



Dear Parents

This week we held our last two Welcome Evenings for the parents of Years 8 and 9. It was lovely to see you all - and particular thanks to the Year 9 parents who not only braved the weather to get to Channing on Wednesday but then had to brave it again when the fire alarm went off mid-talk!

We have really valued the opportunity to talk to so many of you in person over the first three weeks about new developments at school - the rewards and sanctions system, Yondr and a focus on reading, for example - as well as updating you on the latest research evidence in teaching and learning and the digital world. Most importantly, it has afforded our Heads of Year the chance to tell you more about what you - and we - can expect for and from your child in the year ahead.

I mentioned in my talks that I had recently heard a leading psychologist say that all transitions are essentially identity crises, which I think is very apt, and I was struck that Ms Mohabeer, Head of Year 8, referred to looking forward to 'getting to know the Year 8 version of your children'. She was absolutely right: our pupils, by necessity, reinvent themselves each September as the start of every academic year brings new questions about how we fit in, what interests we have and what we might explore over the coming months.

With that in mind, I really enjoyed sharing some thoughts about continuity and change at Channing in my assembly on Tuesday morning. At the end of the summer term we received the sad news of the death of former Headmistress, Mrs Tatiana Macaire, at the age of 90. She was the seventh Headmistress of Channing, from 1978-84, and, from all I have learned, she was a quite remarkable woman. She was a Classics teacher with a degree in Greats from Oxford and, in keeping with the traditions of the late 1950s, had given up teaching when she married. Instead she accompanied her husband in his career working for Unilever in Africa and the Middle East which, during the 1960s, must have been quite an adventure in itself!

However on their return to England she resumed her teaching career and, as her oldest son put it in his eulogy, it was made clear to the family that 'now it was her turn'. The first married Headmistress of the school, she moved her husband and two prep school-age sons from Hampshire to Highgate to take up the post of Headmistress in the summer of 1978. She inherited a vastly different school to the one I inherited in 2020. In assembly I showed a copy of the whole school photograph of May 1981, which featured 320 girls in the Senior School and 100 in the Junior School - a far cry from the 996 who were captured in the most recent photograph last year!

Mrs Macaire laid the foundations for the Channing we know today - a highly energetic and visionary leader, she remodelled the science labs and created the first ever Sixth Form Centre. She also developed the plans for the building of Brunner House and it was wonderful to share some photographs from the 1980 school prospectus to demonstrate the differences between Channing then and now. However some things are definitely still the same: Founders' Hall, the Art rooms and

the Library, for example, remain their distinctive selves. Mrs Macaire did not stay at Channing very long, moving to Ashford School in Kent in 1984. She served as Headmistress there for 15 years, including a year as President of the Girls' School Association, before her retirement and return to the New Forest.

At Mrs Macaire's funeral I was struck by the sense of continuity between us, both firmly committed to the education of girls and determined to make Channing the best school it can be. I certainly consider myself to be the guardian of the school, holding it in trust from the Headmistresses who came before me and ready to hand it over (one day!) to those who will come after me. As I said to our assembled students on Tuesday, I hope that beyond their immediate day-to-day life in school they might also sometimes consider the thousands of girls who have walked the corridors and sat in the classrooms before them, and those who are still to come. For many of them, that's their mothers, aunts and grandmothers: I love the fact that so many of our current pupils are second and third generation Channing pupils. I have no doubt that many of you reading this will enjoy looking at my assembly slides

■ [Assembly September 2023.pdf](#) . However long your connection to the school, part of you will be Channing forever!

On that note, I leave you this week with an additional thought on the subject of 'mattering'. Over the last three weeks we have introduced you at our Welcome Evening to TooledUp, a fantastic resource to which all Channing parents will have access from 31 October. You may remember that I often mention Dr Kathy Weston and her excellent weekly *Wednesday Wisdom* email: she has great insights about parenting modern teens which I want to share with you. This week's email is absolutely brilliant on the topic of [Mistakes and Mattering](#), and I encourage you to have a read over the weekend. She concludes with this thought:

After all, when you feel heard, seen and valued, you feel unstoppable.

That's certainly what we strive to do and I look forward to what our unstoppable students might achieve this year.

For now, I wish you all a very happy weekend and *G'mar hatimah tovah* to all those observing Yom Kippur.

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Channing Association News

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first CA meeting of the year on Monday night. We have a lot of events coming up this term so please keep an eye on Classlist for updates.

Second Hand Uniform Sale - Friday 6 October 3-4pm, Senior School Dining Hall

The CA is running a second hand uniform sale on Friday 6 October 3-4pm in the Senior School Dining Hall. If you need to pick up some extra uniform now that school is back please come along. The sale is open to parents and pupils and we prefer cards but do accept cash as well. Most items are priced at £5 or £10 each.

If you have any good condition, gently used uniform your daughter has grown out of and you would like to donate please leave it at the school office until Friday 6 October. Please only donate uniform items, we cannot accept donations of second hand casual clothing or shoes/coats.

Quiz Night - Thursday 12 October 7pm

Fancy yourself a pub quiz expert? Like a night out with great food and drinks and good company? Think you could pass your daughter's end of year exams?!

Please join us for a fun evening of quizzing, food and drinks (and maybe the odd exam question) on Thursday 12 October in the Senior School dining hall. Arrival drinks and food from 7pm, quiz starts 7:45pm.

Tickets £30 including complimentary arrival drink, food and quizzing. Cash bar throughout the night. Teams of 6 to 10 accepted. Haven't got a team yet? Let us know when you buy your tickets and we will add you on to one.

Tickets available at: <https://buytickets.at/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1010499>

Year 8 and 9 Events

We are hoping to run social events for the children in both Years 8 and 9 this year. Suggestions so far include ice skating and bowling/karaoke. If you have any ideas for an event your daughter would enjoy please get in touch with your class rep or one of our Ambassadors on Classlist.

2023 Fireworks Event

Tickets for our 2023 Fireworks Event, on Saturday 4 November, are nearly sold out at bit.ly/channingfireworks2023 so don't delay!

There will be Hot Dogs, Burgers, Sri Lankan Curry and Churros on sale (non meat options also available) as well as Beer, Wine, Mulled Wine, Sweets and Glo Accessories.

Gates will open at 5:30pm with the firework display starting at 6:45pm. The DJ and dancers are back this year to help get the fireworks party started and keep it going until we close at 8.30pm!



Coming up this term

6 October, 3pm - Second Hand Uniform Sale, Dining Hall

9 October, 7pm - Channing Association AGM, Sixth Form Centre

12 October, 7pm - Channing Association Senior School Parents' Quiz - Details above

4 November, 5:30pm - Channing Fireworks, Stanhope Road Playing Fields

ABRSM Practical Music Examinations - AUTUMN TERM


4-6 December 2023 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

We will be holding **Practical** music examinations during **4-6 December 2023** for candidates in both the **Junior and Senior Schools**. These examinations are also open to candidates who have practical music tuition outside of school, providing their 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 [here](#) and complete the online form by **4pm on Thursday 12 October** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.


Who Should I Contact?

 [Who should I contact - Sept 2023.pdf](#)



ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place during **4-6th December 2023**



Please scan the QR code and ask your parents to complete the electronic consent form.

Consent forms must be submitted by 4pm Thursday 12th October. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

The new series of Music at Lunchtime recitals started last Friday with two Year 11 students - Maya H-B and Amy P. They sang a mix of covers and original compositions by Amy. The recital started with Amy singing her song, 'Stayed Away', accompanying herself on the piano. Maya then sang Aretha Franklin's 'Natural Woman' followed by the pair singing Amy Winehouse's 'Valerie' as a duet. Amy was then in the



spotlight with her guitar as she sang two of her songs, 'Princess' and 'November'. It was then Maya's turn to cover 'Love on the brain' before Amy finished the recital with her composition, 'Three Months'. These are two young singers with outstanding voices. Throughout the recital the characterisation, musicianship and singing that we witnessed was nothing less than superb. Amy is a fine song composer with a bright future and we look forward to hearing more of her songs in the future. You really needed to be there to fully appreciate the recital, but you can hear it in full [HERE](#) on Soundcloud.

Drama News

Rehearsals for Chicago are well underway and students are rising to the challenge of singing, dancing and acting their way into the world of Jazz Clubs, murder and deceit!

Tickets will be released on **Friday 13 October** at 9.00am and I would suggest you start planning your outfit for the performances, which will take place on Monday 20, Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 November. This is an immersive theatre experience, therefore we are asking all attendees to come dressed in appropriate 1920's attire, in order to get the most out of the evening's entertainment - which includes a pre-show jazz club and bar beginning at 18:45, prior to the performance.

Tickets are £10 for adults, free for under 18s. Keep your eyes peeled for more updates in the coming weeks!

Classics News



We welcomed back former Channing student, Emmy Charalambous, for our first Classics Society of the year. Emmy is currently studying Classics at Trinity College, Cambridge; she was able to give students an insight into the average week of a Cambridge student and how varied a Classics degree can be with lectures in art, archaeology, linguistics and literature. Emmy had the opportunity to go to Italy this summer through the faculty and contribute to an archaeology dig in

Interamna Lirenas. The town was thought to have become less significant after the 2nd century BCE when it disappeared from written records, however the excavation of a theatre and an inscribed sundial has revealed that the town was still prosperous in the 1st century AD. They have also discovered that there are earlier remains of an imperial structure underneath the theatre. Perhaps one of our future Channing students might be able to uncover just what that is, but hopefully not in 40 degree heat! A huge thank you to Emmy for such an interesting and confident presentation.

English News

Lit Soc

Lit Soc began this week with Year 12 and Year 13 students presenting their top summer reads to the group. Highlights included Claire Keegan's tender novel *Small Things Like These*, Shehan Karunatilaka's unique take on purgatory in *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, and Mrs Fisher's

frustration in Elizabeth von Arnim's charming novel *The Enchanted April*. Students left with plenty of recommendations for Monday morning's form time reading!

English Skills Club

We were pleased to see lots of Year 10s at the first session of the English Skills Club. This is a Key Stage 4 club that runs on a Wednesday lunchtime at 1pm in the Library Seminar Room; the sessions alternate between Year 10 and Year 11. If your child would like to take part they can join the Google Classroom with the code **4kyt5e2**. Here they will find the Autumn schedule so they can choose which sessions they would like to attend; they can also access all the resources for each week.



Partnership News

Communita



The first of our monthly **Communita** events for 2023/24 took place on a beautiful summer afternoon last week. A number of year 10 and 11 pupils hosted visitors from our local community, who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea. Many interesting conversations were heard taking place between old friends and new and it was a delight to see our pupils interacting with the visitors.

Alongside these conversations, our Year 10 and 11s were also on hand to provide digital help and guidance

to our visitors if needed.

Many had brought along new electronic devices that they hadn't quite mastered and our pupils were soon helping them get to grips with the technology. We now have many regulars attending the events, clearly enjoying the company as well as the great food and digital advice on offer. (Many asked for 'doggy bags' to take home leftovers!).

In all, a wonderful afternoon and we look forward to the next event on 12 October!

Young Enterprise

This year we have developed our partnership links and joined forces with students from St Aloysius to create our Young Enterprise teams. Here is a photo of Mrs Williams explaining all things business to the new teams. Teams will create and market a product with the ultimate aim of making a profit, whilst learning new skills in working as a team, creativity, planning and problem solving. We can't wait to see what innovative, enterprising ideas the teams come up with. Dragon's Den, here we come!



HE News

Earlier this week we were delighted to host Ms Mackie Siebens and Ms Helene Cunningham from the admissions team at Bard College, USA. Bard College is a liberal arts college in the Hudson Valley, New York, and also has a European centre in Berlin. Students from Years 11, 12 and 13 were interested to learn about the advantages - and disadvantages - of studying at an American university, how the application process operates and how best to tailor their applications. Channing alumna Branwen has just started her studies at Bard and is apparently settling in well!

LAMDA News

This year 64 Year 8 and 9 have chosen to take LAMDA lessons. LAMDA (The London Academy of Musical and Dramatic Art) is a world-leading drama school and examinations provider which has been training and inspiring exceptional artists for over 160 years. Alumni include Maureen Lipman, Benedict Cumberbatch, MyAnna Burling and Abubakar Salim while their graded Examinations are taught in schools and colleges across the globe. This week, our LAMDA students are finalising their choice of 2 scenes - each student has a unique combination that they will work on as preparation for the Examination in May. They showed sophisticated creative responses to the 20 LAMDA Set Scenes, which they enjoyed reading over the summer. Now, they must pick a contrasting Monologue. As a counterpoint to their chosen LAMDA scene, they have the opportunity of researching and selecting an Own Choice piece, which can be from any published work - film, novel or play. Each student is encouraged to make bold choices for themselves - so we are looking forward to hearing their decisions next week. Last year's students created magnificent work; here is a link to the last 3 years' LAMDA Showcases on the [Channing Performances GSite](#).

Sports News

Congratulations to Beth in Year 13 who has passed her final ballet exam with the Royal Academy of Dance, achieving a High Merit at Grade 8. Well done, Beth!

U15 Football v Wimbledon High School

On Monday 18 September the U15 team, composed of Year 9 & 10 girls, competed in the Regional Netball Cup Round 1 knockout fixture against Wimbledon High School.

This game was a very exciting and close affair, with both teams having multiple opportunities to score. Our Channing girls never gave up, with ferocity in their attack whilst maintaining a solid line of defence and a hard-working midfield. Even after conceding a goal in the early minutes of the second half the girls still showed determination and teamwork to get back into the game. We were extremely unfortunate to not convert any goals, having had over 10 shots at goal including an aerial battle between Lexie and the opposing goalkeeper, 5+ shots from Natasha, and two goal-line saves within the last few minutes of the game where GG was denied just before the final whistle.



Despite the close loss, the girls kept their heads high and took on board the positives from the game.

Thank you to all who participated and to the enthusiastic Year 9s who stepped up to make a full team for the U15 competition. Miss Weston and Mr Oh were both very proud of the team's efforts, representing Channing with great spirit, encouraging manner and sportswomanship.

U13 Football vs South Hampstead High School

On Wednesday 20 September two U13 sides, made up of Year 7s and Year 8s, battled it out with two strong South Hampstead teams in the pouring rain. Both teams never gave up and fought throughout the match, even scoring a goal within the last moments of the game. Despite two losses, the girls kept their heads high and are eager to take on the next fixture even stronger.

STEM News

Marine Biology Club

This Monday saw the first ever meeting of the Channing Year 10 Marine Biology Club, and there was a bumper turnout! More than 20 students signed up for the club and were excited to hear about plans for the year from Mrs Hillier and Mr Grossman, along with our Year 11 helper Phoenix M. This week the students spent some

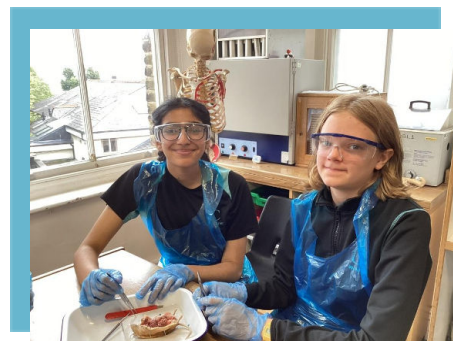
time coming up with questions they need answering about fish tanks, and have been sent away to research in groups what it takes to set up and maintain a tropical fish aquarium - but there's a catch! Each group can only use one method of research, so we're interested to see whether books, the internet, ChatGPT, emails or speaking with people in person delivers the best advice and information.

More from MBC next week!



Anatomy Club

The Anatomy Club started this week with eighteen Year 7 and 8 students. We began with the dissection of a mouse. The students carefully opened the animals and inspected the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, stomach and intestines. Many students were surprised at the sizes of the different organs: the heart was small, around the size of a pea, but the liver was much larger, comprising a number of segments or lobes. The students were guided by 11 fantastic Sixth Formers who helped identify the different organs.



Next week we will be dissecting a lizard to see how a reptile's anatomy compares to that of a mammal.



To the students who were disappointed not to join this term (enrollment was on a strict first come, first served basis) they are already enrolled on the course for next term, so they will not miss out!

Chemistry RSC Top of the Bench Competition

The Chemistry Department will be “taking” four students to this year’s Chilterns and Middlesex Royal Society of Chemistry virtual ‘Top of the Bench’ competition. The Channing team will comprise two Year 9 students, one Year 10 student and one Year 11 student. Students who have participated in the competition in previous years are not allowed to take part again. Team members will have the opportunity to participate in a challenging competition with ten rounds of questions and chemical problems. Marking will be carried out by members of the Chilterns and Middlesex Royal Society of Chemistry Committee and the winning team is awarded a trophy, receives a cash prize and will represent the Chilterns and Middlesex Section of the Royal Society of Chemistry at the National Top of the Bench Final. The runners-up also receive prizes. The competition will be held after school on Wednesday 8 November (finishing at around 5:30 pm) and will run virtually. The students will remain at Channing and will participate in the competition via a Zoom link and will be provided with drinks and snacks. If your child is interested in taking part in the competition, then please ask them to register their interest using the Google Form on their Chemistry Google Classroom. If there’s enough interest then we might be able to enter more than one team.

Biology Biodiversity Field trip

On Thursday 14 September, Year 12 Biology students went on a field trip to Epping Forest to investigate biodiversity. In the morning, we focused on the biodiversity in freshwater. We used nets to collect samples from the pond in order to look for invertebrates that were living there. We found a variety of biological organisms including water snails, newts and a dragonfly nymph. We even caught a fish! After a close call with a potential swim with the frogs, we had collected all of our data. We went back to the field centre and recorded the biodiversity levels using the Simpson’s index of diversity. We had lunch and then got right back out to the forest where we were now measuring the diversity of terrestrial invertebrates. This time we were using nets to sweep through two sites (grassland and woodland) in order to discover the richness and evenness of a selection of species. After a few scares with spiders, we made our way back to the field centre and, again, collected our data using the same diversity index. Once we had completed this, it was time to thank the field centre staff and make our way home. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Frank and Ms Hillier for taking on this enriching trip.



Ava, Scarlett & Saskia, Year 12

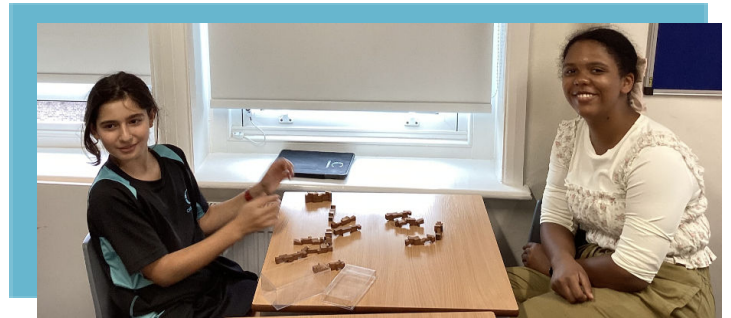
Maths News



Maths clubs have started this week. Puzzle club started on Monday where Sixth Formers were playing strategy games with Year 7 and 8 students. They made origami puzzles, played giant connect 4 games and 3D wooden challenges. Other Maths/STEM clubs starting this week were chess club and Mathletics.

In Mathletics Mrs Williams is putting our quickest Mathematicians through their paces as they are preparing to compete against other North London

schools in the Hans Woyda competition. If any of your children want to attend these they can speak to their Maths teachers for more details. Maths Drop In started last week on Thursdays after school which was immediately busy where students from all years 'Drop In' for help with their revision or work in general.



STEM Careers Club

STEM careers club takes place on Tuesday lunchtime at 12.25 in LG3 for Year 10 and 11. The first sessions are for those students interested in studying Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine. It's a great opportunity to discuss the requirements of these courses and what you should be doing now to help with your future application. We look forward to seeing the Year 10 and 11 students there next week!

Geography News

On Thursday 21 September, the Year 11 geographers carried out a study of Loughton Brook, examining the geology of the source along with how the river characteristics change along its course.

The students worked in the field centre before going outside to follow the course of the river and take accurate enough measurements to show that the river profile changed in accordance with the Bradshaw model. Fortunately they were able to do all this work without any rain!



Year 7 & 8 News

Big Sibling - Little Sibling Event

In recognition of Jeans for Genes day, Year 7 and Year 8 came together to launch their first

big sibling - little sibling event of the year. The siblings spent form time creating their very own 'denim designs' to go on display whilst getting to know each other and having a catch up on how the first few weeks of term have been. There are definitely some upcoming designers in the making. Watch this space for our next event next term!

T&L News: Using research-based evidence to help you support your child

Evidence suggests that one of the most powerful things a parent can do to assist their child's academic development is having clear homework rules.

Last week we looked at [45 Positive Phrases to Say to Your Child at Homework Time. By Dr Kathy Weston](#).

This week we use [this post from Inner Drive](#) and their infographic to suggest 10 simple things you can do to help your child with their homework.



Alumnae News

It seems Channing girls have always had quite the imagination: this poem entitled *Cutlery* from the 1969 *Channing School Magazine* certainly made me stand to attention whilst in the lunch queue today!

