



CHANNING

Word from the Head

Friday 18 September 2020

Dear Parents

This week you cannot have escaped the news about the issues with Covid-19 testing and the impact on schools of pupils and staff needing to self-isolate. Indeed I know that some of you have experienced these frustrations yourselves and a number of local schools have had to send home entire year groups this week. I am thankful that as we reach the end of the second week of term Channing remains virus-free - for now. I have already thanked staff and students for their part in this, by adhering to our procedures in school and by observing Government protocols outside school. Now more than ever, sticking to the 'Rule of Six' and remembering the Hands-Face-Space slogan will help to keep us healthy and safe for as long as possible.

You have your part to play in this too, and I am grateful for your mindfulness of your children's social interactions outside school. They may not be attending 'Animal House parties', in the words of the Prime Minister, but any gatherings of more than six, or where safe hygiene or social distancing cannot be guaranteed, hold potential danger for our community. I also appreciate your understanding that we need to keep the school safe: please let me reiterate what I said in last week's Word from the Head that if your child exhibits ANY symptoms of Covid-19, then they should self-isolate for 14 days or until they have a negative NHS test result. Please do not send an ill child to school.

I also know that we cannot be complacent and things can change very quickly. Following on from last week's Word from the Head, in which I outlined provision for individual girls self-isolating while the rest of the school is operating as usual, I am pleased to share with you today our updated [Virtual School Guidance](#) for parents. This will apply if any class or year group are required to be at home, or if a member of staff is self-isolating at home.

Our provision is simple: daily morning registration live on Google Meet with the form tutor and rest of the class, and live Google Meets at the start and end of every timetabled subject lesson during the day. Teachers can choose how the rest of each lesson is delivered depending on the requirements of the class: some will be taught live for the full lesson, while in others students will work in groups or individually on tasks while the teacher checks in with them remotely. This mirrors how lessons are taught in the classroom in real life and will provide a varied diet for students, who need time away from their screens each day too. Your children will be required to

have their cameras on for the duration of the Google Meets, and you might want to invest in some headphones if they don't already have them.

We hope that you will find the guidance reassuring, while of course also hoping that we will not need it. On the basis that it is always better to be prepared, Mr Grossman and Mr Boardman have compiled a library of video and written resources which you can find here: [Channing Virtual School](#). These should help you and your children ensure that you can master the technology so that you are fully prepared for all eventualities. That's this weekend's family entertainment sorted, then!

On a lighter note, I am delighted to let you know that Ms Kyle has published the term's [Extra-Curricular Timetable](#) today. This has taken a lot of planning and I commend her and our ever-resourceful staff for their creative responses to the difficulties of not mixing bubbles and ensuring that activities are appropriately spaced. I hope that everyone will find something to enjoy, whether it's a welcome return to a much-loved club or the opportunity to try something new. No need to sign up in advance, just turn up to the first session and register then.

Finally this week, let me wish a happy New Year, Shana Tova, to all members of our Jewish community for this evening and the weekend.

With my best wishes for a safe, restful weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Physics News

At the beginning of July **Cocoa Wagner**, who is studying Physics at A-level, took part in a project organised by the Institute for Research In Schools (IRIS) in which students were asked to explore some of the techniques that are used in professional astronomy when examining data from the Spitzer Space Telescope. The students also gained an understanding of how sources are to be selected for further study using the James Webb Space Telescope.

Cocoa correctly classified 97% of the objects that she chose to investigate: a stellar performance indeed!

Reminders

Covid-19 arrangements update

- We are now allowing only essential visitors on site: all parental meetings will take place via Google Meet. Thank you for being so accommodating.
- Please ensure that your daughter has a clean mask each day, and a sealable bag in which to store it. All students **must** put their masks on before they leave their classroom and then wear them in all common areas of the school, including outside, where they might come into contact with people from other bubbles.
- As Mrs Hughes mentioned above, the Hands-Face-Space rule is vital to keep the school virus-free. Please keep an appropriate distance from other adults and children when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Please note that we cannot accept negative Covid-19 test results from private companies as evidence that your daughter is able to be in school. The Department for Education has advised schools that the only tests we can safely use at present are tests conducted via the NHS.

English as an Additional Language

Parents of students new to the school this year have been sent a link to a questionnaire regarding languages spoken at home. Please complete this by **Friday 25 September** which will help us keep an accurate record of pupils for whom English is not their first language, and provide support for them if needed.

T&L News

Research suggests that providing feedback is one of the most effective ways of improving students' learning. However too often the notion of feedback is wholly mistaken for just written marking. At Channing we know that written marking is only one facet of great

feedback. Over the last two years we have been engaging with the latest research on feedback. This year we are embedding these Department-specific feedback approaches in our classroom practice. Great feedback will look different in each subject discipline.

The challenge for students, parents and (possibly) teachers is that this requires a rethinking of the purpose of feedback and what makes it meaningful. That's where you come in.

We are asking you to understand that feedback is much more than traditional written marking. Feedback can take different forms: peer, self, group, teacher marking, or verbal. Channing teachers use a combination of these, choosing the best form as appropriate to the learning.

It is important that you know that a range of feedback strategies help children progress and you can contribute to this with the types of questions you ask your daughters.

When you speak to your daughter about her work, we would ask you to move away from questions such as *'has your book been marked?'* or *'what did you get in the test?'*. You could try asking:

'What do you know / can you do today that you didn't know / could not do yesterday?'

'What progress and improvement have you made?'

'How do you know you have made progress?'

'Do you know what you need to do next to improve?'

The best feedback, whether it is written or verbal, will give students a clear sense of how they can improve.



Music at Teatime

We are delighted to restart our 'Music at Lunchtime' series of recitals, aptly renamed 'Music at Teatime' due to this term's timetable changes. The later timing for the recital does mean that we are too late to get the audio-link and report into today's Word from the Head. It will instead appear a week 'late', so do look out for today's recital next week!

Development News

Dads' CurryBall



Dear CurryBall enthusiasts,

Firstly, I hope you and your loved ones are well, and the academic year has started well for you all. Who would have thought masks would be all the rage and social distancing the norm? But, in true Channing spirit, the pupils, staff and the Community have kept calm and carried on!

As you will appreciate, the current restrictions on social gatherings/events, such as the long awaited CurryBall tournaments, have had to be postponed until such a time as the current Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, and the school deems it safe for such events to take place.

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time. Wishing you and your family a great weekend - and stay safe!

Kind regards,
Development Office

Alumnae News

Did you know that Channing is the fastest-growing school in North London? With more than 650 pupils enrolled today at the Senior School, it is a reminder of how far the school has come since being founded by sisters Matilda & Emily Sharpe and Reverend Robert Spears in 1885. Here is a whole school photograph taken in 1930 from the school's archives.
#WeAreChanning

