



18 January 2019

Dear Parents

What does the name “Victor Hugo” mean to you?

For me, it brings back memories of my first year at university, and the expectation that we would read the entire canon of nineteenth century French literature in just three short terms. From Balzac to Baudelaire, Zola to Nerval, and, of course, the great man himself, it was challenging but rewarding: if only one had that amount of time to immerse oneself in literature in 2019! I remember focussing mainly on his poetry, only later becoming more familiar with *Notre Dame de Paris* and that colossal work, *Les Misérables*. I was very excited in the 1980s to see the story of Jean Valjean brought to life on stage, delighted to see Hugh Jackman in 2012 on the big screen in that role, and currently, Dominic West in the BBC series. A couple of Channing pupils have even appeared on the West End stage as Cosette! So yes, Victor Hugo, we have a lot to thank you for, and again today, as three of our very talented Year 8 pupils took to the stage in Founders’ Hall to present a medley of songs from the musical version. Scroll down for more news of that concert, along with a short snapshot of “Arabian Nights.” I thought you would enjoy this reaction to our school play from a member of the audience:

Hello,

I feel compelled to send my congratulations to everyone, staff & pupils alike for the magnificent Arabian Nights production, which I saw last night.

The acting was heartfelt, peppy and funny as required and the costumes, sets and lighting simply breathtaking. The stage setting in particular was ingenious!

What a wonderful resource the new Arundel Centre is and what lucky girls we have!

Please pass on my comments and congratulations to Mrs Elliott and the drama department – looking forward to the next production.

There were beacons of light in the news this week. (The B-word is banned in my house.) Did you hear the latest news about a shift in focus from OFSTED, the Office for Standards in Education? “OFSTED plans overhaul of inspections to look beyond exam results” claimed the headlines, with the aim to address concerns that education has been too narrowly focussed on results. The Secretary of State for Education in England, Damian Hinds, said that he wants “to ensure all children and young people benefit from an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum”.

Maybe I should invite Mr Hinds to visit Channing. I know that, of course, we want our students to get the best possible exam results, but even a glance through this weekly update is evidence that our vision for “Girls Enjoying Success” means so much more than that.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Music News

Congratulations to Charlotte Parrott who recently achieved a very good pass in her Grade 5 piano exam.

Arabian Nights

A huge congratulations to the students involved in the production of Arabian Nights. They were absolutely brilliant and really showcased their range of skills and creativity. A big thank you to all the staff who made the production run so smoothly.



The Cervantes Theatre

As part of Channing's unique Adelante Strategy, we shall be co-hosting with the Cervantes Theatre a week-long run of Federico García Lorca's masterpiece, La casa de Bernarda Alba from Monday 4 to Friday 8 February inclusive.

There will be four matinee performances (every day except Thursday 7 February) and 5 evening performances. The Cervantes Theatre is offering a special discount for all Channing staff, parents and governors. Tickets for all those connected with the School will therefore retail at the following prices:

Best seats: £20 instead of £25

Standard Seats: £17.50 instead of £22.50

Side Seats: £17.50 instead of £20

Tickets can be purchased via the Cervantes Theatre website

<http://www.cervantestheatre.com/home/>

using the discount code CHAN

We hope to see you there!



MFL News

This morning the Department of Modern Languages invited university lecturer, former GCSE examiner and published author, María Teresa Blanco-Hermida, to speak to Year 11 Spanish students about revision techniques for languages.

Ms Blanco-Hermida focused on the latest research into the human brain and advised on how best to design and use flashcards, be they on paper or electronically, to aid learning. Psychologists have proven that visual aids can be transformational for supporting memory. Students are thus advised to colour-code genders of nouns and adjectives, and regular and irregular verb endings across the different tenses.

Similarly, flash cards can be used to learn and drill questions and answers for the IGCSE speaking examination. The Quizlet app is particularly useful for students to create flashcards and provides help with pronunciation too.

Happy revising!



Medical Discussion Group

On Tuesday lunchtime the Medical Discussion Group welcomed Channing students to a talk from Senior Radiographer Laila Al-Minyawi. She enthused us with case studies showing how X-rays, computed tomography scans and magnetic resonance imaging can be used by doctors to diagnose and monitor patient's injuries and illnesses. Thank you Laila for widening our knowledge of medically-related careers.



Work Experience

Next summer, our Year 11 and Year 12 students will be doing Work Experience. I would like to thank everyone in the Channing community who has kindly contributed to our pool of Channing Work Experience Opportunities and also the Channing Association whose brainchild this initiative was. The Association has generously funded a database which automates the process of matching students to opportunities. We are always seeking to provide students with the best possible opportunities, so please do contact careers@channing.co.uk if you, or someone in your network, would like to offer Work Experience or a Workplace Insight Event. Our students are particularly interested in careers involving science, law, marketing and media, as well as more creative careers.

Music at Lunchtime

Today we were in the Founders' Hall and were treated to music for harp, piano, guitar and voice. Niamh Walter opened the recital with a Pozzoli study stunningly played on the harp. Katherine Sarfaty followed with a mesmerising performance of Einaudi's 'Melodia Africana'. Ella Green played a delightful piece on the guitar by Peter Green. The final 6 songs were all performed by Zalie Wise, Kimi Coetzee and Arissa Raja-Hussain. They sang duets and solo from many of the well known songs from Les Misérables. These were delightful performances and they had clearly worked long and hard at these songs. Well done to all our performers! Next week we are back in the Arundel Centre with a charity 'Unplugged' concert.

Notices

A reminder to parents that in the event of intemperate weather, please check the school website for information.

Safety alert: Please be advised we have been notified of people on bicycles in the area targeting mobile phones. Police have been advised.

Week Ahead

Senior School Waterlow House Charity Week

Monday 21 January

11.50 - 16.00 Year 9 Geography Trip to Kings Cross

18.00 - 22.45 Year 10, 11 & 12 Drama Trip to Piccadilly Theatre

Tuesday 22 January

16.30 - 19.00 Year 9 Parents Evening

Wednesday 23 January

15.10 - 15.55 Year 8 & 9 Spanish Theatre Group Performance, Arundel Centre

Thursday 24 January

18.30 Year 10, 11 & Sixth Form: The National Theatre, South Bank

Friday 25 January

8.45 - 16.30 Year 12 Gifted and Talented Masterclass

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