome the return of Mr Daverat after his paternity leave. It has been such a pleasure supporting our Year 11 students through this half term as their Deputy and Acting Head of Year.

Ms Elfersy

**Acting Head of Year 11**

## Head of Year Update - Year 12

It's been a real pleasure to start to get to know our new Year 12 students, and to see them settling in so well both into new routines and new friendships. I've been so impressed with how they have thrown themselves into the 'step up' of A level subjects, and have received lots of positive comments from their teachers about their enthusiasm, engagement and perseverance. I've really enjoyed seeing them getting stuck into their Wednesday afternoon enrichment, be that reading with younger students, playing football, or learning to cook some very tasty meals! As well as all of this, I very much appreciate the Year 12s who volunteered so kindly to assist on our open evening, they were excellent role models for our future Year 7s.

Year 12 is also a key time for students to explore opportunities beyond the classroom, and Year 12 have had lots offered to them already, from Duke of Edinburgh, to rowing enrichment, and taking part in the Grocers' Award (please see photo). As part of our Tuesday lecture series, we've had a fascinating talk from Dr Antoine Rogers from Brunel University, as well as from our ex-head girl Lawren, who is currently undertaking a degree apprenticeship at Unilever. We hope students were inspired to see her forging her career so successfully!



Year 12 Grocers' Award Competition Team.

Please encourage your young person to keep an eye on the opportunities we advertise on their Google Classroom and to engage with them! Whilst it may feel like they've only just made one big transition, Year 12 is also the time for students to think about where they'd like to go after Year 13, be that apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, or degree courses or pioneer options! They may like to do this by exploring universities they are interested in over half term.



If you don't already, please follow @ChelseaAcademy6th on Twitter (X) where we share opportunities for students as well as celebrate their successes.

Thank you for all your support in the transition from Year 11 to 12. The positive start has been really encouraging and I look forward to being able to share the successes of this group as they come.

Mrs Hogg  
**Head of Year 12**

### Head of Year Update - Year 13

I have been really pleased with how quickly Year 13 has got back into the routine of the Autumn term. There has been a particular focus on getting personal statements drafted (and redrafted!) The early entry deadline for those wishing to apply to Oxbridge, Medicine or Dentistry and other specialist courses has now passed, and I've been so impressed with students' dedication in practising for their aptitude tests alongside their A Level studies. We are looking forward to progressing the UCAS applications for the remainder of the year group in the coming months, alongside supporting those applying for various apprenticeships.

I was very proud to hear such great feedback from both staff and parent/carers after our recent Year 6 Open Evening about our Year 13 students. Many acted as guides conducting tours as well as others who helped with subject areas. The maturity of our students alongside the caring nature in the way they communicated with younger students was noted. I want to extend a big 'thank you' to all of those who were involved.

We have also started our process for interviewing and appointing our Head Students. It has been great to hear from many students who are considering applying and I look forward to seeing their presentations on the importance of student voice and leadership.

Please encourage your child to spend some time visiting different universities and cities over the half term break to help narrow down their choices for the next stage in their education. It has been a great start to the term and I hope that they can maintain this momentum for the remainder of the year.

Mr Hall  
**Head of Year 13**

### Library Update

It has been a great start to the new academic year. The wonderful new Year 7s have come bouncing in, full of energy and a willingness to help. Nearly half of them have signed up to be student librarians, and are showing up eagerly for their assigned duties everyday. The amazing First Story has kicked off with the incredible Paul Lyalls. It was great to see him once again in action, bringing so much life to words on a page. His energy is contagious and the students were soon jumping out of their seats wanting to read out the incredible pieces of work he had inspired them to write.

Library sessions this term have been lovely as always. Year 7s had their introduction to the Library, which involved lots of competitive games, which earned them lots of treats and achievement points. In honour of Black History Month, Year 8 studied the beautifully illustrated book *Africana* by Kim Chakanetsa, where they learned lots about the stunning African continent and took part in group

quizzes to show off their knowledge. In line with the 'Saluting our Sisters' theme for BHM, I gathered a group of female students, who I allowed to take the lead in putting together assemblies where their voices were heard, and allowed them to create workshops that they felt were relevant. I have recently ordered a brilliant selection of new books that focus on black authors/ lead characters such as Kingdom of Souls by Rena Barron alongside some great reads that have storylines focused on different mental health issues such as Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella. Clubs have kicked off with a bang this term, with the most popular being Anime club where we have written our own Haikus and made sushi! It has been brilliantly busy and I am looking forward to the next half term and the lead up to Christmas.

Ms Kempley  
**Librarian**

### Interhouse Competitions

Each year we run a house competition offering students diverse opportunities both in and out of lessons to earn house points. As well as the ever-popular inter-house sports, sports day, and competitions, we are excited to introduce a new way to earn house points. We have included a diverse range of opportunities, including engaging in wider reading activities and cross-curricular projects. From exploring the history of Mathematics in Ancient Islam to creating Spanish Christmas postcards and delving into the activism of Women's Equality, students will have the chance to participate in various tasks across different subjects. Additionally, commendations for exceptional work will now be recognized and recorded, contributing to the overall house points tally. Please keep an eye on your child's Independent Learning (IL) progress and encourage them to go the extra mile for their house! Additionally, don't miss the exciting opportunity for students to design the official Chelsea Academy Christmas card in the current ongoing house competition.

**Upcoming Event Christmas Fair - thanks to a Christchurch (one of our feeder schools) parent for sharing this :**



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