

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the routine of having your child back at school. I know I certainly have! This Update is quite long but contains lots of important information. If you are new to the Academy this Update is sent out fortnightly and fear not, is normally shorter!

This week we welcomed all students back to the Academy and we very much enjoyed meeting our new Year 12s for the first time. Last night we held our wonderful annual Awards Evening. It was a delight to celebrate the achievement of students in 2025/26 and to see many proud parents and carers in attendance. Thank you for supporting your young person.

Next week we continue running tours for prospective parents and students and we also look forward to meeting Year 7 parents and carers at our Information evening on **Tuesday 15th September, 5.30 - 7.00pm**. Please note this event is for parents and carers only and the formal presentations run from 6pm, with light refreshments served from 5.30pm.

A reminder that our **gate-to-gate mobile phone policy** is in effect which means all mobiles must be switched off and put away before students come through the student gate in the morning - and not taken out again until they have left through the gate in the afternoon. If mobile phones are seen or heard in the building at all, we will confiscate them and the C60 sanction will be applied.

Academy catering

Free School Meals update

A reminder that we now need to check your eligibility for free school meals on an annual basis. If you have not already completed the [form](#) supplied by Ms Morson, would you please ensure you complete it this weekend. If you are no longer eligible, you need to top up your child's ParentPay account and/ or provide a packed lunch.

ParentPay top up

Students will no longer be able to top up their ParentPay account in the Academy using cash. Therefore ensure that your child's account has adequate funds. Please be aware it can take up to two hours for a transfer to reach the ParentPay account.

Introduction to Culinera

We are excited to welcome Culinera as our new catering partner. You can view their latest menus and price lists on our [Catering](#) page. We hope that our students enjoy their nutritious and delicious meals.

Year 7 CATS, Year 10 and 12 reading assessments & Year 11 Maths, Science and English Assessments

From 16th - 18th September we will be running a number of assessments. Year 7 students will sit CATs and reading tests - these assessments allow us to gain information about each student's skills with regard to reading, comprehension and reasoning. The tests will also allow us to identify the strengths and areas for development of each student which is essential for successful learning and progress.

To check whether reading comprehension is a barrier to their learning as they start their GCSE and A level courses, all Year 10 and 12 students will sit a baseline reading assessment.

Year 11 students will sit assessments in Maths, Science and English. This helps to get students used to sitting assessments in the formal exam hall setting as they move towards their GCSEs in the summer.

Dr Greene will contact all students involved with more specific details of the arrangements.

Note on medical needs/ allergies

Thank you to everyone that has notified us of their child's allergy (ies). Please let us know if you have not already done so. The Academy is compliant with the new Benedict's Law and of course takes this duty very seriously. However it is essential we know of any serious allergy that your child has.

Year 6 Open Evening - Thursday 24th September

Our Open Evening takes place towards the end of the month. The Academy will close at **2.35pm** on this day for all students, to allow us to set up. A selection of students will be invited to return later in the evening to support the event. Thank you in advance for allowing your children to help us showcase the Academy. The following day, Friday 25th September is an INSET day for staff and the Academy is closed to all students.

Tempest Photography Day - Tuesday 29th September

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.

Sutton Trust Fair School Admissions Award

Chelsea Academy has just been awarded the Sutton Trust Fair School Admissions Award **SILVER** for 2026/2027. Silver is awarded to schools who have made changes to their Admission policy to ensure there is fair access to all students regardless of socio-economic background. Chelsea Academy was recognised for its use of both Foundation and Community spaces to ensure all children can access the Academy as well as to offering places to children who have been out of school for a period of time. Well done to our Registrar Ms Livesey for her commitment to our in-year admissions families.

Chaplain's (Anita Rolls) message

And so, another academic year begins! I am excited, as this is my first autumn here at Chelsea Academy. I have been inspired by the immense effort that went into preparing our facilities over the summer, and seeing the Academy come to life now that our students have returned is truly special. Following Mrs Ardron's recent Welcome assembly, I have been reflecting on the Parable of the Sower. As a community, we act as the "good soil" - a nurturing environment where we all play a vital part in tending to the seeds of potential within our students. Of course, it is our students themselves who take those seeds and choose to grow, learning to reach for new heights and deepen their own roots. By working together - staff, students, parents, and carers - we ensure that every young person has the space and stability to flourish. I look forward to seeing the harvest of these efforts and achievements as we journey through this year together.

I hope you have a good weekend and I look forward to seeing Year 7 parents and carers once again next week. It is expected that all Year 7 parents and carers do attend this meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal