



Dear Parents,

Welcome back, and I hope you had a good break over the holiday. I certainly did, and have returned to school with a renewed sense of optimism for the term ahead. It helps that I really love the summer term! With the glimpses of sunshine, green leaves and blossoms around the school site, I love the promise of warmth and long days to come. There is a sense of anticipation that anything is possible - and, in just 11 weeks, the prospect of the long summer holiday. However there is masses to pack in before we get there, and I am also looking forward to the hard work, activities, trips, performances and sporting endeavours which will fill all our lives over the coming months.

Of course for our Year 11 and Year 13 students this term is bittersweet. Their GCSE and A level exams start in a couple of weeks, and indeed this week the A level Art exam and some of the A level and IGCSE language orals have been taking place. While there is certainly nervous anticipation of the exams, they are also the culmination of everything our students have been working towards for the last 18 months and I know they are focused and prepared to do their best. For Year 13 this will also be the term they say goodbye to Channing, and I am looking forward to celebrating their achievements with the school and their parents on 2 May. Both Year 13 and Year 11 will get a fantastic send-off before their study leave begins!

It seems slightly counterintuitive that these farewells are part of what binds our community together. There is something very special about acknowledging publicly the journey of these students through the school and wishing them well as they step out of our world and into a new one which they will make their own. I wanted to start the term by reminding the school about the responsibilities we have as members of our community, and regular readers of Word from the Head may remember that I talked about this a couple of weeks before the end of last term when I discussed the way in which social norms are changing and people do - or, indeed, don't do - things which would have been considered entirely unacceptable five or ten years ago.

I mentioned then that the Bursar made the analogy of dog mess, and (somewhat to the surprise of the gathered Senior school) that's where I started in assembly on Tuesday morning. The many dog owners among the students were adamant that they always carry a supply of poo bags with them and I was delighted to hear it, not least as it's a legal requirement since 1996 that dog owners pick up after their dog. However, we know that the streets of London are no longer as clean as they were and that more and more owners are flouting the law (and common decency) by not picking up after their pooch.

Why does it matter? Because the little things are important. I delved into a bit of A level Psychology and shared the concept of the Broken Window Theory, posited in 1982 by social scientists James Wilson and George Kelling, building on earlier work by Stanford University psychologist Philip Zimbardo. This is best summarised as "One unrepaired broken window is a signal that no one cares, and so breaking more windows costs nothing." (I have discovered subsequently that this was an important concept for Year 9 in considering urban regeneration in King's Cross on their field trip yesterday too.)

As I said to the school, we don't break windows at Channing, but there are little things we do every day in how we behave and how we dress which matter and which are part of our social contract as a community. I explained that the social contract is an idea which philosophers have considered over thousands of years, from Socrates to Jean-Jacques Rousseau to John Locke. The theory suggests that there are universal, or unwritten, laws, as well as written rules, which govern how humans behave harmoniously together in society. We give up some of our rights to freedom of action and expression in order to be part of an organised and beneficial whole.

My old Head used to say, "stick to your knitting", in other words, focus on getting the basics right. This term I want our pupils to focus on getting the basics right by observing the Four Non-Negotiables,

- Arrive to lessons on time
- Be ready to learn
- Maintain a high standard of behaviour in lessons
- End lessons well

and by dressing right, particularly in their choice of earrings and other jewellery, PE kit (especially ensuring these are Channing branded or plain black bottoms) and suitable footwear. I made the point that these are active choices - they don't have to pick up their eye liner or put on hoop earrings when they are getting ready for school - and I would be grateful for your support in helping them make the right ones.

Finally - my own personal bugbear - chewing gum! I cannot bear chewing gum: a) it gets everywhere and is deeply unpleasant for our cleaners and estates team to have to deal with when it is discarded and b) I hate how stupid it makes people look to walk around chewing, like cows with their cud. It gets an instant demerit and it shouldn't be brought into school. Rant over!

Channing has both a written and unwritten social contract. I think our community is something really precious and special, and I finished the assembly by explaining that when people make the choice to act outside our social contract they send a message that they don't care about the community and don't want to be part of it. It requires all of us to play our part in upholding it because when we stop acting for the greater good in our individual lives then society as a whole can only be the worse for it. Stick to your knitting instead.

Tuesday's assembly was also the opportunity for me to welcome (and welcome back) a number of staff. Mrs Tomback returns as Head of Sixth Form and a History teacher after her maternity leave, and Ms Kung returns from her sabbatical with a slightly amended job role and new title of Director of Social Impact, as well as teaching History. The new role will include her work on partnerships as well as a wider brief relating to all of our community involvement. As a result of her role change Ms Wilberforce becomes Head of Careers and Higher Education and Mr Raine is Overseas University Applications Coordinator, as they take on parts of Ms Kung's previous HE role.

With Mr Waring already well underway in his new role in Madrid, I am delighted that Ms Pavlopoulos, Head of German, takes up the additional role of Head of MFL, and Ms Gomez will be Acting Head of Spanish this term. Congratulations to them both. We also have two part time supply teachers joining the MFL department this term: Ms Stavena returns to us in French and Ms Ogunseitan will be working in the Spanish department.

We also welcome Miss Hawker, our new Senior School SENCO who will work with Mrs Gardiner in our SEND department, and Mr Gibb who joins us as a part time VMS viola teacher while Miss

Newman-Pond is on maternity leave. Congratulations to all on their new roles, and I hope that our new staff will be very happy in the Channing community.

Lastly in staff news, congratulations to Mr Meier and his wife on the safe arrival of their baby girl who was born in the last week of the holiday. All are well, and Mr Meier is on paternity leave for the first two weeks of term. In his absence, Mrs Bhamra-Burgess, Mr Gittins and I will cover his role. Please contact Mrs Bhamra-Burgess for Senior School safeguarding issues and day-to-day issues of school routines and Mr Gittins for pastoral matters; he will be working with the Heads of Year on pastoral care, behaviour, rewards and sanctions.

There is one more piece of congratulations to share with you today. Over the holidays I have reflected at length on a decision I made to rescind an appointment to the Officer team before it was announced in Mark Reading on the last day of term. I realise that, on balance, this was a mistake and I am pleased to have had the chance to rectify it. As such I was delighted to announce in assembly this morning that Zoe Quartey is joining the existing 2024-25 Officer team as a Sixth Form Officer, effective immediately.

May I take this opportunity to say *Chag Pesach sameach* to our Jewish families observing this important holiday over the coming two weeks. Details of lunch provision for your daughters are in the first section below, and I wish you a peaceful and prosperous Passover.

With best wishes

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Catering for Pupils Observing Passover

We are writing to you ahead of Passover this year which takes place 22 to 30 April inclusive so that we can ensure we offer the best possible provision for those observing the festival. We know that we have a significant number of Jewish families at Channing and understand that students will observe Passover differently. This brief guidance aims to ensure everyone's needs are catered for in the spirit of our Unitarian ethos of kindness, tolerance and inclusivity.

We cannot provide kosher for Passover meals in the Dining Room, so as we have done in previous years we will again make provision for a separate lunch room to be made available from Tuesday 23 April for those who do not wish to eat chametz (leavened food products) during Passover. The designated lunch room will be supervised by a member of staff each day.

Students will be allowed during the above dates only to bring in their own food for lunch, as long as it meets the following guidelines:

- Under no circumstances are any nuts, or any products containing nuts, to be brought into the school
- The food brought in should remain healthy and nutritious so that students can maintain concentration in their afternoon lessons - no junk food will be allowed
- The food brought in should show consideration for others and for the fact that the room provided is a classroom - please avoid bringing in food with a strong odour
- All food brought in for Passover must be consumed in the designated room - sanctions will be issued for students eating elsewhere
- Students must provide their own cutlery (where needed), and must clean up after themselves each day

If you have any questions about the provision for Passover, please do contact the School Office.

Parking

Following on from Mrs Hughes' comments about the social contract we all follow as part of the Channing Community, can we remind you to be respectful of each other and our neighbours when you are dropping off and picking up at Channing? Whilst we appreciate that the school run can be a stressful experience for all, parking slightly further away and not on zigzags or double yellow lines, could mean the difference between your daughter arriving safely at school or not at all. Channing is also extremely well served by public transport so, mindful of the Climate Emergency we declared last year, please also consider whether your journey could be completed in a more environmentally sustainable manner.

Lost Property

Lost property will be placed outside Founders Hall on Monday and Tuesday next week for students to check for any lost items.

Sixth Form Concert Thursday April 25, 6.30pm

Everyone is warmly invited to our Sixth Form Concert that is taking place next **Thursday April 25 at 6.30pm** in the Arundel Centre. The concert includes some of our most

accomplished musicians. It will also be an opportunity for a number of our leaving Year 13 musicians to perform their swan song. There will be a final rehearsal from 4pm that afternoon in the Arundel Centre for all performers. This is always a very special evening and I hope that many of you will be able to come to the concert. There is no charge for this event and there is no need to book any tickets, simply arrive and be entertained by our hugely talented Sixth Form musicians!

Upcoming TooledUp Events

[Expert online conference: Reaching Girls Early: Proactive Approaches for Mental Health, Appearance Anxiety and Body Dissatisfaction: 26 April 2024, 9.30am](#)

Guest speakers include Dr Sophie Nesbitt, Dr Lucia Giombini, Dr Amita Jassi, Dr Helen Ringrow and Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith.

Year 13 Leavers' Ball - Saturday 22 June

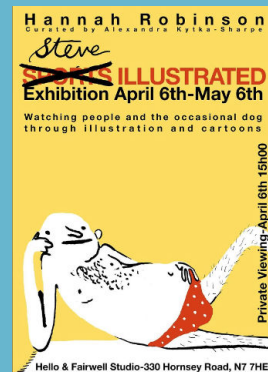
A reminder to Year 13 parents: please don't forget to buy your leavers' ball tickets!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1164897>

Alumna Art Exhibition Invitation

My name is Hannah Robinson, I left Channing in 2016 and have since become a freelance illustrator working with The New York Times, The Guardian, Washington Post and more. I will always cherish my wonderful years at Channing (the art department was where I really developed my love of illustration) so it felt fitting to let you know I am having a local exhibition in Finsbury Park - Channing families are welcome to visit! And if you're curious, my website is here: www.hannahrobinson.work

Best wishes, Hannah



Girls Enjoying Success

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History of Art News

On Wednesday 27 March, the Eurostar whisked away our sixth formers on a whirlwind History of Art adventure around Paris. They spent their first morning at the Louvre, checking off important Baroque masterpieces and snapping selfies with the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo. After a walk along the Seine,



spotting Paris' breathtaking landmarks, the train took them to the Chateau of Versailles. They roamed the royal playground of art-packed palace rooms, including Marie-Antoinette's ornate bedroom and the dazzling gilded Hall of Mirrors. An exploration of the gardens was followed by an evening of French food and chocolate shops. A trip to the Musée d'Orsay was last on the agenda, where students dived into the rise of modern art - from Manet's gritty realism to Monet's dreamy Impressionism. Two art-filled days, many Parisian memories made!

MFL News

Vegan auf Deutsch!

As two of the Year 8 leaders of the German Fun Club, we were asked to write a paragraph about our amazing experience with Maya from FitGreenMind.

German Fun Club is an after school club hosted on Thursdays where we taught German to Tate and Daniella, Junior School students, and also to children from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. We helped them make a video for the Goethe Institut's sustainable cooking competition which won 1st prize! The prize was that [Maya of Fit Green Mind](#), a famous German cook who specialises in vegan meals and who has almost 4 million followers on Instagram, came to visit us for a cooking workshop in school. A few other students in year 8 and 9 also created their own video. Rory and Millie came second, and Maya said herself that it was an extremely close competition, though in the end, the German Fun Club's video and dance performance won.



Because of that, 20 German students in Year 8 and 9, plus the children in German Fun Club, got to meet Maya in person, and so on Monday afternoon, before school broke up, we had a cooking session in which we made vegan chocolate muffins. Maya helped us all and gave us the measurements for the ingredients. When the class ended, the people who entered the competition were each given an eco-friendly bag filled with goodies such as vegan gummies from Germany, a notebook, coloured pencils, some pens, and her own special mix of

all-rounder spices, which is perfect paired with any kind of food. However, the people who didn't enter still got her spices and gummies before they left. Overall, Maya and her team at FitGreenMind were really kind and generous to come all the way from Germany to host our workshop and the Goethe Institut made it a very fun and interactive experience for everyone. Thank you also to Syster, the German Language Assistant, who encouraged us all to enter this competition and helped organise everything.

Aenea E and Kaitlyn M, Year 8

English News

This week, 8MH read *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson, a short story about the dangers of tradition, the arbitrary nature of persecution and the unsettling way in which peace and violence coexist. It's a brilliantly crafted story, which kept 8.5 hooked right up to the very end.



Music News

Jazz Evening

On 26 March we had the 16th annual Jazz Evening led by our fabulous jazz musician in residence, Mr Theo Travis. He was joined by our own Mr Alan Brown on drums, Miss Andrea Vicary on piano and Mr Alex Keen on bass. The quartet started the evening with two well known jazz standards, 'All of me' and 'Autumn Leaves'. During the evening we were treated to a number of



superb vocal solos from Evie M, Leili A, Ruby D, Martha R, Georgie G, and Beatrice McN, who was accompanied on piano by Amber J.



Chacapella also performed with their excellent arrangement of Summertime, which they repeated at Mark Reading the following morning. The Saxophone Ensemble of Natalia B, Cristina C and Aimee R sparked with their rendition of 'Night and Day' and Mr Dodds' Brass Ensemble gave a spirited performance of the well known 'St Thomas'. The final act was the school Jazz Band, led by Mr Travis, playing a set that closed with Herbie Hancock's 'Chameleon'.

The whole night was a brilliant showcase of our talented jazz musicians, who were inspired by playing with our four jazz pros. What a night! If you missed it you can watch it [HERE](#).

Geography News

Year 9 had a fantastic and sunny afternoon collecting data in King's Cross on the regeneration of the area. We had a fascinating talk from Mrs Brown, who works at Google and is a Channing parent, telling our students about Google's new sustainable building and how it will give back to the community.



STEM News



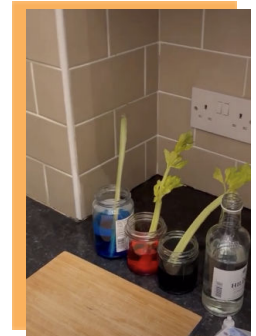
Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Years 7 and 8)

The Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry started this week with students learning how to write with fire. Our budding witches did a fantastic job at creating patterns with the fire. Future sessions will involve mixing potions and conjuring spells using seemingly empty tubes. There are 24 spaces available for

this club and students must sign up via Schoolbase. We look forward to welcoming more future witches next Tuesday in B9 Lab at 1pm!

KS3 Science Question of the Week

This week's Science Question of the Week asked pupils to complete an experiment. They were asked to get some celery, trim off the end, place it into some containers containing water and different colour food dyes. They were then asked to leave it for a while to see what happens, and to use these results to explain water transport in plants. We had some brilliant entries this week, but the winner this week who gained a commendation was Mariia S who sent in a video of her completing the experiment in her kitchen - well done!



Channing Archives

We are sure that this is the season for tennis, though the current climate would have us think otherwise. With this in mind we are delighted to share this photo of Junior Boarders in 1935.



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