



Anchor and Flourish

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December 2024

Message from the Principal

As 2024 draws to a close, I am delighted to share this half term's edition of Anchor and Flourish with you. There is so much going on at the Academy as celebrated in this publication. In light of our very recent SIAMS inspection and report, it shows that the flourishing of our students really is at the centre of all that we do. Our vision: *Learning together to flourish* guides our rigorous academic focus as well as our unrivalled pastoral care. Vice Principal, Mr. Eagleton's section on our mission: Work Hard Be Kind No Excuses shares the exciting new work we have been doing. We want to really develop that sense of belonging for all our students so that they want to be at the Academy, enabled to flourish and live their life to the full.

This month we say goodbye to Ms. Winterton, leaving the UK for Australia; to Ms. Koerner, moving to a role nearer home; Ms. Strang, our administrator, Ms. Luhar & Mr. Quemby in Science. Thank you to all of these staff for their hard work and contribution.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas sharing in the joy of Jesus' birth - and a relaxing break. We look forward to seeing your child on Tuesday 7th January at 8.35am for the start of the spring term.

Mariella Ardron
Principal

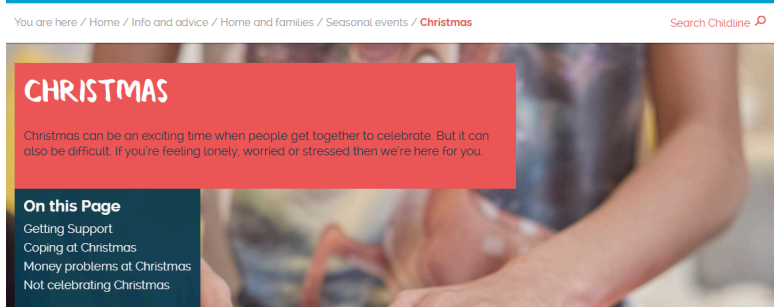
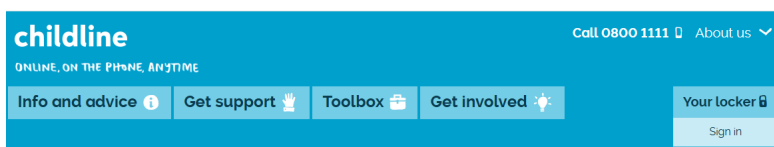
Keeping your child safe

By Parminder Sidhu - Safeguarding Lead

Coping at Christmas

Christmas is an exciting time for many of our students, who look forward to two weeks away from school and celebrating with family members. However, we are aware that for some families two weeks of unstructured time (sometimes in a crowded environment) can bring pressures of its own. Please see this Childline website which provides useful advice and tips for young people and their parents on how to best cope with the pressures that this time of year can sometimes bring.

We wish all of our students and their families a very happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful new year.



Academic Update

By **Dr David Greene - Acting Vice Principal**

Students in all year groups have continued to benefit from our broad curriculum offer. For this Academic Update we have focused on what students have been doing in English and Technology.

Year 7 students have enjoyed studying myths, legends and Bible stories, particularly looking at how biblical imagery and metaphors feature in subsequent western literature. Such imagery can be seen in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, which Year 8 has been studying this term - a number of students have been given the opportunity to attend a rewards trip to Dickens' house. Year 9 are currently reading *The Purple Hibiscus*, a coming-of-age novel which addresses the issues of identity, gender and violence in post-colonial Nigeria. At Key Stage 4, Year 10 students have been studying *Macbeth* which is one of the core GCSE texts.

In Technology, a wide range of topics have been studied at Key Stage 3. For example, Year 7 classes have been studying types of timber, with a particular focus on how this resource can be produced sustainably. Students have been developing their practical skills by developing and making timber toy boats.



Year 9 students have been developing their knowledge of computer-aided design and 3D printing which they have used to design and build robotic grabbers.

Year 11 and 13 students are working hard on the controlled assessment component of their exam courses. At this stage they have been focussing on developing and refining prototypes that will inform the design of their final product. We wish them luck as they move nearer to the summer exams.

Ukraine Coffee Morning

By **Valentina Alvino - EAL Coordinator and Deputy Head of Year 7**

On Friday 29th November, we welcomed our Ukrainian families for coffee and cake. It was great to hear how happy and supported our Ukrainian students feel at Chelsea Academy, where we learn together to flourish. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and for the warmth and kindness you showed us. It was truly a memorable event, and we are so glad that you feel part of the diverse Chelsea Academy community.



Careers

By **James Flitcroft** - Director of Careers and Deputy Head of Year 12 and 13

We have enjoyed another successful start to the academic year and we remain grateful to the wide range of partners and community supporters that make this possible; not to mention the impressive work of our students and the care and support from families and loved ones.

Amongst a number of vital initiatives for various year groups, it was also a pleasure to bring a select group of Y10 students to the HQ of Snapchat in London. Thanks to *Making the Leap* and their partnership with SuitUp (New York) we were invited to the London HQ for a day filled with career readiness programming with career panels and a business competition. Students were coached by Snap on solving a real-world challenge and then given the opportunity to pitch their idea to a panel of judges, with some students from Chelsea Academy coming home with special edition AR glasses from Rayban as a prize!



Alongside opportunities such as these, Y13 students have been working tirelessly on their applications to UK and international universities along with Degree Apprenticeships. Students have already been called to interview for courses at Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College as well as a call to interview for Amazon's prestigious Degree Apprenticeship programme. We wish you all the very best of luck!

Thanks to support from the CAF and their networks we also held a successful mock interview evening with business leaders and Oxbridge Alumni for students in the 6th Form.

It was a pleasure to see Y11 students and families during our 6th form information evening where we asked you about your plans after GCSEs! Don't forget to visit the [Y11 transition website](#) and submit info on your three (or more) college and/or 6th Form applications.

It is a busy year as always for Y10 and we are excited to have launched our work experience programme for this year where all students will complete the placements from Weds 2nd - Fri 4th July 2025. Work experience is impossible without your support, so if you can help, please provide details [here](#).



Lastly, it was a privilege to once again host over 90 careers interviews for Y9 students via videolink thanks to our partnership with an amazing charity called My Big Career. Remember, later this academic year Y9 students will choose their GCSE options so this was a wonderful opportunity before the process begins in earnest in the Spring

Chelsea Academy Foundation

By Laura Hitchcock -Fundraising and Development Manager

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Giving Tuesday campaign, we are very grateful for your contributions! We hope that you learned more about how the Foundation supports students and the wider community at the Academy. This year, we raised money for Life Skills programmes, including Debate Mate, Duke of Edinburgh, Oppidan Peer Mentoring, and more. Life skills develop better communication, active listening, teamwork, leadership, decision making, problem solving, prioritising, and resilience. These skills are key to future success and help our students to flourish on whichever path they choose.

This term, the Foundation developed and launched two new Life Skill programmes - a Cooking Masterclass and a Business Enterprise Mentorship Project, offering students a chance to learn transferable skills that they can use beyond the classroom.



Student speakers and writers started this year's Debate Mate and First Story programmes, and the rowers have been out on the Thames - all sponsored by the Foundation. We supported an A Level business and economics curriculum trip to Barcelona. The Foundation also organised mock interview practice with 18 volunteers conducting over 60 interviews for our sixth form students to help prepare for university, apprenticeship and work experience interviews.

The Foundation also just launched the Chelsea Academy Alumni Network, which will provide a terrific way for our students to stay connected to the Academy, friends, and teachers and will provide opportunities for alumni to give back to Chelsea Academy.



If you would like to donate to the Foundation to ensure programmes like these continue, please click [here](#).

This Autumn has been a busy and exciting term. We look forward to what the New Year will bring. The Foundation wishes the entire Chelsea Academy community a healthy and happy holiday season!

Culture & Identity Day

By Eliza Hagan - KS5 Learning Mentor & EDI Lead

Culture & Identity Day continued to be a success this year! The 4TheCulture Sixth Form Leaders worked very hard to advertise, plan and deliver multiple year-group celebrations in the theatre throughout the day. The team has grown from strength to strength with a successful handover from their predecessors and the guidance of Ms Hagan, our EDI Lead planning the staffing and logistics of the day and various staff-led lunchtime activities. Students and staff had novel ideas for this year's C&I Day, notably the introduction of an Inter-House cooking and food-tasting competition- collectively won by four students in Faraday! Students brought in cooked food from home, and gave presentations of their dish's cultural and historical significance to our staff panel of 6 staff judges and hosts Ms Kempley and Ms Bakumba.

This year we introduced a student photographer to document the day, this provided a unique professional development opportunity for one of our Sixth form students pursuing the film and media industries. She received a formal written brief detailing the amount and characteristics of professional photographs required. These professional quality photographs have been displayed around The Academy and on our X page.

Overall students enjoyed various cultural activities, from Bollywood Dance workshops to North African & Arab cultural appreciation and Decoding Australian slang. Our staff came together to provide a well-rounded culturally enriching experience for our student body.

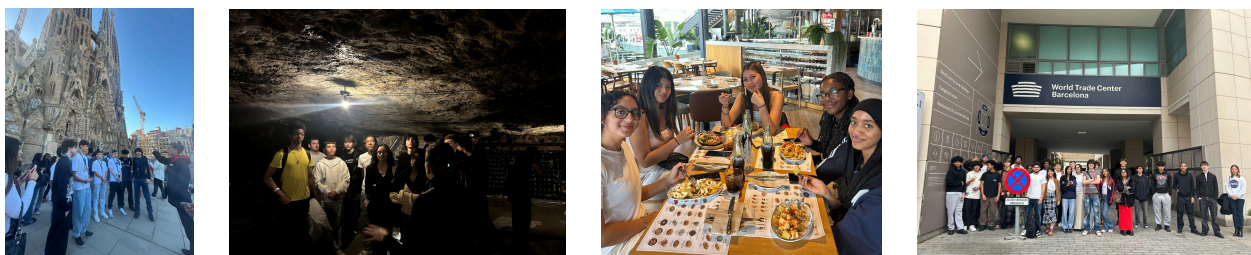


Business and Economics CA Residential Trip to Barcelona

By Priya Ramnauth Year 13 (A-Level Business/Economics student)

On the week commencing the 16th to the 19th November 2024, the cohort of both Business and Economics students were given the special opportunity to go to Barcelona. This had consisted of incredibly exciting activities in order to strengthen our already existing knowledge and apply it to real life.

Despite our trip being heavily focused on Business and Economics, we did a lot of other activities such as going to the beach; learning about the ports of Barcelona; shopping (a lot) and learning to be with each other on our trip. I loved this trip as it enabled me to talk to new people, share some experiences that I won't ever forget for the rest of my life; core moments that will always be associated with my sixth form memories forever. It allowed us all to share our personalities away from the Academy environment, in a new place. Enhancing collaboration skills, it was magical watching new friendships unfold; watching people talk to others that they usually wouldn't. I am so grateful for the opportunity of being able to go on this trip, the people that went were incredible and we all had the best time together. Trying new foods, seeing a new culture, coming together as one team has been very inspirational to me and I'd like to thank all of the teachers — especially to Miss Samia, Miss Bakumba and Mr. Findlay. We all appreciate you so much! Thank you for working hard on this trip, it was very fun being able to learn in an interactive and dynamic place. I know that I speak for all of us when I say that we will appreciate this for the rest of our lives. Every one of us. We are all incredibly appreciative and lucky to have dedicated and wonderful teachers.



Grocer's Academy Awards 2024

Congratulations to Year 12 students who presented their app aiming to solve the issues of social isolation and inactivity within their community at the 2024 Grocers Hall Awards. Judges included Apprentice winner Tim Campbell and industry experts. Thank you to our mentors, representatives from Guinness Ventures, AMV BBDO and champion entrepreneur Charlotte Lo. We are extremely proud of all the hard work and effort!



Library Update

By Nicole Kempley - Librarian

We have had another busy start to the term in the library, with library sessions, the start up of the First Story writing programme, and 6th form book club. During the book club with years 12 and 13 we have focused on reading our own books rather than one as a collective and have shared our stories and opinions with each other, which has created a long list of must reads for all of us. We studied myths and legends in year 7 exploring different stories from different mythologies around the world, and in year 8 being inspired by the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflokkur, we shared some festive tales from A Scandinavian Christmas. As you prepare for the Christmas break, I hope you find the opportunity to read your own tales, Christmas or otherwise.

Here is a list of my recommended reads for the season:

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens- The ultimate holiday classic.

Let it Snow- A collection of best selling holiday stories from three popular YA authors.

A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig- A tale of adventure, snow, kidnapping, elves, more snow, and an eleven-year-old boy called Nikolas, who isn't afraid to believe in magic.

The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander- From the bestselling author of Crossover and Booked comes another lyrically written story about coming of age. When a sudden death occurs during a festival between rival villages, Kofi ends up fighting for his life. His world is changed forever and there is no return.

Wish of The Wicked by Danielle Paige- A dark spin on fairy Godmothers in this new YA series. For centuries, the enchanted members of the Entente used their magic to keep the Thirteen Queendoms in harmony. Until the day that Queen Magrit outlawed magic, executed the Entente, and plunged the queendoms into war.

Such Charming Liars by Karen M McManus- A thriller. When mother/daughter scam artists set out on their final heist, things take a dangerous and personal turn.

King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessor- A new hilarious and heartwarming teen comedy. When the school King meets the school loser. A story about toxic masculinity and unexpected friendship.

Songlight by Moira Buffini- A new dystopian tale set in the future where some humans have developed a telepathic sixth sense and are persecuted for it.



Happy Holidays and Happy Reading!

CFCF Standing Together

By Honor Thomson - Chelsea Champion - Health and Wellbeing

Four year 9 students made it to the 'Standing Together' Campaign final at Stamford Bridge with the Chelsea Football Club Foundation last week. They presented 'TheyCanPlay2', a powerful campaign, with the key message that girls can play football too, as well as raising awareness that sexism in all sports will not be tolerated. They secured second place! Very powerful, well done, Teddie, Anthony, Jonah and Kirill.



The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme, recognises and celebrates outstanding young people who have gone above and beyond to achieve. Awards mean different things to different people. The Achievement Awards are not solely for academic achievement: they may be used to recognise a personal triumph for someone who has faced a challenge; a young person who has pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone or it may be an opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of a team player. Students are nominated by their peers. The winners receive a certificate, Jack Petchey award pin and £300 to be spent on additional activities, such as trips, or new equipment for the school. We are all greatly saddened to hear that Sir Jack Petchey recently passed away but continue to be incredibly grateful for his legacy.

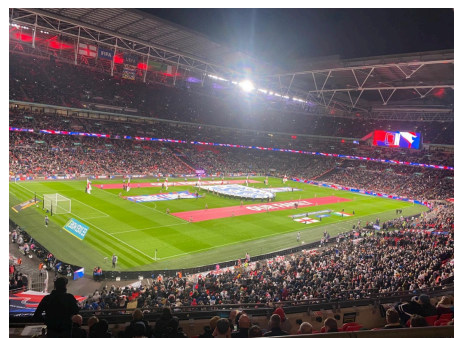
Congratulations to all our fantastic students who have gone above and beyond for our school and the wider community. Below are this school terms winners:

SEPTEMBER: Danyal, Year 9 Galileo

OCTOBER: Helen, Year 10 Galileo

NOVEMBER: Masilya, Year 9 Lister

Thanks to all the Jack Petchey award winners' this term. To date, the PE department had the pleasure of taking a small group of students to watch England vs Ireland at Wembley Stadium, thanks to Danyal who won in September.



Work Hard, Be Kind, No Excuses

By David Eagleton - Vice Principal

At Chelsea Academy we believe that a shared student culture makes sure students build the habits of mind and heart that allow them to flourish. It is formed by repeated practice: using every minute of every day to build good habits.

Across the course of this Autumn term we have worked with students, all staff and governors to carefully consider the explicit meaning behind each of the strands of our mission statement... to Work Hard, to Be Kind and No Excuses! Our mission statement is our defined, shared agreement of exactly what we are doing in order to achieve our vision. It embodies what we stand for and how we are accomplishing it.

Currently, these powerful phrases can potentially mean very different things to each of our students. We are determined to establish a shared, whole academy, understanding of each of the strands. To support students in this, as we move into half term three, staff will use a common language (shared below) in relation to each of our mission statement strands so that students have a clear guideline regarding the behaviours expected of them in their interactions with fellow students, staff and our wider community.

As integral members of our wider Academy community we would welcome any comment or suggestion relating to the intended language for each of the strands and very much appreciate your support in helping students to uphold our shared culture throughout their time at the Academy.

During **all** learning opportunities: At Chelsea Academy we **WORK HARD**

Active listening: Working hard means actively listening to our teachers and classmates so that we show that we value the opinions of others and can confidently understand what we need to do.

Active engagement: Working hard means being actively involved in class discussion, asking questions to build our understanding and contributing to paired or group activities.

Fearless learning: Working hard doesn't feel easy. When we find something difficult we show resilience and seek support if needed. We grasp opportunities presented to us. We have a growth mindset - there is no such thing as "I can't." Instead "I cannot yet".

Give 100%: Working hard means attempting all tasks to the best of our ability. This includes taking pride in the quality of our work. We strive for excellence.

During **all** our interactions: At Chelsea Academy we strive to **BE KIND**

Words matter: Being kind means understanding the impact our words can have on others. We think about both what we say *and* how we say it before we speak.

Part of one community: Being kind means we have a shared agreement that our values, systems and rules are applied equitably to all - so that we all can flourish. We show we care about everyone in our community with no judgement.

Celebrate success: Being kind means we take time to praise the successes of our peers. We know that by doing so we create a culture where we are inspired by each other's example.

Kindness to self: Being kind means we take care of ourselves mentally and emotionally so that we can recover from adversity and bring our best self to every interaction.

In **all** elements of Academy life: At Chelsea Academy we embrace a culture of **NO EXCUSES**

Come prepared: There are no excuses that get in the way of our learning. We arrive on time to the Academy and to lessons. We follow instructions when asked. We have the right equipment and mindset to be successful in each of our lessons.

Strive for our best: There are no excuses that get in the way of us constantly improving. We actively engage with feedback, recognise our areas for development and make plans to address them.

Accept accountability: We own the choices we make, the words we use and the actions we follow. We accept and understand that consequences are a marker for us to improve. We think before we say "not me, not my fault."

Mistakes happen: If we don't acknowledge our mistakes we stop ourselves from learning from them. We accept that we all will make mistakes. The key is that we allow ourselves to learn from them by asking "what can I do differently next time?"

Christmas card competition

Congratulations to Kensal Year 9 and Masa Y9, who are the winners of the Chelsea Academy Foundation Christmas card contest! Their fantastic artwork will feature on our Foundation Christmas cards and in the Foundation newsletter. The competition was strong, so thank you to all the students who submitted their artwork.



Reflection

By Rev Dwight van Kan - Chaplain

As we approach the end of Advent and the dawn of the Christmas season, we are reminded of God's deep love for us and the invitation to share that love with others. At Chelsea Academy, we've already begun to put this into practice through several initiatives that reach out to those in need. Our Shoebox Appeal has been a wonderful way to send gifts to some of the most vulnerable in our local community, with boxes going to St. Luke's & Christ Church for distribution. We've also collected donations for local food banks in Chelsea, Fulham, and the K&C area, helping ensure that struggling families have enough food this Christmas.

Last week we had the chance to come together and support one another even more through our bake sale, where the funds raised continue to support our Academy Charity 'Save the Children. Then on the 19th of December, we'll gather for our Year 7 Eucharist Assembly. The next day, we'll come together for our annual Christmas Carol service. These moments of worship and celebration remind us of God's great love in sending His Son, and they also invite us as a community to renew our own commitment to love and care for others. As we share our gifts, prayers, and time this Christmas, may we bring the light of Christ into our community. Let us show that God's love isn't just something we celebrate but something we live by.

May the blessings of Christ be upon you all this Christmas Season.

FREE FOR FAMILIES
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE
SCHOOL MEALS

HEALTHY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Stay active, eat well, have fun!

ACTIVITIES AND FOOD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Make the most of spring, summer
and winter school holidays



Find out more and book
a place by scanning the
QR code below or
visiting:

[ourcity.org.uk](https://ourcity.org.uk/haf-programme)
[/haf-programme](https://ourcity.org.uk/haf-programme)



SCAN ME

There's lots to do in Westminster
and Kensington and Chelsea during
the school holidays.

Sports, music, dance, arts and crafts, and
inclusive SEND activities - everyone can
join the fun!

You'll also get a healthy meal
and snacks each day you
attend.




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