



CHANNING

Word from the Head

25 September 2020

Dear Parents

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of week three of term - half way to half term! It has been a pleasure for me to get out and about in school this week, meeting your daughters at break times and also seeing evidence of our extra-curricular programme getting underway again. How wonderful that 70 Year 7s turned up to the first netball club of the year, and how delightful to hear the strains of the ensembles drifting from Founders' Hall of a morning. We may be operating under some restrictions but the Channing spirit endures. Do take a look and follow us on social media via our [Channing Instagram Account](#), [Channing Twitter Account](#) and [Channing Facebook Account](#) where you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in school.

Sadly I must once again return to the all-pervasive subject of Covid-19: please may we remind you to not send your child into school if they have **any** symptoms of Covid-19. Most people with Covid-19 have one or more of the three main symptoms listed below, and the frustration for you and for us is that these are also symptoms of lots of other illnesses, including the common cold. With over 1,000 people back in close proximity again for the first time in six months there are, of course, plenty of germs doing the rounds, and it can be hard to tell the difference. This handy [flow chart](#) provides some useful guidance to help you decide if your child should be in school.

As a reminder, the main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- High temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- New, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

We recognise that many of you, whose children have been asked to self-isolate because they are displaying symptoms which could be Covid-19, have been concerned about the difficulty in obtaining NHS tests in a timely manner and that there is a lack of clear Government advice on private testing. In the absence of advice from our local Health Protection Team we have made the decision that as a school we will, until further notice, accept the results of private Covid-19 tests.

Public Health England (PHE) have published three criteria which can be used to ensure that a private test is of a sufficient standard. In order for the school to be able to accept the result, we would ask that when you report your child's test result to the school you also confirm that:

- both the sample collection kit and the Covid-19 test (that tests the sample) had a CE mark
- the laboratory is accredited via the UK Accreditation Service and
- the laboratory is reporting the results to PHE, as it is a statutory notifiable disease.

We will not ask to see a copy of your child's report but we will ask you to confirm the above by email. Should we receive any further advice we will notify you as soon as possible.

On a final point related to Covid-19, we have a small number of students who are having to self-isolate, who are consequently unable to be in school but otherwise are well enough to complete work at home. Form tutors are making contact with their tutees via their Google Classroom and providing pastoral support, including sharing the content of PSHE lessons. Teachers have set up Google Classrooms as a means to communicate with their students and to ensure that absent students have access to the resources from in-school lessons, as far as possible. This could be:

- providing the resources for independent study via Google Classroom or through another student
- using live broadcast during lessons via Google Meet, and providing the student with the link to join
- recording the screen for all or part of the lesson and posting this later in the day

The best plan is for your daughter to check her Gmail and her Google Classroom on her iPad at the start of each timetabled lesson to see whether she is to join live or complete the work remotely. However please remember that if your child is ill then there is no expectation that they will complete work until they are fully recovered: the priority must be their health. Once they are well, their teachers will help them catch up.

Finally this week, please could I remind you that you should not be coming onto the school premises without express permission? While we have been missing seeing you in person, it has been lovely to meet so many groups of parents online this week with the Year 7 and Year 10 Welcome Evenings on Monday and Tuesday, and Year 11 joining the Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday. Next week I am pleased to give **Year 8 and 9 parents** the chance to hear more about me and my vision for the school. This will take place on **Tuesday 29 September at 5.30pm** and a link to join the live session will be sent to you on Tuesday morning. I will be joined by Ms Zekan, Head of Year 8, and Mr Gittins, Head of Year 9, and parents will have the opportunity to ask us questions as part of the half hour event. Don't worry, Year 13 parents, I haven't forgotten about you! Your 'Meet the Head' moment will come at the beginning of Year 13 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 6 October - more information to follow.

With my best wishes for an autumnal weekend,

Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Girls Enjoying Success

Music at Teatime: Friday 18 September

After an absence of over six months it was wonderful to have our newly named Music at Teatime - currently replacing Music at Lunchtime - starting again on Friday 18 September in the Arundel Centre for students in Years 10-13. Albeit with a socially distanced audience, the thrill of experiencing live music making again was a real treat!

How apt then, that the opening concert of the season began with a premiere: a new song, written and performed by Ruby Davis. Remember - you heard it here first! Yasmin Byng continued the vocal treats with an exquisite performance of *Music for a While* by Purcell. Issy Lesser, on the viola, played *Elegy* by Fauré with a depth of understanding and emotional commitment which belied her years.

We have often heard *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* sung in different guises here, but never like this! Abigail Orndel on the trombone gave it a whole new perspective. Talia Nabarro brought this short, but oh so wonderfully sweet, concert to an end with a beautiful performance of *Think of Me* from 'Phantom of the Opera.'

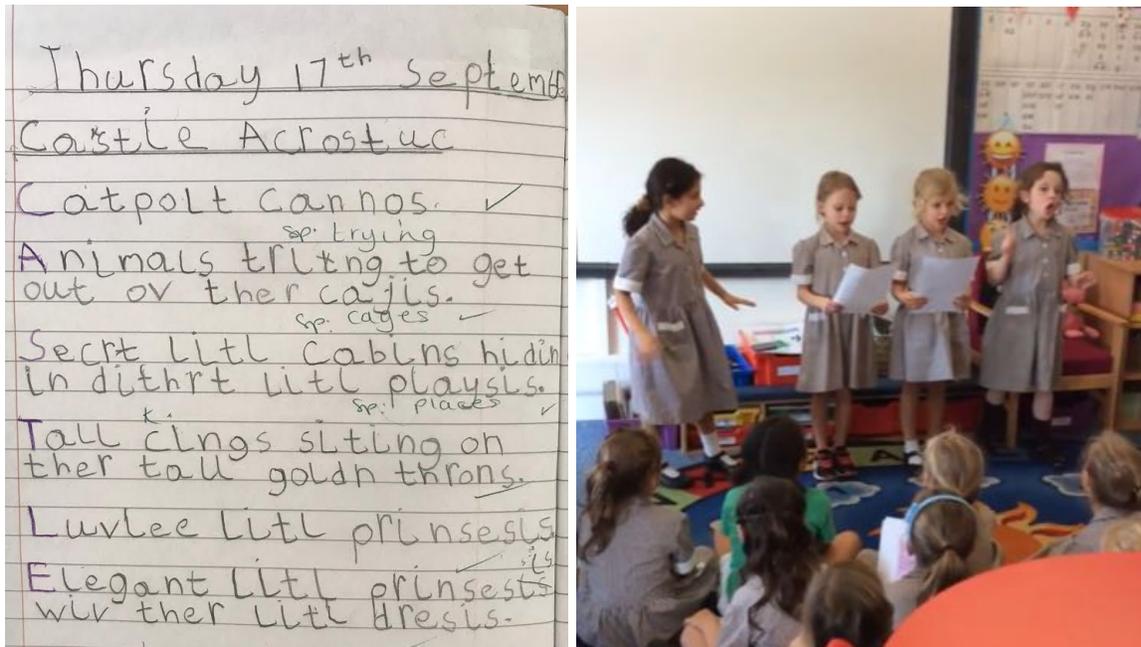
Luckily we can, and often too, as the link from the concert is here

<https://soundcloud.com/channing-school/sets/music-at-teatime-18092020>. Please do listen and enjoy, revelling in the fact that throughout this whole torrid business, our students have continued to flourish. This Friday (25 September) it is the turn of Years 7-9: report next week!



News from the Junior School

In English, Year 2 have been studying acrostic poems. Poems were performed in groups to a peer group audience, using lots of expression, actions and even some music. The girls then wrote their own acrostic poem on the Year 2 topic theme CASTLES.



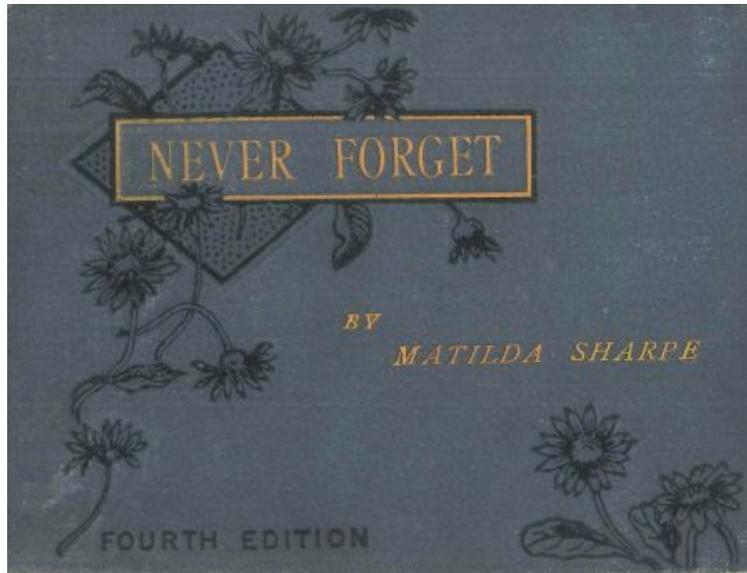
Teaching & Learning News

Over the last week many of you will have attended our Virtual Welcome Evenings. As part of the presentations to Years 7, 10 and 12, Mr Boardman looked at the habits of the most successful learners based on The Science of Learning. At Channing we are engaged with the educational research about what works for our learners. We share this research and its implications and applications with your daughters. We know that our most successful pupils think deeply about the way they learn. Thinking about how they think and learning about how they learn (we call this metacognition) will really help your daughters in their studies now and going forward. Our most successful students love learning and also know that learning has to be difficult for it to work. We call this 'desirable difficulties'. They also know they have to make mistakes in order to improve. They are 10% braver with the questions they ask, the questions they try to answer and the approaches to learning that they adopt. If you are interested in finding out more on metacognition you will find all the handouts from these evenings on the school website, linked here.

<https://www.channing.co.uk/about-us/teaching-and-learning/teaching-and-learning-resources/>

Alumnae News

As the seasons change and the sun sets earlier I am reminded of a poem by one of the school's founders, Miss Matilda Sharpe (1830-1916), entitled '*Fleeting Clouds caught the new Colours!*'. I hope you enjoy it as much as her pupils did (to whom she would give a copy of her book).



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Fleeting Clouds caught the new Colours!

BRIGHTER each instant!

Open Sky turning into tender, exquisite, far-away green.
Every moment, the Preparations grew more exciting!—
All Nature making ready to burst into smiles!

The Early Labourer, with spade and basket on his shoulder,
Walks—with head turned—Watching as he goes.

The Birds are on the Alert! One Moment more!
And Behold!—the most Glorious—Splendid—Spectacle!
Heart could conceive!

As, Slowly—and with Great Majesty! The Giant Sun Arose!
While Sea, and Sky, and Cliff, and Shore!—
Were Glittering, Sparkling, Quivering, in the Golden Light!

And Man, goes on his daily road rejoicing,
With Heart raised and trustful.—Beginning his New Day!
Hoping—Striving—Enjoying.