



2 November 2018

Dear Parents

Do you listen to Any Questions on Radio 4 at the weekend? I do, and am often struck by the very wide range of opinions and frankly, the poor quality of debate. I appreciate that the programme makers seek to entertain as much as to inform, but it does not always make for edifying listening. I've given up on BBC1's Question Time. It's not so much the lack of fluency or eloquence of the speakers that I find disappointing: some of our pupils at Channing are far more articulate. Some panellists have that annoying habit of prefacing every comment with "You know what?" or "Look!" No, I think what upsets me is the lack of courtesy. Call me old-fashioned, but is there really any excuse for bad manners? Surely the best orators make their point using wit and wisdom, rather than hurling insults or shouting. The braying and jeering in the House of Commons hardly sets a good example either for our young people and those who constantly interrupt or talk over someone trying to express a view are, at the very least, disrespectful.

The ability to speak effectively (and yes, respectfully) is one of the reasons we put so much time and effort into building the Arundel Centre. Giving our pupils a platform to communicate, whether it be in a debate, a speech, an assembly, a monologue or any sort of performance, is one way to ensure that they will be leaders rather than followers, women of influence rather than retiring wallflowers. I hope they will always speak out with clarity, dignity and respect.

The formal opening of the Arundel Centre will take place on Friday 16 November. I am delighted that HRH Princess Sarvath el Hassan of Jordan has agreed to do the honours, and she will be our guest that afternoon. I am looking forward to welcoming this very special Channing alumna back to her old school. The Princess was a pupil here from 1955 to 1964 and on a visit to the school over 20 years ago, she said: "I believe that Channing followed an educational pattern which could be considered as an excellent role model for other schools...I am not denigrating those who cover themselves and their schools with academic glory, but it is good to be reminded that human worth is also a rare and valuable asset. Channing tried, I believe, to **educate** its girls rather than merely give them qualifications."

Interestingly, "educado" is the Spanish word for polite.

On another note, do you have specific experience or expertise in the area of artificial intelligence or related technologies? We are hosting a conference next March: teachers and leaders from girls' schools will gather at Channing for a day of practical sessions looking at ways to introduce transformative technologies such as

virtual/augmented reality and artificial intelligence into education. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time at the Channing Fireworks party on Saturday - thank you to the parents in the Channing Association who work so hard to make this the best firework party in town!

And thank you to all my colleagues who took trips over the half term break...Morocco, Spain, Germany, Wales and Sri Lanka. Read more about their adventures below!

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

## Morocco Trip

Year 11 and A-Level geographers had a fantastic time discovering the geography of Morocco over half term. Highlights of the trip were exploring the physical geography of the Atlas mountains, marvelling at the incredible scenery along the Tizi-n-Tichka Pass, spending a night in the Sahara Desert accessed by a camel ride and waking up to watch the sunrise on the sand dunes. In Marrakech we spent time understanding the urban change and exploring the A Level theme of sense of place. We also examined the impact of water shortages and the effect that has on the urban and rural population. In Marrakech we visited the Souk and the Marjorelle Gardens. Well done to the 30 students accompanied by Mrs Blake, Mr Boardman and Miss Romero-Wiltshire for their enthusiasm throughout the trip.



## Sri Lanka Netball Tour

A group of 18 students and 3 staff travelled to Sri Lanka over half term. Whilst in Sri Lanka, the students visited the Temple of Tooth Relic, the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, a local turtle Sanctuary, the UNESCO world heritage listed city of Galle. The girls also visited Foundation of Goodness Charity, where our students had the opportunity to coach netball to local students.

The main focus of the tour was, however, the netball and the girls also took part in 3 fixtures, all strongly contested. The local opposition and the hot and humid weather conditions proved to be challenging but the Channing teams fought hard to win 4 of their 6 matches.

Overall the tour proved to be a valuable experience both on the sporting field and experiencing the culture and the sights of Sri Lanka.

### Recent Netball Results

Year 10A beat South Hampstead High School - 26-6

Year 9A lost to South Hampstead High School - 8-18

Year 9B lost to South Hampstead High School - 3-18

## Laude Palacio de Granda

During the holiday, students from our Year 13 Spanish class visited Laude Palacio de Granda - our partner school in Oviedo, Asturias. The trip was part of an immersion course, aimed at improving our fluency and confidence. Our first days consisted of attending and participating in History, Geography, Spanish Literature and Economics classes. We were even able to attend some of their English language lessons and were shocked at their similarity to our Spanish classes! Taking part in full Spanish school days was of great value, as we were able to learn about Spanish history, culture and life whilst improving our listening and speaking skills. We also had a lot of fun teaching English to the one of school's classes by playing games and singing songs whilst of course practising our Spanish - our grasp of the Imperative has never been better! Towards the end of the week we experienced local culture, visiting the mountains by bicycle, seeing Oviedo's markets, trying Asturian tapas and exploring 'España verde' or 'Green Spain'. The trip was certainly an unforgettable one and we would like to thank Ms Kyle, our Spanish teacher, for organising such a beneficial and enjoyable trip, and Mr Williamson for accompanying us. We had a great time!



*Durante las vacaciones, algunas alumnas de nuestra clase de español del año 13 visitamos Laude Palacio de Granda - nuestra escuela hermana en Oviedo, Asturias. El viaje fue parte de un curso de inmersión, para mejorar nuestra fluidez y confianza. Los primeros días consistieron de asistir y participar en clases de historia, geografía, literatura española y economía. ¡Incluso pudimos asistir a algunas de sus clases de inglés y nos quedamos impactadas por su similitud con nuestras clases de español! Participar en jornadas escolares completas fue de gran valor, ya que pudimos aprender sobre la historia española, cultura y vida mientras que mejoramos nuestras habilidades al escuchar y hablar. También, nos divertimos mucho enseñando inglés a una de las clases de la escuela primaria por jugar a juegos y cantar canciones mientras practicamos nuestro español- nuestra comprensión del imperativo nunca ha sido mejor! Hacia el fin de semana, experimentamos la cultura local, visitando las montañas en bici, viendo los mercados de Oviedo, probando tapas asturianas y explorando 'España verde'. El viaje fue verdaderamente inolvidable y nos gustaría agradecer a Señora Kyle, nuestra profesora de español, por haber organizado un viaje tan beneficioso y agradable, y Señor Williamson por nos haber acompañado ¡lo pasamos bomba!*



by Symran Saggar and Naomi Rosenfeld

# Girls Enjoying Success

## Drama News

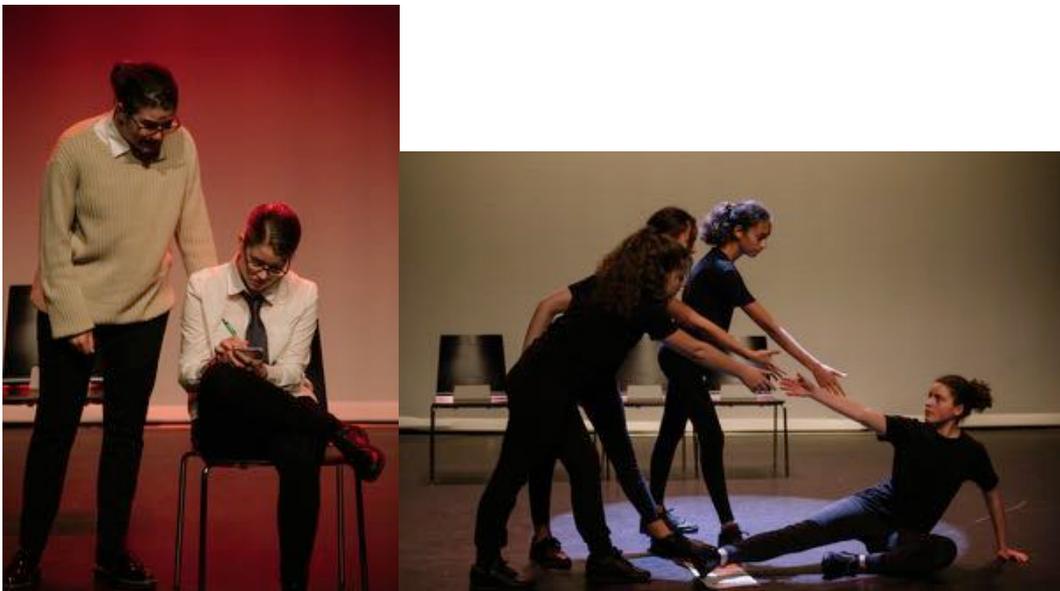
This week saw the first performance exam of the academic year with the Year 10 GCSE Drama students' original devised pieces. Students received a range of stimulus material from which they had to create a piece of physical theatre, these included The Rolling Stones song lyrics to 'Paint it Black', a quote from Haruki Murakami's 'Kafka on the Shore' and the painting 'The Persistence of Memory' by Salvador Dali.

The work produced was of a very high standard and we saw some sensitive and powerful moments in each piece. Parents commented on how impressed they were what the girls had created so early in their course.

The Drama Department are looking forward to our next showcase of GCSE work, on Wednesday 14th November at 6:30pm in the Arundel Centre where Year 11 students will present their exam pieces. Please come and support them for what promises to be an exciting evening - all are welcome!

Here's some feedback from a member of the audience:

*"We attended the Year 10 drama performances last night and were absolutely amazed by the quality of the work from all the students. Without exception, the girls were very impressive and it was hard to believe that they wrote all the scenes themselves. They explored very challenging and intriguing topics with great confidence and intensity. As a group, they moved delightfully across a range of emotional territories including despair, pathos, hope and humour. It was a fascinating hour and we would have been very happy to stay for more vignettes. "*



## Classics News

The Classics Society had a treat this week. Aybala Rose (Y12), a keen Classicist who is studying Greek and Latin for 'A' Level, spent her summer working at the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul and treated us to a virtual tour, including the outdoor sculptural archives and a lesson on Greek inscriptions (who knew how many different versions of the Greek alphabet were current in the 5th century BCE)? Evidently the staff were generous in explaining the work of the museum to Aybala, who positively glowed as she shared the experience with us. Where will this lead, we wonder?

## Geography News

The brilliant **Year 12** geographers did not let Thursday's rain dampen their spirits as they engaged with urban change on a field trip to Brick Lane. They carried out a range of qualitative & quantitative fieldwork techniques with enthusiasm & explored issues such as gentrification, migration, conflict, identity & sense of place.

The **Year 10** geographers spent a sunny day carrying out fieldwork at the Olympic Park. As part of the GCSE Geography course they investigated the



impact of regeneration on quality of life. We visited two sites outside the Olympic Park - Stratford New Town and Hackney Wick and two within, East Village and the area by the Copper Box. The students used a variety of methods to collect their data including questionnaires, a quality of life assessment and field sketch. In Geography lessons this week they have been analysing their results, concluding and evaluating their investigation. Well done!

## TeenTech

TeenTech has kicked off successfully this term and there are already a wide range of innovative ideas presented by Y9 and 10 students. The teams are currently undergoing interviews judged by Miss Marmar, Miss Arnold and the sixth form mentors. The students have shown impressive initiative, teamwork and research in their initial development of their proposed projects.

## News from the Junior School

At the end of last half term, Fairseat Head Girls Phoebe Lipton and Francesca Poulton collated all of the food items from the green donation bins, located at the entrance to the Junior School, and took them to the Food Bank in Kings Cross. Upon arrival, the girls supported volunteers to weigh the bags of donated goods. They were then given a tour of the facility to learn how the Food Bank works to support vulnerable people in the local community. The girls realised that sorting and safely storing donated food items is a challenging task! However, this essential task happens daily to ensure that people referred to the Food Bank can collect essential food items when they are most needed. Do please continue to add Food Bank items to the green donation bins, so that another drop off can be organised soon.



## Channing Staff

During half term, **Mr Travis**, our saxophone and flute teacher at Channing, embarked on a short USA tour with his jazz-rock band 'Soft Machine'. They toured mainly the East Coast of America, including 3 sold out nights in New York City at a jazz club on Times Square called 'The Iridium'. Outside the club there was a photo of Mr Travis and the rest of the band up in lights! The band were featured on the front cover of New York's biggest jazz magazine and there was also a worldwide webcast of the first performance. A successful tour indeed!

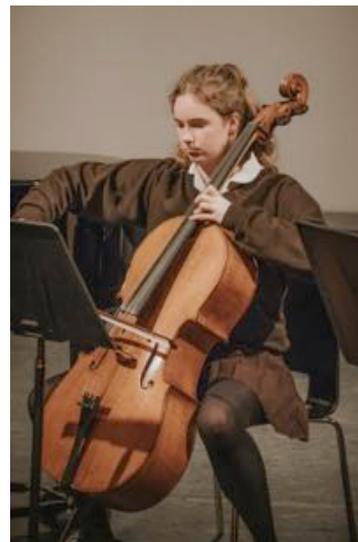


Well done to **Miss Lindsay, from the History Department**, who had an article published by the Chartered College of Teaching over the half-term.

And congratulations to **Mr Ip, Director of Studies at the Junior School**, on the birth of his daughter Phoebe, and **Mr Rich, Year 5 teacher**, on the birth of his son, Toby!

## Music at Lunchtime

Today's lunchtime recital featured the string family and opened with a very accomplished performance of a Beethoven trio played by Charlotte Woolley - Violin, Katya Butler - Cello and Abigail Orndel - piano. Four violinists played pieces from Gluck to J S Bach, namely; Tilly Haines, Yasmin Byng, Natasha Gough and Charlotte Claypoole. Isabel Lesser played a piece from Pocahontas on the viola and the Guitar Ensemble gave a stunning performance of 'Billy Jean'. Well done to - Molly Bloom, Shruti Borundia, Josie Commins, Millie Crane, Eliza Goldstone, Celia Gomez, Saniya Jain, Anisha Perrera, Simran Saggarr and Anna Vershkova. Next week - 'Cool Keys'!



## Alumnae Committee Event

A Channiversary with a twist!

Thursday 1 November was the date, and the Sixth Form Centre the place, where the Alumnae Committee hosted their first Alumnae Event of this academic year.



Parents are always reminded of their school days as the academic year begins. For many of the Alumnae in attendance yesterday evening, they were brought back to the place where it all began, where firm friendships were forged, and long lasting memories made!

With entrance music being played by members of the Channing orchestra, to wonderful catering, a Channing inspired cocktail list(!), live performances from current Sixth Formers, a close up magician, and music from the 80's, 90's & 00's; how could one not reminisce!

A heartfelt thank you to the Alumnae Committee, the musicians for all their hard work, and to Channing girls, both past and present, for making it possible - we couldn't have done it without you!



## **Week Ahead**

### **Monday 5 November**

### **Tuesday 6 November**

17.00 - 19.00 ABRSM Music Theory Examinations

### **Wednesday 7 November**

18.00 Information briefing for the Cadiz Trip

19.00 - 20.00 Year 10 & 11 Parents Information Evening; Study Skills and Revision for GCSE

### **Thursday 8 November**

16.00 - 17.00 Maths Match; pupils from Years 9 - 13 - Sixth Form Centre

18.00 Year 10 GCSE Concert - Arundel Centre

### **Friday 9 November**

Year 11 English Trip

**Join the conversation**



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