



16 November 2018

Dear Parents

Thursday saw our final Open Morning of 2018, and what a bumper occasion! First of all we welcomed our Year 5 pupils and their parents for their own “private” visit. No need for them to meet the Headmistress - I know this year group well! I did, however, want them to meet Head of Year 7 and Secondary Transition, Mrs Tomback, who offered advice and reassurance about the first year in Senior School. Even though these girls do not have far to travel to their new setting, it IS a big change for all 11 year olds. Then I introduced Ms Newman, our Director of Studies, who spoke about the new linear A levels and numerical GCSE grades, and the clear advantage Fairseat girls enjoy when it comes to academic achievement. Also introducing herself was Ms Kung, our new Director of Sixth Form, who cautioned against thinking that public exams and university applications were a lifetime away: time passes so quickly, but Channing families can be assured that they will receive an exceptional and personalised programme of preparation for higher education. Then came our two Head Girls, Lucy and Isobel, both Channing “lififers”, and both just the sort of young people any parent would be proud of. And finally, what better recommendation that from a mother of not one, not two, but THREE Channing pupils! I was delighted that Lisa Christie accepted my invitation to say a few words to the parents of Year 5 pupils about why she is also very proud of the achievements and development of her daughters.

These families then toured the Senior School, guided by eager Year 9 pupils, who are great ambassadors and supporters of their school.

Another 400 guests arrived and they too, listened in earnest as we explained the benefits of a Channing education, and more than that, being part of the Channing family. But if you’re reading this, I guess you know that already!

I am very grateful to our Admissions team, from Maureen McHarg, our Registrar, the Marketing Department, all our non-teaching professionals and of course, the teachers, who, along with your daughters, really do embody the true spirit of the school. No prospectus can communicate the way that they do.

We were treated to a remarkable assembly this morning, as the 10 intrepid World Challenge Expedition 2018 students shared their experiences from Ethiopia and Tanzania last July. Their images were stunning and it was clearly a challenging, uplifting and life-changing trip. We also applauded Mr Boardman, for his inspirational leadership and generosity, and perhaps dared to dream that he might do it all over again?

I was very proud to lay a wreath on behalf of the Channing community at Highgate School’s Centenary Armistice ceremony last Sunday. Congratulations to Olivia Dugdale in Year 13, whose rendition of the Last Post

at Highgate Cemetery, prompted a letter from someone who saw and heard her, full of admiration and respect for her talent and dignity. Thank you, Olivia.

If this Word reaches you with no news of the visit of HRH Princess Sarvath El Hassan, either

- a) she didn't show up
- b) we are all still celebrating the opening of the Arundel Centre, and I'm not leaving the party!

More news and photos next week!

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Top of the Bench

Sameeha Velmi (9SP), Catrin Papanastassiou Jenkins (9SP), Mia Hanna (10F) and Hannah Sondhelm (11W) were the first ever Channing team at this year's Chiltern and Middlesex regional heat of the RSC Top of the Bench competition. The competition involved some challenging questions on a range of different chemical ideas, ranging from how to clean up oil spillages to how to identify the best indigestion remedy. The girls worked well as a team and did their best, gaining interesting new knowledge. We certainly have some ideas to pass on to the 2019 team! Dr Spinks would like to thank the team for being excellent company and for their hard work.



Sports News

Channing's winning form continued this week winning a clean sweep of matches against Francis Holland

Snr A vs Francis Holland - Won 19-9

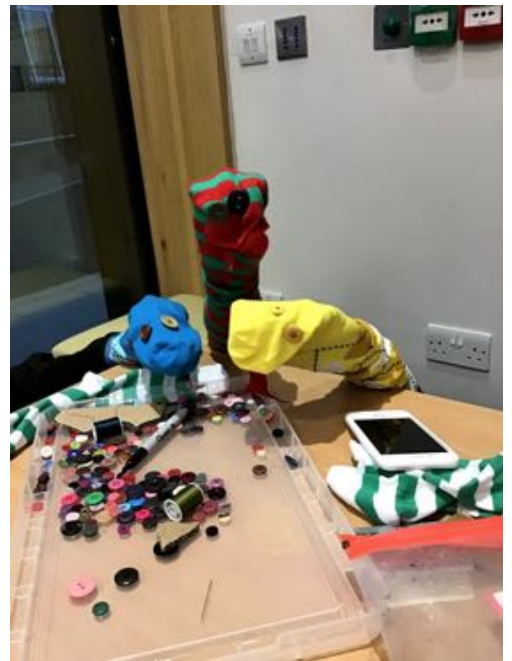
Snr B vs Francis Holland Won 9-7

U15 - Francis Holland - Won 12-6

Best of luck to the U14 and the U16 teams who are competing in the Middlesex round of the National Schools Netball competition this Sunday at Lady Eleanor Holles School.

Snakes from the Design Team

Rehearsals for the school play are in full swing. So, too, is the weekly work being done by the design and technical teams. Some students are learning how to programme and operate the Arundel Centre's state of the art lighting and sound systems, plus training on the stage management comms. Meanwhile, others have been busy scouring the script to make location, costume and props lists. Now, they are making puppets - here are the first few sock snakes off the production line. In the production a hoard will attack Es Sinbad in the jewelled valley... so these ones decided to rehearse!



Careers Speakers

The Sixth Form has heard from a range of external speakers on topics as diverse as a career in Channel 4, working in Dentistry, employment law and the financial crisis. Student feedback was excellent. Many thanks to Catrina Smith, Maddy Trimmer (alumna), Richard Boardman, Dr Aylin Baysan and Dr Nahal Razaghi for sharing their expertise. If any other members of the Channing community would like to contribute to our Careers Programme - for example, by offering students work experience, please email careers@channing.co.uk.

UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

Congratulations to all girls that achieved certificates in the recent UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge and particularly to Daria Hall who achieved a gold certificate, "best in school" as well as qualifying for the Senior Kangaroo paper. Well done also Yuanyuan Sheng and Charlotte Free, the best in Years 12 and 11 respectively, both achieving silver certificates.

News from the Junior School

Author Visit

Channing Junior girls had a sneak preview of an exciting new children's book on Monday 12 November - which they helped to inspire.

Award-winning children's writer and Channing Junior School drama teacher Anne-Marie Conway got the idea for her latest book when she asked her classes what she should write about next. The unanimous answer was; 'Unicorns!' – and so she decided to do her first public reading of '*Unicorn Girl*' in the place where it all started. On Monday 12th November, Years 3-6 took part in a special workshop, heard extracts from the book and participated in a Q&A, followed by a book-signing in the library.

Unicorn Girl is Miss Conway's seventh novel. It is being published to help raise money to build a new library at a local secondary school, with profits from the first 5000 copies sold going towards the fund.

Miss Conway said, "I had the most fantastic day talking to the girls in KS2. They were so enthusiastic and asked so many questions. I told them about the decision to self-publish in order to raise money for the new library, and how I got my niece involved doing the illustrations. It was a real treat to kickstart my promotional events at Fairseat - and I'm looking forward to talking to Year 7 girls at the senior school on Monday."

If anyone would still like to purchase a copy of *Unicorn Girl*, it is available on Amazon and also at local bookshops.



Anti-Bullying Week

A group of seven girls, from Y6M, wrote and performed a short play in Wednesday's assembly to promote Anti-Bullying Week at Fairseat. Opal Harper, Eve Cronkshaw, Paloma Lewis, Ariella Bentata, Zainab Alam, Aoife Feeney and head girl, Phoebe Lipton, explained the definitions of social, physical, verbal and cyber bullying to all pupils in KS2 whilst using short drama pieces to emphasise the impact each *could* have on a Channing girl. The group's mantra, "Be a buddy, not a bully" reiterates the national Anti-Bullying Week campaign, urging children to "Choose Respect."

Well done, girls.



Sports News

On Friday, four Y6 teams ventured to Highgate School for a mini netball tournament. First, we played St Christophers. All games were close and ended in a Channing win! The results were as follows; Channing Blue 4-0, Channing Black 4-3, Channing Yellow 2-0 and Channing Red 2-1.

Next we played Highgate Year 6, which is always a highly competitive match. We worked hard and played some excellent netball, although other than Channing Red team having an outstanding game and winning 1-0 the results didn't go our way. Channing Blue lost 7 - 6, Channing Yellow lost 2-0 and Channing Black lost 2-1.

Lastly, we played Highgate Year 5. Although we towered over the younger opposition, the focus of the game wasn't to win. In this game the girls were asked to concentrate on things they have learnt in lesson, tidying up their techniques and the skills they would like to improve as individual players and as a team. Channing put in an excellent performance and showed real improvement in their game play.

Congratulations to all involved and a big thank you to Mrs Smith and Miss McGinney for joining us at Highgate.



Well done to the girls who played St Margaret's on Wednesday evening. For most of our Y5 team it was their first game and they were unlucky to lose out 3-4 after a closely fought match. Our Y6 teams continue to do well and won their match 7-2.



Forest School

This week Year 1 used loppers for the first time in their Forest School session. After a safety talk from Mrs Constant, the girls practised using the loppers in pairs and at the end of the session we had enough small sticks to make a bug hotel! We were delighted to see that within a few minutes we had a bug resident already!



Christmas Crafts

The girls of Fairseat got together with their House Buddies this week and made Christmas decorations and cards. These will be delivered to the local care homes in the weeks leading up to Christmas.



Community projects and MFL

Yesterday, 6E went to visit patients at the Whittington Hospital. They beautifully sang a Spanish song 'La Cucaracha' and interpreted a short play entirely in French: a teacher and a class are desperately looking for a French castle to visit but, unfortunately, as it takes them very long to arrive, they find it closed! The patients and their visitors were more than pleased and the girls very much enjoyed exchanging a few words with some of them.



The Channing Festive Pudding Shop: Open until 21 November

There are only a few days left to order your Channing Pudding. There are some delicious flavours this year with labels specially designed by girls from Y7 and KS2. All the puddings are vegetarian. Visit our online shop to place your order at <https://bit.ly/2yTePfZ>.

All orders will be delivered to your daughters at school, week commencing 10 December. It is important that you remember to provide your daughter's name and class in the appropriate section on the shopping basket page.

Week Ahead

Monday 19 November

SS Year 8 Group 1 (8SP & 8SH) Trip to Cadiz Spain: all week

Year 7 Health Checks: all week

Year 12/13 Classics Trip

Year 7 Guest Speaker: Ms Conway

16.00 - 18.00 Year 13 A Level Drama Rehearsal

Tuesday 20 November

18.00 Parents Briefing for the Christmas Market Trip

18.30 Year 13 A Level Drama Exam

Wednesday 21 November

Thursday 22 November

10.30 - 15.30 SS Sixth Form English Trip; The Duchess of Malfi

14.25 - 16.30 Autumn Concert Rehearsal at St Joseph's Church

19.30 - 21.00 Autumn Concert at St Joseph's Church

Friday 23 November

13.00 Music at Lunchtime

Join the conversation



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