



14 September 2018

Dear Parents

Hands up if it feels as if we have been back at school for months? On the positive side, well done to everyone for settling in and starting work so quickly! On the slightly negative side, if this is the pace at which this term is going to proceed, I think we might need a few more hours in a day. We are only just drawing to the end of our first full week and we have already had a very busy Curriculum Evening at the Junior School, a packed Senior School Open Evening, a Year 7 Parents' Coffee Morning, a Channing Association meeting on both sides of the road, and that's just for the grown ups. Your daughters have thrown themselves with gusto into the new school year, and it really IS all systems go!

I must apologise for the way this letter was distributed last week and thank those of you who got in touch to point out the error of my ways. It's one of the eternal challenges of life: how to reach your audience and communicate effectively? I know there are some parents who prefer emails, some who like logging in to Schoolbase, and even some who would rather I picked up a quill and wrote on parchment. We will continue to use various methods to communicate with you and I am sure you will keep on telling me what works best for you. Whether you like tweeting, texting, whatsapping, scrolling or folding, I hope you will find a couple of minutes to catch up each week.

Thank you to all the Year 7 parents for arriving promptly this morning (unlike the coaches). I waved off the four forms, their Year 13 School Officers, a team of teachers and Head of Year Mrs Tomback as they set off for the annual trip to Stubbers. I'm sure they'll have had a wonderful day and that we'll have some great photos to share with you in next Friday's edition.

I love getting back into the routine of school, and was especially glad today as I slipped into the Performing Arts Building to hear the Friday Lunchtime Concert. What a high quality feast, from Anne Moorhouse (bassoon), Constantina Papadopoulous (piano), Clio Harwood (violin) and Constance Froment (flute).

It's Jeans for Genes Day next Friday 21 September for the Senior School. Pupils are asked to bring £2 each for this wonderful cause, and in return, they can wear blue denim jeans. So a mufti (non-uniform) day, but with blue denim jeans (not shorts, not skirts, not dungarees...) and go on then, trainers allowed, and - even though I could never leave home with a tear in my clothes - I'll even turn a blind eye to the odd rip.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Well done to **Eloise Cartwright** in Year 13 who over the summer rehearsed and performed in the musical 'Made in Dagenham' at the Young Actors Theatre in Islington.

Well done to two more pupils with splendid results in Modern Foreign Languages: **Constantina Papadopoulou** achieved an A* in Modern Greek GCSE, and **Hana Shimizu French** achieved an A in AS level Japanese. Both girls are in Year 10.

Congratulations to **Alice Metcalf**, Year 9, who was presented with the Jack Petchey Outstanding Achievement Award over the summer for contribution to sport in the borough of Hackney.

Sophie Sondhelm (Class of 2018), you may remember, was awarded a prestigious Lester B Pearson International Scholarship from the University of Toronto. This week we received a rather smart plaque to recognise this major achievement, along with appreciation for the outstanding curriculum, teaching and leadership opportunities that supported Sophie's successful application. We are all feeling very proud (and envious).

Bronze DofE

Congratulations to all Year 10 students who completed their Bronze DofE assessed expedition last weekend.

The expedition consisted of a completely self-sufficient two-days/one-night hiking and camping trip around the Chilterns. Students carefully planned their routes, prepared their meals and carried their own equipment.

All groups demonstrated outstanding teamwork, grit and perseverance. The sense of achievement at the end of the expedition was incredible!

And with over 100 students completing the Bronze assessed expedition this year, we have set a new Channing record!



News from the Junior School

Forest School

Forest School has resumed in the Junior School. The Year 1 girls have started their topic 'Florence Nightingale' and this week they were wartime nurses and soldiers. Some made medicine and food for soldiers in the mud kitchen, others were practising tying knots for bandages and we even had a few making splints. Luckily, many of the soldiers recovered enough to climb up the trees and enjoy the rope swings too!



Outreach Programme

This week, Jill Fraser returned from the *Kissing It Better* charity to talk to the Junior School girls about nurturing their relationship with grandparents. We also discussed our community work for the upcoming year, continuing with our well established outreach programme. We are delighted to work with Cheverton Lodge, Highgate Care Home and Whittington Hospital and we look forward to classes from Year 1 to Year 6 returning to brighten the days of the residents and patients there.



Fairseat Food Bank

Our Fairseat Food Bank is also open once again and we are collecting donations to be delivered this half term by Year 6 pupils.

Week Ahead

Monday 17 September

Year 11 Geography Trip to Flatford Mill

Senior School Careers Talk at lunchtime: Preparing for Brexit

16:00 auditions for Senior School play

17:45 Year 12 Welcome Evening

18:00 Year 10 Welcome Evening

Tuesday 18 September

15:30 Auditions for Senior School play

Wednesday 19 September

Yom Kippur

Thursday 20 September

School in Action Open Morning

Friday 21 September

Jeans for Genes Day

Year 9 Netball Trip

Join the conversation



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