

Newsletter

Spring 2018

Welcome from the Principal



Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Chelsea Independent college – it is so good to say good-bye to a cold and ‘flu-ridden Winter! During this term, we have completed another fantastic trip to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland, roamed London’s areas of special scientific interest, massively enhanced our teaching and learning provision, and seen steady improvement to our infrastructure. New large interactive screens have been installed in Broadway House, new flooring in the science areas, and a whole new reception in the science block, as well as security upgrades. All of this is of course secondary to the student experience, but

with plans in place to raise attainment even further, and to promote and diversify the college ever more steadily, it has certainly felt like a term of achievement. Students have gained offers from Oxford, Imperial, Glasgow, King’s, UCL, Southampton, City, and a large number of others. We are also taking initiatives which will bear fruit in September that should see great improvements in our provision of accounting, and job-ready apprenticeship platforms should any future students decide that they do not wish to go down the university route.

You will see from the rest of this newsletter how much the pace of college life is accelerating, and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me or the team should you wish for any further information. We are clearly a college on the move – onward and upward!

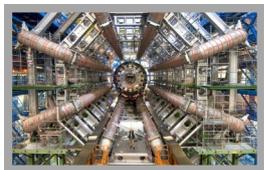
- Martin Meenagh (Principal)

Hunting for the Higg’s Boson



When asked what CERN is many people say that it is a place filled with scientists who know a lot about how the universe works. However upon arrival at the *Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire* we were told that we have only just started exploring how our universe works. In the Globe museum a speaker told us that “for thousands of

years mankind has been wondering about the most important questions”, and CERN was built to answer these questions.



We were allowed to enter the building in which ATLAS, one of the seven big experiments at CERN, is taking place. Our guide, a scientist from the site, told us lots about how the particle accelerator works and what has been found using it. In order to make the particles collide, a lot of money had to be spent and 26 member states had to work together. CERN

is not only important for science but also for diplomacy! Standing next to such a huge project made the whole group feel small and very proud of the politics, countries and scientists involved. In 2012 a major new particle, the Higgs Boson, was discovered; a particle which had been theorised by Peter Higgs back in 1964. In my opinion CERN will bring us much closer to the fundamental questions of the universe and bind us together as mankind, because we will only find these answers if we work together. Even though it was freezing cold in Geneva, the home of CERN, our whole group enjoyed the trip a lot.



- Leopold Schlemmer (Year 11)

Business News

In February this year, as part of their preparation for university, a professor from Hult International Business School came to give a talk to our A2 Business students on the role that technology has played in Globalisation. During the talk, students were told fascinating facts such as how the world's biggest taxi company owns no cars and how the largest accommodation provider in the world owns no property. The session culminated in students coming up with their own ideas of how technology might influence the world in the next 30 years. It is fair to say that we should all worry if their ideas become a reality!



- Ged McKenna
(Head of Humanities)

Are you FairAware?



Fairtrade is an amazing organisation that provides the farmers from poor underdeveloped regions with fair pay for the goods they produce. The money for this is raised through selling goods, the materials for which are produced by Fairtrade farmers. In our opinion it is very important to be aware of Fairtrade and to provide support to farmers by buying Fairtrade products. A few Business Studies students decided to make our school a FairAware school by carrying out an audit with 60 students from our school, explaining to them the concept and benefits of Fairtrade. According to the primary results of the audit, the majority of the students in our college had little prior knowledge of Fairtrade. However, the audit has helped them to gain a better understanding of the importance of Fairtrade and will hopefully encourage them to support it by buying Fairtrade goods more frequently.

- Liaisan Araslangulova (Year 10)

Art and About



Year 13 Art students visited the V&A at the start of March, initially wandering around the sculptures in the Renaissance section, taking photographs, then moving on to the Japanese section, where they gained new ideas for their component two exam preparation.

Also, in March, students went to The National Gallery. They walked through the Sainsbury Wing to the central part of the gallery; students particularly enjoyed seeing well known paintings by Van Gogh, Monet and George Stubbs.



The photography club have also been out and about this term and in the recent snow they went to a nearby park and experimented with a fish-eye lens. They achieved some interesting results with the distorted perspectives.

- Marina De Stacpoole (Head of Art)

Tips for Managing Exam Stress

A little bit of stress can be a good thing as it motivates us to knuckle down and work hard. But exams can make stress levels get out of hand, so it's important to address it and get it back under control.

- * Learn to recognise when you're stressing out. A break or a chat with someone who knows the pressure you're under will get things into perspective.
- * Avoid comparing your abilities with your mates. Everyone approaches revision in different ways, so just make sure you've chosen the method that works best for you. Make a realistic timetable. Stick to it.
- * Eat right. Eat fresh fruit and veg and have a proper breakfasts. Fuel your brain as well as your body - no one can think straight on coffee and chocolate.
- * Sleep well. Wind down before bed and get your full eight hours.
- * Exercise. Nothing de-stresses the mind faster than physical activity, so build it into your timetable. Being a sloth makes our mind sloppy too.

* Panic is often triggered by hyperventilating (quick, shallow breaths). So if you feel yourself losing it during the exam, sit back for a moment and control your breathing. Deep breath in and out through the nose, counting to five each way.

* Steer clear of any exam 'post-mortem'. It doesn't matter what your friend wrote for Question 3(b), it's too late to go back and change your answers, so it will just make you worry even more.



For your diary...



Start of Summer Term – 9th Apr 2018

Internal Exams Week – 29th May – 1st June 2018

End of Summer Term – 29th June 2018 (half-day)

AS & A-Level results day – 16th Aug 2018

GCSE results day – 23rd Aug 2018

Start of Autumn Term – 30th Aug 2018

Please note that study leave for Yr 11 and One-Year GCSE students starts May 14th; for Year 13 and One-Year A-level students study leave starts May 25th.

Congratulations!

We are delighted to announce that Year 13 student Enxhi Sharxhi is to receive a 2018 CIFE Award for being an Outstanding Pupil, voted for by her teachers. The award will be presented at a special ceremony at the House of Lords on 18th April.

Fond Farewell

Sadly, we will be saying good-bye to a tremendous member of staff this Easter, in the form of Alison Henry, who has taught English Language with professionalism and high ability. I would like to take this opportunity to wish her well.

- Martin Meenagh (Principal)