



30 November 2018

Dear Parents

I'm writing this with the sun streaming through my office windows. What a difference the warmth and light make to one's spirits, which were definitely lifted this morning at our first Carol practice of the season. Ask any Channing pupils which is the best time of the year, and they will cheer: "CHRISTMAS!" The lights are already twinkling in our trees...

I was rather deflated, however, on reading a little something in the Junior School section of this newsletter. During their Victorian day, our younger pupils had to grapple with, horror of horrors, "a dip pen." Excuse me? I know youngsters think that anyone over the age of 21 is ancient, but one doesn't have to go back as far as the 19th century to remember learning to use an ink pen. At my secondary school, we had discrete handwriting lessons and had to learn to dip our pens in the inkwell in every desk. Key leadership roles were Ink Monitor and Blotting Paper Monitor. I even recall being taught that anyone who used anything other than an ink pen was lazy and lacking in education. If ever you receive a letter from me, please note that it will be signed using an ink pen. Old habits die hard.

I am moving with the times, however. I have opened a new Twitter account and will be commenting @ChanningHM (Channing Headmistress). Our school twitter account will be keeping followers up to date with news of #girlsenjoyingsuccess@ChanningSchool, so why not keep up to date and join in the conversation? Please be patient. I am a beginner who is much happier with my pen and ink, but I will do my best to say something significant in fewer than 140 characters.

The 11+ interviews have started this week and we are enjoying welcoming girls trying out for a place at Channing. I meet them all. Some I can tell straight away will be brilliant Channing girls! I am also seeing all Year 7 pupils this term too, and I love finding out all about their families, hobbies, pets and ambitions. Equally thrilling are the mock interviews I do with our Heads of Departments for several Year 13 students who will spend next week at Oxford or Cambridge, being interviewed for undergraduate courses in their chosen subjects.

The Year 7s tell me about their ambitions and quite frankly, I am envious of them. So many doctors, lawyers, designers, actors, athletes and astrophysicists! Several have said how much they enjoy writing and I tell them it's my ambition to be a writer, too. Maybe tweeting is a start! So imagine how impressed (and envious) I was to hear about Katherine Safarty in 8G who has taken part in NaNoWriMo, (**N**ational **N**ovel **W**riting **M**onth) a

US based programme where participants work towards the goal of writing a 50,000 -word novel by 11.59 on November 30. And, by jove, the girl has done it! Congratulations, Katherine!

Writing seems to be the theme of the moment, so I'll sign off and go and have a tweet.

Good luck to our Year 11 students who start their Mock GCSE examinations on Monday. Remember that these are a trial run. Keep calm and think of Christmas!

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

## Girls Enjoying Success

### Classics News

Chloe Tye (class of 2015 and current Classics undergraduate at UCL) was our guest speaker at Classics Society this week and gave a fascinating presentation of three episodes in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. She spoke about Apollo/Daphne, Salmacis/Hermaphroditus and Iphis/Ianthe, and the insight which they provide into thinking about gender in Augustan Rome. We enjoyed catching up with her about her studies at UCL and her future plans to undertake a Masters in Gender Studies.

We hosted the second Classics Schools Challenge on Wednesday, welcoming teams from Fortismere, Alexandra Park and Henrietta Barnett. Emma Johnson (class of 2013) was the quizmaster and all teams showed impressive levels of classical knowledge. Henrietta Barnett won the Greek vase trophy this year, but we all thoroughly enjoyed the event and look forward to our chance to win back the trophy next year. Well done to our team of Coco Ellenbogen (who was the youngest ever competitor), Charlotte Marshall, Aybala Rose and Maddie Deutsch.



### Sixth Form Talk on Leadership

Wendy Feher of the London Business School gave an excellent talk last week on Leadership to the Sixth Form as part of their Leadership Programme. The conclusion? “Each of you is a leader.”

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](mailto:careers@channing.co.uk)

## Sports News

On Thursday afternoon, the Channing volleyball team competed against other schools in Haringey for a place to represent the borough in the London Schools Championship in June. Channing won their groups' games against St Thomas More and Gladesmore, 25-1 and 25-5 respectively. In the finals we beat Greig City 25-20. Channing served consistently well and showed great team spirit! Well done to Saniya Jain, Ella Begley, Olivia Seddon Deane, Elowen Woad and Sienna Thompson.



### Netball Results

Congratulations to the following teams who won their netball matches against St Margaret's on Tuesday evening.

Year 7A beat St Margaret's 12 -2

Year 10A beat St Margaret's 18-4

The Senior A team played against North London Collegiate School in the U19 Independent Schools Netball Cup. In what was a very even, tightly contested match Channing lost the match 21-17.

## Music News

Congratulations to **Yanna Hill 8G** for achieving a Distinction in her grade V Violin examination taken last week.

Well done Yanna!

# How to get from A Levels to a career you love

The Arundel Centre was the scene on Monday evening of a prestigious careers event for Sixth Form and Year 11.

An expert line-up consisting of alumnae, parents and friends of Channing shared their insights on the choices they made from A levels onwards and how they influenced their careers. We were also delighted to welcome schools from partner schools in the East London Consortium.

Mrs Elliott introduced the evening by saying: "Tonight, we aim to give you a deep understanding of the range of future careers open to you - 'future' in the sense of looking ahead, and 'future' because some of the jobs that you will do, do not exist yet. How exciting!"



Our impressive panellists, all leaders in their respective fields of Law & Humanities, Science, Technology & Engineering and Media, Digital & Evolving Careers, spanned a wide range of possible careers, from curing cancer to limiting London's litter.

Key messages that emerged from the evening were:

- Start building your networking - now!
- Excellence is doing what you do excellently - not being the best.
- Do what you love - for the vast majority of jobs, your choice of A Levels/degree subject makes no difference.

Feedback from students, staff and the panellists themselves has been fantastic. We are very grateful to the panellists and to Catherine Toole - who moderated the event brilliantly - and to Elaine Western and Kibi Bainbridge, all from the Channing Association, who supported it. Catherine writes: "It was a pleasure to spend an evening surrounded by intelligent, ambitious females - both on stage and in the audience. The panellists were so generous with their advice and time and the students asked such great questions... it was inspirational."



## News from the Junior School

### Victorian Christmas Workshop

Year 5 stepped back in time this week, when a Victorian teacher visited each class for a day. The pupils were a little nervous when they entered Master Grey's classroom - especially those who had unclean hands!

The girls learned about the severe regime of the Victorian classroom, including using dip pens (which proved rather messy for some), the development of Christmas decorations and traditions and participated in a full Music Hall experience! Although it was fun to experience it for the day, the girls reflected on how lucky they are to be attending school in the 21st century!



### 3M

3M had a busy and exciting morning on Thursday. They started the day with their class assembly on Ancient Egypt and demonstrated how to be an Ancient Egyptian in 10 stages. The girls performed the mummification ritual through song and finish with a traditional Egyptian dance.



Following their assembly, the girls travelled by mini-bus to Cheverton Lodge, a local care home. They performed a variety of acts for the residents including songs, dances and poems. There was also a violin and trumpet recital.



## Year 6

The girls in **Year 6M** conducted a lively debate this week, to replicate democracy in action at the Athenian Assembly in the 4th to 5th century BCE. Athenian democracy was not a free-for-all of mob rule and neither was the Y6M classroom! Miss McGinnety, representing the *proedroi*, asked two groups of three girls (Eliza Mistry, Ariella Bentata and Eve Cronkshaw vs. Matilda Avigdori, Zainab Alam and Opal Harper) to lead all Year 6M pupils to debate whether the Athenian people should, or should not, build a mighty building which would then be called the Parthenon.

The Year 6 girls displayed their knowledge of persuasive techniques (including rhetorical questions, repetition, personal and emotive language) to produce a convincing and emotive debate to argue "For" and "Against" the building of the Parthenon. After 30 minutes of persuasive debating, the Athenian Assembly members (in Year 6M), were swayed to agree to vote against the building of the Parthenon! However, we know as fact that the Parthenon was built and the ruins still exist today, as a former temple on the Athenian Acropolis, in Greece. Well done Year 6M!



## Eco Council

On Wednesday 28th November Fairseat School and Eco Council met to discuss the use of one-use plastic at Channing. They were joined by the Senior School Head Girls Lucy and Izzy. The girls talked about how hundreds of plastic ketchup wrappers, yoghurt pots and cups get used at Channing every year and they debated different ways that this could be reduced. They are planning to do an assembly, pupil questionnaires and possibly a pupil protest. They hope to inspire others to cut down on their use of plastic and make Channing a more environmentally friendly environment.



## Sports News

Y6 stepped out for their first football fixture of the year against Sarum Hall yesterday. There was end-to-end action and many brave, crunching tackles made. The girls played with enthusiasm and the game finished in a 0-0 draw. Straight after that they went into a netball match, testament to their multi sport abilities (and energy!). Another fast-paced game ensued although it resulted in a narrow 3-2 loss. Well done to all the girls who took part.

## Photograph Orders

A reminder to put in your orders for photographs on or before next Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December in order to get your photographs for Christmas. [www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk](http://www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk)

If any parents have lost their child's portraits details, please contact Gillman and Soame directly at [enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk) or on 01869 328200 quoting the security password **channing5ppemv2018**.

The groups can be ordered at [www.gsimagebank.co.uk/channing](http://www.gsimagebank.co.uk/channing) using the token channing2018.

## **Week Ahead**

### **Monday 3 December**

Year 11 GCSE Mocks (all week)

Year 12/13 Politics Group trip

### **Tuesday 4 December**

ABRSM Practical Exams Senior School

### **Wednesday 5 December**

ABRSM Practical Exams Senior School

11.35 - 12.25 Year 10 Careers Science/Law Lecture in FH

### **Thursday 6 December**

9.30 - 15.15 Year 12/13 Art students to Royal Academy

### **Friday 7 December**

13.00 Music at Lunchtime Arundel Centre

12.30 - 15.30 Year 13 Biology students to London Pavilion

**Join the conversation**



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