



19 December 2018

Dear Parents

We made it! I'm not sure whose idea it was to break up later than usual (and later than other independent schools), but it probably seemed like a good idea at the time. I promise we'll finish a bit earlier in 2019!

Despite the fatigue, term has ended on a high, with all the favourite Channing traditions. See below for reports and photos of the fabulous Reception performance with Maurice the Donkey getting rather agitated by his manger being inhabited by all sorts of visitors! How wonderful to see our youngest pupils on the magnificent Arundel Centre stage.

Monday evening's Carol Concert was superb and I hope you can find time to open the link below. The singing starts about 30 seconds in... This will give you just an idea of the sort of sound our pupils can produce, and the quality of Channing music. The readers, too, impressed and we all left St Michael's uplifted. Christmas could now really begin!

One of the many quirky traditions at Channing - apart from skipping out, singing la la la, and the Tidiness Truck - is the hotly contested Room Decorating Competition. You might be thinking tinsel, trees and twinkly lights. Not a bit of it. The Head Girls and I are transported around the world, through historical/literary/fantasy-themed rooms, newsrooms, crime scenes, the list is astonishing: the girls' imaginations know no bounds. One Year 11 form "adapted" about 15 film posters for their Hollywood scene, and I attach a couple of examples. I wasn't sure whether to give them a prize or a detention! The overall winners were 11P who had built a butterfly sanctuary. Remarkable. Especially when their form teacher emerged from a chrysalis.

Some lovely news at this special time of year: Mrs Azz Hosseini, from the Science Department had a baby boy earlier this week. Welcome Theo! And we await news of Mrs Claire Leigh, English teacher, as she awaits the imminent arrival of her little one.

Just a couple of goodbyes this term. Thank you to Tina Chignoli who has done such sterling work as a Senior School Receptionist. Farewell to Ms Simi Litiu, one of our Junior School teaching assistants, who is going to teach in a school for children with learning difficulties; we will miss her! And good luck and goodbye to our wonderful Junior School Deputy Head, Mrs Clare Constant who is moving to Surrey, to be close to family who can offer support as the adoption process gathers pace. Clare has been such a wonderful colleague, a real force for good, and I know that all her colleagues and pupils found her to be one of the most inspirational teachers ever.

May I remind parents of pupils in the Senior School that **Friday 11 January** is a "work at home" day for Years 7-11 and Year 13. It is 11+ exam day! Some Year 11s will be doing their mock GCSE Art exam, and all

Year 12 pupils are required to be in school for the morning to help host our 11+ applicants. Senior School pupils will be expected to complete the work set for them for Friday lessons.

It just remains for me to send you all my very best wishes for a happy holiday.

Bring on 2019!



Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

# Girls Enjoying Success

## Carol Concert

<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/sets/carol-concert-17th-december-2018>



## News from the Junior School

On Monday, Year 1 CR wrote letters to Father Christmas and walked to the post box to post their letters. They were very excited to find out that there was an address that we could post them to and had never heard of Reindeer Land before! Year 1 CR also enjoyed singing Christmas songs to the kitchen staff to thank them for our lovely lunches.



## Nativity

The Arundel Centre welcomed an array of animals on Monday afternoon when Reception performed their Nativity, *Away in a Manger*. The audience were amazed at the confidence the girls displayed and their ability to remember so many lines.



## Highgate Care Home

ICR visited the Highgate Care Home this week to sing carols and take Christmas decorations. The girls all sang brilliantly and they also had a lot of impromptu questions about the running of a care home over Christmas. Many thanks to Miss Snowdowne for joining Mrs Constant and Mrs Pieri and playing the piano accompaniment. the girls had a super time (as did the residents) and were delighted to receive cookies and drinks after singing.

We look forward to continuing the Outreach programme in 2019!



## KS2 carols at Whittington Hospital

On Tuesday, the entire KS2 including Wind Band and Brass Band visited Whittington Hospital to sing carols to the visitors and staff there. The girls performed beautifully and we were delighted with the warm reception we received. Fairseat have been singing annually at Whittington Hospital each December and we were delighted to support our local community once again.



## Notice

From January, a list of approved non leather shoes will be available for consultation from the school office.

Join the conversation



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