



9 November 2018

Dear Parents

I'm reading Ken Robinson's Creative Schools at the moment. Do have a look at some of his Ted talks or interviews if you're interested and haven't come across his work before. I'm a big fan (and not just because he's a fellow northerner). If you just scroll through our highlights of the week below, you can't fail to be struck by the passion for creativity at Channing. After a lifetime in education, I do believe that promoting creativity is one of the best ways of preparing our pupils for an unknown future.

Apart from demonstrating this commitment by building a theatre and a music school recently, I often head straight for the Art Studios when I'm showing visitors what Channing offers. The spectacular setting provides an exceptional environment for our outstanding teachers to teach Art in all its forms. We have just received this message from the Royal Drawing School about one of last year's leavers:

"We currently have one of your students on our Foundation Year, Lily Elgood, who is doing really well. They have clearly come from a great Art Department."

I know that, *you* probably know that, but isn't it good to get the top professionals confirming it?!

Another feature of Channing School that actually does not always work in our favour is a deeply embedded aversion to blowing our own trumpets. Boasting. Showing off. Seeking the spotlight. It can be rather an endearing quality, but probably drives our Marketing team mad! Channing folk do indeed enjoy great success, but there's not much of an appetite for fame and glory. One of the characteristics that makes this school so special is everyone's joy in celebrating the success of others, quietly, so I'm going to stand up and blow a loud trumpet this week. As I looked through the reports coming in, I spotted this week's netball results. Excuse the shouty capitals but **LOOK AT THEM!!** Such typical understatement! To all netballers in those teams, and your coaches: well done! Some critics say we're not successful at sport: **WE ARE NOW!**

Talking of blowing trumpets, what a moving assembly we had this morning to mark the centenary of the Armistice. Sixth Form students told the story of the great War Poet Wilfred Owen, reading some of his haunting poems. Our finest singers then performed, without accompaniment, "We will remember them", and Olivia Dugdale played the last post to a hushed school. Thank you to all our pupils for their respectful observance.

Mr Underwood and I will be representing Channing at a special Remembrance Service in Highgate on Sunday morning.

Next Friday afternoon sees the formal opening and naming of the Arundel Centre by HRH Princess Sarvath of Jordan. We are looking forward to welcoming this very special alumna back to her old school.

Next week's Word may be a little delayed!

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Linguist of the Month

Congratulations to **Olive Cottee** in Y8 who has been nominated Linguist of the Month. Having only started Spanish this year, she is already proving herself to be an outstanding linguist, producing work of an unusually high standard both in class and beyond. A thoroughly well-deserved award! ¡Enhorabuena!



Senior School Poetry Competition

As part of our celebration of National Poetry Day in October, a number of girls entered the Channing poetry competition. Students were invited to write a poem on this year's poetry day theme: Change.

Channing's poets interpreted the theme in a number of original ways, producing entertaining, thought-provoking and moving verses on a wide range of subjects, including a fledgling bird's first flight, a child's experience of the transition from war to peace, and a personal reflection on the journey from illness to health. It was difficult to select the best, and in the end, two winning poems were chosen, based on their original interpretation of the theme of 'change' and the poets' sensitive, controlled and precise use of language.

Congratulations go to two worthy winners: **Saskia Kirkegaard** in I1M and **Flora Froment** in I0K.

Sports News

The Year 7 A, B, C & D Teams won all of their netball matches against City of London School for Girls. The speedy reaction time of the defenders in all teams was outstanding and we look forward to seeing the development of the Year 7 Squad during their time at Channing.

A Team 7-3

B Team 3-1

C Team 3-1

D Team 3-2

In addition the Senior A and Senior B teams played fantastically against UCS.

The Senior A team won their match 38 - 7 and the Senior B team won their match 23 - 10.

Good luck to **Irene Salvati** 9SP who will be competing in a Synchronised Swimming competition this Friday and Saturday at Crawley.

Claire Potter Poetry Workshops

We were fortunate to be joined by local poet, Claire Potter, for two creative writing workshops this week in the English department. Our librarian, Miss Ramsden, arranged the sessions for Channing pupils to harness their inner writer. Younger pupils were inspired to write about animals. They were guided to plan in circles, make quick decisions about form and structure and encouraged simply to write! Students were enthusiastic about developing their creative skills in such a supportive forum and to share their poetry with their peers - and with Claire.

With the older pupils Claire discussed her own writing journey, and spoke with passion about the practice and discipline of poetry composition; some of them looked quite shaken when she explained that many of her poems go through more than forty drafts before completion!

Claire's writing workshop activity was aimed at producing a vivid, detailed and precise description of a familiar place, from an unfamiliar perspective. The girls' focus and commitment was impressive, and they generated some original and delightful ideas, which they have taken away with them to develop; we look forward to reading their finished work!

Many thanks to Claire for a stimulating and inspiring session!

Sketching evil eyes

by Mia Lomer 7SH

*It scuttles
fast
through daffodils
It nibbles
quickly
and runs again
Its tail follows behind him
A beige ginger tail
makes it look cute
But it glares, its evil eyes
reflecting your intrigued face
it balances on a fence
its fur could be sketched
it is running, moving fast
every time you blink it's
in a different place
a small shaded face
stares, it stares, its eyes
dangerously intelligent
'a small, cute creature,' I said
but my mum replied 'no no
'a clever creature a risky quick creature'*



Music News

Olivia Dugdale in Year 13 will be repeating her beautiful performance of the Last Post at our Remembrance assembly this morning at the ceremony in Highgate Cemetery on Sunday morning at 11am.

Last night we were taken a wonderful musical journey by the **Year 10 GCSE music class**. They performed solos and duets from the early Baroque period right through to music written this century. However the most recent composition was by Antonia Hannon-Thresh singing her own song with piano accompaniment from Abigail Orndel. Both Miss Zanardo and Mr Boxall are rightly proud of their excellent musical achievements.

Two of our students are now performing in the first staged performance of **Britten's 'War Requiem'**. **Isabella Boardman** (Y8) and **Juliette Taylor** (Y12) have been busy rehearsing with the professional chorus, soloists and orchestra at the ENO and will be performing on a number of occasions from next Friday until early December.

Music at Lunchtime

'Cool Keys' was the title of today's lunchtime recital. Our fabulous Shigeru-Kawai grand piano on the Arundel Centre stage was put through its paces by the following promising young keyboard players: Charlotte Marchand, Sophia Sutliff, Oriya Tietjen, Anouska Ornstein, Harper Gallagher, Madelaine Napier, Grace Tan, Ellen McDonald, and Martha Sayer. You will be able to listen to the performances by clicking on the link below.



<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/music-at-lunchtime-91118>



News from the Junior School

On Tuesday this week, all pupils in Year 6 visited the British Museum to learn about life Ancient Greece (with special focus on the 5th century BC). They viewed, sketched and interpreted historical artefacts. In a digital session, the girls observed The Parthenon frieze, which represents various groups of people who took part in The Panathenaic Festival in which Athens commemorated the birthday of Athena, patron goddess of the city. Pupils were given a tablet to share with a partner. Paired groups then used a special app to explore different types of sculpture on the Parthenon and learn how the pediments show important moments in the life of the goddess, Athena.



Forest School

Year 1 were talking about hibernation this week in their Forest School session. It was such a cold and rainy morning on Wednesday that I bet some children might have wanted to hibernate in their bed too! They were certainly glad they came to school that day though, as this week the girls made their very own hedgehogs. The girls used clay, tools and natural resources in the nature area to craft their hedgehogs. They then left their animal creations in school as a surprise for their parents at Parents' Evening the next night. At the end of the session, the girls saw a **rainbow**. Sometimes the rain really can produce beautiful things.



4F

Yesterday, the children of **4F** were lucky enough to visit Wahaca, in Kentish Town, as part of their topic about Mexico. They had lots of fun learning about Mexican food and were lucky enough to produce their own guacamole and refreshing mint drinks. A huge thank you to Miss Snowdowne who arranged this exciting adventure.



Fireworks 2018

The annual Fireworks on Saturday was a wonderful evening and a record for Channing with 1,510 guests attending (our maximum capacity is 1,600). The Latin American band were superb and the added dance floor a huge success. Some of the girls were having dance offs with their classes, there were calls to make the floor larger for next year and the music to go on longer!

Thank you all for your patience in relation to the long queues for food. All of the food vans are experienced serving large numbers at Festivals, but unfortunately, we had some power issues just before the gates opened which delayed the start of their service and reduced their cooking capacities by between a half and two thirds. I hope that the excellent quality of the food outweighed the negative of the long wait this year.

The Channing Association very much appreciate the support from families who attend all of our events and we would particularly like to thank all those mums and dads who gave their time to help on Saturday night and clear-up on Sunday. It may sound very cheesy but we really can't run these events without you.

Best wishes

Zena Watt & Karen Mullis

Channing Association



Week Ahead

Monday 12 November

Year 7 Health Checks

16.00 - 18.00 Year 11 Drama Tech Rehearsal

Tuesday 13 November

Year 7 Health Checks

Senior School, Top of the Bench Competition; 4 pupils from Years 8 - 10

16.30 - 19.00 Year 7 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 14 November

Year 7 Health Checks

17.00 Year 12/13 Geography Trip to Museum of London

19.30 Year 12/13 Coliseum, Music Opera Trip

Thursday 15 November

Year 7 Health Checks

8.30 - 10.00 Year 5 to Senior School Open Morning

9.15 - 11.00 11+ Open Morning

Friday 16 November

Year 7 Health Checks

Opening of the Arundel Centre by HRH Princess Sarvath El-Hassan

Join the conversation



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