



28 September 2018

Dear Parents

This week we have celebrated the wonderful diversity of languages on our doorstep in Europe. Many of you know that I am a linguist myself and have had a lifetime of joy from being able to speak to people in their own language. From holidays in Ibiza as a teenager with my non-linguist (envious) older sister to the life-long Catalan friends I made in Barcelona and Tarragona, to adventures in Chile and Argentina, the advantages have been significant. Even two of my sons have married into Spanish and Mexican families!

I love French and German too, and Italian, and would love to know more about Polish, Finnish, Swedish, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian...and so many more. If you saw our tweet or Facebook film clip, I'm sure you'll have been impressed with Channing polyglots. PE teacher Miss Wijmeersch speaks about 6 languages!

You can read more about the many ways we celebrated by scrolling down. Merci Ms Kyle and Ms Bury for leading the way!

Isn't it interesting that we describe ourselves to suit the context? I started this edition of Word by saying that I'm a "linguist". Sometimes I'm a "teacher"; at other times a "mum", a "farmer's daughter", a "Cambridge graduate", or a "Lancastrian". I sometimes avoid telling people that I'm a "headmistress" as it can provoke quite a range of reactions. I recall being introduced at a rather grand function to some captains of global industries who all suddenly jumped, sat up straight and were strangely nervous. I'd like to think it was respect, but it wasn't. It was terror.

Our recent Open Days have reminded me that being a Head in 2018 is a complex, challenging but ultimately rewarding responsibility. I do my best to encapsulate and convey the essence of a Channing education in my talks, but your daughters speak with far more authenticity. Wednesday's Sixth Form Open Evening was an example of what remarkable young women they have become, with a couple of recent alumnae, Maya and Zoe, explaining why their two years in the Sixth Form really were the best time of their lives. No terror at Channing (I hope)!

I wish I could say I'm a "tourist" this weekend, or a "Channing art student" and head off to Sicily with Art teachers Ms Mackie and Mrs Watts, visiting beautiful museums, palaces and churches. In fact, as this pops into your inbox, they will be landing in Palermo. Channing students embracing Europe in style: buon viaggio.

I hope Year 7 parents enjoyed their evening of Study Skills last night, as well as the opportunity to meet the tutors. I am looking forward to the Channing Association AGM on Monday, Year 13 Parents' Evening on Tuesday, the Year 11 Concert on Thursday and the Comedy and Curry Evening on Saturday.

Plus, scroll down for details on how to buy tickets for Channing Fireworks.

Who knew being a Headmistress could be such fun?!

Have a sunny weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

## Girls Enjoying Success

### SPORT

## GSA Conover Hall U14 Netball Tournament

Channing School travelled to Shropshire to take part in the GSA Conover Hall Netball Tournament. On the first evening the girls were able to take part in a Q & A session with England Roses Netball player Eboni Beckford Chambers. Eboni shared her experiences as a player and how she has balanced her studies and career with her professional sports career.

On Saturday, play in the Tournament began. The girls played 9 matches winning all of their matches except our last match to Putney High. We had wins over Notting Hill & Ealing, JAGS, Jersey College, St George's Ascot, Canford House, Tormead B, Abbots Hill and St Catherine's Bramley. We were placed in the top group on the Sunday where narrowly lost to both Bolton and St. Paul's (both by 2 goals!) but beat Notting Hill and Ealing in our last match. We played for 5th & 6th place against Tourmead and lost the match narrowly 10-11.

This meant we finished a creditable 6th overall. Well done to our U14s and thanks to Ms Della Porta and Ms Zekan for taking the team to compete.



## Geography News

What is the shortest film you have ever watched? Ask a Channing Geographer and they will say 'The premier of "The UK in 100 Seconds: What if we made more space for nature?"'

On Monday the Channing Senior Geography Society attend this premier. It was a provocative and thought-provoking film that rearranges the United Kingdom's land into 32 categories and divides them over 100 seconds. Each second equates to 1% of what the country looks like from the air. It was followed by an engaging and challenging Q&A. Made by guerrilla geographer Daniel Raven-Ellison and filmmaker Jack Smith, the film was made by travelling from Tongue in the north of Scotland to the New Forest in the south of England. Each second of the film covers roughly one metre of Raven-Ellison's walk through moorland and peat bogs, down a runway and over a dump. Made in collaboration with Friends of the Earth, the film gives an honest reflection of what land looks like and how it is used in the United Kingdom and raises some challenging questions. A major inspiration for Raven-Ellison making the film is the amount of space that is used for feeding livestock and the question - what if we made more space for nature?

## Geography Society Speaker

Channing Senior Geography Society were delighted to welcome **Deborah Crewe** to school on Wednesday. Deborah is a professional writer with a background as a senior civil servant, in addition to being mother to three fantastic Channing girls, Hannah in Year 11 and Ruby and Esther in Year 8. Deborah was involved in the writing of the book 'Factfulness' by the late Hans Rosling, which aims to enlighten people about the true state of the world and reveal the ten instincts that distort our perspective of global trends. Bill Gates said of it: "One of the most important books I've ever read—an indispensable guide to thinking clearly about the world." Deborah's inspiring and informative talk challenged our misconceptions about important measures such as the percentage of people with access to electricity or number of years girls spend in education and highlighted the importance of having a fact-based world view.



## MFL News

This week we have been celebrating Modern Foreign Languages Week at Channing.

On Monday we were proud to welcome Baroness Coussins, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Modern Languages to lead the Senior School assembly.

She spoke engagingly about the importance of languages for any student's educational portfolio, of the benefits of the multilingual brain, but perhaps most strikingly of the joy of being able to speak another language.

Baroness Coussins then kindly stayed to judge the MFL Poetry Competition. Pupils from Years 8 to 13 performed poems in Spanish, French, German, Hebrew, Mandarin, Russian, Persian and Gaelic. There were some outstanding, and at times genuinely moving recitals.

Wednesday saw a fantastic European-themed lunch, Spanish hula hooping and a video of Channing staff talking about, and in, the various languages that they speak.



On Thursday, Year 8 pupils sold their Great European Bake Off creations at a charity bake sale and Year 9 performed Disney songs in different foreign languages.

Older students were fortunate to attend a talk given by Rosalind Harvey, lecturer in Spanish from the University of Warwick on Friday. She spoke about studying languages at university and reminded us all of just how important linguistic proficiency is for those set to become citizens of the world.

## News from the Junior School

### MORE SPORTING SUCCESS!

#### Netball Golds

Yesterday, Year 6AB teams played in the Highgate Netball Tournament. Although the conditions were cold and rainy, the girls didn't let this dampen their enthusiasm. Although it is early in the season they played some wonderful netball

and showed excellent teamwork throughout. Their fitness was tested playing back-to-back games. We were delighted when both teams won their respective tournaments, meaning every girl took home a 1st place medal. Overall we finished with 7 wins and 1 draw.

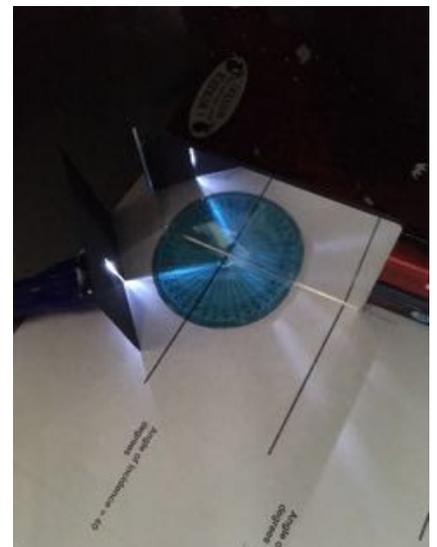
What a successful morning of sport for the Junior School!



## Year 6 exploring Physics

Last week, Y6 pupils worked in groups to investigate what happens when a light beam hits a reflective surface (mirror). In groups, they measured the angle of incidence (the angle at which the light beam travels towards and hits the mirror) from 10 to 50 degrees. They also then measured the angle of reflection (the angle at which the light beam is reflected from the mirror). The girls realised, through their results data, that a beam of light is reflected at the same angle as the angle at which the light beam hit the mirror. All pupils in Year 6 can now confidently answer the following questions:

- Where does light come from?
- What does light do?
- What happens when there is no light?
- What is a source of light?
- What happens when light is blocked?
- Which objects can light pass through?
- What is the relationship between the angle of incidence and the angle of reflection?



## IG at The Florence Nightingale Museum

On Wednesday IG had a great adventure up to London to the Florence Nightingale Museum. After meeting Florence herself, learning a bit more about her life, as well as impressing her with all our knowledge, the girls were able to explore the museum. They helped pack a bag for a soldier, they compared clothes and equipment from hospitals old and new, they smelt herbs that made natural medicine, and they even got to see Florence's pet owl Athena. The day finished with lunch overlooking the Thames and House of Parliament. What a great day!



## Year 5 Trip to The V&A Museum

Both Year 5 classes visited the V&A Museum on Wednesday. This was linked to their current History topic: The Victorians. As well as admiring the wonderful architecture, fabulous fashion exhibits and William Morris prints, they were treated to a workshop all about The Great Exhibition of 1851. They learnt some fascinating facts about the inventions that were on show in the Crystal Palace, as well as the people who commissioned the event in Hyde Park all those years ago.



## Forest School

This week the Forest School area was transformed into a hospital during the Crimean War. Unfortunately it was so unhygienic and disgusting and there were bugs everywhere! The Year 1 girls needed to take action and sweep it up. What better way than to make something to sweep with? The girls made excellent implements using large and small sticks and learned how to tie knots - although, some brushes didn't last long with such ferocious sweeping!!



## Channing Fireworks!

The much-anticipated Channing Fireworks 2018 will take place on Saturday 3 November 2018 at the Channing Playing Fields, Stanhope Road, Highgate London N6 5NG.

In support of Channing's unique Adelante programme the event this year will take on a Latin American feel with a live Latin American band performing two sets and also Salsa Dancers teaching some salsa moves to rival Strictly! There will be fabulous Mexican food including Burritos, Tacos and Nachos and Hot Dogs by Chilly Katz Dogs. The Churros cart will provide the sweet treat for the evening, tea and coffee will also be available. The food will be very reasonably priced and suitable for all the family with vegetarian options available. As always, we will have our Beer Tent selling Mulled Wine, Hot Spiced Apple Punch, Wine and Beer (kindly donated by The Camden Town Brewery). There will be sweeties and glo accessories for the kids and this year we will also have some glow in the dark face painting.

Gates open at 5:30pm with the firework display starting at 6:45pm. Gates will close at 8:30pm.

The Channing display is always a spectacular one, if you get your tickets before half term you will qualify for our early bird offer of £42 for a family ticket instead of £45. Tickets available at <https://bit.ly/2wwwGra> (you may need to copy and paste this link).

## Music at Lunchtime

Today's lunchtime recital was 'Vocals Only' and began with Sophie Dain in Y7 giving her first performance, no doubt of many, on the stage of the PAB. This week we are celebrating European languages so two of our singers sang songs in German by Schumann, Riana Chandaria and Flora Froment. Renee Shields and Bridie Milsom both sang showstoppers from

'The Wizard of Oz' and 'The King and I' and the recital closed with a duet sung by Talia Nabarro and Anna Milsom. Do listen to their performances by clicking on the SoundCloud link below.



<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/lunchtime-concert-280918>



## Notice

The **Sixth Form Babysitting List** is now available from the Junior and Senior School offices. These can be emailed or collected in person as a hard copy, on request.

## **Week Ahead**

### **Monday 1 October**

15.30 SS Hans Woyda Match at St Michael's School: Maths Team

16.00 SS Yr 8A & 9A Netball Match vs St Margaret's (home)

18.00 Channing Association Coordinating Meeting, Sixth Form Centre

19.00 Channing Association AGM, PAB

### **Tuesday 2 October**

15.15 Senior U16A Netball vs SHHS (away)

17.00 - 18.00 Year 13 Parents Evening

### **Wednesday 3 October**

15.40 Year 12/13 Royal Geographical Society Geography Trip

16.00 SS Yr 7 ABC & 8AB Netball vs Highgate (away)

### **Thursday 4 October**

National Poetry Day

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

18.00 Year 11 Concert PAB

### **Friday 5 October**

National Teachers Day

**Join the conversation**



ChanningSchool



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