



15 March 2019

Dear Parents

I have a group of pals from my Cambridge days who get together at Christmas to raise a glass to friendship and to catch up on the year's news. One of them, now a distinguished doctor, used to get ambushed by a certain Headmistress every year in an attempt to extract information about more ways to help Channing students with their applications to read Medicine. After several years of patience, he finally snapped/suggested that I might like to train as a medical school interviewer in order to gain a fuller understanding of the process. So I did! You probably know that my expertise lies not in biological sciences but in modern languages, so I was a little puzzled as to how this might qualify me to make an informed judgement about medical school applications.

My friend explained that it wasn't my language skills that would come in handy, but a whole lifetime of working with young people, spotting potential and understanding what skills and qualities one might expect to see in an 18 year old. Next week, I will be undertaking another series of these interviews, which I consider a great honour and privilege, as I know what it means to these young people to receive an offer to read Medicine.

It was a week of Parents' Evenings, at the Junior School and at the Senior School, and I was pleased to welcome Year 8 parents to a busy Sports Hall on Tuesday. I am sorry that not everyone got to speak to every teacher: some colleagues teach right across the year group, whilst others teach two or even three classes. I sympathise with the parents of twins who have twice as many conversations to squeeze in! I know when my own twins were at school, it was tough to get round all their teachers, but I was always reassured that if they were NOT doing well or making appropriate progress, I would get to hear about it. Our Heads of Year meet their teams weekly to talk through all their pupils and I - and the Senior Leadership Team - always read their very detailed minutes.

On a related note, I know that some girls occasionally feel rather "overlooked" by the school. The ones who fly high seem to get all the applause, and the ones who hit troubled waters get all the attention. So let's hear it for the vast majority of Channing pupils who come to school, day in and day out, work hard, do their best and are achieving exactly what we want them to achieve. Well done if you wear your uniform in a dignified manner. Well done if you are always in the right place at the right time. Well done if you are a good friend and a courteous pupil. I think you know who you are - and I certainly do.

Do you sometimes wake up with a song in your head? I do, and this morning it was the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, so brilliantly performed last night at St Joseph's by the various Channing choirs and Symphony Orchestra. It was particularly uplifting to see so many parents, friends and colleagues coming together to make this a wonderful community event. Thank you, and congratulations to you all.

Some of you weren't able to open the video link I included last week, to coincide with International Women's Day (and to give your Spanish a little boost) so here it is again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQDLGDDjs9Y>

I was very proud of our very talented Year 7s today. All four forms led their House Assemblies to round off Healthy Schools Week. They had researched nutrition and gave fantastic presentations. 7W even included a joke, so to brighten your day, here it is:

What did Reese eat her ice-cream with? Witherspoon.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs B M Elliott

Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Sports News

London School Games Year 10 & Under Volleyball Finals

Last Friday, Channing represented Haringey in the London School Games Year 10 & Under Volleyball finals held at the University of East London's Sportsdock. Twenty-five boroughs were split over 4 groups to compete for the title of best school volleyball team in London in this age group. At the end of the group stage, only the top two teams in each group would proceed to the next round, the quarter finals.

Channing started off strong with a 25-11 and 25-10 victory against Barking and Merton respectively. We then narrowly lost our third game against Harrow with 21-25 which meant we needed to win our final two games, against Enfield and Camden, to secure a place in the next round. With this in mind, Channing started the game well, serving consistently and setting up attacks. But halfway through the game, nerves crept in and we gave away a three point lead. However, at 16-20 to Enfield, Channing turned the game around to come back and win the game 25-22. This was followed by a comfortable 25-11 win against Camden, placing us top of our group and securing a place in the quarter finals.

In the quarter finals we faced Tower Hamlets. Both teams were neck and neck in the first half of the game, but Tower Hamlets proved to be a strong candidate for the title and eventually won the game 25-15. The initial disappointment of not going through to the semi-finals was quickly replaced by a sense of pride when the girls realised they are one of the top eight teams in London in their age group. A huge congratulations to Saniya Jain (Year 10), Sienna Thompson, Elowen Woad and Olivia Seddon Deane (Year 9) for their incredible achievement!



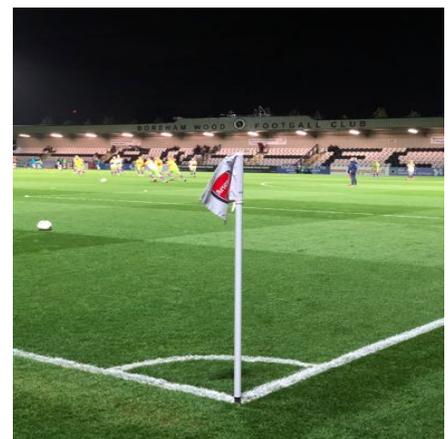
Arsenal Womens Sister School Programme

As part of our Arsenal Womens Sister School Programme, Nancy Baker, a youth development coach from Arsenal Women Football Club, visited to run workshops for Year 7 students this week. Nancy gave an inspiring talk at the start of the sessions outlining her journey from being a young aspiring footballer, to being scouted for the Arsenal Girls Youth Academy, to now coaching young female footballers herself. She talked about her positive and negative experiences growing up with football and explained how she developed the desire to inspire young girls to enjoy and take part in football. Students asked lots of interesting questions, from 'Do the Arsenal men and women team get along?' to 'Do you think women's football is getting enough media attention?' and 'Should male and female professional footballers be paid equally?'. This was followed by a fun workshop in which students played lots of mini games to develop movement on the court whilst practising ball control. Fun for all!



Year 6-10 Trip to Arsenal Women Football Club

On Thursday evening, 35 students from Years 6 - 10 travelled to Meadow Park stadium to watch Arsenal Women play Bristol City Women in the Women's Super League. Currently second in the table with 36 points and just two points behind leaders Manchester City, Arsenal Women were keen to close the gap and hop into first position. We were treated to fantastic football and saw Arsenal win the match with 4-0. Channing students did a fantastic job cheering Arsenal on and managed to get a few autographs and selfies with players at the end.





World Book Day Bake Sale

On Thursday 7th March, Year 10 hosted an 'Alice in Wonderland' bake sale in honour of World Book Day. This year in particular, reading has been a primary focus of the mornings for all years but particularly Year 10 due to the encouragement of Ms Zanardo. Each form class has taken the opportunity to read a minimum of 20 minutes most mornings. Hence, Year 10 wanted to mark World Book day with a true Channing tradition, a themed cake sale.



We would like to thank to all year groups for contributing to this marvellous event as well as to all the staff who supported.

There was a prize for the best cake and Year 10 after great consideration are awarding this jointly to Celestine Brennan and Emily Bawlf in 7SH who made outstanding cupcakes.

Thank you to the Year 10 form captains who arranged this.

Written by: Amelie Lawlor, Molly Bloom and Jemima Eskenazi

Music News

Choral Concert

Any concert that begins with the *Grand March from Aida* and ends with the *Hallelujah* chorus is destined to inscribe itself in Channing history. And so it was that this iconic opening literally (and metaphorically) heralded the start of a truly memorable and magnificent evening that thrilled a packed St Joseph's Church. Alongside the Verdi, the Symphony Orchestra treated us to the fantasy of *Scheherazade*, giving section leaders the chance to shine with some impressive solos, and the Senior Strings sparkled with *Dvorak's* delightful *Serenade for Strings*. An eclectic mix of instruments including Harp and Oboe intrigued us with a playful, yet beautifully crafted chamber work by Ropartz *Prelude, Marine et Chansons*.



However, it was *Messiah* that really stole the show. A selection of Handel's greatest hits showed Channing at its best; a community choir of parents and staff, the Chamber Choir, Cantemus Chorus and Conabor Choir, stunning home grown soloists (Hannah Fernando, Ellen McDonald, Maddie Damberg-Ott, Sarah Woodburn, Juliette Taylor, Eloise Cartwright, Poppy Oliver, Kate Pennington, Bridie Milsom and Emily Poncia) oozing poise and accomplishment, accompanied by our orchestra and all directed by Mr Boxall displaying the integrity, verve and enthusiasm that we have come to expect, and accept as the norm. As I said, start with *Aida* and end with the *Hallelujah* chorus ringing in your ears. Who could ask for a finer evening? 'Praise the Lord' indeed for our Director of Music!

- Music Department



<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/sets/music-at-st-josephs-march2019>

Music at Lunchtime

With the heady sound of the Hallelujah Chorus still ringing in our ears, I am amazed that our wood-wind players had any puff left at all for today's Music at Lunchtime. The 'Windbags' Double Reed Ensemble gave their debut performance with a beautifully crafted performance of *Three Marches* by Lully. Hermione Lobb (Flute) sparkled with a Gossec *Tambourin*, Alia Khalouf (Clarinet) delighted with a favourite, *Prelude No 1* by Finzi, Constance Froment (Flute) is sure to impress our visiting examiner next week if today's performance of Martinu's *1st Movement* from his Sonata is anything to go by. Rose Marshall (Saxophone) warmed us with a *Bozza Aria* and finally, we were left tapping our feet to a James Woolford *Trouville Canter Foxtrot* performed by the Clarinet Crew. I can only assume there is something in the Channing air that gives our girls the energy and enthusiasm to continually perform the way they do!

News from the Junior School

Year 1 Artist Visit

This Thursday Year 1G and YCR were very lucky to learn some drawing skills direct from an artist. Janine Trott (Georgia Craig's Mum in ICR) showed them examples of her work in set design and as an illustrator. She then showed them how to draw a rose step by step. Finally Janine showed the girls some of the special tools she uses to create her wonderful designs.



Year 3

In Maths, Year 3 have been learning about measures. On Wednesday, Hero's mum came in to talk about measuring length. She showed the girls how to measure in inches using a tape measure and demonstrated the importance of being accurate when measuring parts of the body when designing and making clothes.



World War II Workshop

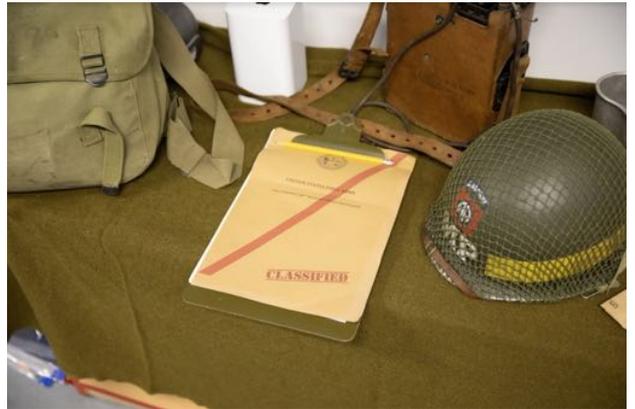
Today, the pupils in Year 6M were transported back in time to May 1944. The day began by listening to stories, based on the style of an Enid Blyton children's adventure, set during World War Two. The girls imagined themselves in London, ten days before D-Day, where they were tasked with handling a variety of primary evidence and artefacts.

The first mission was to scrutinise and interrogate historical evidence, including: letters, photographs, 1940s clothing, suitcases, service records, incident reports, military intelligence, medical records, maps and secret messages. The

overriding theme was 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' and the Year 6M girls inhabited a world where every stranger was to be treated with suspicion. The challenge revealed evidence belonging to spies, who were intent on jeopardising the war effort!

As part of the afternoon activity, the girls worked to understand, interpret and utilise a variety of codes and ciphers. Working in communication pairs, girls sent and received messages, enciphering and deciphering statements using substitution ciphers (such as the 'Pig Pen' and 'Shift' cipher).

The Spy School focused on the contribution that the SOE, the OSS and the Renaissance groups in occupied France gave, in the lead-up to D-Day, as well as over the days and weeks that followed. All Year 6M girls would have made fantastic operatives during WWII.



5R Assembly

On Thursday morning 5R presented their assembly on the theme of Suspense. The girls drew on their recent learning about writing suspenseful stories and created several short plays, a quiz and a dance.



Alumnae

Throwback Thursdays

This week's [#ThrowbackThursday](#) coincides with Healthy Schools Week [@ChanningSchool](#), to commend our wonderful catering department for passing an unannounced inspection with 5* rating (again). Here are some photos of the girls eating lunch in 1958 and 1985. [#GirlsEnjoyingSuccess](#) [@GSAUK](#)



Call to Action

Dear Channing Alumnae,

For some, your time at Channing was not so long ago, whilst for others, it may seem like it was just yesterday you were walking through Haigh House trying to find that classroom you knew existed, but just could not place!

Having completed your studies and gone on to explore and experience life, we would like to ask if any of you might be willing to provide a link to a career, or, work experience itself so that we may continue to help Channing girls and alumnae, such as yourselves, move on to the next chapters in their working lives.

We welcome and appreciate any contacts, advice or industry information you might have to offer. Please contact the Channing Alumnae Office via email to alumnae@channing.co.uk if you would like to help.

Thank you from Channing and its current pupils.

Reminders:

Summer 2019 Exams

For the Summer 2019 public examination series, a “contingency” exam day has been arranged by the examination awarding bodies which all students need to be aware of. This contingency day for GCSE and/or A Level (or equivalent) examinations has been put in place “in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations during the June 2019 examination series.”

The decision comes following the tragic events of summer 2017, namely the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have decided that they need the option to postpone an exam (or exams) in the event of an incident and rearrange them for a later date to allow all students a fair and equal chance.

The date that has been set aside as the contingency day is **Wednesday 26 June 2019**. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the date of their first exam until Wednesday 26 June 2019.

Week Ahead

Maths Week

Monday 18 March

16.30 - 18.30 A Level Geography Lecture: Professor Loretta Lees, AC

18.00 - 18.30 SS Montpellier Trip Briefing, FH

Tuesday 19 March

SS ABRSM Practical Exams

16.30 - 19.00 Year 13 Parents Evening, NSH

Wednesday 20 March

SS ABRSM Practical Exams

8.45 - 10.30 SS Year 11 RE: Mr Ahmed, Pilgrimage/Festivals talk, BH6

19.00m - 20.00 Year 9 PSHE Talk with speaker Natasha Devon, AC

Thursday 21 March

11.30 - 12.30 Year 9 PSHE Teenage Cancer Talk

Friday 22 March

13.00 Music at Lunchtime

15.30 - 17.30 Year 11 Classics British Museum Trip

Join the conversation



ChanningSchool



@ChanningSchool

