



5 October 2018

Dear Parents

I often tell the story of the 51% rule.

This came to me in the form of some wise counsel from the father of a close friend of mine. We had just watched her marry, and as the vintage blue Rolls Royce was about to pull away, I muttered something profound along the lines of "I hope they'll be very happy." He replied: "To be happy, they'll need to follow the 51% rule", and his explanation has always stayed with me, helping me when times have been tough.

Here it is.

Some people, and often the young, think that happiness is a goal, something to aim for and to work towards.

Their big mistake, according to my friend's father, is in thinking that only 100% happiness will do.

"Nobody is 100% happy 100% of the time", he said. "There may be moments of complete joy, but generally, those moments are fleeting. If you aim to be happy 90% of the time, you will fail. 80%? Ambitious and unlikely. 70%? Perhaps in an ideal context and then, only occasionally. 60%? You are very blessed. If you are generally happy 60% of the time, you are a lucky human being. Even at 51%, you are still winning. The majority of your time is positive."

And what if it dips below?

"Even 50% is ok," he said. "49% is when you need to take action. Make a change, as a matter of urgency."

And I have, over the years, applied this to most situations.

It makes me sad when students feel they have to achieve perfection. You really don't!

I feel very fortunate to enjoy a very high percentage of my working day. Please don't think that it's all a bed of roses...dealing with the many challenges facing members of this community is sometimes difficult and at times, almost unbearable, but then along comes a ray of sunshine, and the happiness quotient increases!

As I sat listening to the Year 11 concert last night, it was almost at 100%! The music was wonderful, as was the setting - the Arundel Centre - and I was so proud of the 16 performers, especially when they all played and sang together at the end. I say "almost" as the show had to end, and I still had work to do, but thank you, Year 11, and to the many Year 11 students who stayed late to support their friends.

I also hover close to the 100% mark when I am meeting Year 13 students to discuss their university applications. All our applicants for Oxford and Cambridge, along with the medics, dentists and vets have to submit their applications ahead of the early deadline of 15 October and many other students are keen to send off their UCAS forms promptly. Reading their personal statements and references summarises the

accomplishments, passions and ambitions of this new generation of women and I couldn't be prouder. Thank you to Ms Kung and the team of tutors and teachers who guide our Year 13s and who continue to support and coach them in their final year at Channing.

I also thoroughly enjoy my annual meeting this term with individual Heads of Departments as we review 2017 - 18, and in particular, public examination results, and look forward to what lies ahead. The level of analysis of results and exciting plans for stretch, challenge, support and even more opportunities is impressive.

It's World Teachers' Day today. If you know a teacher, let them know how much you appreciate them. By 2030, if the UN is to reach its education goals of universal primary and secondary education, the world needs to hire 69 million new teachers. One possible growth industry for the future?

Only one week to go until half term!

The second half of the Autumn Term is long and busy and term does not end at Channing until **19th December. PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE.**

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

## Girls Enjoying Success

### Drama News

The Drama department have hosted 2 workshops over the past week from visiting theatre companies Splendid Productions and Frantic Assembly. GCSE and A-Level students participated in a Brechtian session, exploring the practitioners distinctive style of political theatre-making and also tested their physical strength and skill in a movement based workshop. The girls made the most of the opportunity to try out the ideas and exercises of these key practitioners and created some thought-provoking and dynamic work as a result.



### Art News

Sixth Form Art students were treated to the delights of Palermo last weekend, when they overcame a Ryanair strike and the threat of a hurricane to fly to Sicily. Ms Mackie and Mrs Watts led a tour around the eye-opening contemporary art of the *Manifesta Biennial*, much of which is installed in dilapidated palazzos scattered around the city. Students found themselves immersed in Sicilian culture, breathing in the sights, sounds and smells of the busy streets and consuming copious amounts of pasta.. Every corner offered a beautiful monument: an opportunity to take a photograph or create a drawing in a sketchbook. The group returned, tired and happy on Sunday night - on the luxury of a British Airways flight.



## Geography News

On Wednesday this week The Senior Geography Society attended a lecture by Dr Amy Donovan from King's College London. She discussed the importance of understanding interactions between human and physical environments. We were learnt about the use of scientific advice in decision-making and tectonic hazards: vital and interesting stuff.

## Music News

### Year 11 Concert

Last night we witnessed the amazing talents of the Year 11 GCSE Music group playing and singing in front of a full PAB. The high standard was set with Maja Higgins's opening piece by Pergolesi, the first of six vocalists - Kit Lampi, Rebecca Fenner, Beth Warren and Lara Dailey, with Emilia Evans-Munton singing 'Imagine' accompanying herself on the guitar. Both Cocoa Wagner and Yelena Hill played Vivaldi on the flute and guitar respectively. Our two cellists, Catherine Butler and Mia Abrams, were sublime and Amelia Chan delighted on the violin. The light and shade created by Juliet Freeman's clarinet was illuminating and uplifting. A quartet of pianists put our Shigeru-Kawai through its paces - Xanthe Melikian, Jessica Berlin, Anika Anand, and Antonie Benkert. However, it was the finale that brought the house down. All 16 musicians sang and played a superbly crafted and rehearsed medley of songs, that they had created themselves. They called themselves the Boxardos and Miss Zanardo and Mr Boxall could not have been more proud! Well done, to all of them!



## Year 7 Workshop

Last Thursday, Year 7 students participated in a study skills workshop run by Dr. Martijn van der Spoel. Students spent the morning participating in a variety of activities designed to get them thinking about their own learning and develop techniques to improve their memory.



## Sports News

On Monday the **Year 8 & 9's played St Margaret's School**. Channing won both matches. The Year 8 team won 8-0 and the Year 9 team won their match 12-6.

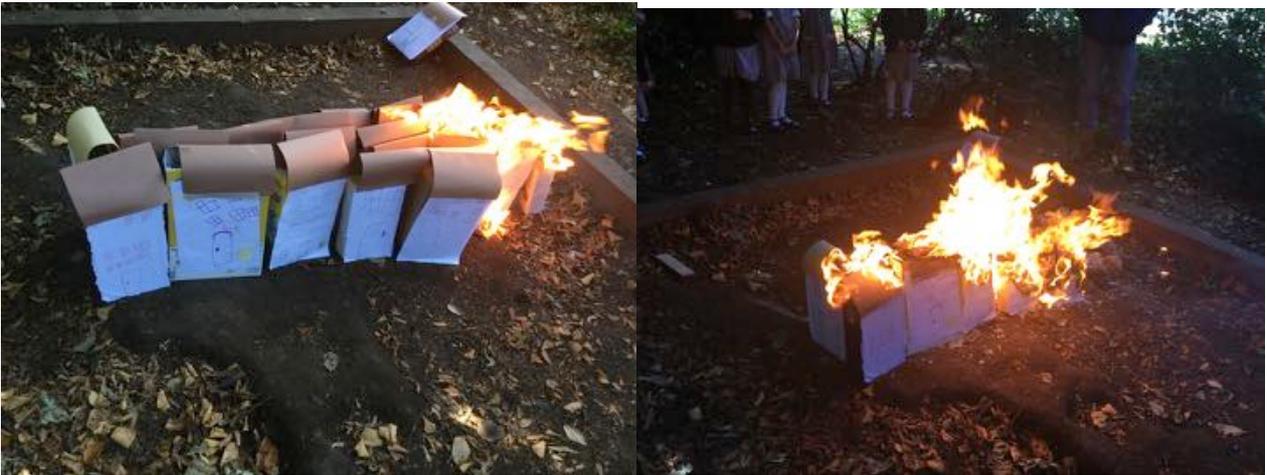
On Wednesday the **Year 8's Played against Highgate**. The A's lost 12-9 and Lola Majurey won player of the match. B's lost 11-3 and player of the match Flora Oppenheimer.

On Thursday the **UI5 Netball** team travelled to Guildford to play against Reigate Grammar. It was a tense and toughly fought match with Channing losing 25-33.

Wednesday afternoon saw our first fixture with **Year 7 vs Highgate**. Much to our delight the A, B and C teams all came home with a victory. The A team won 5-3 led by captain Kiki Berman who also won player of the match. Adele Ryan captain of the B team was awarded player of the match and led her team to a victory of 9-2. Georgie Grossman a proud captain of the C team winning 6-2. Congratulations to Sophie McSpadden who won player of the match. Well done to all of the students participating and many thanks to the parents who came to support.

## News from the Junior School

This week, Year 1 were learning about the Great Fire of London and had their very own fire! The girls used cardboard boxes to make the houses, showing that they were made from timber with a thatched roof. They discussed how these materials were so flammable. They then placed the houses very close together to demonstrate another reason why the fire spread so quickly. Samuel Pepys' house was further away and survived the fire (saving his buried diary and cheese too!) It was a windy day just like it was in 1666 so we could see how the fire spread so quickly! What a dramatic start to a new topic!



## House Buddies

Fairseat pupils spent time with their House Buddies on Tuesday morning. They interviewed their buddies to find out more about one another and the Reception girls spent time getting to know their Year 4 buddies in the Reception classrooms. A fun morning was had by all!



## Junior School Sports News

We welcomed St Christina's for a Y5A and Y6A fixture. It was our first Y5 game of the year and the girls were very excited. After losing an early goal they showed great perseverance to score a goal of their own and the score finished 1-1. Our Y6s were fresh off the back of their successful weekend and were looking to consolidate their performances. Although initially caught on the back foot they traded goals throughout the game. The score finished in a thrilling 10-10 draw.

## Teddy Bears Picnic

The Year 1 pupils visited the Senior School on Wednesday afternoon, where they were met by some Senior School students. Together they had a Teddy Bear's Picnic with their teddy bears! The girls enjoyed homemade cakes, fruit and squash, whilst listening to music. The girls spent time talking to the Senior School students and introducing them to their teddies. The money raised will go towards the charity Fairseat are supporting this term, Rhythms of Life.





## 6E Assembly

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October saw 6E take the lead with their first assembly. Following on from their PSHE topic the girls taught the rest of the school about *Growth Mindset*. They talked to their audience about what they had found out in their lessons and for their homework, giving examples of role models in this area. The girls acted out *The Tortoise and the Hare* – encouraging their listeners to be more Tortoise! Their enthusiasm for the topic shone through, especially as they sang and danced to a song about *The Power of Yet* – you may not be able to do something, but tell yourself, “I can’t do it... YET”.



## Harvest Assembly

This morning, both Year 6 classes led the Junior School in a celebration for Harvest Festival. Some thought provoking words that could be made from the word HARVEST, Share and Starve being just two of them, lovely singing and the bountiful food supplies so generously donated to Caris made us realise how lucky we were.



## **Week Ahead**

### **Monday 8 October**

18:00 - 19:45 SS Y12 Duke of Edinburgh Award: Gold

12.50 - 13.30 SS Careers Talk

16.00 SS Netball Year 8 ABCD vs CLGS (home)

### **Tuesday 9 October**

Year 10 Olympic Park Geography Trip

15.15 SS Netball Senior AB, UI6A vs Highgate (away)

16.00 - 19.30 SS Classics Symposium, Arundel Centre

### **Wednesday 10 October**

9.15 - 11.00 School in Action Open Morning

16.00 Year 8 & 9 vs SHHS (home)

### **Thursday 11 October**

### **Friday 12 October**

SS Non Uniform Day

**Join the conversation**



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