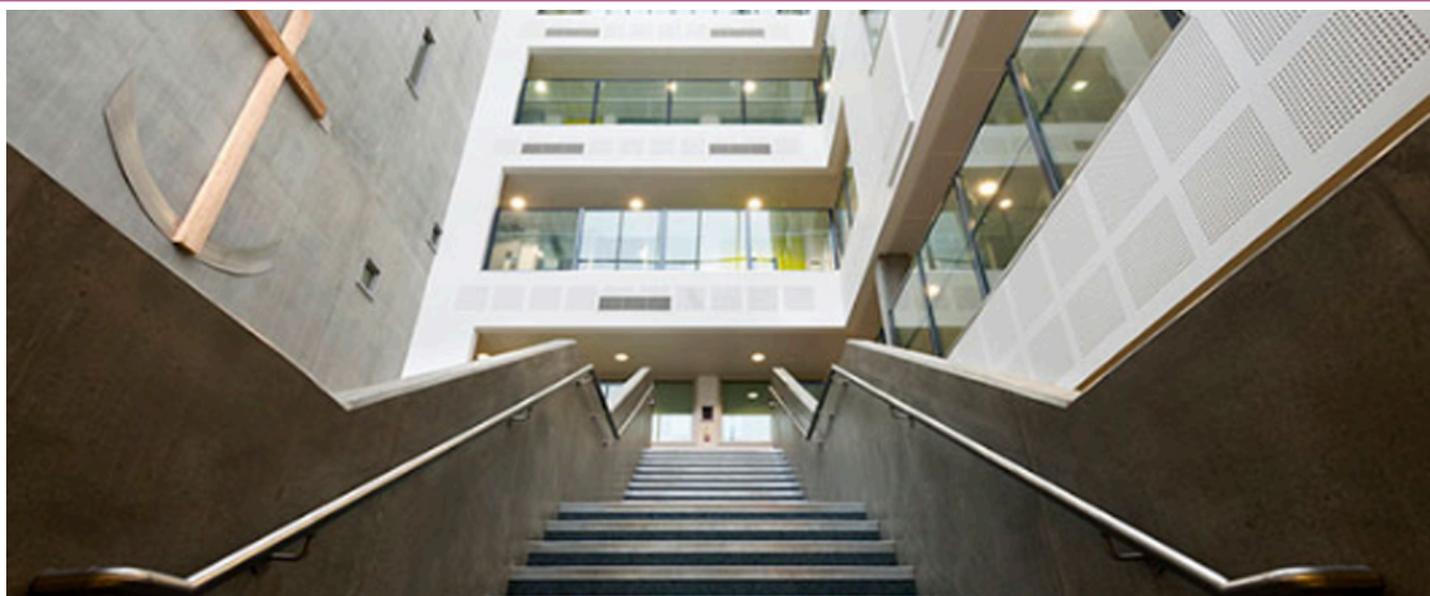




# Anchor and Flourish

Website: [chelsea-academy.org](https://chelsea-academy.org)

Easter 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In many ways whilst this has been a short half term we have packed a phenomenal amount into this time. I am always struck by how our termly *Anchor & Flourish* manages to provide a tasty flavour of the range of learning and opportunities that we provide at the Academy! I am particularly proud to point out to current and prospective parents and carers that whilst excellent GCSE and A Level results are essential for our young people to take their successful next steps, they also need to develop into and flourish as rounded young adults. Our joint venture alongside you is to prepare students in readiness for progression into further and higher education; apprenticeships, careers and fulfilling lives.

This week we have had a small film crew on site creating a new promotional film for the Academy. I am really looking forward to sharing this with you in the next few months. Many of our students were involved in the making of this special film.

For those of you celebrating Easter I hope you have a lovely peaceful Easter weekend. We are very much looking forward to seeing your child(ren) on our return, Monday 13th April at the normal time of 8.35am - in perfect uniform! Here's hoping we finally get some proper spring weather by then.

Best wishes to you and your family

Mariella Ardron  
Principal

## Academic Update

By *Ms Marshall - Vice Principal*

Midway through the academic year, it is a pleasure to reflect on the activities and achievements at Chelsea Academy. Our students consistently embody our Christian Values and mission, Work Hard, Be Kind, No Excuses in their daily lives.

This term, several residential and international trips brought the curriculum to life, including a moving Sixth Form visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a Drama trip to Barcelona, and the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver practice. Additionally, the Drama and Music departments staged a phenomenal production of Sister Act, featuring an impressive, student-led technical crew.

Academic success has also flourished. Students across KS3 and KS4 earned over 140,000 achievement points this term; 600 students achieved "Bronze Anchor" status by earning over 100 points. We are especially pleased by the increased recognition for Years 10 and 11. The weekly "buzz" at Student Services as students check the top earners reflects the Academy's successful drive to celebrate those living out our mission.

Preparing students for the future remains a priority. This term featured National Careers Week, career coaching, and Year 10 mock interviews with business volunteers. We hosted a Year 12 Higher Education Launch with Cambridge University's Director of Admissions and organized visits to global leaders like BlackRock, ITV, and PA Consulting. These experiences provide clear purpose, helping our Year 13s secure 330 offers from 60 institutions so far, including competitive placements for Medicine, Dentistry, and Architecture.

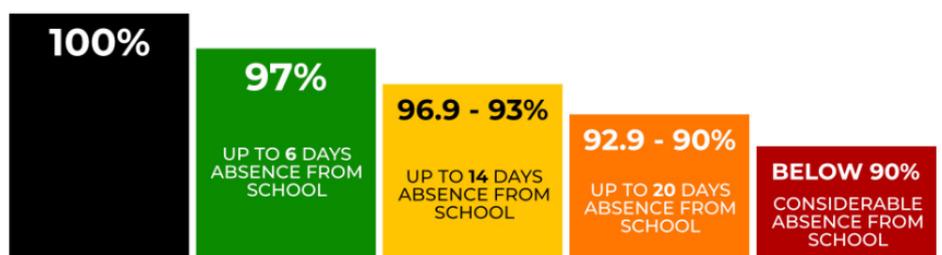
Finally, we acknowledge our Year 11 and 13 students as they finish their final full term of lessons. As they enter a critical revision period for public exams, we are incredibly proud of their dedication and wish them the very best. We look forward to seeing their hard work and perseverance pay off this summer.

## Attendance

By *Mr Eagleton - Vice Principal*

As we come to the end of the Spring term it is fantastic that more than two hundred students have maintained 100% attendance across the year. In addition, we have been delighted to see a significant number of students make real improvements to their overall attendance. In both instances this has rightly seen them receive deserved recognition.

As we look to the summer term we are grateful in advance to parents for their support in ensuring students **continue to attend every day**. We are all very much aware of the direct link between attendance and academic attainment. Put simply, those who attend more are much more likely to meet or exceed their aspirational targets. Each and every lesson is of vital importance as we prepare students for end of year assessments, support them in making the correct choices for the next stage in their academic career and showcase a wide range of exciting extra curricular opportunities that both enrich the curriculum and build the vital skills that will allow students to succeed in the world of work.



## Keeping Your Child Safe

By *Ms Sidhu - Designated Safeguarding Lead*

An ongoing concern for schools and parents/carers is the use and impact of social media on our children and young people. Online safety is never 'done' and so we encourage parents/carers to regularly monitor what their children are accessing and more importantly speak to them about what they are viewing and engaging with. Please take a look at government guidance on how you can keep your children safe online.

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>



## Chelsea Academy Foundation

### Chelsea Academy Foundation – Enriching Every Student's Experience

It's been a fantastic term with the Chelsea Academy Foundation supporting opportunities that help our students learn, grow, and flourish.

From arranging inspiring lectures and career events, to supporting creative and cultural experiences like this term's school musical, *Sister Act*, the Foundation continues to make a real difference across the Academy community. Some highlights include:

- Sixth Form students have enjoyed talks from explorers, engineers, artists, and entrepreneurs, gaining insights into future pathways and the skills that matter most for success.
- Students across year groups have stepped out into the business world—whether pitching ideas to a real marketing firm during a Social Enterprise workshop, attending Women's Day events at the London Stock Exchange and World's End Studios, or joining work experiences with Chelsea Football Club legal department.
- Our Student Foundation Board launched, with six Year 12 students, one from each house, who will help shape the Foundation's work for students at the Academy.

We were also proud to host the annual Mock Interview Day for Year 10 earlier this week, where more than 30 professionals—including six CA alumni—gave their time and expertise to help students prepare for the world of work.

If you'd like to hear more about projects like these and how you can get involved, please sign up to the Chelsea Academy Foundation newsletter [here](#).



**CHELSEA  
ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION**

**Shine A Light on:  
Ms Panayi - Librarian  
A New Chapter in the Library**



Hi my name is Ms Panayi and I am the new Librarian at Chelsea Academy. Joining this academy community has been a truly enriching experience, particularly as I encounter students whose genuine curiosity to learn makes every day rewarding. As someone committed to lifelong learning with a background in Philology and Classics, I am passionate about transforming our Library into a sanctuary for knowledge and the exchange of ideas. It has been fascinating to see the overwhelming interest from Year 7 students applying to become Student Librarians; I was especially impressed by their keen focus as we explored the logic of the Dewey Decimal System and how our fiction is categorised.

Beyond the bookshelves, I am delighted to see our Sixth Formers embracing the Library as a dedicated study space, and to witness staff utilizing the hub for diverse workshops. Looking ahead, I have great plans to enhance our stock with fresh titles and gradually rearrange the room to create a more intuitive, welcoming flow for all users. Before the half-term break, we celebrated our progress with a special ceremony to award badges to our new Student Librarians. My hope is that this space becomes a "home" where every individual can find light and, eventually, their own path to truth.

The month of March in the Library: For up to three weeks, our Dewey Decimal workshops saw our KS3 students successfully navigate the non-fiction shelves as "library detectives." We also celebrated World Book Day with a Book Hunt and Spine Poetry competition, which eventually exposed some hidden talents.

For your Easter break, we recommend "Captain Underpants" for KS3 and "The Lord of the Flies" by William Golding for older readers to keep you in suspense. Don't forget to grab a "Read" from our collection before we break!

Wishing everyone a restful, book-filled holiday.

**Honouring the Past, Challenging the Future: Our Visit to Poland**

*By Ms Dahar - English Department*

In February, 15 Sixth Formers travelled to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, a notorious Nazi concentration camp, during Holocaust memorial week. The trip was kindly organised by the Holocaust Awareness organisation and funded by the Chesterhill Charitable trust, and we experienced amazing hospitality from arriving in Poland, being met at the airport and chauffeured around town.

The weather was -15°, which felt somehow fitting for the trip. At the camp we learnt some of the history of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Holocaust. We had an expert guide throughout who also had a personal family tie to the camp, and later took us to visit the Jewish quarter in Krakow. Finally, we ended our trip with a delicious Kosher meal, but more importantly a renewed determination to fight prejudice. It was harrowing and an important reminder of why we must continue to tackle anti-semitism and all other forms of discrimination that arise.



## Curtains Up in Catalonia: Our Barcelona Adventure

By *Miya and Imogen - Year 9 Students*

Just before half term, we had the amazing opportunity to go on a four-day drama trip to Barcelona. Although we were the only Year 9s, we quickly adjusted and made many new friends. Over the four days, we participated in drama workshops, explored the city, and visited world-famous landmarks.

On the first evening, we enjoyed dinner at an incredible tapas restaurant. For many, it was their first time trying traditional Spanish cuisine. It was the perfect start to the trip, offering delicious food and a great chance for everyone to bond over a new cultural experience.

A key highlight was the drama workshops led by our academy staff in a large private studio. We began with physical theatre icebreakers to meet new people. In the second session, we used red noses to practice improv and script work under various conditions. Finally, we explored filmmaking in teams of four; we took turns acting and filming, with the staff awarding a prize for the best video.

To balance our learning, we took a virtual tour of the city, which gave us structured free time while teaching us about Barcelona's history. It was a great way to understand the background of the places we were visiting. We also explored several iconic sites. We spent an hour wandering through the beautiful Park Güell, taking in the views independently. We visited the vibrant Mercat de la Boqueria, filled with authentic local stalls, and the Basilica de la Sagrada Família, where the sheer scale and detail were breath-taking.

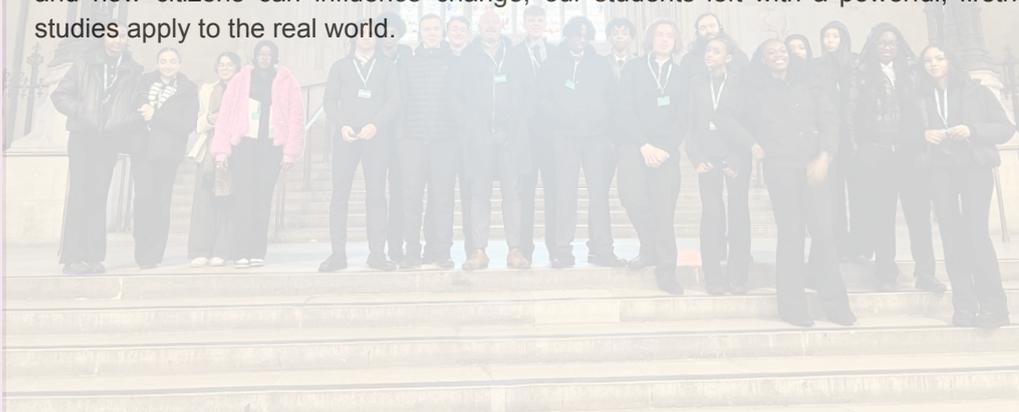
Overall, the trip was an incredible experience. We developed our drama skills, immersed ourselves in a new culture, and grew in confidence. Despite being the youngest students there, we've come home with unforgettable memories.



## The Corridors of Power: Sixth Formers' Westminster Takeover

Our Sixth Formers recently traded the classroom for the seat of British government. The day began at the UK Supreme Court, where students explored Room 2, gaining a unique look at the nation's highest judicial processes and the intellectual rigor of the Privy Council.

The journey continued through the historic Westminster Hall, where students stood beneath the 14th-century hammer-beam roof that has hosted centuries of British history. To conclude, the group participated in a Parliament Education Workshop, engaging in a high-energy debate on the journey of a Bill. By exploring how laws are made and how citizens can influence change, our students left with a powerful, firsthand understanding of how their studies apply to the real world.



## Year 7 Spiritual Retreats

**Anita Rolls - Chaplains**

This term, Year 7 students stepped away from the usual academy rhythm for a retreat at a local church. Exploring the theme "**The Power of Choice,**" students discovered how their daily decisions shape who they become.

Through four activities linked to our mission—**Work Hard, Be Kind, No Excuses**—and the Academy's core values, students engaged with high energy and collaboration. A standout drama competition saw groups bring values like joy and perseverance to life with humor and insight.

The day balanced team-building with quiet reflection on future choices, concluding with students designing their own versions of the Academy Prayer. These creative works, now displayed in the academy, serve as a powerful reminder: every day brings a choice that shapes the path ahead.



## Year 8 Explores Fieldwork and Biodiversity at Juniper Hall

**Science Department**

Two of our Year 8 classes recently enjoyed a fantastic day at Juniper Hall, where they worked alongside Science and Geography teacher trainees from King's College London.

The visit linked closely to our KS3 Science curriculum, with students taking part in a carousel of hands-on fieldwork activities. They explored freshwater habitats through pond dipping, identifying a range of organisms and considering how different creatures are adapted to survive in different environments. Students also investigated biodiversity in areas such as meadows and woodland, using quadrats and a variety of sampling techniques to collect and analyse data.

The day included a scenic forest walk, giving students the opportunity to enjoy the natural surroundings while continuing their learning outdoors. Our students represented the Academy brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity throughout a thoroughly enjoyable day in the countryside.



## Sister Act: A Heavenly Triumph on Stage

**Drama Department**

The energy in the theatre was electric as our students took to the stage for their production of Sister Act: The Musical. Directed by our outstanding Drama and Music departments, and supported by a professional live band, The cast and crew truly savoured the experience, delivering their absolute best to a wonderful audience with a level of confidence and vocal power that shone from the first note to the final bow. Whether they were hitting the high notes in the spotlight or executing intricate choreography in the ensemble, the students met every moment with boundless enthusiasm and professionalism. By the time the final curtain fell, the "Sunday Morning Fever" had reached every corner of the room, leaving us all transformed by the joy and dedication of this talented group.

Watching the cast evolve throughout the production was a true highlight, as they refined their comic timing, leaned into the laughter of the audience, and supported one another with remarkable maturity. This gave every student the chance to shine, building a collective momentum that resulted in a truly unforgettable performance. The atmosphere was a testament to their hard work, proving that when given the space to grow, our students don't just perform—they flourish.



## Designing the Future: Chelsea Academy Students Join Future Frontiers!

The future is looking bright for a select group of our Year 10 who have secured their places on the transformative Future Frontiers programme! This two-year journey moves far beyond a typical career day, offering long-term mentorship and expert guidance that allows students to truly invest in their professional growth.

Through high-impact coaching from business volunteers, our students are gaining firsthand industry insights. These sessions provide invaluable networking opportunities and expose students to a vast range of diverse career paths, helping them bridge the gap between the classroom and the working world with confidence.

By working with specialists to create ambitious plans for their next steps, our students are taking full ownership of their futures. They are already thriving in their workshops, discovering new possibilities and setting bold, achievable goals. We are incredibly proud of their progress and can't wait to see where these exciting plans lead them!



## Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge Regional Final

Niji and Saul Year 10 did an excellent job representing Chelsea Academy at the regional final of the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" competition!

After attending an all day speech writing workshop in November and coming 1st and 2nd in their English class, these students spent weeks improving and practising their speeches about 'The Importance of Maths' (Saul) and 'The Case Against Homeschooling' (Niji). They competed against 14 other students from schools across RBKC and Westminster, after a two hour intensive workshop on public speaking.

Saul said " I thoroughly enjoyed being able to express my love and passion for Maths and would like to truly thank my teachers for all their support."

Niji said "The Jack Petchey event has given me an opportunity to discover new things about myself. Even though I didn't win, I gained new friendships, wise advice and amazing experiences".



## Next Generation Coaching: Chelsea Academy at Cobham

A group of 14 Year 9 boys from Chelsea Academy recently enjoyed an elite experience at the Chelsea FC Cobham training facilities.

The students participated in high-level football coaching sessions delivered by the Chelsea FC Academy U18 Scholars. This unique collaboration provided a "win-win" for everyone involved: our students experienced a taste of professional-grade training, while the Scholars gained the vital practical experience required to achieve their UEFA C Coaching badges.

It was an inspiring day of talent development, giving our Year 9s a firsthand look at the dedication and skill required to succeed at the highest levels of the game.





## Reflection

By **Anita Rolls - Chaplain**

### The Power of Choice

As we move through the season of Lent this year — and recently through the month of Ramadan for many in our community — we are reminded that this is traditionally a time for reflection. Across many faiths and traditions, these moments in the year invite us to pause, take stock of our lives, and consider the choices we make each day.

One of the quiet truths about life is that it is shaped less by big, dramatic moments and more by the small decisions we make again and again. The choice to work hard when something feels difficult. The choice to be kind when it would be easier to look the other way. The choice to take responsibility rather than make excuses.

In many ways, character is built in these ordinary moments. The way we respond to setbacks. The way we treat the people around us. The standards we set for ourselves when no one else is watching.

This season invites us all — students, staff, parents and carers alike — to take a moment to reflect on the direction our choices are taking us. What habits are we forming? What values are guiding our decisions? And what kind of person are we becoming as a result?

My hope and prayer is that this time of reflection will be an opportunity for renewal for our whole community.

RBKC are delighted to announce the return of **Dragonmeet: Call to Adventure** – the role-play and board games convention for children and young people, delivered by RBKC and Westminster Libraries, in collaboration with key games industry partners.

The event takes place on **Saturday 18 April** at Kensington Town Hall. Doors open at 10am. **Entrance is free**, parents can reserve tickets at [www.dragonmeet.co.uk](http://www.dragonmeet.co.uk)

Dragonmeet: Call to Adventure is a great opportunity for children of all ages to watch or take part in live games, solve puzzles, join treasure hunts and explore dungeons!

**DRAGONMEET**  
– call to adventure

**Calling young adventurers!**

Dragonmeet is coming to Kensington Town Hall. Enter a world of fantasy, with thrilling games, epic quests and vast wildernesses all in one room.

Entry is **free** and a day of fun and adventure is guaranteed! Doors open at 10am.

- ▶ **Roleplay games including Dungeons & Dragons**
- ▶ **Board games**
- ▶ **Stalls and demos**

What kind of hero will you be?

To find out more and to register, scan the QR code or visit:  
[dragonmeet.co.uk](http://dragonmeet.co.uk)

**Saturday 18 April 2026**

SCAN ME