

10 May 2019

Dear Parents

I hope that this finds you well. As usual, it has been a busy and enjoyable week at Channing:

Year 9 returned from their Battlefields visit in a reflective mood and all the pupils that I have spoken to have special memories of this visit that the History Department so kindly organised. Year 10 began their internal examinations this week and seem to be using their Study Leave productively, even though one student asked me plaintively, “Why do we have to do so many exams?” As a reminder, normal lessons resume next Thursday for Year 10, with pupils back in school in time for Sports Day.

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of attending part of the Yr 11 Celebration Event (which marks the beginning of Year 11 Study Leave) that was organised by Mrs Bhamra-Burgess and held on the Stanhope Road site. There were bouncy inflatables, music, games, singing, photographs, shirt signing and most importantly, lots of laughter. Over the years, I have taught all of Year 11 and they have always struck me as being an intelligent, supportive, kind and inclusive group of individuals. We wish them the very best for their forthcoming GCSE examinations and I am sure they will remember the importance of planning, focus and sleep during the examination cycle.

I would like to thank Mrs Bhamra-Burgess who has been an exceptional Head of Year as well as the Year 11 Tutor Team - Mrs Blake, Ms MacCarthy, Mr Martini-Phillips, Mr Williamson, Mr Holmes, Miss Della-Porta and Mrs Beenstock - who have provided superb pastoral support and care to their charges.



A perfect Thursday was concluded with an impressive array of jazz music, performed at the annual Jazz Evening held in the Arundel Centre. As always, the range and quality of musical expression is astounding and it was a real feast for the ears. Many thanks to the Music Department for organising this event.

A lot is written in the educational press as to what constitutes excellent leadership, some of which strikes me as being contradictory and inconsistent. Despite this, leadership theory is interesting to reflect upon and act as a plumbline for one's own practice. One particularly inspiring quote from the American politician, Cory Booker, states that:

“Leadership is not a position or a title. It is action and example”

and the Head Girls and new School Officers exemplified this completely as they led a thought-provoking assembly this morning on the attributes of being a successful leader. At Channing, we are fortunate to have such a committed and proactive group of 26 young people representing the student body and I have been impressed thus far by their sheer enthusiasm, drive and vision. I think it will be a busy term of office and I am really excited about working with them as well as learning from them.



It has been joyous seeing Year 13 having their traditional ‘dressing up’ week and they have come into school adorned as London Underground Stations, resplendent in their old Channing uniform (they really do love the brown and there are no plans to change the uniform!) and eerily accurate as doppelgängers. Can you tell the difference between the real one and the imposter?



Some news hot off the press: Congratulations to the Year 12 teams who achieved success in the North London Young Enterprise Finals this week. You can read more below but Channing students gained a glut of awards including Overall Company Winners, which means they will be representing North London at the London Finals in June. We are all exceptionally proud of these students and we offer our congratulations. Thank you, also, to Mrs Blake (with the help of Ms Pavlopoulos) for supporting the pupils during the programme.

A letter has been sent out earlier this week about arrangements for Founders' Day (6th July 2019) and the system for applying for tickets. Do submit your requests early as places do fill up and please do contact Ms Ingram in the School Office if you have any queries. Links for Trybooking will be sent next week.

Thank you, as always, for your positive suggestions and rest assured, we do listen.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

With all best wishes,

Mr A J Underwood
Acting Head

Girls Enjoying Success

Congratulations to Sienna Goldsmith in 8W who attended a debating tournament this week at Latymer School which was chaired by Sir Anthony Seldon for Years 5-11 pupils. Sienna won the tournament! She also auditioned last week for a scholarship with *Little and Beautiful Musical Theatre School* for their summer production and won one of two scholarship places. Well done, Sienna!

MFL News

Peruvian Embassy

As part of Channing's unique Adelante Strategy, we have secured the fantastic opportunity for twenty Year 9 pupils to visit the Peruvian Embassy in Knightsbridge on 11th June after school to find out about Peru, careers in diplomacy and speak Spanish with the Ambassador and his colleagues.

This is a competitive opportunity. To secure a place, pupils must submit a letter of application by Wednesday 15 May to Ms Pavlopoulos. Pupils should write 100 words in Spanish about why Peru is of interest and 100 words in English about the role of an embassy.

¡Adelante!



ABColumbia

On Wednesday of this week, we welcomed Irina Muñoz, Information Officer at ABColumbia, to Channing. ABColumbia is the advocacy project of a group of five UK and Irish organisations with programmes in Colombia. Its purpose is to influence decision makers with a view to resolving the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Colombia and achieve a lasting peace and sustainable development.

Ms Muñoz spoke to Y12 Geographers and Hispanists about the department of Chocó, a region with diverse geography, unique ecosystems and unexploited natural resources but also one with extremely low living standards, minimal access to drinking water and huge infrastructure problems. She also talked about the huge risks taken by those fighting to protect the environment and improve human rights in the country. We are most grateful to Irina for providing our students with a fascinating insight into an area about which they would otherwise have known very little.



Young Enterprise

Last night the North London Young Enterprise final took place at Pentland Brands. Two Channing team, Novus with their company Doodle Bloom and Paragon with their business Mapables were both competing against a total of nine other teams. The competition was very strong. Each Year 12 team had submitted a company report in advance and on the night gave a presentation, set up their trade stand and answered questions from the judges.



Team Novus were awarded the Overall Company Winners which means they will be representing North London at the London final at HSBC Canary Wharf on Monday 3 June. This is a huge achievement and the second year in a row that Channing have reached this stage. They also won two further awards: the Brent Cross Trade Fair Customer Service award and the Best Presentation award. Team Novus sustainable product is coloured pencils with plant seeds at the end which can then be planted.



Team Paragon won the Best Marketing award with their wonderful world map with stickers to match the country.

Congratulations to both teams and good luck to Novus in the next round!

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

On the 27th of April, 55 intrepid Year 10 students accompanied by 12 staff (including 2 'old girls'- Grace Hurford and Rachel Narunsky), donned their walking boots, waterproofs and backpacks to take on the challenge of Box Hill for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition.

The forecast, as is normal for this time of year, was grim: if you thought leafy North London was windy and cold two weekends ago, then spare a thought for the students who were trekking open fields, dense forests and bare mountain sides. Better yet, spare a thought for the challenges of putting up a tent, keeping it pegged down, and staying warm in those gail force winds!

But survive these challenging condition those hardy and tough students did. This was the largest group I have ever taken on Silver Practice, and the planning and preparation by the DoE Team was intense. However, the actual weekend was smooth and enjoyable and a testament to the support from the teachers and the tenacity and good humour of the students.

They were delightful company; in particular the 'jokes' that were left on checkpoint cards by some groups were indeed amusing.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who managed this 3 day Expedition; at the moment all of Year 10 are heads down with their May Examinations. The experience of Duke of Edinburgh, or in fact any physical 'challenge' is a poignant reminder to students that they are stronger than they think.

We now look forward to the Assessed Expedition on the other 'Downs'- the South Downs in July. Thank you once again to the following staff and students who gave up their time to support this important expedition: Mr Riggs Long, Ms Yun, Mr Hill, Miss Arnold, Miss Wijmeersch, Mr Daurat, Ms McCarthy, Mr Headey, Miss Moor, Mrs Kennedy, Dr Devlin, Maddie Damberg-Ott, Rachel Narunsky, and Grace Hurford.

Miss Zanardo

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Leader



Battlefields Trip

Year 9 had arrived safely to the Battlefields over the Bank Holiday weekend. They had a wonderful time and can be seen below exploring underground quarries in Arras.



Jazz Evening

Last night, we held our 12th Channing Jazz Evening in the Arundel Centre. This year the format was a little more formal but the evening literally fizzed with the exciting sounds of jazz. Led by our own saxophone and jazz supremo, Mr Theo Travis we were treated to a professional quartet with our own drum teacher Mr Alan Brown on drums. The professionals supported our pupils with fabulous vocals from Yasmin Byng, Talia Nabarro, a sister act from Anna and Bridie Milsom and two duos from the head-girl team of Riana Chandaria and Tilly Sumners. Hana Shimizu-French looped a version of 'Ain't no Sunshine' on the flute and Rose Marshall provided a solo of George of Michael's 'Careless Whisper'. We welcomed Natasha Freedman (saxophone) from the Junior School who joined Abigail Orndel (trombone) and Charlotte Woolley (saxophone) in Coltrane's 'Blue Train'. The evening came to a close with the Jazz Band playing 5 well known jazz numbers with great precision and supported on piano by Martha Sayer. It was particularly special to have the Brunner Show Choir perform an arrangement of 'Feeling Good' near the start of the evening that included a number of cameo solos.

If you missed the event and wish to listen to it here are two links to each part of last night's performance. Well worth a listen! Enjoy!!

<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/sets/jazz-evening-9th-may-2019>



Music at Lunchtime

Channing students, can be notoriously yet delightfully vocal! So it proved to be the case today at our 'Vocals Only' lunchtime concert. Maya Grosman gently rocked us at the start with 'Little Boats,' Galya Hynes had us thinking that we would do anything after her 'I'd do Anything', Maja Chowrimootoo acknowledged the amazing things that can happen with 'A Change in Me', Emily Gosden certainly knew what she was doing with 'I'll Know' and Bridie Milsom provided a haunting conclusion with 'The Sky above the Roof'. All the more remarkable really when you think that the Arundel stage had only just recovered from last night's fabulous Jazz Concert. Be prepared to get wound up with next week's 'Highly Strung' Strings!

Do listen to these delightful performances by clicking on this link to Soundcloud.

<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/sets/lunchtime-concert-10th-may-2019>



Year 13 Dressing Up Week

Year 13 celebrated their last weeks at school prior to Study leave. The Year 13's dressed up as Tube stations and the traditional dressing up day of wearing their old school uniforms.



News from the Junior School

Year 2

Year 2 had Rabbi Liss visit us from Highgate Synagogue. He explained what his role was within the Jewish community, as well as outside of the Jewish community. He told us some very interesting stories about many things that he had done in the UK and abroad to help other people. We also had the opportunity to ask him lots of questions.

Sports News

Three Year 6 teams travelled to Belmont for their first cricket fixture of the season on Tuesday. After getting lost in the grounds of Mill Hill School for half an hour, we played a reduced game with each batter facing four balls. Having missed a couple of lessons due to Osmington Bay, some girls went into the match very new to the game. With this in mind, the standard of cricket on display was outstanding. The girls demonstrated some great teamwork in the field and some individual highlights when they got their chance to bat and bowl. Channing won one game leading their rivals by 229 runs to 221, we lost the other two games by 1 run and 6 runs, which was a great effort from all involved. Well done, girls.



Year 3 Assembly

On Wednesday 8th May, 3M performed their class assembly on women throughout history that have changed the world. They acted out scenes including women such as Frida Kahlo, Marie Curie, Mary Anning, Jane Austen and Boudicca. The girls demonstrated that the women in their assembly didn't set out to be thought of as 'great'. They achieved extraordinary things by following their hearts, talents and dreams. What a colourful assembly on such a rainy day. Well done 3M!



The Wreck of Zanzibar

Inspired by our class reading book, Year 3S transported their parents back to 1907 and the Isles of Scilly, where they brought to life the Michael Morpurgo story of 'The Wreck of the Zanzibar.' A tale of hardship and bleak times for the islanders of Bryher, the girls worked hard to learn their lines, produced some fine acting and enjoyed creating an stormy dance to dramatic music.



LAMDA

Year 9 were entertained and impressed as they watched LAMDA duologues performed in Wednesday's Assembly. Anouska Ornstein, Manon Kanter, Lorna Goldman, Sienna Ransford, Arielle Narkis and Imogen Frost all performed with poise, power and impeccable timing. Thank you girls for sharing your work. If you want to see for yourself some incredible Channing theatrical talent, come to one of the LAMDA Showcases next week (Year 8 on Monday 13 and Year 9 on Wednesday 15 May). A wonderful celebration of the students' creative and technical work, with scenes ranging from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde, Roald Dahl and Anne Fine. You are warmly invited: tickets are free, but you must book a seat through the Channing Events page:

<https://www.channing.co.uk/events/>

Alumnae: Throwback Thursdays

#ThrowbackThursday @ChanningSchool celebrated Europe Day by looking back to 1992, when some of our students visited Europe Village. #GirlsEnjoyingSuccess @GSAUK



Week Ahead

Monday 13 May

Year 10 Exams

SS GCSE / A Levels Start

15.10 Year 8 & 9 LAMDA Showcase Rehearsal, AC

16.30 - 17.30 Year 7/8/9 Cricket @ SHHS

18.00 - 20.30 LAMDA Showcase, AC

Tuesday 14 May

16.30 - 19.00 Year 12 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 15 May

Year 7 Classics Trip to St Albans Museum and Theatre

18.00 - 20.30 LAMDA Showcase (Rehearsal followed by performance), AC

Thursday 16 May

Senior School Sports Day

Friday 17 May

Year 13 Study Leave

13.00 Music at Lunchtime