

Friday 9th May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

As I write this letter this morning, most of Year 8 will be completing their last activity down in Bournemouth as part of the annual Y8 Land & Wave trip. Thanks to all the amazing staff who gave up time to go on this trip. I think they will find the return coach trip significantly quieter than the one that left the Academy on Wednesday morning! This trip was subsidised by the Chelsea Academy Foundation (CAF) and I know some of you attended the CAF 'Thank you' event on Wednesday evening. It was a wonderful celebration of all that the CAF has been able to support. Thanks to the trustees and the Chair.

Public examinations have started and we will now have a very dense month of exams - especially the GCSEs. Please keep our students in your prayers and thoughts. The outcomes of these exams have the potential to be life changing for our young people and many have worked incredibly hard for the last few years.

We have made some changes to our Uniform policy from September. This is in readiness to expected government changes around the number of branded items a school can insist on. We also believe that our policy continues to ensure you are not being 'fleeced' for unnecessary and over-priced branded items of uniform. The most significant change is that **from September** the Academy bag is not compulsory and students can instead have a dark coloured, plain rucksack.

We are doing some really exciting work on the Academy's Coaching Time at the moment. This is a powerful 20 minute daily mid morning slot and we want to ensure students are getting the most out of this time. This is also the slot where we deliver Collective Worship and assemblies.

**A message from our Chaplain - Rev. van Kan**

*This week, our theme has been about exercising self-control. It's something we see our young people grappling with daily, just as we do ourselves. We reflected on **2 Timothy 1:7**, which reminds us that God has given us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. It strikes me how these qualities are all intertwined. That inner strength isn't just about saying 'no' to certain things, but it's also about choosing love and making thoughtful decisions, even when it's tough. It's about empowering our children – and ourselves – to navigate the world with intention and care.*

*Therefore, I pray that the peace of Christ be with you all for the week ahead.*

Enjoy the weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron  
Principal

**Upcoming and important dates**

Monday 12th May -	A level exams start
Tuesday 13th May -	HPV vaccinations for Year 8
Friday 23rd May -	Academy closes for half term at usual time
Mon 23rd - Fri 30th May -	Half term - Academy closed to all students