



21st December 2023

## Message from the Principal

Whilst we have had our beautiful Chelsea Academy Christmas trees up for most of this month, watching our fabulous students participate in the Christmas Concert last week was the real start to all our Academy Christmas fun and festivities. And since then we have been keeping the Christmas spirit on Lots Road much alive!

Last Friday we had the first of four brilliant Celebration assemblies and delicious year group Christmas dinners - with lots of singing and awards. There was even a bit of dancing in Food for Thought!

We know that this season can be a challenge for some in our community both here at the Academy and beyond, in the local area. We are really proud of the huge pile of donations that students brought in and which have been delivered to our nearest food bank at Fulham Broadway. In 2024 we will be spending more time considering how we can help this organisation, as part of our Christian ethos and our commitment to servant leadership and charity. These two Academy values are seen repeatedly at the Academy and I often reflect that the future is safe and just in the hands of our young people. I am particularly excited to read about the development of our Flourish 8 in this newsletter. It is something I have been passionate about for a long time and it is finally happening.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Academy Trust last week, representatives from our two sponsors; RBKC and the LDBS congratulated us on our brilliant GCSE results and on the strong Ofsted report. I want to thank you too for all that you do to support us at the Academy.

Our Act of Worship at St Luke's earlier today was a wonderful community gathering. A chance to give thanks and celebrate the term together. This weekend Christians mark the move from the season of Advent; a time of waiting and reflecting in the darkness to greet the light and joy of the Saviour's birth. On behalf of all the staff and governors may I wish you all a blessed Christmas and peaceful new year. For those of you who do not mark Christmas I pray that you have a restful time with friends and family. As a parent I know that this season is not always the Insta happy one we see on the adverts! Spending time with loved ones can be wonderful but it is also a challenge. Do look after one another and as we always say at Chelsea Academy - Be Kind (to yourself as well as each other!).

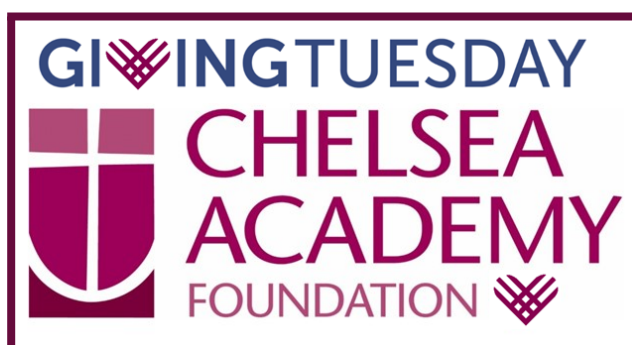
The Academy reopens to students on Wednesday 10th January at the normal time of 8.35am. We very much look forward to seeing your child back with us then.

Mariella Ardron  
Principal

Mrs Ardron  
**Principal**

### Chelsea Academy Foundation

The Chelsea Academy Foundation (CAF) provides exciting activities as well as academic and wellbeing support for students throughout their time here, which allows all our students to flourish.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Giving Tuesday campaign. It was a huge success, and together with student volunteer sponsorship and gift matching we reached our goal of raising £10,000 to support wellbeing programmes at Chelsea Academy. Thank you!

#### Flourish Fund

You can help support the CAF by contributing to the [Flourish Fund](#). Please click [here](#) to give either as a one-off or monthly donation, to help ensure that all of our students can participate in activities, without worrying about the cost. Many thanks to parents and carers 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

#### 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.

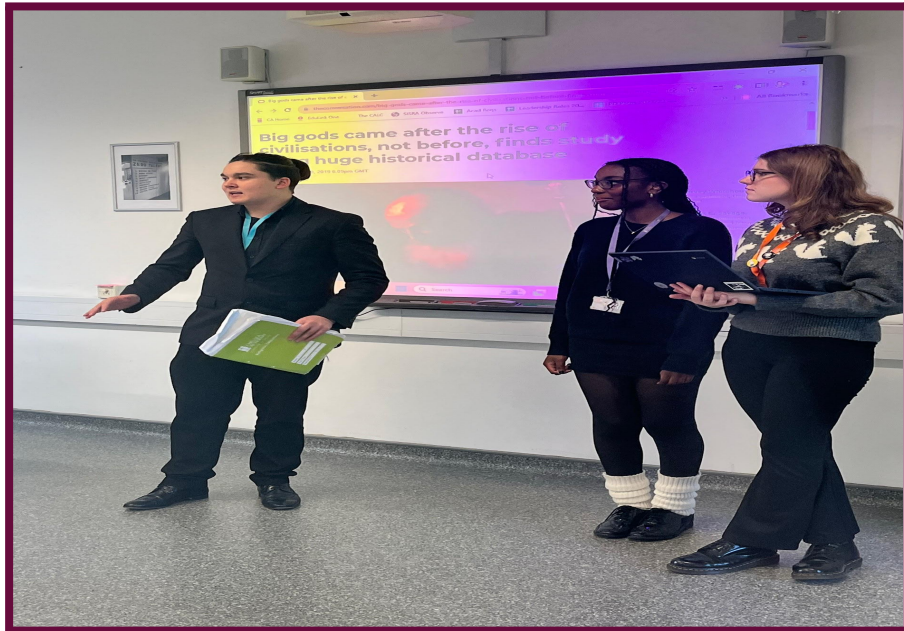
Businesses can also raise funds for Chelsea Academy Foundation via easyfundraising. If the company you work for, or one you have links to, would like to raise FREE funds for us, please invite them using [this link](#).

Mrs. Hitchcock  
**Fundraising & Development Officer**

## Academic Update

The autumn term is always such a busy one but this term has not disappointed! We have had 14 weeks of hard work, in and out of the classroom; students and teachers alike, always learning together to flourish. We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated staff who are relentless in their expectations for great learning, always seeking out ways to make the experience for our students even better. This term teachers and teaching assistants have had a particular focus on ensuring teaching is 'adaptive' and meets the needs of all our students. This also includes ensuring that students with additional learning needs (SEND) receive appropriate support. The Ofsted team recognised the work we are already doing in this area which was heartening. Have a wonderful holiday season and hopefully some of the photos and stories throughout this newsletter will help you experience some of the joy and hard work that is Chelsea Academy.







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

### Keeping Your Child Safe

Over the next two weeks many members of our Academy community will be celebrating Christmas - with family time spent together and the exchanging of gifts. For students this is likely to be the season when they receive a much requested upgrade to their phone, games console or electrical device of choice. The breakneck speed at which technology develops is well documented, and the reality is that each development can leave teenagers vulnerable to a whole host of new online risks. [This webpage](#) - produced by the UK Safer Internet Centre - provides some simple, practical tips for parents and carers on how to help their children stay safe online at Christmas. It is well worth a look.

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

### Head of Year Update - Year 7

It doesn't seem so long ago that Year 7 entered the Academy through the balloon arch to commence their first day of secondary education and now we have completed a whole term. I am incredibly proud of the positive start Year 7 have had to the Academy.

This half term Year 7 elected their coaching group reps and a number of Year 7 students attended their first full student voice meeting. In addition we launched our Flourish 8 initiative and Year 7 have excelled in logging and updating their personal contributions across the range of categories.

It was a pleasure to run the Year 7 Christmas celebrations in the final week of term starting with the achievement assembly in which we shared the successes of individuals within the

year group and enjoyed some competitive spirit between coaching groups. Myself and Ms Alvino found it an incredibly hard task deciding who to give our awards to which is testament to the joy the year group brings. Year 7 enjoyed their first Eucharist service which provided a chance for us to reflect as a community before a festive lunch and talent show. It was lovely to see the year group supporting each other and we certainly have a talented bunch including magicians, musicians and acrobats.

Year 7 were fortunate enough to go on a whole year group trip to the pantomime 'Cinderella' on Monday 18th December which they thoroughly enjoyed; particularly when they had to shout 'hello buttons' or 'oh no he isn't'.

I hope you and your families have a restful and peaceful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming Year 7 back in January ahead of another positive term.

Miss Hetherington  
**Head of Year 7**

### Head of Year Update - Year 8

Year 8 have really excelled themselves and flourished this half-term. I have seen lots of them take a much more active role in the academy.

There have been lots of attendees for cross-curricular clubs after school, plenty of Flourish 8 form submissions as well as donating to the food bank and much more. The students are clearly seeing now how committing to clubs/activities/events/trips outside the classroom will not only make their time at the Academy much more enjoyable but also more memorable. Students have competed in sports competitions, writing competitions (Well Done Maria and Ira) and received amazing awards for their music. I am increasingly proud of the ever evolving young people in the year group. Below are some of Year 8 enjoying the new swimming lessons in their PE class.





**Our year 8 gardeners in full bloom!**

Our end of year assembly was full of celebration and joy and I am sure you will hear all about our marvellous karaoke that followed on at lunchtime. This celebration really encapsulated Year 8 as a year group- always ready to join in with each other and always ready for a sing-song.

I really hope you as students, parents and carers have a lovely Christmas break and plenty of rest so I can be even more impressed next term!

Miss Spearpoint  
**Head of Year 8**

### **Head of Year Update - Year 9**

As we wrap up this term, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and your child's remarkable achievements. This term so far has been new, different and a transition for them and they have shown resilience and progress towards what we are striving for as a whole.

I've witnessed incredible growth and positivity among our students, with standout individuals such as Nikita G, Cat S, Mayaar A, Charlie D, Abdulahi S and Nour T shining brightly, both in their academic pursuits, but also as servant leaders and their contributions to our Y9 community. Adjustments have been necessary for all our students and there is still more needed, but with your ongoing encouragement, Y9 is flourishing and looking ahead I am very positive and optimistic about next year.

We eagerly anticipate the new year and the opportunities it brings, especially the upcoming LCCD2 and our Progress and Options Evening on 1/2/24. This event marks a significant milestone in your child's educational journey, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on this night. It's a chance to delve into the next phase of education, make informed choices, and set the stage for continued success.

Thank you once again; Ms Skrobanska and I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Mr Fisher  
Head of Year 9

## Head of Year Update - Year 10

As Term 1 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support. This term so far has seen Year 10 transition into their GCSE studies and their first attempt at mock exams. It was a new daunting experience for many of the students. Countless times I have seen your young people making, swapping and teaching each other with their study notes as well as offering words of encouragement to peers that may be feeling more anxious. This level of dedication, compassion and community has not gone unnoticed and I have been impressed by how the year group as a whole have risen to the challenge and supported each other.

Fast approaching is Year 10 work experience. This week resources were shared with students during coaching times about how to prepare for this and start looking for an opportunity in an area that interests them. I encourage all students in Year 10 to think about this over the break and start making enquiries.

In addition we launched our Flourish 8 initiative and many students in Year 10 have been logging and updating their personal contributions across the range of categories which has been great to see.

Our end term assembly was full of celebration and I am sure you will hear all about the donut eating competition and Christmas sing-along at lunchtime. There were so many students that got up to dance and sing. I really hope the students and their families have a lovely Christmas break and a well deserved rest after all their hard work this term.







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

### Head of Year Update - Year 11

What a fantastic half-term Year 11 have had! Our final Christmas term in Academy uniform, and what a busy one it's been. The half-term kicked off with our Revision Study Session which saw the whole cohort get some vital quick starter tips on how to prepare for the exams. We also issued over 1,000 revision guides across all subjects thanks to the generous support from the Chelsea Academy Foundation.

With preparation for the mock exams now well and truly underway, we launched our eagerly anticipated Study Groups - which match our students' individual progress towards their personalised targets. An astounding 26 students found themselves in Study Group 1, and subsequently found themselves enjoying a Dominos Lunch as a rewards and celebration of such a feat!

Our morning and afternoon intervention clubs have been a huge success. By the time of the start of the mocks, Year 11 registered over 1,200 attendance logs across the month - the highest any Year 11 cohort has managed!

However, now we find ourselves in the "eye of the storm": the mocks are underway. With 9 days of exams in the Sports Hall, we wish our Year 11 students all the very best. We are already awaiting our Mocks Results Day (Wednesday 17th January) and our Progress Evening (Thursday 18th January) with excitement and nerves.

Wishing our Year 11 student and family cohort all the very best for the Christmas period, and into 2024 and beyond.



**Study Skills Day, November 2023**

### Head of Year Update - Year 12

Hardly a lunchtime goes by when a colleague doesn't mention what a fantastic group year 12 is, often explaining what a pleasure it has been to be on a trip with them or seeing them in action in various different guises. A few of these 'special mentions' goes to our Grocer's Team who put on a fantastic performance in their competition, coming a close second place, and our STEM students, who went out to a lecture day at Imperial (see photo below). Showing their charitable natures, the CA rowers took part in a fun run for Fulham Reach Boat Club as well as their Friday night sessions, and our sixth form leaders have been leading a food bank donation drive in the run up to Christmas. During Period 5 enrichment on Wednesday's it is always a joy to see our Year 12s being such exemplary teachers to Year 8s in the guided reading session, it genuinely makes a difference to these younger students.





I also have the great pleasure of receiving feedback of what exemplary students Year 12s are in their lessons, their generally excellent attendance is matched by their focus in class and in their all important independent learning. Thank you for supporting your Year 12s so well at home. They have been enthusiastic at taking up the many opportunities advertised to them both as part of our Tuesday Lecture series, and on Google Classroom, such as open days and Oppidan mentoring.

Three fantastic Year 12s have been selected as Deputy Head Students, congratulations go to Basit, Natasha and Ernest, we look forward to seeing how you take forward this leadership opportunity.

We are all looking forward to Christmas Jumper Day at the end of term, raising funds for Save the Children.

Wishing all Year 12 students and their families a peaceful and restorative Christmas break,

Mrs Hogg  
**Head of Year 12**

### **Head of Year Update - Year 13**

This has been a busy half term with a huge focus on UCAS applications. I know I can speak for the whole of the Sixth Form team when I say that it has been enjoyable to hear about all of the future plans our students have. Some have been at Oxbridge interviews whilst others have had offers from fantastic universities.

Thank you to all of you who attended the Year 13 Progress Evening earlier this month. I hope that it provided a useful insight into how your son/daughter is getting on with their studies at this critical time in their Sixth Form career. It was nice to meet some of you for the first time in person after the previous virtual meetings.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to both Robert van-der Zwan and Sally Issa on their recent appointments as Head Students. This is a fantastic opportunity and I am confident that they will show excellent servant leadership skills and make the most of their time in the roles.

Our Sixth Form students are rounding off the calendar year with Christmas Jumper Day, raising funds for Save the Children - a worthy cause. I am looking forward to seeing our students return in January, refreshed and ready to learn. I wish everyone an enjoyable break and a Happy New Year!

Mr Hall

**Head of Year 13**

### **The Access Project**

Our students on The Access Project have made an impressive start to the academic year. We currently have 80 students from Year 10 to Year 13 on The Access Project who receive weekly tuition and academic mentoring. Students have had 334 hours of tutorials this term with Year 11 leading the way closely followed by Year 10! Our Year 13 students have worked hard on their UCAS applications and it is exciting to see them start to receive offers from excellent universities. Next term Year 10 are looking forward to visiting the University of Cambridge and each year group will continue to build on the fantastic work they have done. Well done everyone!

Miss Newman

**The Access Project Coordinator**

### **Florish 8**

As you are aware, our Academy vision is '*Learning Together to Flourish*'. This year we are particularly proud to launch our new **Flourish 8** award programme. **Flourish 8** encourages all students to actively engage in, reflect on, and take personal responsibility for recording the wide range of opportunities they are given to flourish during their time with us..

The programme allows each student to document their individual 'flourish experiences' under one of 8 different strands (hence the name 'Flourish 8') as shown below:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>F</b> | <i>Future Pathways</i>                         |
| <b>L</b> | <i>Learning Outside the Classroom</i>          |
| <b>O</b> | <i>Oracy</i>                                   |
| <b>U</b> | <i>Unique Achievements &amp; Opportunities</i> |
| <b>R</b> | <i>Responsibility &amp; Leadership</i>         |
| <b>I</b> | <i>Inspiring Change</i>                        |
| <b>S</b> | <i>Serving Others</i>                          |
| <b>H</b> | <i>House Contribution</i>                      |

### **How does Flourish 8 work?**



Every time your child submits a **Flourish 8** entry on the Student Calc they will be emailed - as will their parent or carer. Submitting entries will allow students to build their own personal record of 'beyond-the-classroom' achievements during their time at the Academy; a record that we believe will prove useful to them at key points in their Academy journey and beyond.

There will be an annual review of **Flourish 8** Forms, and **Flourish 8 badges** will be awarded to students who successfully complete each of the eight flourish strands. There is a unique badge for each year that your child is at the Academy. In addition, the most active 'Flourishers' will be recognised at our annual Awards Evening.

Ultimately, our aim is that **Flourish 8** will encourage all students to reflect meaningfully on how active they are in seizing the many opportunities that we make available to them. We want them to recognise that their own personal understanding of what it means to 'flourish' begins and ends, with themselves.

Mr Whitley  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Inclusion and DDSL**

**Library Update**

The Library has been alive with the sound of children this term. The graphic novels are always proving to be very popular and since our selection has grown, there has been a noticeable rise in the amount of students checking out books and taking an interest in reading. The students taking place in First Story are already halfway through the programme and they have created some outstanding pieces of writing that I cannot wait for everyone to read. Clubs this term have been extremely popular. In Book Club, we have been studying *The Sad Ghost Club* by Lize Meddings. It is a book about anxiety and was picked out by the students. It also has the longest wait list for students wanting to read, which speaks volumes as children are often drawn to stories that they resonate with. Sixth form have been reading *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman in their book club sessions which has been a very intriguing read, and has had them gripped; we are now moving on to book two. The seasonal Christmas club that was run this term has been incredibly popular and the students have had the best time creating things such as their own advent calendars, chocolate bombs and gingerbread houses. All of the new student librarians have earned their badges and are doing a fantastic job at showing up for their duties every week and helping to keep the library running smoothly; a huge thank you to all of them and we will definitely be doing something special at the beginning of next term to reward them for all of their hard work.

Ms Kempley  
**Librarian**

## Department Computing

The Year 8s have been putting their detective skills to use as they study cryptograph and codebreaking. They've learned about substitution ciphers such as morse, pigpen and caesar, along with codebreaking strategies such as frequency analysis to crack codes.



## Department Business and Economics

### **Bank of England**

Year 13 students visited the Bank of England attending a lecture on the role of monetary policy in the UK economy.



### **Grocers' competition 2023**

This year's team has achieved the silver trophy in Grocers' Awards 2023 against teams from Kingsley Academy and Mossbourne Academy. The team's pitch on their idea in solving student accommodation crisis through an app called "Unispace" was applauded by over 100 event delegates during the competition.

In preparation for the competition, the students have attended a public speaking workshop as well as a mock pitch at AMV BBDO's office in Southwark.



### **GCSE Business**

Year 10 students have come up with innovative business ideas to solve sustainability issues. Sustainability issues on fast fashion, deforestation, climate change, food waste and access to clean water were produced in the lesson.

### The problem

The fast fashion industry is a significant contributor to the climate crisis, responsible for as much as 10% of global carbon dioxide emissions. As much as 92 million tons of clothing ends up in landfills. Only 20% of textiles are collected for reuse or recycling globally.



### Shred Couture

Vivi Eshi Minnette Nicolle

### The solution

Our business will aim to use the scrap materials or the pieces of unwanted clothing that are being wasted by fast fashion brands such as Zara, H&M and Adidas and use it to create brand new clothes and create no waste products. All products will be 100% recycled to make sure it causes no harm to the environment.

## Department Music

Year 10 and 11 GCSE students were provided with tickets to watch the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall playing some of their GCSE set works courtesy of one of our governors, Julian Simmonds.

They were treated to works by Beethoven, Mozart and the grand finale of Lord of the rings played by the very same orchestra who recorded it for the film.



Our annual Christmas concert took place on Thursday 14th December. This was a lovely and festive celebration of all of our musical students ranging from piano solos and drumming club to the superstar choir that rehearses after school on a Monday. Students have been rehearsing since the start of September for the event. It was great to see many of you come and support your child and the Academy!

## Reflection

Over the past few weeks, our Academy community has been actively thinking about what



it truly means to be a "light to the world." This thought has guided our approach to various aspects of Academy life, emphasising the importance of empathy, kindness, and compassion towards others all within the Academy. As Christmas approaches, we have extended this message of 'sharing our light' by launching our annual Christmas Food-bank appeal.

This initiative has allowed our community to practically express our Christian values and provides an opportunity for our students, families, and staff to extend a helping hand to those who need it the most within our local community during this Christmas season. Through this collective effort, we can illuminate the lives of others with joy and foster a sense of interconnectedness and care, embodying the true spirit of Christmas.

In reflection of this, may the good Lord bless and keep you for all your charitable giving, and may you all have a wonderful Christmas break.

Mr Van-Kan

**Chaplain**

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