



Anchor and Flourish

Website: chelsea-academy.org

December 2025

Message from the Principal

As 2025 comes to an end, I am delighted to share this half term's edition of Anchor and Flourish. As ever there has been a constant whirlwind of activity at the Academy - much of which we have hopefully captured and celebrated in this festive edition of Anchor and Flourish. Aside from this, there have been the terrific Christmas Celebration assemblies and lunches; Friday's Act of Worship at St. Luke's, chutney making by the students, a beautiful Christmas concert, successful mock series for Y11, Y13 and Y10 RE; many hours of rehearsals for Sister Act and a number of interviews for our Y13 students applying to prestigious universities and courses including Oxford, Cambridge, medical school and Imperial College, London. I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff who consistently go above and beyond to ensure there are incredible opportunities for students, outside of supporting them in their academic studies.

This month we say goodbye to Mr. Olaifa in the IT team and Ms. Oliveras in MFL. We wish them well for the future and thank them for all their hard work at the Academy. In January we look forward to welcoming Ms. Rios back from maternity leave and to welcoming our new Chaplain, Anita Rolls. Anita has kindly written the Reflection for this Anchor and Flourish so you can hear more from her. I am also delighted that Mr. Falvey will become the Deputy Head of Year 12 in January, joined by Ms. Carvalho as Deputy Head of Year 13. This is as a result of Mr. Flitcroft, our Director of Careers taking Library Services under his wing.

I hope you have a Happy Christmas with family and friends; sharing in the simplicity and joy of Jesus' birth and His message of Peace on Earth for all mankind. It seems this message is needed now more than ever. If you do not celebrate Christmas, we wish you a relaxing break. I know this holiday is not always easy for families and I pray that you have some peace and calm amidst the noise and chaos.

We look forward to seeing your child on Tuesday 6th January at 8.35am for the start of the spring term and finally thank you for the many ways in which you support the Academy as parents and carers.

Best wishes for the festive season,

Mariella Ardron
Principal

Christmas Card Competition

We are thrilled to congratulate Jennifer K (Year 10), the deserving winner of this year's Christmas Card Contest. Her exceptional artwork truly captured the spirit of the season, and we are proud that her design will be featured on the Academy's official Christmas card. Jennifer won an Amazon voucher! The competition saw an incredibly high standard of submissions, making the selection process very challenging. We extend a sincere thank you to every single student who participated. Your enthusiasm and creativity are greatly appreciated.



Keeping your Child Safe

By **Ms Sidhu** - Safeguarding Lead

Many of our families will be looking forward to the Christmas break and the chance to spend time with family and friends. However, we are aware that this is not the case for everyone. If you are concerned about your safety or someone else's safety please access help and support by contacting the police on **999** in an emergency or Family Services through the Local Authority.

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/>

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/>

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/>

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/>



Chelsea Academy Foundation

By **Mrs Hitchcock** - Fundraising & Development Manager

Chelsea Academy Foundation: Expanding Horizons

This term, the Foundation has been busy creating opportunities that help our students discover new passions, build confidence, and explore future careers.

Enriching the Curriculum Students explored medicine and anatomy at the Hunterian Museum, experienced Shakespeare's *Othello* live on stage, and delved deeper into sociology at a specialist conference. Year 10 business students visited Cadbury's headquarters, getting a chance to experience corporate life.

Life-Changing Experiences Our partnership with Jamie's Farm continued, offering students a residential experience that builds resilience and wellbeing. Meanwhile, Debate Mate and rowing programmes have been developing communication skills and teamwork throughout the term.

Career Pathways & Mentorship Sixth formers gained invaluable insights through career visits to Lloyds and BlackRock, plus tailored interview practice sessions with corporate partners and university admissions tutors. A particular highlight was our mock interview day, where seven Chelsea Academy alumni returned as volunteers—a powerful reminder of how far our students can go.

We're also thrilled to launch our second Social Enterprise Programme, pairing Year 12 students with business mentors to create community-focused enterprises that they'll pitch at the end of the programme.

Every Day Matters The Foundation also provides daily support including subsidised breakfast for Years 7-11 and Place2Be for mental wellbeing throughout the Academy.

A Heartfelt Thank You Our Giving Tuesday campaign was an incredible success, exceeding our £15,000 goal and raising over £22,000! This generosity directly funds opportunities for life skills. Thank you to everyone for your support!

To hear more Foundation news, sign up to our newsletter [here](#).



Culture and Identity Day

By *Eliza Hagan - KS5 Learning Mentor & EDI Lead*

Culture & Identity Day 2025 was once again a vibrant celebration of our school community! This year's event was brought to life by the dedicated student-led 4TheCulture Team, who worked tirelessly to promote, plan and deliver a series of dynamic and interactive, year-group celebrations in the theatre. The team has continued to go from strength to strength creatively, building confidently on the legacy of last year's Year 13 leaders and guided expertly by Ms Hagan, our EDI Lead, who coordinated staffing, logistics and an exciting range of cultural-themed, staff-led lunchtime activities. Staff contributed fresh, creative ideas to enrich this year's festivities. Our Sociology department engaged students in a Korean Pop Art workshop and our Business and Economics department hosted a karaoke session, attracting students from Years 7 through to 13. Students also enjoyed learning to play the steel pans with our Drama department amidst a host of other exciting school-wide activities! A standout addition this year was our first-ever Cultural Fusion Showcase; a platform for students to share their artistic, dance, song or written talents, or give speeches about their cultural heritage with their year group. Students came together to celebrate and support each other's cultural expressions and join in the fun. Many students proudly brought in home-cooked dishes, adding to the warmth, flavour and true spirit of cultural sharing that defines Culture & Identity Day.



Festive First: Chelsea Academy hosts successful OAP Christmas Lunch

By *Ms Marshall - Vice Principal*

Chelsea Academy celebrated the true spirit of community by hosting its first-ever Old Age Pensioner (OAP) Christmas Lunch. Senior citizens from in and around the borough gathered for a heartwarming afternoon of festive cheer, delicious food, and camaraderie.

Guests were treated to a magnificent, traditional Christmas meal with full trimmings, including succulent roast turkey and golden roast potatoes. The successful event was made possible by the hard work of Academy staff and student volunteers. The joyful atmosphere was enhanced by Christmas music and a lively raffle.

This important outreach event provided a vital opportunity for elderly residents to connect, socialise, and feel valued during the holidays. The incredible success of this debut lunch reinforced the Academy's strong commitment to inter-generational connection and social responsibility. We really want to build on this aspect of how we flourish at the Academy in 2026!



A morning of inspiration: MP visit sparks engagement with our Sixth Formers!

We were absolutely delighted to host Ben Coleman, the Labour MP for Chelsea and Fulham, last month. His visit was a truly wonderful experience for our entire Academy community - especially for our young people, who demonstrated exceptional maturity and engagement. The morning kicked off with our excellent Head Students taking the lead and offering Mr. Coleman a comprehensive tour of the Academy. They represented the Academy with such pride and confidence, smoothly guiding Mr. Coleman around our facilities and giving him a real sense of the vibrant atmosphere. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the Q&A session with a selected group of Sixth Form students studying Sociology A Level. The engagement and challenge from our students was outstanding! Meeting a Member of Parliament and having the opportunity for such a direct, candid discussion is an invaluable experience. The visit concluded with a meeting with the Principal, where the MP requested a return visit to meet with students and discuss the issues around use of mobiles and social media. rounding off a thoroughly successful and inspiring morning. We extend a huge thank you to Ben Coleman MP, for taking the time to speak with our students and for providing such a memorable and enriching opportunity.



Introducing our new Head and Deputy Head students

The start of a new academic year often brings exciting new appointments, and this term was particularly special as the Leadership Team had the pleasure of formally meeting our newly appointed Head and Deputy Head students. We are absolutely delighted to welcome and celebrate four exceptional individuals who have stepped up to take on these vital roles: Nancy, Bruno, Quezia, and Richard. The Leadership Team extends its warmest congratulations to all four students. Their selection is a testament to their dedication, maturity, and proven ability to lead and inspire their peers. We are thrilled to have them represent the student body.

Great things are expected this academic year from these great leaders! We look forward to working closely with Nancy, Bruno, Quezia, and Richard as they bring forward new ideas, champion student voice, and help shape a positive and inclusive Academy environment.



Chelsea Academy Thrives at Jamie's Farm!

By Ms Thomson - Chelsea Champion - Health and Wellbeing & Miss Nicholson - AllChild Link Worker

A group of Chelsea Academy students recently returned from an unforgettable, week-long residential experience at Jamie's Farm in Bath, Somerset, where they fully immersed themselves in the logistics and rhythm of rural life, delivering profound results in confidence and engagement. This unique adventure was a complete departure from city life; students spent five days fully disconnected from technology and actively engaged in the operations of a beautiful, functioning farm. The program, specifically structured to boost personal growth, involved physical work, teamwork, and connecting with nature through a diverse daily schedule that included Animal Care (working with chickens and livestock), Harvest & Earth Skills (gardening and woodland management), and Field-to-Fork Cooking (preparing fresh meals with their own harvested produce).

The true success lay in the students' personal transformation—they didn't just observe but became active participants, impressing the farm staff with their hard work. As trip coordinator Ms. Thomson shared, "The impact of Jamie's Farm is always incredible. The students were challenged, and in turn, they discovered hidden strengths. They returned with a palpable sense of self-assurance and a deeper appreciation for the natural world."

Thank you to the Chelsea Academy Foundation for their continued support of this trip.



WORK HARD BE KIND NO EXCUSES



Achievement Award Winners

Jack Petchey

The prestigious Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme is back; recognising and celebrating outstanding young people who consistently go above and beyond to achieve! These special awards aren't just for academic success; they highlight true character, recognise students for personal triumph over challenges, for showing courage by stepping outside their comfort zone, or demonstrating outstanding effort as dedicated team players. All students are nominated directly by their peers! Every deserving winner receives a certificate, Jack Petchey pin and a fantastic £300 to spend on enrichment activities, trips, or new equipment for the benefit of their peers, thereby ensuring their achievement creates a lasting positive impact.

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: Angel 13N

OCTOBER: Sharon 13E

NOVEMBER: Dhiyaa 11F

**Shine the light on:
Ms J Dunning - Attendance Manager**

Attendance Matters!



Hi, my name is Ms Dunning and I am the Attendance Manager here at Chelsea Academy. I find this role deeply rewarding as it allows me to play a pivotal part in our students' educational journeys and overall well-being. I take great pride in the daily rhythm of the Academy, building meaningful relationships with both students and their families to ensure every young person feels supported and motivated to attend.

There is a unique sense of accomplishment in identifying barriers to attendance and working collaboratively with parents and staff to find creative solutions to help our students thrive. Whether it's a positive morning check-in or celebrating a significant improvement in a student's record, I truly value the opportunity to foster a culture of consistency, ambition and belonging within our vibrant school community. I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

Reflection

I'm delighted to be joining Chelsea Academy as Chaplain in January. My background spans law, finance, and coaching, where I've spent many years helping adults grow, develop their potential, and navigate change in the professional world. I have done some work training and supporting Anglican clergy -and am a Trustee at Chichester Cathedral. I'm excited to now bring that experience into the Academy and to walk alongside students as they grow and discover who they are becoming.

I was thinking recently about the New York Times Spelling Bee puzzle. Each day you're given a different set of letters, and the aim is to reach "genius". What changes, though, is the score you need to get there - because some combinations make it easier, others harder. It struck me that Academy life is a bit like that. No two students are given the same mix of gifts, strengths, or challenges. The goal isn't to compare scores, but to play the hand you've been dealt with curiosity, effort, and courage - which feels closely aligned with our Academy mission: work hard, be kind, no excuses.

My prayer, as we reach the end of this term, is that each student knows they are seen, valued, and held - and that, in their own way, they are growing into all they were created to be.

I look forward to starting in January.

Anita Rolls

Masbro Youth Club are running a free youth club at Edward Woods Community Centre over the Christmas break.

Dates:

- 22nd December – Decorations & Wreath Making
- 23rd December – Christmas Dinner & Quiz
- 29th December – Trip to West Zone
- 30th December – New Years Party

 Time: 12:00–16:00 every day

 Cost: **FREE** for all participants

 Free hot meal provided daily



Activities include: sports, games (including consoles), arts & crafts, festive activities and more — all safe, fun and staffed by youth workers.