

CHELSEA ACADEMY

Anchor and Flourish

Website: chelsea-academy.org

October 2026

Message from the Principal

The half term break has finally arrived. You may or may not(!) be looking forward to this time but nonetheless our students and staff definitely need a break. The students have had a brilliant term; throwing themselves into their learning and responding enthusiastically to our Teaching & Learning and Behaviour frameworks. It has also been great to see so many students attending after school clubs and activities. There are a number of Progress Evenings next half term so please look out for communications regarding these.

We are all delighted that our strong GCSE and A Level results have been verified by the Department for Education and put us in the top 20% of schools. And hot off the press, we have already had three UCAS offers for students in Y13. We eagerly await more to come over the next few months. Our Year 11 Expectations/ Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on 12th November.

We are pleased to confirm that from **2 November,** all students in Years 7-11 will be able to have a £1.50 breakfast subsidy each Monday between 8.00 and 8.30 am. This offer is generously supported by the Chelsea Academy Foundation (CAF). Hopefully this free breakfast will kick start the week for your young person.

We will be sharing the term dates for 2027/28 next month, now that the governors have approved these. I must remind you that I am not permitted to authorise term time holidays even for cost/ family/ personal reasons. As an Academy we have thought carefully about term dates so that for example, this half term break starts a little earlier and allows families to travel ahead of the main departure date. Likewise the start of term each September now allows families to return later than the start date of most schools. Please do support us so that we can ensure the Academy's attendance figures remain consistently high. This is a key area that Ofsted focus on and we are expected to leave no stone unturned in ensuring excellent student attendance.

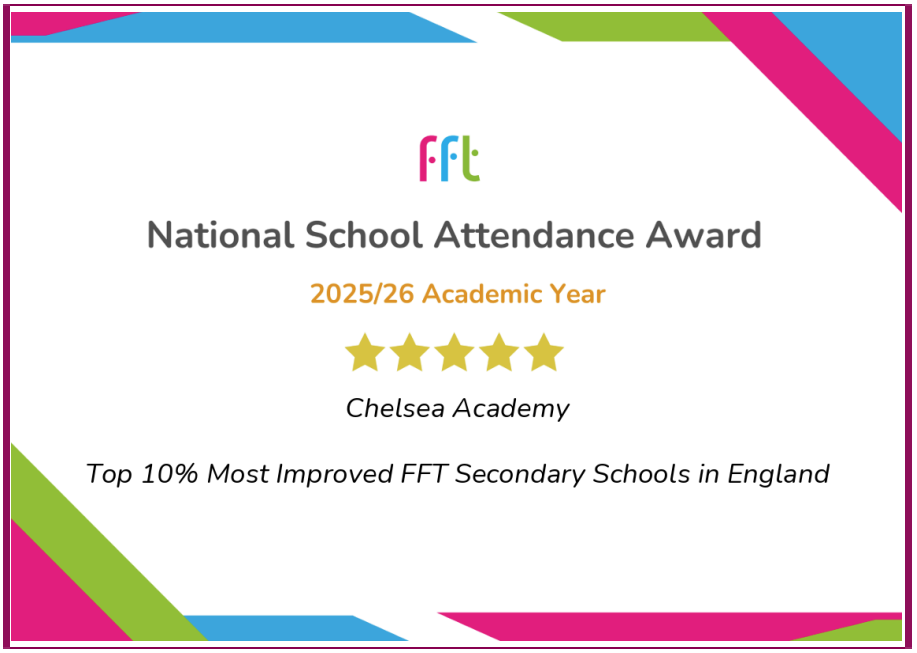
A reminder that parents and carers are not permitted to park on Burnaby Street before or after the end of the Academy day. This is because School Street is in operation. Only residents of this road can drive up and down during these times. Again thank you for your cooperation with this RBKC traffic calming measure.

My best wishes to you and your family and we look forward to seeing your child (ren) on Monday 2nd November at 8.25am - and hopefully meeting you at a Progress Evening in November or December.

Mariella Ardron
Principal

Attendance

Congratulations to our entire Academy community for this brilliant recognition.
Attendance matters!



Open Evening 2026

Over 600 families made their way to the Academy at the end of September to be wowed by our annual Open Evening for prospective Year 7s. The Academy was a hive of excitement and activity as some 300 of the Academy's current students showed families around, or welcomed visitors into buzzing classrooms, spectacular science labs, an energetic Sports Hall, a delicious smelling Food Tech kitchen, a noisy Design Tech room or a serenely silent Library! Mrs Ardron addressed families but was very much outshone by two Sixth Formers and two Year 7s who spoke with great confidence about their time so far at the Academy.





Battlefields of WW1 in Ypres, Belgium

Our recent trip to the First World War battlefields of Ypres in Belgium gave Year 11 historians a moving, first hand look at history. Standing on the grounds where so many fought and visiting the silent cemeteries of Flanders brought the real human cost of the conflict into sharp focus. Visiting key memorials and Commonwealth cemeteries across the Ypres Salient offered a moment to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by everyone, from frontline soldiers to dedicated medical crews. Seeing row upon row of headstones up close made a profound, lasting impression on everyone who attended. Thank you to the Chelsea Academy Foundation for making the trip possible and to all the staff who helped with the visit. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved.






Sophia Year 11 Lister - *In my opinion, it was an amazing opportunity and trip to Belgium. I believe we all learnt a great deal of the horrors and brutal reality of the First World War and actually had the chance to reflect and remember the sacrifices made by soldiers and people who participated in the war. I, personally, felt that it was an important trip, rather than learning in the classroom. It was much more impactful actually being in those cemeteries and seeing the amount of lives lost whether it was soldiers actively fighting or medical staff. Overall, I'd say it was a great learning experience and I wish more people had gone and hope that there will be further trips like this in the future.*

Much Ado About Something! : Year 10's Journey to The Globe

Shakespeare's Globe held as much wonder for our Year 10 group as it did for Londoners in 1599. Luckily, we had glorious sunshine for our visit to watch Much Ado About Nothing on Thursday. This wonderfully directed, engaging production was full of exquisite animal masks (Adeena, with her sharp analytical eye, noted how each animal reflected the personality of the character wearing it), dancing and tons of comical moments that had us all laughing and clapping along. Just like in the sixteenth century, the busy theatre buzzed with excited chatter, the same hustle and bustle as for an original audience. We watched the show with many other school groups, which created a real sense of community in the central yard and galleries. It was so much fun to look around and see so many happy faces, not least Chelsea Academy's!

Thank you so much to the Chelsea Academy Foundation for this incredible trip. It was a day the group will remember, and it will make our upcoming study of Macbeth so much richer. Students now understand how staging impacts and shapes a play, and they have experienced for themselves how an audience responds to Shakespeare's writing.

Chelsea Academy Foundation

Opening doors. Developing skills for life.

Every student should have the chance to get the most out of their education. Chelsea Academy Foundation helps remove barriers to learning and delivers opportunities to build skills for life.

Access to programmes such as rowing, cooking and computing, alongside debating, networking and mentoring opportunities, builds confidence, **develops practical skills** and helps students prepare for further study, work and independent life.

Every student has potential. Together, we can help them discover it.

From **Monday 9 November to Giving Tuesday, 1 December**, our campaign will celebrate these experiences and the community that makes them possible. We'll be sharing students' stories, and there will be ways for everyone to take part, whatever the size of their gift.

Two ways to help before we launch:

- Does your employer match charitable donations? A quick check now could double your support in November.
- Have a story about what these opportunities have meant to your young person? We'd love to hear from you.

To get in touch, or to talk about supporting a particular programme, please contact Megan Ouchterloney, Chair of the Foundation, at megan.ouchterloney@chelsea-academy.org

GIVINGTUESDAY
CHELSEA ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Chelsea Academy Awards Evening

Awards Evening continues to firmly embed itself as a cherished cornerstone of the Academy's flourishing ethos, and the 2026 ceremony was another sensational delight—offering a magnificent, inspiring way to kick off the new academic year. Grounded in our driving motto to **Work Hard Be Kind No Excuses**, the evening provided a wonderful opportunity for Curriculum Leaders and Pastoral Leaders to celebrate the exceptional dedication, growth, and achievements of outstanding students across every department.

Surrounded by family, peers, and staff, students reveled in the excitement and well-deserved spotlight as they stepped forward to collect their awards in front of an audience of deeply proud parents and carers. Finalists were called down stage by stage according to their subject nominations. As they stood eagerly in the spotlight, leaders shared heartfelt citations, explaining to all our guests precisely how each student's character, curiosity, and perseverance have allowed them to truly flourish.

A palpable sense of tension and electric anticipation built in the hall before each curriculum winner was officially announced. The true pinnacle of the celebration, however, was the presentation of our highest accolade: the Chelsea Academy Foundation Award. This year, we were absolutely delighted to present this prestigious honour to Laylia in Year 10, whose remarkable work ethic, kindness, and commitment embody the very best of our Academy community.

Year 12 Explore Parliament and the Supreme Court

We were thrilled to take our Year 12 students on an exceptional trip to London, catching Parliament in full swing as it buzzed with preparation for Prime Minister's Questions following the recess. As an added bonus, students had the incredible opportunity to sit in Court 1 of the Supreme Court and observe a live constitutional hearing in action. A huge thank you to our brilliant students for representing the Academy so well,



Shine a light on Mr. Hall
New Geography Curriculum Leader



Hello! I am Mr Hall and I am the Head of Geography at Chelsea Academy. My passion for teaching stems from how social and active a profession it is. I enjoy solving the challenge of how to most effectively deliver engaging content as I work each day to support every student's individual growth. I love geography because it naturally turns up in our daily lives, allowing me to bring the world directly into the classroom to expand student knowledge of people, places, and environments. Because I believe learning is done best both inside and outside of school, I thoroughly enjoy taking students on field trips and researching new, exciting geographical issues to explore together. I chose Chelsea Academy for its vibrant, fast-paced learning environment, and I am eager to share this passion with our students - helping them develop into highly skilled geographers and thoughtful global citizens.

Keeping your children safe

By ***Ms Sidhu - Designated Safeguarding Lead***

It has been lovely to see so many of our students settle in well to the new academic year. However, we know that at times students do need some extra support in relation to their wellbeing.

We have a variety of support services at the academy that our students can access. This includes a range of mentors, school based counsellors, school chaplain, the school nurse and our mental health lead alongside pastoral support provided by Learning Coaches and Heads of Year.

If you feel that your child needs wellbeing support please contact your child's Head of Year and speak to them about any worries you have.

Introducing our new Head students

We are delighted to welcome our newly appointed Head students for the new academic year: Koji, Roxanne and Nevaeh.

Their appointment reflects their strong dedication, maturity, and ability to inspire others. The Leadership Team warmly congratulates all three students and looks forward to working with them as they represent our student body.



Koji: *Hello! My name is Koji, and I am one of three Head Students appointed this year. To quickly introduce myself, I've been at Chelsea Academy for 7 years now, and this role is something I have aspired to for a while now. This school has provided me with such interesting and unique opportunities and I see this role as one of the best ways I can try to give back to our community. I value communication, representation and curiosity, and using these principles I aim to echo the voice and culture of the academy as best as I can."*

Roxanne: *Hello! My name is Roxanne and I am honoured to serve as one of the Head Students at Chelsea Academy. My primary motivation for applying for this position is my desire to give back to the Academy that has provided me with the opportunities and support to flourish, both academically and personally. I hope to contribute meaningfully to the wider school community by fostering stronger connections across all year groups and ensuring that every student feels heard, valued and represented.*

Nevaeh: *Hello! My name is Nevaeh and I'm so proud to be one of Chelsea Academy's Head Students! Despite only being at this school for under 2 years, my motivation and reasoning behind applying for this role is because I wanted to make a positive difference within my school's community and act as a voice for other students. I see it as an opportunity to develop my leadership skills, take on greater responsibility and create an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. I want to repay the school for the opportunities they have given me whilst setting a positive example for younger students!*

Extended Curriculum 2026-27

The Extended Curriculum programme at Chelsea Academy offers a broad range of opportunities throughout the school day and beyond, with a legacy of hosting over 300 different clubs and activities since 2009. Our full enrichment calendar for the academic year is now live on the website, featuring an extensive selection tailored for students across all year groups. Because capacity is limited for select high demand activities, students are encouraged to sign up early so they don't miss out. Please review the schedule with your child to confirm event timings and ensure you know when to expect them home on the days they participate. We look forward to seeing strong engagement and high participation this year!



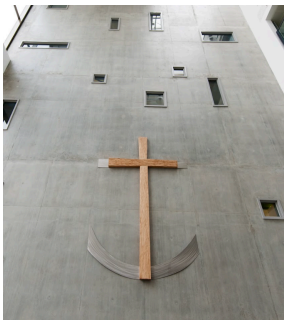






Chaplain's Reflection

As we approach the end of our first half-term, I've been reflecting on how much our perspective shapes the way we see ourselves, others and the world around us. One small change for me this term has been moving my office to the second floor, next to the Chapel. It's given me quite literally a different view of Chelsea Academy and reminded me that sometimes a change in where we stand can help us see things differently. This is my first Autumn term at Chelsea Academy, and it's been a joy to welcome new students, particularly those in Year 7 and the Sixth Form, and to get to know many others through our Alpha Youth pilot, Year 12 Directional Confidence sessions and individual conversations. Each has been an opportunity to listen, ask questions and explore different perspectives. Jesus often invited people to see things differently - to look beyond first impressions, challenge assumptions and recognise possibilities they hadn't previously considered. Perhaps that's a helpful invitation for all of us this half-term, whatever faith we have ourselves: to pause, reflect and consider whether there might be another way of seeing a situation, a person or even ourselves. May the love of God bless you and your families with a restful and refreshing half-term break.



Kensington & Chelsea Family Hubs: October Half-Term Timetable

Looking for fun activities with the family this October half-term? The Kensington and Chelsea Family Hubs have released a fantastic lineup of free special programming and events running from Monday, 26th October to Friday 30th October.

Click the link here to check out the full timetable!

Half Term Family Films at The Garden Cinema (Pay What You Can)

The Garden Cinema hosts family film screenings every weekend morning and on weekdays during school holidays. All screenings are **'Pay What You Can'**, meaning you're free to pay whatever fits your budget. Upcoming films include 'Dreamland,' 'Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom', 'Matilda,' and 'Snow White.'

The full programme can be found via the link below:
https://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/strand/films-for-the-family/

