

Dear parents and carers,

Another busy fortnight at the Academy. I was lucky enough to attend the regional finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge last night and although our very own Chinyara did not win she did a brilliant and very articulate speech on perfume!

The Drama and Music departments have been busy with the final rehearsals for our exciting 2024 production of the Addams Family - playing next Thursday and Friday. Get your tickets if you haven't already as they are selling fast! Yesterday a contingent of students travelled to St Paul's Cathedral with our Chair of Governors to participate in the LDBS Schools' annual service and a number of our Sixth Formers have been working incredibly hard with Mr. Browning to put the finishing touches to our third Culture and Identity Day (21st February). I was very jealous of the trip to Eastbourne last week where Media and Art students saw the Turner Prize exhibition but sadly it was too cold for any other seaside activities!

Year 10 Work experience

If you have a child who is in Year 10, you will have been emailed by Mr Flitcroft, our Director of Careers, with some exciting information about the lead up to their Work Experience placements from 1st - 5th July 2024. The final deadline for students to finalise their work placements is 14th March 2024, and they have some tasks to help them identify opportunities. Please do speak to your child about what they would like to do. If you are a parent (with children in any year group) and you think you may be able to offer placements at your place of work, please get in touch with Mr Flitcroft to discuss this. We know how important it is for young people to experience the world of work, and any support from our local community is most welcome.

Measles immunisations reminder

In the last few weeks there has been an increase in the number of measles cases in our part of London. Measles is highly infectious. Spending just 15 minutes with someone infected with measles is enough to catch it. It can cause severe disease in some people, particularly pregnant women, unvaccinated children and people with weakened immune systems. Symptoms of measles are:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms
- small white spots in the mouth

The rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms. The rash starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. The spots of the measles rash are sometimes raised and join together to form blotchy patches. They're not usually itchy. The rash looks brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin. It's very unlikely to be measles if the child has had both doses of the MMR vaccine or they have had measles before. You can protect yourself or your child against measles by having 2 doses of the combined MMR vaccine for mumps, measles and rubella. Children are usually offered the first dose of MMR when they are about 13 months old and a second dose at 3 years and 4 months. I encourage you to check in your child's "Red Book" (Personal Child Health Record), or with your GP, to see that you and your children are up to date with your two MMR vaccinations. It's not too late to catch up if you or your child have not yet had the MMR vaccine. Contact your GP practice to check and arrange a vaccination appointment. There are two different MMR vaccines - Vaxpro and Priorix. Vaxpro contains gelatine but Priorix does not. Most healthcare providers in London will be using Priorix but you can ask your health care provider to confirm. If you think you or your child has measles, they must stay away from school or group activities with others, and you should telephone your GP or call NHS 111. To prevent further spread of infection please do not visit the GP surgery or A&E in person unless advised to do so.

Chaplain's Message

Our theme of the week has been 'utilising our skills' and our community has focused on various aspects of what it means to embrace every talent God has given us. One unanimous thought echoed throughout our reflections was that when we can neglect and shun who we truly are it inhibits the opportunity for God's love and joy through Christ to be at work in us. Therefore, my encouragement to you this week will be drawn from James 1:17, which reminds us that **"Every good and perfect gift is from above"**, so **"let your light shine"**! (Matthew. 5:16). May the peace of God be with you all this week.

And finally thank you for your support of LCCD last week and to those of you who came to the Academy last night to discuss your child's progress in Year 9 and hear more about our GCSE Options process. The deadline for nominations for our Parent Governor has now closed and I will be sharing names and voting process with you very shortly.

I hope you have a peaceful weekend and a restful half term break if you are lucky enough to be having some time off or are going away.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Useful dates

- Academy Production - The Addams Family - Thursday 8th February and Friday 9th February 2024, starts at 7.00pm (tickets available from Reception or on Parentpay)
- Last day of half term - Friday 9th February 2024
- Students return after half term holiday - Monday 19th February 2024 at 8.35am
- Culture and Identity Day - Wednesday 21st February 2024
- Year 12 Progress Evening - Thursday 22nd February 2024

Measles information

People who have symptoms should also especially try to stay away from vulnerable people such as babies, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.

- *People who have not been fully vaccinated with MMR vaccine and have been in close contact with a measles case may be asked to stay away from work or school for **up to 21 days to prevent the further spread of infection.***

Preventing measles

You can protect yourself or your child against measles by having 2 doses of the combined [MMR vaccine](#) for mumps, measles and rubella. The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective.

Children are usually offered the first dose of MMR when they are about 13 months old and a second dose at 3 years and 4 months. It's not too late to catch up if you or your child have not yet had the MMR vaccine. Contact your GP practice to check and arrange a vaccination appointment.

There are two different MMR vaccines - Vaxpro and Priorix. Vaxpro contains gelatine but Priorix does not. Most healthcare providers in London will be using Priorix but you can ask your health care provider to confirm. The school immunisation team only use Priorix.

Where can I find more information?

The following NHS websites have useful information on measles, MMR vaccines and vaccines in general:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/

Or you can call the NHS Northwest London School Immunisations team on: 0203 317 5076

One of our local GPs has also recorded a short [YouTube video on measles](#) and the MMR vaccine which you can watch by scanning the QR code:

Once again, I encourage you to check in your child's "Red Book" (Personal Child Health Record), or with your GP, to see that you and your children are up to date with your two MMR vaccinations.

Y10 8 Week Work Experience Challenge

As you know, we are looking forward to Year 10 work experience in the summer. Students will complete their placement:

1st - 5th July 2024

In these challenging times for our global economy it has never been more important for students to develop their employability skills and understanding of the world of work. Whether they plan to create their own businesses or work within outstanding institutions, the opportunity to get (often) their first experience of work is a vital first step towards a bright future.

In assembly this week we revisited our plans for work experience and have set every student in the year their own 8 week challenge to become a successful job seeker! In this way students will not only ensure that they can complete their work experience successfully, but also prove to themselves that they can generate opportunities in their own lives.

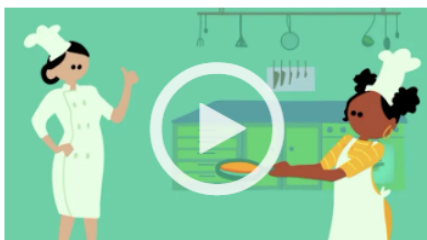
For this to be possible, each week on a Thursday Learning Coaches will provide tips, tricks, activities and encouragement to ensure every student finds and submits details of their work experience by our revised final deadline:

Thursday 14th March 2024

Over the next 8 weeks, students, with the support of family, friends and their wider community must now:

- 1. Research companies they would like to approach for work experience*
- 2. Make contact with companies via email/telephone/web portal/in person*
- 3. Follow up on all contacts made*
- 4. Secure a placement (the manager etc. confirms they will accept the student)*
- 5. Submit details of their **confirmed** placement on Unifrog*

Unifrog is an online platform the Academy subscribes to in order to support every element of students' career development. Unifrog includes a work placement tool and this is the only system we use to manage the process. Ask your son or daughter to tell you more about Unifrog. If you click on the image below you will see a short video that explains the placements tool further.



How to... use the Placements tool

Here's how our Placements tool works

[How the placements tool works](#)

In order to kick off our 8 week work experience challenge in style, please take the time to speak with your son or daughter about their plans for work experience.