



Dear Parents

This week's Word from the Head will be somewhat shorter than usual and also rather more serious than usual. It's rare for us to have the police in school, and to have had contact with them twice in a week is unheard of, so I am sure you will understand why I want to write about this unusual situation.

At the end of last term I updated you all on the investigation into the terrible incident of antisemitic graffiti which was found in the week after October half term. Having spent countless hours reviewing CCTV footage and interviewing students, the police told us in the last week of term that we had exhausted all reasonable lines of enquiry at present but added that if new information were to come to light, they would help us follow this up immediately. They, and the CST, commended us for being proactive and engaged, actively looking for support and advice and following up every lead.

The police felt that the investigation was now a safeguarding issue and that the focus should be on education. As a result PC Bell and Sergeant Lawton of the Haringey Safer Schools team came to assembly on Tuesday this week to highlight that this behaviour was not just a hate crime but also criminal damage, and completely unacceptable. They emphasised that while the internal investigation into this incident had come to a halt, any future incidents of this nature would be taken most seriously and acted on by them, rather than by the school.

They also introduced students to the concept of 'joint enterprise', explaining that in law bystanders who witness crimes, and those who are aware of crimes being perpetrated, have a responsibility to speak as they can be held equally responsible for those crimes. I know that our students are more often upstanders than bystanders, and are usually good at telling us when they see crimes taking place in the wider Highgate community. We've been able to support girls who have reported having belongings taken from them or who have suffered unwanted attention on the streets, for example. As I said in assembly, I can only hope that our students would use the same moral compass on crimes in school as they would beyond our gates.


Of course we are continuing our efforts to educate the whole school community on the dangers of discrimination and the importance of our Unitarian values of kindness, respect and tolerance. A comprehensive education programme designed to educate and inform students on the situation in the Middle East and the dangers of all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, is well underway and embedded in the curriculum for future years.

One event we have always observed at Channing is Holocaust Memorial Day, which this year falls tomorrow, on 27 January. To mark this important occasion the History Department led assembly this morning, with Sixth Form students presenting on this year's theme, the fragility of freedom. We partnered with the Holocaust Educational Trust, who provided an incredibly

moving video with testimonials and thoughts from several survivors that was shared with the school. It is relatively rare for me to be brought to tears by assembly but this certainly touched me deeply, and there were many other staff and students who were visibly moved. One of the survivors who featured in the video, Manfred Goldberg BEM, will be visiting Channing on Monday to do a workshop on antisemitism and the Holocaust with our Sixth Form students. Next week and throughout the term clubs and lessons in KS3 and KS4 will cover the Holocaust as well. Our huge thanks to both the Holocaust Educational Trust and Holocaust Learning UK for their participation and assistance in this years' commemoration.

Having had the police in school on Tuesday morning, and expressed my hope that Channing students would be upstanders rather than bystanders, you can imagine how appalled I was on Tuesday afternoon to learn that the police had been informed of possible thefts by Channing students outside school. We were horrified to hear that the store manager of Space NK in Muswell Hill had had to report to the police that girls wearing Channing uniform and kit had been shoplifting from the branch.

It transpires that there is a TikTok craze in which young people are targeting beauty retailers such as Space NK and Sephora. They are stealing products from the boxes and putting the empty boxes back on the shelf, filming this and posting the videos on TikTok, where it is referred to as 'borrowing'. Groups of three or four young people, ranging in age from as young as 10 to as old as 16, come into the store at the same time, usually on Friday afternoon or at the weekend, and huddle together to carry this out. The particular targets are beauty products from the Rare Beauty range by Selena Gomez. In this case the store has passed their CCTV footage, which shows girls wearing Channing uniform, to the police, and we have made clear that we will engage fully in any police investigation.

In the meantime, I wonder whether this weekend you might help your children explore the moral compass by which they - and their friends - are operating. When they see poor behaviour, ranging from low level disruption in class to acts which might be criminal offences in and beyond school, what are their instincts? Do they perceive barriers to doing the right thing, in being upstanders rather than bystanders? Are there occasions where loyalty to one's friends is more important than acting for the common good of our whole community? I have no doubt that we can all remember incidents from our childhoods and teenage years where our moral courage was tested and it was hard to separate right from wrong. We all know the power of peer pressure and the fear of being seen as a snitch, for example. [This article](#) from TooledUp provides some useful conversation starters about values - I particularly like questions 1-20 in relation to the issues we have dealt with in school over the last few months. Please note that you need to log on to TooledUp to access the article: in case you have not used TooledUp yet, here is the  Tooled Up Joining Information.pdf.

Next week I hope we will be back on lighter matters. In the meantime, I send my warmest wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes  
Headmistress

# Notices

## 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.

## ABRSM Practical Music Examinations

**18-20 March 2024 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**


We will be holding Practical music examinations over two or three days during **18-20 March 2024** 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. (Please note that regrettably, Year 6 pupils will be unable to take their examination in the summer term, as they are away on a residential trip the week the examinations take place in May.)

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 **Monday 5 February** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.



### ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place during **18-20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



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

*Consent forms must be submitted by 4pm Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.*

## Channing Association News

### Coats and Food Bank Donations

Thanks to everyone who sent in coats and Food Bank donations before the holidays. These were very gratefully received by our charity partners.

### Channing Year 7 Disco, Saturday 24 February

The Year 7 disco will be back for another year on Saturday 24 February 7:30-9:30pm in the Senior School Sports Hall. Tickets go on sale for **Channing only presale** on Monday 22 January at 9am. General sale from 26 January 9am. All details on Classlist.

### Comedy night - North London Laughs, Wednesday 20 March

For one night only, Avalon presents a star-studded line-up including GREG DAVIES; ROB DELANEY; ROB DEERING; SARA PASCOE; LOU SANDERS; EMMANUEL SONUBI and JOSH WELLER for a hilarious evening to raise vital funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Tickets for North London Laughs charity comedy night are now available to buy, with exclusive first-access to Channing families using code GOSHPRESA24, until Thursday 25 January when sales also open to the general public.

Buy tickets here: <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/north-london-laughs-2/> - maximum 4 tickets per family.

Doors at 6:30pm for Channing families to have a drink at the bar, before the show starts at 7:30pm, ends at 10pm.

### Channing Association Choir

Following the wonderful singing in the Winter Celebration in St Michael's last term, the Channing Association – supported by the Music Department – is very excited to be launching a parent and teacher choir this year, and we need YOU!

The choir is for parents and carers, and will open to all genres of music. Rehearsals will be fortnightly in a local venue TBC on Monday or Tuesday evenings 7-9pm.

If you would like to join the choir or take on the role of accompanist on the piano, please email [jschanningassociation@gmail.com](mailto:jschanningassociation@gmail.com) to register your interest. Venue and dates to be communicated in due course.



CHANNING

# Girls Enjoying Success

## Pupils News

Congratulations to Emilie L in Year 10 who received the Jack Petchey award at Islington Town Hall this week for her achievements in kayaking. Well done Emilie!



Well done to Kira K in Year 9 who came in 3rd place in the ice skating short program and 2nd place in the free program in the Robin Hood Trophy 2024 in Nottingham. Kira also won the bronze medal overall. Congratulations Kira!

## Music News

### Music at Lunchtime

Last week's Music at Lunchtime was very enjoyable and presented a range of talent. Intermediate Flute Ensemble performed two contrasting pieces from Colin Evans' Flute Fiesta. The first was lively and cheerful which was well contrasted with the second which was emotive. Next, Anya J from 10HG performed Tchaikovsky's Chanson Triste on the violin. She showed great confidence and incredible performance skills. Then, from 10GR, Tal M played Satie's Gymnopédie on the piano. This famous piece takes a lot of expression to play and she certainly did it justice. Next, Kaia T from 10DK played Legend by Peter Nuttall on the guitar. She was loved by the audience and showed evident skill. Afterwards, Elena

S from 9BS sang Over the Rainbow. She sounded magical and captivating. Then, Georgie V from 9GHa played Mexican Hat Dance by Bullard on the recorder. This piece was very fun and got the whole audience dancing along. Finally, Leah de T-L from 8LV gave a show stopping performance of 'Journey to the past' from Anastasia. Her vocals were extremely impressive and left us in awe. You can listen to this lunchtime concert [HERE](#).



## Politics News

### Model United Nations

Congratulations to the 15 students in Years 10 to 12, who took part in St Paul's School's Model United Nations conference last Saturday. The students represented North Korea, Italy and the Netherlands, and they spent the day discussing resolutions that included the legality of private military companies, the international treatment of North Korea and corruption in international sport. We were delighted that Phoenix M in Year 11 was awarded best delegate in the Special Political & Decolonisation Committee committee, representing North Korea. Well done also to

Carlotta B-P in Year 10, whose resolution from the Netherlands on French Economic Practices in West Africa was put forward to be debated by the whole of the Economics committee. For many of the Channing students who took part in this MUN conference it was their first experience of debating, and they were superb!



*Mrs Devine*



## Psychology News

### Psychology Society

Psychology Society runs every Thursday Lunchtime (1.00pm) in A3 and sessions are being run by our fantastic Year 12 Psychology team.

This week the topic was Hypnosis, which gave pupils insight into how the use of hypnosis can be far more important in the treatment of certain conditions beyond simple entertainment.

Please come along next week if you are keen to explore other exciting topics in Psychology.



## MFL News

### French Debating Competition

- *Western governments should ban the exploitation of any new oil, gas or coal deposits.*
- *There should be complete freedom of expression in music.*
- *France should let through all migrants wishing to go to England.*

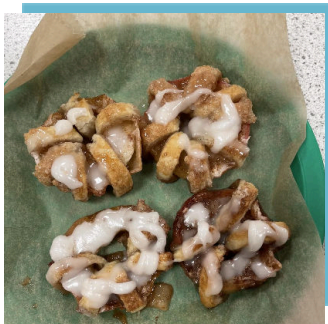
These are the three motions which Leili A, Alice E, Sophie K and Rosie P debated fervently in French on Tuesday 23 January in the regional French debating competition at St Paul's Girls' School. They were judged on the clarity and quality of their arguments, their conviction, fluency, quality of their language and team work. The Year 13s prepared thoroughly for both sides of each motion as they were only told on the night whether they would be debating for or against. Their sophisticated arguments, passion, level of language and clarity were most impressive. The French department would like to congratulate them on their preparation and performance which are to be commended. Well done!



## Partnership News

### Cooking at St Aloysius

This week was week 2 of a 6-week cooking course at St Aloysius run by Ms Hibbert. Year 9 Channing pupils worked alongside pupils from St Aloysius to make doughnuts.



Aria in Year 9 said *"This week we made apple doughnuts! We dipped the apples in cinnamon sugar and wrapped them in puff pastry and then dusted them off with some more cinnamon sugar and brushed some milk on top."*



*Then they went in the oven for a while and they were so good! We let them cool for a while and then we could add icing or chocolate sauce if we wanted to. I can't wait for next week!"*

### **Year 7 DT Club at St Aloysius**

Some of our Year 7 pupils have been visiting the Design & Technology workshop at St Aloysius where they are designing and making their own clocks. This week, they all got to test their skills on the fretsaw. It's a noisy machine and challenging to use at first, so our girls had to be brave and persevere. Now they have practised, the students will draw the shape of their clock face on wood and cut it out next time.

### **Volunteering at Brookfield**

Since September, a few Year 12s have been visiting Brookfield Primary School during form time to volunteer and run their breakfast club. We have been helping them with their reading as well as making breakfast and supervising their play. We've all been enjoying building connections with these children as well as learning from them too!

Isabel K & Aimee R

## **Sports News**

### **Football**

#### **U15 vs Highgate Woods**

The U15s started the match strongly, dominating possession but just couldn't put away chances and unfortunately just before the end of the half, hesitation in the Channing defence allowed the Highgate striker to poke home from 10 yards out. In the second half the girls got out of the blocks fast, with a superb finish in the bottom corner from Sienna B making it 1-1. Channing continued to create chances with Highgate having very little meaningful possession. However late in the game a Highgate corner caused confusion in the Channing goal area which unfortunately resulted in an own goal. Credit to Channing, heads were kept high and within minutes, Minnie M was able to finish off good build up play to restore parity to the score. Despite several more chances we were unable to score the winner and the game finished 2-2. Well done to all who played.

#### **U12 v Francis Holland School**

A team of 10 girls played out an entertaining fixture against FHS. The team played a 9-a-side match on the Junior school MUGA and despite the increase in size of the pitch, held a very good account of themselves. FHS won the game 3-0 with the goals coming early in the game. The team settled very well and began to dominate possession later in the game, but unfortunately couldn't find a goal. Well done to everyone involved.

#### **U13 v Belmont**

A predominately Year 8 team faced Belmont on the Junior School MUGA in a 9-a-side game. The opposition started the stronger and a skilful Belmont winger was really testing the Channing defence. However, with some of the best closing down and tackling I have seen so far this term, all their efforts were thwarted. It took a misplaced pass out from our own defence to unfortunately gift Belmont the lead. However, Channing didn't let their heads drop and some superb midfield and forward play from Bayla K and Milla C really caused Belmont problems. Despite dominating possession Channing were unable to finish and frustratingly lost the game 1-0. Congratulations to all who played.

## Netball

### UI2A vs Greig City Academy

Last week the UI2A team played the final match of the Haringey League against Greig City Academy. The team played with grace and style and were able to successfully win their last game 37- 1. It was a brilliant achievement by the students, having gone unbeaten for the whole competition. Well done girls!



### UI5 vs Francis Holland School

Last week the UI5s had a fixture against Francis Holland School. The girls played with grit and determination throughout the game. Although they lost the game it was great to see so many of the girls playing, working for each other and not giving up!

### UI2 A-D vs Francis Holland School

On Thursday we had over 30 students playing in a A - D team fixture against Francis Holland School. It was so great to see so many students participating in netball! Well done to the A team who won 10 - 4. The B team narrowly missed out on a win but secured a draw of 4-4. The C team and D team were unlucky with their losses but played incredibly well and fought till the very end! Congratulations to those students who got players of their matches too.



### Sixth Form Netball Students vs Highgate School

On Wednesday, the Sixth Form students who play netball in their afternoon games lesson had a friendly fixture against Highgate School. The students played very well and it was great to see how much their skills and understanding of the game had improved. Although we did not come out with a win, it was impressive to see the students enjoying themselves and playing competitively. Well Done!





### GCSE Skiing

Last Monday, six GCSE PE students from Years 10 and 11 attended the Snozone in Milton Keynes to take part in indoor skiing for their practical GCSE element. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves working and developing their skiing skills with the help of the ski instructor.

### Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to the four Year 8 students who represented Channing in the Haringey Indoor Athletics Competition at St. Thomas More School on Wednesday. The girls showed their determination and enthusiasm through a very focussed performance and demonstrated key Channing spirit, by supporting and encouraging their teammates. Well done to the whole team – Sloane R, Tamara P, Sonia H and Olivia W - for their outstanding efforts and achievements. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing them perform at future athletics events.

### Channing Archive

It seems as though Channing girls have always had a penchant for fun and the performing arts, even as far back as 1894!

