



CHANNING

Word from the Head

24 September 2021

Dear Parents

It has been another busy week, and I have particularly enjoyed meeting so many Year 7, 10 and 11 parents at our various events. I am mindful that for Year 7s this is just the start of their exciting Channing journey, while for Year 11 it is already time to start talking about life in the Sixth Form - where does the time go?!

In my talks I have relished the chance to remind you all of the vision I have for the school and for the future of our students. One thing I have mentioned to a number of you is the extremely strong sense of social justice which is typical of a Channing pupil; an effect, I am sure, of our Unitarian ethos. Our Sixth Formers lead clubs such as Feminist Society, Rainbow Society and Amnesty, which are open to younger year groups and help develop the inclusive community at Channing which makes school life so special.

I mention this because at Assembly on Monday this week I had my first chance to talk about the 20th anniversary of the extraordinary events of 9/11, the day that nearly 3,000 people died in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. As I said to the students, 20 years on it is strange for me to think that they were born into a world where war in Afghanistan and the threat of Al-Qaeda, ISIS and related groups are a given. This political background is normal to them and things like airport checks - taking off your shoes and belt, keeping your liquids separate in 100ml bottles - are just par for the course.

For the rest of us (or at least, anyone born between about the years of 1945 and 1985) it took us time to make sense of the change in the world which came after the events of 2001. We were born into a world where the Cold War had existed for years, where we in the West were brought up knowing the threat was the Communist USSR - and of course, they thought the same about us - and for all of us nuclear war hovered as the background terror threat. In 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union, that came to an end and we had to adjust to a new reality.

Ten years later, on 11 September 2001, I was in my first week as a newly qualified teacher when I heard about the planes flying into the World Trade Centre. I had a Year 10 tutor group and I found myself unable to answer their questions about why this had happened, or what would come next. Fast forward 20 years and our commemoration of that anniversary coincides with the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the reestablishment of Taliban control. We cannot fail to have been shocked by the images we have seen of Afghans attempting to board planes at Kabul airport and we all hold deep concern about what this means for the Afghan people - especially their women and girls.

So many advances have been made in the last decade, with women and girls in Afghanistan starting to enjoy expanded rights and expanded opportunities in the years since the removal of the Taliban in 2001. I shared with the school the stories of just three significant female Afghani politicians:

- Fawzia Koofi, Vice President of Afghanistan's National Assembly, who was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2020. An outspoken single parent, she has survived multiple assassination attempts.
- Naheed Farid, the Chair of the Afghan Parliament's Women's Affairs Commission. In her time in office she implemented a proposal to allow mother's names to appear on birth certificates for the first time. That one simple act is, in itself, a stunning example of how few rights women in Afghanistan have had.
- Sima Samar, Human Rights Commissioner. She was Minister for Women's Affairs in the early 2000s and oversaw the return of girls to school and women to the workforce after the defeat of the Taliban.

All three of these women - and dozens more like them who were politicians, mayors, ambassadors, journalists and more - have now escaped the country or are in hiding. So what next?

I reminded the school that these advances were only for a minority of well educated women living in major cities. The reality is that for the vast majority of poor, rural women and girls life changed relatively little in 20 years. There are shocking statistics from a 2018 research report of the rates of domestic violence and prevalence of forced marriages, along with extremely high rates of death by suicide for women trying to avoid these situations. I shared a quote from a woman who had attempted to burn herself to death, speaking from her hospital bed:

“Women never have any choices. If I did, I wouldn't have married him.
We're all handcuffed in this country.”

This was not a light assembly and I made it clear that my aim was not to depress everyone on a Monday morning. Rather, I wanted to highlight what they could do if they were keen to show their support. Firstly, of course, and with an eye to that need for social justice which is so marked at Channing, I suggested they might want to campaign. Our own school Amnesty society meetings are a great place to find out more about how to petition for action. Alternatively they could write to their local MP to ask what they are doing to pressure the Government into providing safe passage and asylum for those who need it. For really direct action, they could find out more about the work of UNICEF, one of the very few Non-Governmental Organisations still at work in the country, and how they can support this.

I emphasised that there are, however, some quieter ways we can demonstrate our support, by making the most of our rights and freedoms which we might otherwise take for granted. While the opportunity to come to school and be educated might not always feel like a privilege, it is beholden on our students to remember that there are girls in the world who would give an awful lot for the ability to go to a French lesson, do Biology homework or read a history book. We should also make the most of our ability to read a free media, to see news written from

different political perspectives and without fear that it may have been censored. I did also point out that for some of them this might mean not just getting their news from social media outlets!

Above all the girls who are lucky enough to go to Channing have the opportunity to make plans for a limitless future. I urged them to guard against apathy or feeling that they weren't good enough to aspire to an exciting future. They have the capacity, the support and the opportunity to discover their strengths and interests, and the chance to put them into action. More than anything else, this sends the clearest message to the world about the power of womankind.

With warmest wishes for the weekend,

Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

The Week Ahead

Monday 27 September 2021

No Events

Tuesday 28 September 2021

09:15 Senior School Open Morning

14:00 Netball U13 vs Brentwood School @ Brentwood School (ISNC)

16:00 'The Sound of Music' Musical Rehearsal, AC

16:00 Netball U12AB v CLSG, FHNW, SHHS @ Channing (Friendly)

Wednesday 29 September 2021

13:00 Netball U19 vs Latymer Upper @ Latymer Upper (ISNC)

13:40 Year 8 Visit from Redheart Theatre to perform 'Gothic Tales', AC

18:00 Senior School CA Meeting, Sixth Form Studio

Thursday 30 September 2021

08:30 Year 11 GCSE Drama Workshop, AC

09:00 Year 7 Fearless Learners ~ Inner Drive / Going from Good to Great

Friday 1 October 2021

13:00 Senior School Music at Lunchtime, AC

Reminders

Covid update: Following a cluster of cases in one form, we have been advised by Public Health England that the school should now carry out contact tracing if a pupil tests positive for Covid. If your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive you will receive a letter from us advising you to get a PCR test for your child; please note that Government advice is that they should continue to come to school as normal until the result of the PCR test is received.

We have also been advised to suggest that where one sibling in the school tests positive, the other(s) should self-isolate at home until the outcome of their PCR test is known.

Please continue to carry out LFD tests at home twice a week as usual. Your child can collect more test kits from the School Office or Resources if necessary.

There has been some confusion this week about access to Virtual School when pupils are absent from school. Where pupils have tested positive for Covid but are asymptomatic, or if they are well and have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, they can access Virtual School and join lessons remotely.

Pupils who are ill, whether with Covid or another illness, should not join lessons remotely: the priority must be regaining their health and we will support them to catch up any work missed once they are well and back in school again. They can check their Google Classrooms for homework if they wish but should not be joining lessons online or asking teachers to give them work to catch up.

Where parents voluntarily take their children out of school to self-isolate we do not offer access to lessons via Virtual School. It is their child's responsibility to keep up with the work they are missing by speaking to their friends, rather than asking teachers to set additional work. At a minimum all teachers are posting homework on their Google Classrooms, and some will be uploading more resources than this. Your child will need to check what is there each lesson and ask their friends to provide more information about what was involved in the lesson if required.

Forthcoming Events

Channing Association

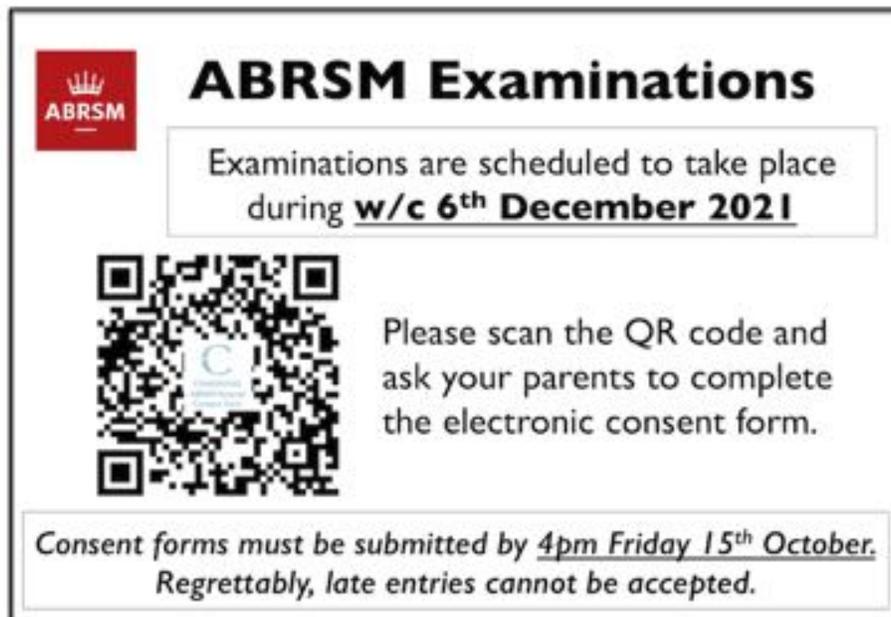
CA Meeting - 29 September, 6pm in the Sixth Form Centre

AGM - 6 October at 6.45pm in the Sixth Form Centre

ABRSM Examinations w/c 6th December - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

We will be holding practical music examinations during w/c 6th December 2021 for pupils in both the Junior and Senior Schools. These examinations are also open to students who have practical music tuition outside of school, providing the student's teacher has stated that they are ready to take an ABRSM practical examination this term.

We do need parental consent before we enter candidates, therefore parents need to scan the QR code shown and complete the online form by 4pm on Friday 15th October at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.



The poster features the ABRSM logo (a red square with a crown and the text 'ABRSM') in the top left corner. The main title 'ABRSM Examinations' is in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, a white box contains the text 'Examinations are scheduled to take place during **w/c 6th December 2021**'. To the left of the text is a large QR code. To the right of the QR code, the text reads 'Please scan the QR code and ask your parents to complete the electronic consent form.' At the bottom of the poster, a white box contains the text 'Consent forms must be submitted by **4pm Friday 15th October**. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.'

Girls Enjoying Success

Sports News

U15 ISNC Netball vs Croydon High School

The Under 15 Netball team travelled down to Croydon High School for their first round match in the Independent Schools Netball Cup. After a close first quarter the team rallied in the second quarter to take a commanding lead. They kept the pressure on in the final two quarters winning the match 51 - 29. Congratulations to all of the team and in particular Natasha, Year 9, who was named player of the match.

Year 9 GSA Netball Tournament

Best of luck to the Year 9 students travelling to Condover Hall this weekend for the Year 9 GSA Netball Tournament. We wish you the best of luck!

London Pulse

Congratulations to Mali and Tori, Year 13 who have been named as part of the London Pulse U19 Squad. Congratulations also to Annabel, Year 12 who has been named as part of London Pulse's U17 squad.

Geography News

On Monday the Year 11 geographers went to Flatford Mill to carry out river fieldwork on the River Brett. The students collected data on the width, depth and velocity of the river at different sites. It was wonderful to be back doing fieldwork and well done to all the students for their enthusiastic approach despite some rain!



Geography Society News

At the Senior Geography Society this week Year 13s Millie, Eliza and Annabel led an academic discussion based on a lecture by Prof. Klaus Dodds from Royal Holloway University of London. They explored how and why the Arctic has become so central to the geopolitical ambitions of traditional and emerging powers. The themes they covered included territorial claims,

governance and regulations, national boundaries, climate change and resource exploitation. Well done to the three of them for leading a stimulating discussion.

Year 7 News

Last Friday, all of our Year 7 students visited Stubbers Adventure Centre as part of their Year 7 induction. They all had a great time developing their communication skills during some challenging team games, as well as showing off their best 'Robin Hood' impressions during archery. Teachers were pitted against students in laser combat, and there was fun to be had in the water during raft building. With the excellent weather as well, it was smiles all round (as well as some pop song renditions) on the way home.



Maths News

Mrs Williams, a big fan of Johnny Ball, organised a trip this week for the Maths teachers to see his show 'Wonders beyond Numbers' at the Bloomsbury Theatre at UCL. This was after his virtual visit to school during Maths Week earlier in the year. He was promoting his new book with the same title which looks at the twists and turns of the history of Maths through the

Greeks, Egyptians and Renaissance. He entertained us with amazing Maths facts and songs and jokes.

While Mr Hill, the Bursar was balancing the books (and globe) onstage with Johnny, the Year 13 Further Maths class dropped in to watch him too and pick up tips for their future Maths exams.



Careers News

Alia and Anisha, Year 13, report on interviewing Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE:

Year 12 and 13 had the opportunity to hear Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas speak during their PSHE session on Thursday. During our interview we were able to discuss her career in law, through which many varied positions have opened up to her, including Chairwoman at the Royal Opera House as well as leadership of the Corporation of London. Hearing Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas talk about not only her career but her passions outside of work reinforced the importance of personal hobbies, such as the arts or sport, an integral part of Channing life.

For members of the Sixth Form who are planning to pursue higher education, she offered a fantastic insight into the admissions process highlighting many traits found in successful students. It was so motivating hearing from somebody with as much experience and knowledge as Dame Judith, who has made such valuable contributions to all aspects of society. She was incredibly inspirational and the perfect example of a strong female enjoying success.



Classics News

Year 8 visited the Roman town of Verulamium (St Albans) on Wednesday and enjoyed a fun day of artefact handling, performing a Latin play in the Roman theatre, learning about mosaics and hypocausts and exploring the wonderful objects in the Verulamium Museum's collection. They'll produce an illustrated journal from the perspective of a Briton living in Verulamium, inspired perhaps by the beautiful statuette of Venus, the strigil we held in the handling session or the famous shell mosaic. Many thanks to Ms Melvin for organising the trip.

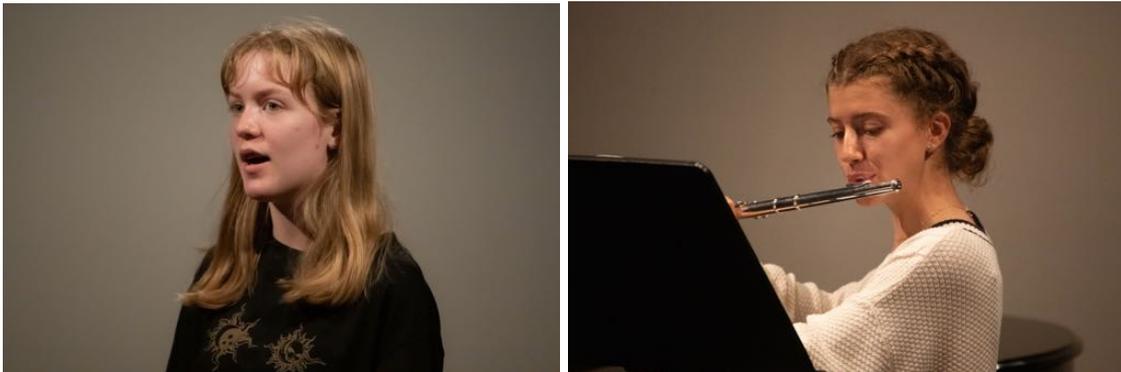


Music at Lunchtime

There may have only been two performers at Music at Lunchtime on 17 September but my, what performers they were! Both Elizabeth (Voice) and Emily (Flute) have already achieved diplomas with Distinction; Elizabeth's was on the violin in Year 8! Their superb musicianship and ability to communicate was evident. Elizabeth's *'Die Lotosblume'* by Schumann was sublime; beautiful diction, mesmerising dynamics and legato lines conveyed the message; a line translated 'She blooms and glows and gleams' accurately depicts Elizabeth as a musician.

Emily then treated us to part of her diploma programme with a beautiful performance of three movements from Blavet's *Sonata No 4 - La Lumagne'*. Emily was able to capture beautifully the French Baroque style that permeates Blavet's music with a warm and clear tone on the flute. She then held us spell-bound and breathless with an exquisite, exciting performance of *'Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise'* by Doppler, full of customary fireworks and technical displays of wizardry!

Positively marvellous! The concert also provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome Ms Caroline Marley, a new addition to our Music department, who teaches in the Junior School and made her debut here as an accompanist. Do listen again, [here](#).



Teaching & Learning News

The Importance of Failing

As you are undoubtedly already aware, at the Senior School we are focusing on developing Fearless Learners. We have teamed up with [Inner Drive](#) to look at the most up to date educational research that will help students, teachers and parents understand the attitudes and behaviours of Fearless Learners. Each week this term in Word from the Head, Mr Boardman (Assistant Head Teaching and Learning) will share one piece of research that every parent needs to know, along with one tip.

This week we look at ***The Importance of Failing***. You can read a simple summary of the [research here](#) (it is a 3 minute read).

Tip: Talk to your child about failure. Re-conceptualize failure as part of the learning process. Early failure should not be taken as a negative signal ~ try to encourage them to see failure as an opportunity. #fearlesslearners

News from the Junior School

Please see our social media accounts to keep up to date with what's going on at Fairseat. Follow us on: [Channing Instagram Account](#), [Channing Twitter Account](#), [Channing Facebook Account](#) and [Miss_Dina_Hamalis Instagram Account](#).

Year 6 News

This week we had our Year 6 Taster Morning in the Senior School. Our two Year 6 classes visited for a morning of introductory sessions such as Drama, Music, STEM and Classics. This was a fantastic opportunity to experience life in the Senior School, and even get to try a Senior School lunch.

Channing Archives

Welcoming Year 11 students and their parents to the school for Sixth Form Open Evening yesterday was a reminder of the many changes that have been made to the school over the years; not to mention the memories that previous students have from their time here.



Old Sixth Form Centre



Sixth Formers in the early nineties