

Friday 8th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I am just finishing up some delicious coconut cake - sold as part of some of our sixth formers' fundraising initiative for Save the Children and their appeal to support humanitarian aid in Gaza. Thank you to staff and students for leading on this bake sale and to those of you who either supervised your children baking, or baked yourself!

This week we were also delighted to host four curates who are half way through their three year Church of England curacy training. They have had a real insight into what goes on in the week of a busy inner city academy and were so impressed by our wonderful students and their confidence.

Mr. Flitcroft has been incredibly busy all week with National Careers Week; we have had employers at the Academy running workshops and speaking with students as well as a number of exciting visits out to ICG (a private equity investment firm in the City) thanks to our partnership with The Access Project; a brilliant STEM Fair at Hampton School as well as a unique visit to Morley College's Centre for Creative Industries, which is right on our doorstep. The excitement continues next week with all of Year 10 participating in mock interviews. This was an excellent experience last year and really helped our Y10 students focus on their work experience in the summer term. If you are a Y10 parent/ carer, please don't forget we also have our Y10 Progress Evening coming up on Thursday evening.

You will know that attendance has been a priority for the government in the last year and this week the government issued further guidance on what schools and local authorities should do to ensure that our children's attendance is as high as it possibly can be. I have written to you on a number of occasions about the need to ensure that our attendance rate is high. Thank you to those of you who are so supportive. I am delighted that within the group of six secondary schools in RBKC we are ranked 2nd for attendance. However we have yet to return to our excellent pre pandemic attendance levels and so we have work to do! Please note that wherever possible medical appointments should be made out of school hours and that your child should attend school either side of the appointment. As we approach the Easter holidays, please note that I am not permitted to authorise term time absences unless it is for an exceptional reason.

And finally I want to wish those of you marking the start of Ramadan a blessed and peaceful period of observance over the next six weeks.

Chaplain's message

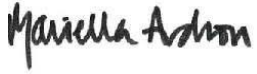
As you might already be aware, Ramadan is starting at the end of this week and Lent is almost halfway through. Though originating from different religious traditions, both traditions share several parallel aspects in their observance that we could all learn from. For example, both fasting periods involve a time of deep spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and increased devotion to one's faith.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, abstaining from food, drink and many other physical needs as a means of purifying the soul, practising self-discipline, and empathizing with the less fortunate. Similarly, Lent, observed by Christians, involves fasting, prayer, and penance, typically lasting for forty days in commemoration of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In thought of this, regardless of what faith you may believe in, I pray that this season of reflection causes moments of spiritual formation and encouragement for you all.

May the peace of Christ be with you all Richly.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Useful dates

- Science Week at Chelsea Academy - continues Monday 11th March
- Year 10 Mock interview morning - Wednesday 13th March
- Year 10 Progress Evening - 4pm to 7.30on Thursday 14th March
- Year 8 HPV Vaccinations - Monday 25th March
- Year 11 Futures Morning - Wednesday 27th March
- Church Service - Wednesday 27th March
- Last day of term (12 noon finish) - Thursday 28th March

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.

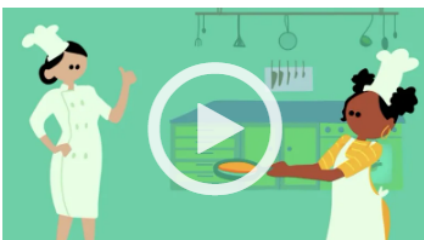
For this to be possible, each week on a Thursday Learning Coaches will provide tips, tricks, activities and encouragement to ensure every student finds and submits details of their work experience by our revised final deadline:

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.