



14 December 2018

Dear Parents

Three cheers for our catering teams! I'm feeling particularly plump today after the Senior School Christmas lunch! I thought I was quite adept at conjuring up a feast for 6 when my nippers were young, but how Channing chefs and their assistants manage to serve hundreds of turkey dinners, with lots of options, including vegetarian (with jackfruit this year, I'll have you know), lots of puds plus crackers, I do not know. I take my paper hat off to them! Even the vegetables were all cooked to perfection - not a soggy sprout in sight. Lots of teachers took turns to serve and everyone looked wonderfully festive in their Christmas jumpers.

Nobody at Channing ever has to go hungry, but the same can not be said for many people across London. We are acutely aware of how privileged we are, and I am proud that our pupils, several years ago now, established the tradition of an inter House food collection competition, in aid of the Alexandra Wylie Tower Foundation. You will remember that Allie was a pupil at Channing, right the way from Reception to the Sixth Form, who sadly passed away when she was 17. Her mum tells a lovely story of Allie as a toddler, in Waterlow Park, saying she wanted to be "a brown girl" like the ones she saw regularly: in other words, wear a Channing uniform! The charity set up in her name, the AWTF, distributes the food to those who otherwise might go hungry this Christmas. The competition closes on Tuesday 18 December. When I last looked, Goodwin were in the lead, but if you would like to a) ensure that they win or b) ensure that either Sharpe, Spears or Waterlow emerge triumphant, please send in any non-perishable items on Monday, or Tuesday morning at the very latest. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile cause.

Hats off too this week to all our Year 11 students who have just completed their Mock GCSEs. I hope that they will all have some rest and relaxation over the coming weeks. They have worked so hard and we are very proud of their efforts, We moved the mocks to before the holidays specifically so that they **would** be able to switch off and I really hope they will. (Good to keep reading, though!)

I enjoyed the Year 1 and 2 Production in the Arundel Centre yesterday (see report below), and have just got back from the Junior School Christmas Celebration. A packed church was treated to the beautiful singing and clear diction of Fairseat pupils reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

I am looking forward to next week and to our own unique style of celebrating the end of a very busy term. Lessons will continue, but interspersed with some age-old traditions. I met a lady last week who told me that she had been at the Junior School in the early 1950s. She hadn't been back to the school for over 60 years. And guess what she asked me? "Do you still skip out and la - la - la?"

You bet we do.

Here's a photo from our Sixth Form Charity week - Father Christmas came to visit and no, that's not a giant oven glove behind us: it's a harp!



Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

## Girls Enjoying Success

Congratulations to **Olivia Seddon Deane** Year 9 who was awarded the Chief Scout's gold award which is the top award that a scout can gain. Well done, Olivia!

## Sports News

We have been so fortunate to have such a committed Year 7 Netball Squad this term at Channing. We would like to commend the students for all of their hard work and enthusiasm to the fixtures, after school and lunchtime sessions. We finished off the term's fixtures with a House Competition and the results will be announced next week. Well done and we look forward to continued success in the New Year.



## Chemistry in Action Conference

On Tuesday, nineteen Year 12 A-level Chemistry students accompanied Dr Spinks and Mrs Shah to The Emmanuel Centre in Westminster to hear a series of lectures at a Chemistry in Action conference. First we heard from Kit Chapman, who used marshmallows to help explain how new elements are discovered. Claire Murray then explained how she has used pupils in schools to help her to investigate the different crystal packing structures in calcium carbonate. This was followed by a talk from Jonathan Hare who discussed the discovery of Buckminsterfullerene and how this and similar discoveries have led to Nobel prizes. He also introduced some of the potential applications of nanotechnology. Next, Jamie Gallagher discussed the amazing properties of plastic and how to tackle the plastic problem. Finally, we listened to Peter Wothers who led us through the development of the Periodic Table in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of Mendeleev's famous example next year. Overall, a useful and interesting day was had by all.

## Careers Talks for Year 10

A lawyer and a scientist shared their fascinating career insights with Year 10 last week. Alexandra Smith, a solicitor (Deputy General Counsel and Company Secretary at QBE) and (Dr Ben Dadds, Senior Scientific Adviser at Bureau Veritas) explained to students how they got from A Levels to where they are now. The students asked excellent questions and found the talks 'very informative and fun'.



## Adelante News

As part of the Adelante Strategy, Channing now has a flourishing link with the Menchú Nursery at Latin American House.

Year 12 Hispanists volunteer at the nursery and Saturday School on a weekly basis.

This week, Fairseat played host to some very special visitors from the Menchú, big and small!

Children from a Latin American families in London joined with our Reception pupils for a Spanish musical workshop, snacks and toy sharing. Much fun was had by all! ¡Adelante!



## Royal Academy Trip

On Thursday, the Sixth Form attended the art trip to the Royal Academy to see the Klimt/Schiele, Oceania and Renzo Piano exhibitions, White Cube to see the Leon Wuidar exhibition and then to Christie's.



## News from the Junior School

Last Saturday, the Year 5 and 6 cross country runners participated in the 5K Santa Dash to raise money for charity with Mrs Constant, Miss Bolton and Miss Corkindale. The girls and their parents trained very hard with Mrs Constant on Friday mornings in Waterlow Park before school, as well as at their weekly club session with the 3 teachers before school on Wednesdays. The girls were well able to complete the full 5k course and completed it in style, wearing a full Santa suit with hats and beards! Well done, girls, parents and teachers!



## Forest School

In their last Forest School session for the year, ICR celebrated with hot chocolate! It was a chilly day so the girls were delighted to snuggle up with a warm mug of hot chocolate. They even sang Christmas carols! ICR have been busy these past few weeks making Christmas decorations. Last week, the girls used spray paint and twigs to make giant wreaths for the classroom. They also use potato peelers to whittle sticks for reindeer decorations. The girls are very excited to share these with their families at the end of term and we very much hope to see them hanging from the Christmas trees in Highgate homes soon!



## Y5F

Y5F entertained the residents of Cheverton Lodge Care Home with some festive tunes on Thursday. The girls were in fine voice and Miss Pepper would have been proud! It was heartwarming to see the positive effect it had on the audience. When we returned to school, the class reflected on what a pleasure it had been to share some Christmas cheer.



## Christmas with the Aliens

KSI brought some Christmas magic to the Arundel Centre yesterday afternoon with their Christmas Nativity, *Christmas with the Aliens*. When a spaceship crash lands in the middle of Channing playground, the children invite the aliens to watch their Nativity rehearsal. The Year 1 and 2 children acted, sang and danced their hearts out and at the end of their heartwarming retelling of the Christmas story, the Aliens agree that this is a story the whole Universe should hear!



## Notices:

### Food Collection

A food collection for those in need this winter is taking place. The deadline is **Tuesday 18 December**. This collection is held by the AWTF, a charity set up in the name of Alexandra Wylie, a Channing girl who passed away, aged 17, in 2010. Please look through your cupboards at home and donate any dried or tinned foods that you are willing to spare. Any donations would be much appreciated. Please remember that only non-perishable food items can be donated. This is a House competition so please bring in as much food as possible to help your child's House have a chance at winning!

Please tell students to leave all donations in the pink bin for their House in the foyer of Haigh House.

From the Charity officers.

### Last Day of Term

A gentle reminder to all parents that the term finishes on Wednesday 19 December at **1.00pm**. Lunch will **not** be provided on Wednesday.

### Week Ahead

#### Monday 17 December

Carol Concert Rehearsal

16.30 Carol Concert, St Michael's Church

#### Tuesday 18 December

#### Wednesday 19 December

Mark Reading

13.00 Term Ends

Join the conversation



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