



## Week Gone/Ahead – 24th September 2021

Centre Academy London (CAL)

Dear Parents/Carers, Students & Staff,

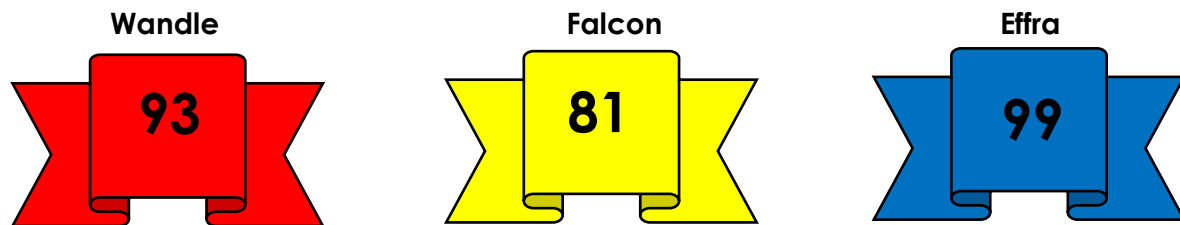
Hello everyone,

### COVID-19

Another busy week at CAL and I am so very proud of the students and grateful to the staff and parents for supporting us as we put in place additional measures to keep our school safe. To date, and we know these things take time, we have had no other positive case in school with staff or students. Please continue with the regular testing and reporting to us. I believe Mrs Yar has solved the glitch and you should be able to use the Teams online form from now on.

### House tokens and Kindness award

After the huge success of the first week, I was holding my breath and crossing my fingers about this week! However, the staff quickly ran out of tokens and had to make IOUs so I think it has been an even greater success. (I have ordered even more bags of tokens in anticipation of next week!)



***“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference”***

*Helen James*

There were 17 nominations this week for student kindness. Some teachers (and the Head 😊) also received one or two votes too. Thank you. That really did make our week. Each nomination receives 5 tokens for their house and **Effra** did in fact have more kindness nominations than anyone else, so it made them worthy winners.

### Staff feature: This week from our Speech & Language therapist:

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 restrictions, some of you have not been able to meet all the staff that work at our school and with your children, so we thought we could have a staff feature until we can all meet in person. Here is our first introduction from Lisa Akinjayjeu:



I joined Centre Academy in November last year as the school Speech and Language Therapist.

I have worked in a number of settings, including specialist provisions and mainstream primary and secondary over the past 20 years in the profession.

My work at school includes teaching all classes for one lesson per week with a focus on social skills and vocabulary development.

In addition, I work with pupils on an individual basis to carry out assessments and direct therapy according to their needs and EHCP documentation.

I also run the Cooking club on Tuesdays with Miss Rivera which is proving very popular with our students!

It is lovely to see the pupils return to being able to mix across the school and it is hugely beneficial for their social communication and interaction.

**Social communication suggestion:** The pupils really enjoy board games and especially those with a competitive element. These games provide great opportunities for turn taking and verbal interaction. Games involving a speech and language focus such as '5 second rule' or 'Articulate' are great fun and provide practice in verbal description and speed of thinking.

**Vocabulary suggestion:** Some of our pupils would benefit from increased exposure to a wider range of vocabulary to improve their comprehension skills. If your child finds reading challenging I would suggest the use of audio books as this provides the exposure to the vocabulary without the barrier of the printed word. In school I also work with individual students to pre-teach vocabulary for key subjects to aid their understanding in lessons.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries or questions – I am in school on Tuesdays to Fridays each week and can be contacted via phone or email: [LAkinjayeju@centreacademy.org.uk](mailto:LAkinjayeju@centreacademy.org.uk)

## Gallery



Miss Treanor uses art during her **Creative** lessons to empower students. Here **Jack** and **Jason** from Phelps used collage and powerful words to describe themselves. I have to say that the words they chose sum them up perfectly: Creative, hard-working, vibrant, honest, thoughtful and tolerant to name a few.



We are blessed with many talented students. Here is a photo of Simone's work which she has yet to finish but shows so much promise.

5 tokens each for your houses. I'm going to have to order more...

## Online safety

From discussions with staff and parents, we feel that as a school, we have some work to do on online safety; particularly regarding accessing inappropriate sites that use sexualised language, violence or adult material. Mrs Yar and I will be focussing on this during our PSHE & ICT lessons but this will also be touched upon in other lessons and during mentor time. May I respectfully ask that you check what your children are accessing on a regular basis? We will be offering workshops and/or online safety information for parents in the coming weeks.

## Soloist of the week



Wow! It takes courage to stand up and sing in front of the school assembly. Well done to **Marianna** who sang "Hit the road Jack!" so tunefully. We were so impressed.

5 tokens to your house Marianna.

## Schools' Matinee at the Royal Opera House 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Mrs Schwartz and Mrs Louis Wood, organised a matinee workshop for the HSD students at the Royal Opera House today. Mrs Yar accompanied Mrs Schwartz and they said it was an amazing experience. The ROH was full of students and the sponsors, members of the Taylor Family Foundation and the Gerald and Gail Ronson Family Foundation were also there. What a wonderful legacy to provide children with their first experience of opera.



Apparently it was very noisy as many of the primary children had learned the *Papagena* song and were raising the roof!

I was very jealous to hear that one of my favourite characters *The Queen of the Night* also sang.

Thanks to Mrs Yar and Mrs Schwartz for accompanying the students to this special event.



## Parent feedback



Thank you for your feedback and voicing your concerns. We have listened and we will be looking at online safety. In addition, we will also be arranging for new parents, the opportunity to meet the staff informally, to chat about their child's start at our school. We will provide more details when we have worked out how to do this safely.

Please continue to email us at: [Londonschool@centreacademy.co.uk](mailto:Londonschool@centreacademy.co.uk).

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe.

Kas Lee-Douglas  
Head of School