

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Academy was absolutely buzzing last night. Huge thanks to over 250 of our students who gave up their evening to act as tour guides, address families in the Theatre or support Curriculum areas. I lost count of how many families told me that our students were totally amazing and in some cases had made parents decide to put the Academy as their first and not second choice. You may be aware that there are significantly decreased numbers of primary aged children in London and therefore lots more school places. This means there is much more competition than in previous years. The more you can spread the word about our wonderfully inclusive and high achieving school, the better!

Year 10 Information Evening - Wednesday 30th September

Parents of Year 10 students are invited to attend this evening where they will receive information as to how they can support their child throughout their GCSE courses. There will also be a session outlining the arrangements for work experience, RE GCSE and the opportunity to speak to Ms Ferris, Ms Bakumba and members of the Leadership Team. The evening will run from 6pm - 7pm. We strongly recommend all Y10 parents and carers to attend.

Tempest Photography Day - Reminder

On Tuesday 29th September, the Academy photographer will be onsite to capture student portraits. This applies only to Years 7, 9, 12 and any students who joined the Academy mid-year. The images will be made available for purchase in the following weeks. Students in these year groups should ensure they are wearing full school uniform on the day. Some Year 7 classes will have PE that day and we ask that they bring a shirt and tie to put on over their PE shirt for the photo.

Learning Coach Consultation Day - Thursday 8th and Friday 9th October

You will soon receive information regarding our upcoming Learning Coach Consultation Day (LCCD) which will run during the afternoon/evening of Thursday 8th October and throughout the following day - Friday 9th October. This is an in-person event at the Academy and an opportunity for you to meet with your child's Learning Coach or Head of Year/ Deputy Head of Year. Please check your email for instructions on how to book your appointment.

CAF update

The Sixth Form lecture series opened this week with Emma Wright, Fragrance and Lifestyle Expert at Jo Malone, one of the many speakers the Foundation is bringing in this year. Emma talked about her own career path, why it pays to say yes to unexpected opportunities, and the surprising range of careers in the fragrance industry. Our students asked sharp, thoughtful questions throughout.

Also this week, our weekly Food Masterclasses returned, teaching students practical cooking and nutrition skills, thanks to a Cadogan Community Grant.

Could you help inspire our students? Parents can get involved in lots of ways: giving a talk, offering work experience, mentoring, making an introduction to your workplace or network, or supporting our fundraising. Whatever your background, we'd love to hear from you at caf@chelsea-academy.org

Chaplain's (Anita Rolls) message

Every so often, something makes me look at Academy life through a slightly different lens. Recently, I've been watching *70 Up*, the remarkable series that has followed the same group of people since they were seven (and if you haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend giving it a go). What struck me, watching them look back aged 70, was how career and achievement - important though they were - had become only part of the story. What seems to matter most is who they have loved, who has loved them, and what has given their lives meaning. It made me wonder: if we could meet our students again at 70, what would we hope had mattered to them? And maybe it's a reminder that, while we spend a lot of time preparing young people for the *next* thing (and rightly so!), we also need to make space to nurture their spiritual lives for the *whole* thing. Because the questions at the heart of our spiritual lives - who we are, what matters to us and how we want to live - are questions we never really stop asking, whether we are 7, 17 or 70.

Our Chaplain's message seems very fitting as we close this week. I hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing your child on Monday morning.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Upcoming useful dates:

Tuesday 20th October - Winter Flu vaccinations (Years 7-11)

Thursday 22nd - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Monday 2nd November - All students return to the Academy

Tuesday 10th November - Year 8 Progress Evening

Thursday 12th November - Sixth Form Open Evening (Internal applicants until 6pm, external and internal from 6pm until close