

## Welcome from the Principal



I hope that this newsletter gives you a sense of the developments here this term at Chelsea. In a packed schedule, the Student Council (as you can see) has distinguished itself not only by the amount raised for charity, but also by the organisation of an extremely successful student party. I also note that the hard work of students is being reflected in rising EPP grades, and in their art and photography portfolios, and I congratulate them, and you, on this. We have also, this term, been working very hard to line students up with universities, and I am glad to see applications to both Oxford and Cambridge, the Russell Group, and specialist institutions across the world. Chelsea has become a model school in which forty different nationalities get along and prosper, and this is testament to the hard work of a superb staff. Chelsea is moving onward and upward, and whilst there are even more exciting developments in the pipeline, which we will reveal next term, I think that we can finish this term on a note of achievement, with five new extracurricular clubs, distinction in the Maths Olympiad challenge, and more investment in science to deliver an even better product.

**- Martin Meenagh (Acting Principal)**

## Student Council Updates

It's been a busy term for the Student Council, which elected a new President and Vice-President in the form of Samon Sanchuli and Luila Zaimi. Samon has taken the lead on social events, and Luila has been overseeing charity initiatives and extra-curricular activities such as the newly-formed girls' football team.

In October, Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Student Council held a Bake Sale which raised a very tasty £335. All proceeds were donated to Breast Cancer Now, the UK's largest charity of its kind. Later that month, Halloween was celebrated with a spooky Movie Night, offered free of charge to all students. They were treated to a screening of *The Addams Family* accompanied by delicious snacks and popcorn in the college canteen.



The social highlight of the term was the Christmas Party held on the 2nd December. Student Council took over the Stoll Community Hall for an evening of festive fun. A live DJ, delicious international buffet and several prizes including dinner at a local sushi restaurant, all made for a fantastic high-energy end to the college social calendar 2016!

**- Alison Henry (Student Council Coordinator)**

## Artificial Intelligence at Imperial

In November four students (Robert Harbord, Victoria Rusakova, Oliver Wilkes and Hankun Zhang) attended an Artificial Intelligence lecture at Imperial College London, ranked in the top 10 in the world by QS and the Times. The lecture was full at 300 capacity and with a further 200 on the waiting list, it was the most popular public lecture they have done.



The lecture was delivered by Prof Murray Shanahan, whose book inspired the film *Ex Machina*, and was an introduction to AI looking at the history and landmarks thereof, such as beating Garry Kasparov in chess. Prof Murray Shanahan also talked about recent developments like neural networks and how they function.

**- Enio Fernandes (Teacher of ICT)**

## Fun & Games at CIC

The new CIC Board Games Club is run by our Chinese Liaison Manager and Mandarin teacher, Shu-Chen Warner. The club meets on a Tuesday and has students and staff with a wide range of skills and abilities.



Chess is proving to be the most popular extra-curricular activity. Hopefully in 2017 we shall begin entering some of the students into range of local and national competitions.

## Senior Maths Challenge News

Congratulations to our CIC mathematicians who once again performed outstandingly well in the Senior Maths Challenge.



We had a record four students this year (Julius Zhang, Enea Sharxhi, An-yin Yu and Riger Klosi) automatically qualifying for follow-up rounds. Particular credit should be given to Julius who came out top and qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad round 1.

- Matt Sharpe (Head of Maths)

## Girls Football

This year we created for the first time at Chelsea Independent College 'Girls Football Club'. My friend Kunsulu Baigabatova and I started this club because we wanted to go further than simply training; we want to actually play in matches and to compete with other local teams.

It started with only the 2 of us but after an intensive recruitment campaign more and more girls joined - ignoring the cliché that football is only for boys. Training has been underway since October and we've arranged our first matches for January.

- Luila Zaimi (Y12 Student)

## For your diary...



**Start of Spring Term** – 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017  
**Half Term** – 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017  
**Mock Week** – 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017  
**Parents' Evening** – 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017  
**End of Spring Term** – 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2017  
**Easter** – 3<sup>rd</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April  
**Start of Summer Term** – 24<sup>th</sup> Apr 2017  
**End of Summer Term** – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## Geography Fieldtrip to Ewhurst

As part of their geography coursework, 5 GCSE students visited the river Tillingbourne in Surrey to conduct a day of primary research. The students visited three sites along the river's course and collected data by measuring a range of channel characteristics. The students all performed exceptionally well in their fieldwork tasks.



Having conducted a series of surveys, the students made the short journey back to Chelsea full of excitement about their discoveries. Esther in year 10 said how much she enjoyed the day - "it was an experience we won't forget". Now the hard task of writing up their findings in a 2000 word report begins.

- Eileen McDonagh (Teacher of Geography)

## Art Department Trips



On 30<sup>th</sup> November the year 12 students went on a trip to Tate Britain to visit the Paul Nash exhibition. They really enjoyed looking at the landscape paintings and particularly commented on the calming muted colours they observed. This exhibition will

consolidate existing research that is a crucial part of the course.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December both the year 12 and 13 A-level photography students visited Somerset House for the Malick Sidibe exhibition. They found the work a really interesting account of life in Mali.



## Hellos and Goodbyes

I want to take a moment to say goodbye formally to two members of staff, and to welcome two more. Firstly, Jessica White is moving on to pastures new having been with us since 2015. We will be sad to lose such a talented, engaged, and able person, and of course we wish her well in the future. Her time and effort was valued here, and she has left us much stronger and more efficient than she found us.

Secondly, we are losing Tim Chew, a Business teacher and Sports co-ordinator who has been here for the past term, and who has already become a memorable and lauded member of staff. I would like to thank him for all the effort he has put into the college, and wish him well in his new life in New Jersey.

Thirdly, we will be welcoming Sinead Heatley as Teacher of Business, and have already said hello to Hannah Dargavel-Leafe as Art assistant.

It only remains for me to wish everyone the very best of the season.

- Martin Meenagh (Acting Principal)