

## **CHELSEA ACADEMY NEWS**

### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL...**

Dear Parents and Carers

Five weeks have already passed since the first day of term and before we know it, it will be half term! There's never a dull moment at Chelsea Academy, it seems. Recent highlights have included our two Open Evenings at Chelsea Football Club and an Inauguration Service at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. The fifty-one students who helped on either one or both of the Open Evenings were quite outstanding. Many guests commented on their enthusiasm, well-informed answers to questions and exemplary behaviour. Several students either sung in the fledgling Academy choir or spoke about their first impressions and experiences of the Academy. The clarity and confidence of the speakers was impressive. Around 1000 people attended the Open Evenings and a further 200 have attended the Open Days over the last two weeks.

The Inauguration Service was led by The Ven. Stephan Welch, Chair of Governors, and the church Rector, The Revd. Rob Gillion, also a governor. This was our first church service and over 100 special guests attended along with the staff and students to celebrate the Academy's inauguration. Once again, the performances from the readers, dancers and musicians were excellent and many guests commented on the superb behaviour of the students.

The girls' football team were also a credit to the Academy when they won their first ever match against another school. In this case, they won 3-2 against Holland Park School. Hopefully the first of many triumphs.

A good number of applications have been received from students keen to be interviewed for some of the Student Leadership opportunities at Chelsea Academy, including the Student Leadership Team (the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies and assistants) and the roles of Prefect and Peer Mentor. Interviews will take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, the Academy held its first student conference, on this occasion focused on 'Learning to Learn'. Throughout the day the students developed their team-working, thinking, presentation and reflections skills. The success of the day was due to the enthusiasm and hard work of the students and teachers.

I have been delighted by the enthusiastic response shown by students to the Academy's rapidly growing programme of extended curriculum activities. There are several activities taking place at the end of the Academy every day (see the list overleaf) and undoubtedly something for everyone. Is your son and daughter making the most of these opportunities? Each day, there is also an Independent Learning Club for students who wish to take advantage of the Academy's ICT facilities and, if they need it, teaching assistant support in order to complete their Independent Learning (in old money, 'homework') tasks. It has been a shame to see some students getting detentions for failing to complete their Independent Learning tasks. There's really no excuse!

Finally, please don't forget the Parents' Social Event this Wednesday 14th October and the first Parents' Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd November. I am hoping for a full turnout at both of these important and potentially useful events.

**Mr A Yarrow  
Principal**

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## **Forthcoming Events**

Year 7 Parents' Social Evening

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm, Chelsea Academy

Parents' Council

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm, Chelsea Academy (Prayer Meeting, 6.00 pm – 6.30 pm)

Parents' Consultation Afternoon and Evening

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1.30 pm – 8.00 pm, Chelsea Academy

## **Sport Update**

The Academy was quick out of the starting blocks by providing a full extended sports curriculum from the end of the first week of term. Students were able to choose from a wide range of activities including; netball; soccer skills; running; boys' football practice; judo; cheerleading; boxfit; table tennis; girls' football; rugby and trampoline.

Students can come into the Academy from as early as 8.00am to play football or table tennis and are encouraged to make use of the healthy food options on offer at breakfast club. Trials for both the boys' and girls' football teams took place in the second week of term. Indeed, Chelsea Academy's First XI played their first game on the 19th September, losing narrowly in a 6-4 thriller to Boxhill's (Surrey) Year 8 team. The following week the same team represented the Academy in the National Cup but unfortunately lost to a very talented Kingsford Community College team. The girls' team played their first games in a tournament recently, Captain Khadija Fall leading her team to an impressive victory over Holland Park and a respectable draw against Sion Manning's mixed Year 7 and 8 team. An impressive start to their time together.



Competitive running has also arrived at the Academy with 14 students attending the Borough's London Mini Marathon trials on Tuesday 6th October. Practices at Battersea Park are currently shaping the students into competitive runners in the build up to the trials. It is fair to say that is huge enthusiasm amongst the Academy's students for sport and the sign-up sheets for the clubs are a hive of activity throughout the week. Well done to everyone who has taken part in activities so far. You've made them a massive success.

**Mr D Shaw**

## **One Sun, One World**

We are looking forward to the One Sun, One World concert next Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Royal Albert Hall and hope that you will be able to join us for this special event. If you did not request tickets through the Academy for the Concert but would like to attend, please contact the Royal Albert Hall box office directly on 0845 401 5045.

## **Academy Photographs**

The deadline has passed now for returning individual photographs to the Academy. If you wish to order any you will need to contact the company direct as per the instructions on the envelope.

## **Extended Curriculum Update**

The extended day is underway and very popular with our students. So popular in fact that many arrive at 8.00 am for breakfast club and a spot of table tennis and don't leave until 6.00pm. Thanks to all the teachers who have worked really hard to get clubs up and running and for ensuring we are offering an array of activities that will inspire every student. This week I asked members of Learning Group D to tell me what they thought about our Extended Curriculum and this is what they said.

Kit said *"Independent Learning is especially good because there is a nice calm atmosphere so you can learn effectively."* Independent Learning club has been extremely popular as students are appreciating the support they get from Mr Hiorns and Miss Mildner. Three students who had finished their Independent Learning then went on to create a presentation entitled 'Why Independent Learning Club is Great' to be shown in a forthcoming assembly.

As you will read in the Sport Update, the sport clubs have been an amazing success; Tia said she likes going to Netball Club because *"It gives me a chance to practice my passing and catching skills and I also get to spend more time with my friends."* Karl said *"I do BoxFit and its really good but also hard work."* Tyrone added, *"I have had a nice first few weeks at Chelsea Academy. I went to football and rugby after school. It is so much fun; in Rugby we tackle and in Football we do team work."* Students are having the opportunity to visit other schools and use their facilities with Mr Shaw and other staff while we eagerly await the completion of our own Lots Road facilities. Well done also to the football teams for their successes. If you can be this great after one month, just imagine what you will be like after one year. Look out Chelsea FC! Ami said *"I try and do most of the extended curriculum activities because they are really fun. I especially like playing girls football in St Luke's Park."*

As well as sports clubs there have been a great hub of activities in classrooms after school. Chelsea Academy students really are spoiled for choice. There is Mr Jones' debating club where I hear there is a serious competition between the girls and the boys next week. Mr Jones also runs a Board Games Club on a Tuesday for those who enjoy strategic thinking. Chess club runs on a Tuesday with Mr Sunda who has great plans to train up our keenest players to take on some serious competition in the coming months. If chess doesn't satisfy your intellectual needs then you can discuss the meaning of life and other big questions in the Philosophy and Religion Club with Mr Sunda. Jacob said *"I do Chess Club on a Tuesday after school and Chess in Enrichment on Fridays. It is fun!"*



For those who are artistically inclined there is Mr Tonkin's Art Club on a Wednesday; a mammoth session of colour, graphite and pastels of every kind. Merree, who is a regular member said, *"I like going to Art Club because it is a fun challenge."*

If you lean more towards the performing arts you can be danced off your feet twice a week with Ms Grant. You could become a founding member of the Chelsea Academy Dance Company; a unique opportunity and



I hear the leotards are pretty funky too! If you need to brush up on your street dancing, that's on a Thursday. Holly said *"I really like the extended curriculum activities. I do street dancing, cheer leading and netball which are all fun."* For those who are thespians, there is Drama Club and for those who prefer to provide the music, there is an instrumental group and choir to keep you busy. Already, the members of the performing arts clubs are representing Chelsea Academy at public events such as our Open Evenings and the Inauguration Service last Friday.

Not only do Chelsea Academy students have a host of exciting clubs to choose from, on a Friday afternoon our students engage in our unique Enrichment Programme; every student chooses an elective for a term. This term they have had the following choices: Public Speaking; Australian Rules Football; Chess for beginners; Film Studies; Gardening and Cookery; Kayaking; Musicians of the Future; School Magazine; Photography and Ancient History and Archaeology. I asked Learning Group D what they thought about enrichment and they had lots to say. Here are some of the highlights:

Reece said *"I enjoy my Enrichment lessons because they let me try a new thing. The Enrichment Elective I chose was chess because I had never played a game of chess before and now I know that it is fun. In chess we learn how to take the advantage so we can win the game. I enjoy enrichment and I hope I become a great chess player!"*

Ami said *"My favourite part of the week is enrichment where I study Film Studies with Mr Sunda."*

Alexsei said *"I like Gardening and Cookery as it's something fun and everyone can get involved."* Another student added, *"It is very interesting as we get to plant and design Chelsea Academy's first ever garden from scratch."* Jennifer agreed *"I love gardening so I love my Enrichment lessons on Fridays."*

Eve said *"I do photography for Enrichment which is very cool because I am only in Year 7 and wouldn't have the chance to do this usually. We get to take photos and judge our photos. I really enjoy it."*

Karl said, *"For my Enrichment Elective I do Kayaking and it's really good because we do it on the Thames."*

Shaye said, *"My Enrichment Elective is the Academy Magazine. It is really good. I am leading a team of interviewers. I enjoy it so much I am going to choose this next term too."* Tommy said that doing the Academy Magazine for Enrichment is great because he can be creative and put something back into Chelsea Academy. Another member of Group D agrees: *"Other people are going to see our work when they read the Academy Magazine, this makes us work harder."*

Yasmin summed up lots of students' thoughts when she said, *"I have really enjoyed Enrichment and the extended curriculum. It has made me more confident and it is something new to me."*



### **Miss J Simpson**

Please find enclosed an updated timetable of extended curriculum activities. Please remember that it is your child's responsibility to let you know if they are attending an activity after 3.45 pm.

### **Parent Governor Elections**

Elections for a Parent Governor will be held before Christmas. A letter inviting nominations will be sent out before half term and the deadline for nominations is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.