



Anchor and Flourish

Website: chelsea-academy.org

October 2025

Message from the Principal

As I write this the evening before publication, outside is looking dark and rather gloomy but yet the Academy is very much full of light and alive with the sound of students leaving clubs, Y11 intervention sessions or rehearsals for our 2026 Academy production: Sister Act!

This half term is always the hardest to get through for students and staff alike so well done to your child for getting through but also to you. I know it is not always easy getting our young people out of bed and ready for school each morning. On that note the Academy's attendance figures are very much heading in the right direction after a disappointing end to 2024/25. We know this is a direct result of the partnership working with you as parents and carers and to us all in acknowledging the need for young people to be at the Academy to learn and flourish. Thank you for all your encouragement and support. Lots and lots of brilliant Academy action to read about in this first edition of Anchor and Flourish this year.

I hope that your child has a good rest over the half term break. We are already looking forward to seeing them back on Monday 3rd November at the normal time of 8.35am. Please make sure uniform is perfect. Blazers on, no white socks unless as part of the PE kit and a reminder that all hair accessories must be black.

Our Academy vision is that by learning together we all flourish because we are not only anchored in Christ, but anchored in all we do here.

Happy half term!

Mariella Ardron, Principal

Chelsea Academy Awards Evening

By **Mr Daverat - Associate Assistant Principal and Senior Pastoral Leader**

We celebrated our wonderful, annual Awards evening on 11th September. There were over a hundred nominations for students that had either excelled academically; made significant progress in a subject area; or who had embodied our Academy values and then two special awards: The Principal's Gold Award and the Chelsea Academy Foundation Award. It was super hard for Curriculum Leaders and Heads of Years to pick the final winners but they managed to do so in the end. Thank you to all the families who came to support and cheer on their young person.



Heads of Year Message



Year 7, welcome to Chelsea Academy! It has been such a joy welcoming the new Year 7 into the Academy and seeing them getting stuck into the Academy life in and outside of the classroom. Some of Year 7 were excellent helpers during our Open Evening and one student even gave a speech to the parents. As well as a range of activities as part of our Extended Curriculum, Year 7 will also participate in a wide range of trips, cultural and identity day, inter-house competitions, our Academy musical, join the student leadership team and take part in a variety of workshops throughout the academic year.

The **Year 8** students have made an excellent start to the academic year, quickly adapting to the fast-paced environment after the summer break. I am particularly impressed by their high levels of engagement, focus, and hard work in lessons; their positive attitude is a real credit to them. Beyond the classroom, many students have embraced the extracurricular clubs on offer and are already contributing ideas for Culture Day in November. Furthermore, the Year 8 team has begun preparations for the Spring 2026 residential trip, which promises exciting experiences and lasting memories.



Welcome back! **Year 9** has had a wonderful start, achieving much in a few weeks, including celebrating Black History Month and Mental Health Day, and successfully setting goals during the recent LCCD. While much has changed—new friendships, teachers, and classes—the community remains strong. As a very important milestone approaches (GCSE Options for Year 10), please take a moment this week to discuss with your child which subjects they might like to continue studying. This big decision will shape their final school years, and your input is invaluable. Thank you for your continued support.



Welcome to the GCSE journey, **Year 10**. Our students have shown an excellent start, demonstrating maturity, commitment, and a strong work ethic, with impressive progress in attendance and positive attitudes towards learning. As the half-term ends they will sit their first set of GCSE assessments as preparation for the years ahead. Students are encouraged to focus especially on revising for Religious Education (RE), as their RE mock exam is scheduled for December. All Year 10s must bring their received school laptops in every day to support their studies. We are proud of how this year group has embraced the start of their GCSEs and look forward to their continued success.

Welcome to **Year 11**. It's been a fantastic return as our students begin their most challenging year. We started with fantastic praise for students who achieved outstanding RE GCSE grades of 8 or 9 over the summer. We then celebrated committed learners by issuing Study Group 1 badges, giving them a lunch queue jump privilege! We've held a round of Maths, English, and Science exams, with many learners achieving fantastic progress. We now await the busy months leading up to the Mock Exams. The Learning Coach Consultation Day helped students set focused academic targets, and we look forward to the Year 11 Expectations Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening in November.



It's been a pleasure to watch **Year 12** students settle into the sixth form over the first seven weeks, exploring passions and new fields through a wide range of lessons and enrichment. Our weekly lectures have exposed students to diverse careers, featuring inspiring guest speakers like the RBKC Council Leader, a major London law firm partner, and CitiBank representatives. Thrillingly, Year 12 currently has the best attendance in the school, a testament to their dedication. The second half of the term brings continued growth: the introduction of Unifrog for post-18 pathways; holistic development via the Flourish programme (including RE for ethical reflection); serving as school ambassadors; and the Head and Deputy Head student election. I look forward to nurturing their academic and pastoral development through these next steps.

It was great to see so many **Year 13** parents and carers at the recent Learning Coach Consultation Day, where a central focus was the drafting and completion of personal statements. The deadline for early applications to highly competitive fields like Oxbridge, Medicine, and Dentistry has passed. Students targeting these specialist courses demonstrated considerable focus, managing aptitude test prep alongside their A-Level studies. The Sixth Form team now looks forward to receiving applications from the remainder of the cohort over the coming months and providing dedicated assistance for those pursuing apprenticeship routes. I look forward to supporting them throughout their final year at the Academy.



Academic Update

By Ms Marshall - Vice Principal

We have had a successful start to the year and all students have risen to the challenge in their academic pursuits, especially our year 7 and 12 cohorts who have settled well into the Academy. This long first term sees students learning the bulk of the foundations of each of their subjects, and they will finish off this first half term reflecting on their progress through feedback from their first set of assessments. Our year 11 cohort will now be thinking ahead to the mock exams that will take place at the end of this term which will give an early indication of their performance in the summer. We wish them luck as they begin their preparations for these over the coming weeks.

Our fantastic teachers have been focusing on disciplinary literacy in the classroom this half term, and this work will continue throughout the year. Disciplinary literacy recognises that each subject has its own unique language, and that reading, writing and listening are at the heart of success in a subject. Using evidence informed research, teachers are following recommendations of how to teach vocabulary and reading for fluency so that students have maximum opportunity to succeed. We readily encourage you to strengthen this by engaging your child in reading for pleasure at home.



Year 12: Grocers' Awards 2025 Launch

By Miss Samia - Business and Economics Curriculum Leader

This half-term, year 12s attended the launch of Grocers' Awards 2025. This year's brief is to create a product that will encourage individual aspirations and boost job opportunities for young people. The competition will be held at the end of November where Chelsea Academy students will compete against Mossbourne Community Academy and Kingsley Academy. The winners of the first round will go to the finals to present at the Mansion House to the Lord Mayor.



Year 13 Psychology Trip: Jack the Ripper Tour and the Royal Courts of Justice

By Mrs Wilkinson - Teacher of Psychology and Deputy Head of Year 11

On the 25th September, our Year 13 Psychology students took part in an exciting and educational trip to support their understanding of criminal behaviour. Led by myself, with the support of Ms Kulici and Ms Hagan, the day began with a Jack the Ripper tour through East London - a chilling but fascinating exploration of one of history's most notorious criminals.

We then headed to the Royal Courts of Justice, where students took part in a mock trial based on a real case. The activity leader praised their performance as the best she's ever seen – a real testament to their preparation, enthusiasm and understanding of the subject matter.

A special well done to David, who convincingly played the victim, and to our impressive prosecution and defence teams: Quezia, Ellis, Badriyah, Elianna, Ahmed and Fathi – all of whom fully embodied their courtroom roles.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning that brought psychology to life in a memorable way.



CFCF Standing Together

By Ms Thomson - Chelsea Champion - Health and Wellbeing

This term, a select group of Chelsea Academy students had a powerful experience at Stamford Bridge, participating in the 'Standing Together' campaign. This vital club initiative is focused on tackling racism and discrimination both in football and the wider community. Beyond addressing these challenges, the program actively engages students in unique workshops and activities designed to highlight and celebrate diversity. Crucially, the students collaborated directly with leading experts from anti-discrimination organisations, including Hope Not Hate and Kick It Out, gaining valuable insights and tools to become future advocates.



BHM dance and drumming workshop

By Ms Hagan - Sixth Form Learning Mentor and EDI Lead

In celebration of Black History Month, four year groups took part in a series of interactive East African dance and drumming performances led by the ACD Arts Company. Students had a great time trying on traditional clothing and learning about Ugandan history and traditions through dance and drumming. Additionally, a select group of 40 students participated in hands-on workshops where they learned to play the djembe, namunjoloba, and empuunyi drums. These sessions gave students a tangible experience of East African culture, helping them gain a deeper appreciation of its rich heritage. Separately, at the start of the month, 4TheCulture also delivered thoroughly researched assemblies on historical and present-day Black British figures, highlighting their important contributions across various fields linked to the theme of *Standing Firm in Power and Pride*. Our Academy community looks forward to continuing these celebrations and learning opportunities throughout the month.

Beyond Black History Month, other key initiatives are well underway. Our Chelsea Champion, Ms Thomson, has been leading exciting community cohesion and anti-discrimination themed campaign building and oracy development sessions for a select number of students as part of our Standing Together Project.



Students Inspired at Citi's Women's Roundtable

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

I was delighted to accompany 20 of our female students to the Citi E for Education Women's Roundtable Event at their Canary Wharf offices on Wednesday, 8th October. This fantastic opportunity allowed our students to network with and learn from senior women in the financial sector.

The event was designed to help pupils build confidence and learn more about careers in finance. Our students participated brilliantly in all activities, which were facilitated by Teach First. They asked insightful, prepared questions during a panel session and contributed thoughtfully to a roundtable discussion about the experiences of women and girls in school and the workplace.

A major highlight of the day was a tour of the Citi offices, which included a visit to the fast-paced trading floor.

The students were fantastic ambassadors for Chelsea Academy, engaging with professionals in an open forum. This unique experience has undoubtedly provided them with valuable insights as they consider their future career paths.



Year 12s Gain Insight at Lloyd's of London

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

On Friday, 10th October, a group of our Year 12 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the iconic Lloyd's of London building for an Insight Day. The event was hosted by Lloyd's and LIIBA (London & International Insurance Business Association), and facilitated by Future First.

The day was designed to give students a comprehensive introduction to the insurance industry. Our students engaged brilliantly in networking preparation sessions before participating in group chats with industry professionals.

A key highlight was attending the 'Dive-In' Careers Conference, which took place on the famous main underwriting floor. This gave them a unique, real-time view of the market and the chance to speak directly with underwriting and broking firms about diverse career paths.

Our students were excellent ambassadors for the academy, making valuable connections. We are also thrilled that following the event, up to eight students from the participant pool will be selected for a prestigious 4-week Lloyds Mentorship Programme to support their future aspirations. This was an invaluable experience for all involved.

Keeping your children safe

By **Ms Sidhu - Designated Safeguarding Lead**

It has been a busy half term so far and whether your child has joined us in Year 7 or is in Year 11 thinking about GCSE mock exams, this time of year can feel difficult for some young people. We encourage all of our students to look after their mental and emotional health by talking to trusted adults, accessing safe websites, taking part in activities and making sure they exercise, eat well and get plenty of sleep! If you are worried about your child's mental health please contact your GP or if you want to learn more about how to support your child's mental health and wellbeing please have a read of this website

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/>

Hey, how are you
feeling?...



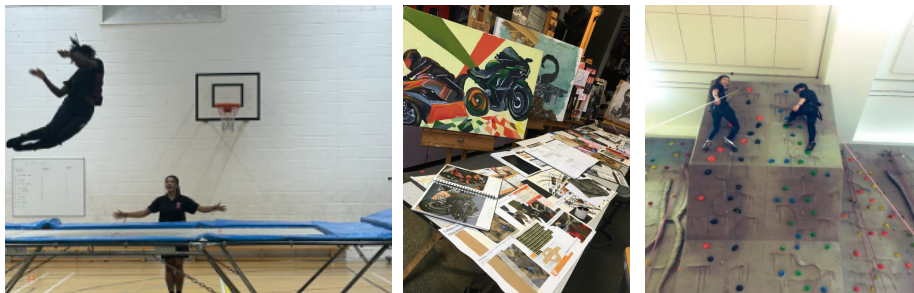
Shine a light on Julia Morson

By **Ms Julia Morson - EA to the Principal**

I'm Julia the (fairly) new EA to the Principal here at Chelsea Academy. I worked here previously in the 2020/21 academic year as an Administrator. Fast forward four years and I've returned to a new role to support Mrs Ardron in her big and busy role as Principal. I undertake various administrative tasks, managing Mrs Ardron's diary and sending communications out on her behalf, assisting with whole-Academy events, supporting the Leadership Team and liaising with our governors, parents and other external stakeholders. I've worked as a PA to the Principal in two other secondary academies and more recently in an FE College but this Academy is by far the most welcoming, supportive and friendly. A Bible verse that always encourages me is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13).

Extended Curriculum 2025-26

We are thrilled to announce that our full enrichment calendar for the academic year is now available on the [website](#). We are pleased to offer an extensive range of options designed for students across all year groups. We can't wait to see high participation and engagement! Some activities have very small numbers, so students were encouraged to get in early in order not to miss out. Timings vary, so please discuss with your child to ensure you know when they will be home on the days they attend.



Reflection

Our Reflection for this half term is that I am delighted to announce that in January Anita Rolls will join as our new Chaplain! Anita will be with us three days a week. Anita comes with significant experience and previously led lay chaplaincy at Chichester Cathedral. Anita is also an experienced leadership coach. She is really excited about coming on board to Chelsea Academy and in taking our unique, dynamic and valuable chaplaincy in a new direction. Mrs. Ardron