

Friday 24th April 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break? It was lovely to welcome students back last Monday. I appreciate it has not been an easy week for staff and students due to the tube strikes. Well done all for making it through!

Now the summer term has started, we look ahead to the start of GCSE and A-Level exams and wish all of our Year 11 and 13s the very best at this time. And not forgetting Year 10 who have their first GCSE RE exam before too long. In fact the exam season has already started with practical exams in subjects such as PE and Art.

Year 9 had a truly fabulous Enterprise day on Wednesday. Students looked wonderful in their smart 'business dress' and enjoyed a very different day from normal, pitching ideas for the Power House development across the road and how to fill the vacant commercial units. We were so lucky that some former students came back to address and inspire current Chelsea Academy students. Thanks as ever to our Foundation for helping us deliver this day.

On Wednesday 6th May most of our Year 8s will head to the sunny seaside down in Bournemouth for our annual Land and Wave residential. We hope it is a brilliant trip.

Behaviour in the community

We have unfortunately received an increasing number of recent reports from local residents and businesses regarding the poor behaviour of a small number of students. Consequently we have restricted student access to the Tesco store at Imperial Wharf unless they are accompanied by a parent or carer. This ban will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Our assemblies last week addressed behaviour in the local community reminding students that their conduct whilst wearing uniform must reflect the high standards of the Academy. You may wish to remind your child that we always sanction students for poor or anti-social community behaviour and with CCTV it is much easier to positively identify students. We continue to work with the police and security e.g. at Westfield to address poor behaviour. But most importantly we do not want our reputation as an excellent school providing outstanding learning and incredible opportunities to be negatively impacted.

Government survey - "Growing Up in an online world"

You may be aware that the government has launched its consultation, "Growing Up in an online world". It is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/growing-up-in-the-online-world-a-national-consultation>. You are invited to complete the parent/ carer survey using the above link by 26th May as your feedback is greatly appreciated.

CAF update

A core aim of the Foundation is to provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop vital life skills. This week, we supported the Year 9 Enterprise Day by bringing in business mentors, project judges and specialist expertise to help make the experience genuinely transformative for our students. Students also represented Chelsea Academy at the Debate Mate Cup at UCL, following months of dedicated practice. Through experiences like these, funded and facilitated by the Foundation, students actively build their communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills, alongside the confidence to apply them beyond the classroom.

FREE home based Food Resilience courses

Bags of Taste are offering Kensington and Chelsea residents free home based Food Resilience courses. It is designed to help those who may be facing multiple challenges in their lives. If your family is receiving free school meals, experiencing mental and physical health conditions or living in temporary housing, you could be eligible for a free bag of weighed and measured ingredients, for three delicious meals (each serving 2 to 3 portions) which would


be delivered to your address. You would then be mentored in a WhatsApp chat over a two week period while you cook the recipes in your own home, in your own time. Please visit www.bagsoffaste.org for more information.

Chaplain's message

As the days grow lighter and the sun begins to shine more, it's easy to think it's warmer than it is - I still find myself reaching for a coat in the morning, only to carry it by midday. This in-between season is a gentle reminder of how much life is always changing, often without us fully noticing. Within our Christian ethos, we recognise that growth often happens through change. As it says in James 1:2-3, "*the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*" Change can sometimes feel uncomfortable and require adjustment, and it's natural to meet it with a degree of resistance. Yet it is often through these moments that perseverance is formed and character is strengthened. Whatever your own beliefs, this is something we can all share: with the right support and encouragement, our students can learn to navigate change with confidence and purpose.

A reminder that Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday and the Academy is closed. Students should return on Tuesday 5th May at the normal time. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Upcoming useful dates:

Wednesday 29th April - Year 9 Options Fair

Monday 4th May - Early May Bank Holiday (Academy closed)

Wednesday 6th May - Year 12 Mock Interview day

Wednesday 6th May - Friday 8th May - Year 8 Land and Wave Trip

Thursday 7th May - Start of GCSEs

Monday 11th May - Start of A-Levels and Year 13 Celebration