



Dear Parents

I hope that you had a lovely half term, and were able to use it for some rest and relaxation as well as catching up with family and friends. I certainly did, although half term feels a long time ago already. As always we are operating at 100 mph immediately on our return to school, with Year 11 and Year 13 back in the Sports Hall completing their mocks today and a whole host of other events. It was lovely to see some of you at the Musical Theatre concert last night: my thanks to Miss Bacon, Head of Vocal Studies, and all the Music Department team for preparing the girls for their performances. They included songs from shows with which I am not familiar, such as *Jekyll and Hyde* and *The Addams Family*, which I really enjoyed. Good luck to all our 43 candidates in their exams next week.

I have been thinking a lot about family this week and had planned to write a piece inspired by family relationships, not least because - thanks to my old friend serendipity - this piece from Dr Kathy Weston's [Wednesday Wisdom email](#) dropped into my inbox mid-week and gave some shape to my original musings. Indeed I had drafted most of it when, at the last moment, a number of things transpired which gave me pause. After much deliberation I have decided not to publish what I had written. I trust you will forgive the absence of a longer section from me today and enjoy the pages of school news which follow instead.

One piece of news I do need to share here relates to the Stanhope Road playing field. At the start of this week we gave over approximately one third of the field to the Council to use as the storage area for the contractors working on the old bridge just outside the gates. Offering this facility to the Council has meant that they are able to keep the road open for most of the period of the works, and while it reduces the available area it is still usable for our own PE lessons, along with the adjacent St Aloysius playing fields. Unfortunately one consequence of this is that we will not be able to run the Channing Association Fireworks in November, as the works are anticipated to run until the end of the year. I know you will be as disappointed as I am about this and I hope that you will continue to support the CA's other excellent events over the coming months.

Speaking of which, my thanks in advance to all the CA team and parent volunteers for running the Year 7 Disco in the Sports Hall tomorrow night. Undoubtedly the hottest pre-teen ticket in town, I know that it will be a fantastic evening!

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Lost Property

We collected all lost property during half term and will be displaying the items that are not named outside Founders' Hall on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please encourage your children to look for any items they may have lost.

Channing at St Joseph's Concert, Thursday 14 March

Parents are warmly invited to the Senior School's Channing at St Joseph's event, which will be held in the splendid setting of St Joseph's Church on **Thursday 14 March at 7.30pm**.

This year's programme of choral and orchestral music includes Bob Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass' and Christina Perri's 'Jar of Hearts', sung by the joint choruses of Cantemus Chorus and Conabor Choir. The Chamber Choir sings Sarah Quartal's 'Songbird' and Cecilia Mc Dowell's 'Would like to meet', with all choirs being accompanied by orchestra. Our Senior String Ensemble will be playing Finzi's 'Romance' and a flute concerto by J S Bach, featuring Emily B on flute. The Symphony Orchestra will frame the concert, opening with the 1st Movement from Sibelius' 2nd Symphony and a lively Danzas Cubanas as a finale!

Please note that if your child is a member of any of the ensembles mentioned above they will be required for the FINAL REHEARSALS and the concert.

FINAL REHEARSALS

Wednesday 13 March 4pm - 6.30pm Founders' Hall
Thursday 14 March 1.40pm - 4.30pm St Joseph's Church

Following the rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert students will not be able to return to school. All performers will be required to return to St Joseph's Church by 7.10pm on the evening of the concert, which should finish by 9pm. Students will be expected to wear Concert Dress unless they are in Year 7, who should wear smart school uniform.

Tickets are priced at **£8 for adults** (children under the age of 18 are FREE) and are available now by clicking on [this link](#).

Channing Association News

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 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 to register your interest. Venue and dates to be communicated in due course.

North London Book Fest, Alexandra Palace 21-24 March

We have planned a lively and diverse programme including big names like Natalie Haynes, Robin Ince, Lemony Snicket, Michael Rosen, Costa-winner Stuart Turton, and Peter Hain - but also some exciting debut writers including Leo Vardiashvili who featured on Front Row recently and Jay Owens with *Dust: The Modern World in a Trillion Particles*, revealing the hidden consequences of environmental devastation caused by the relentless pursuit of profit and power.

There will be panels ranging from conversations with parenting experts to an exploration of creativity and AI with Robin Ince and Andy Stanton, plus a special Night of Crime and Thrillers. There will be workshops and talks from some of the very best children's writers.

For **50% off** book fest events in the Theatre please use **NLBFCLOFF50**

For **20% off** book fest events in the other spaces please use **NLBFCLOFF20**

Tickets can be booked via the Alexandra Palace website:

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/north-london-book-festival/>

Peace of Cake gathering, Celebrating International Women's Day Sunday 3 March 2pm – 4pm at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

To mark International Women's Day later in the week, Rosslyn Hill Chapel offers an interactive event which brings together speakers from members of the Baha'i, Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities before sharing stories and ideas in small discussion groups. With a chance to make friends and eat cake... And we will be collecting feminine hygiene products to donate to local charities to address period poverty. Guest speakers:

Sanaz Saadat, member of the Baha'i Community
Rev Catriona Laing, Vicar of Emmanuel C of E Church, West Hampstead
Laura Marks CBE, social activist and founder of the Mitzvah Day International charity
Fauzia Saeed from the Muslim World League London Office

Peace of Cake gathering
Celebrating International Women's Day
Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
Hampstead NW3 1NG
Sunday 3 March 2pm – 4pm



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Guest speakers:

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- Rev Catriona Laing, Vicar of Emmanuel C of E Church, West Hampstead
- Laura Marks CBE, social activist and founder of the Mitzvah Day charity
- Fauzia Saeed from the Muslim World League London Office

Book online via the What's On section of the Chapel's website
or go to: <http://tinyurl.com/TWDpeaceofcakeMarch2024>

For more info and to register:

<https://www.rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/event-details/peace-of-cake-gathering>

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.



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Sporting Success

Well done to Natasha H in Year 11 who has been asked to captain the U17 Saracens Mavericks netball team. This is a wonderful achievement and we send huge congratulations to Natasha!



Classics News

Euripides' 'The Bacchae'

To celebrate the end of half term, the Classics department took Years 10-13 to see Euripides' 'The Bacchae' at Bloomsbury Theatre. Students were treated to a pre-show talk by Dr David Bullen who explained the fascinating performance history of the play in the U.K: in 1908 the tragedy's first modern production was put on by a group of women with Lillah McCarthy in the traditionally male role of Dionysus. The female followers of Dionysus, the bacchae, were at the heart of UCL's performance, dancing and singing about the joyful and destructive power of the god. We will not forget Agave holding the decapitated head of her son any time soon - or Sophie Ellis-Bextor's 'Murder on the Dancefloor' playing us out!



A Love for Classics Competition

Congratulations to Erika D (10DK) who entered the Bloomsbury 'A Love for Classics Competition' and won in the GCSE category with her poem 'A Love for Classics':

Salvē amicus,

*To learn an ancient language or its background
Is something buried so deep underground
That sometimes I wonder what would happen if I were born in that time.
The closest I can get is the ropes of the ancient language, and climb.*

*Classics has taught me of a time before you and I;
Latin's cases, declensions, noun tables, verb endings,
Ancient Greek philosophers, artists, poets,
Classical Civilisation's stories of Hercules and the Cyclops.
I get teleported back to a time of such talent and culture -
I would soak up these texts, like blood is soaked by a vulture.*

*Books like The Secret History or Maurice by E.M.Forster;
Movies like The Dead Poets' Society or Good Will Hunting
Have given me such motivation to pursue the Classics,
For only the bright ones know how much power they hold.
Carpe Diem will forever be my favourite Latin phrase.*

*My love for the Classics will be unchanging,
The pure, raw emotion on these texts remaining.
How lucky I am to study the Classics,
To study what came before you and I.
Surely that's a marvellous thing by itself?*

itaque, carpe diem et valē!

The judges loved Erika's originality, creativity and evident enthusiasm for all things Classics. Erika beat off fierce competition from students at schools all across the country - a remarkable achievement! In particular, the judges commented: "Love for Classics shines through and demonstrates engagement with all the aspects of the subject. Infectious enthusiasm and lovely use of verse as creative medium. Vivid imagery and an engaging, personal style."

Erika's poem will be published as a winner on the Bloomsbury A Love for Classics website. Well done, Erika!

Music News

Guildhall Young Artists Programme & Cameron Mackintosh: Les Misérables

Congratulations to Hana D who had the amazing opportunity over half term to rehearse and perform a concert version of Les Misérables, with the Guildhall Young Artists programme and professionals from Cameron Mackintosh, in front of the composer, Claude



Michel Shönberg himself. This was an exclusive opportunity for students from across the Guildhall Young Artists network to sing and play with the full West End Les Mis Orchestra, conducted by their Musical Director. Hana was playing viola in the orchestra.

Music at Lunchtime

On the last day before half term we were treated to a spectacular final music at lunchtime! We started the show with Astrid J playing a stylish Norwegian Dance by Grieg on her double bass.



After this we moved from the largest string instrument to the smallest with Yasmin L on violin. Yasmin played an intricately skilled rendition of the 3rd movement from concerto in D by Mendelssohn; well done, Yasmin!

After this we moved swiftly on from strings to a heartwarming piano duet between Nia H and Ella B where they played 'What was I made for?' by Billie Eilish. This performance definitely proved how teamwork can make dreamwork! Next was Kira S playing Etude 76 in A Minor by Sibelius on piano. Her performance was truly breathtaking as she played the entirety of the piece by memory, a wonderful

rendition. To conclude our concert we were treated to a jazzy piano performance of 'New Kid' by Chris Norton and performed by Bella Kain which was executed with style and great skill!

Do listen to the recital [HERE](#). Reviewed by Eliza C and Hannah D.

Art News

Young Art

Young Art is an exhibition at the Royal College of Art for school students aged 4-18, raising funds for Cancer Research UK. It is a wonderful opportunity for aspiring artists to have their work judged by well-known professional artists and exhibited at the prestigious Royal College of Art and, at the same time, raise money for Cancer Research UK, enabling children who enjoy art to help other children who are suffering from cancer and whose futures are not quite so assured.

Now in its 34th year, Young Art has raised over £1,000,000 for research into the genetic causes of cancer in children. This year's theme was "Our Living World".



Congratulations to the following successful Channing students whose works have been selected for display, and especially to prize winners Adele R and Isabella N, whose works are illustrated here.

Drawing: Isabella M, Year 9
Charlotte C, Year 12
Commended: Ella L, Year 8
Commended, Drawing: Annika S, Year 8 & Zoe L, Year 9
Commended: Tacita T, Year 11
Highly Commended: Sylvie L, Year 12
Third: Adele R, Year 12
First: Isabella N, Year 9

History of Art Trip



On Thursday 8 February, the Year 12 History of Art class visited the Wallace Collection and the National Gallery. In the Wallace Collection, we began by analysing a bronze sculpture of King Louis XIV, before looking at various other portraits in the gallery. After this, we made our way to Trafalgar Square and had lunch there. In the National Gallery, we saw two portraits we have studied in class: Rubens' 'Portrait of Susanna Lunden' and a self portrait

by Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun which was inspired by the earlier work. We explored the gallery to find and compare artworks with similar subject matter to the ones we have looked at in our current topic, Identity. As well as portraits, we saw a painting by Rosa Bonheur that we looked at in our past topic, Nature in art. It was amazing to see the works in person.

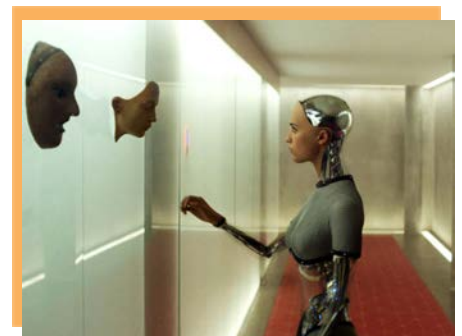
Lana S, Year 12

English News

The 2024 KS3 Creative Writing Competition is now open!

The theme of this year's competition is Artificial Intelligence. Will the AI in your story be a force for good - or something more sinister? The winning story will be announced at Easter Mark Reading, win a prize, and be published in Word From the Head.

Join the Google Classroom (code: nfr3nc) or email Ms McGovern (cmcgovern@channing.co.uk) for more info.



STEM News

Marine Biology Club

Members of Year 10 Marine Biology Club were delighted to see our new fish - and the old ones! - in such fine fettle following the half-term break. The fish were provided with a slow-dissolving block of food that has ensured they were well fed for the week, and our new sucker fish has done a wonderful job of cleaning the algae off the walls! Now that we're back at school, the students

have created a new daily rota to check on the tank's levels, change the water, feed the fish and spend some quality time with them.

Next week's meeting sees our first cross-curricular venture; Mr Gittins will be leading the meeting to provide guidance for the students as to how to design and make the most appealing, effective and long-lasting ceramic decorations for the tank. The plan is for the students to then turn their designs into actual ceramic creations, and then decide who is most deserving to actually be placed into the tank.



Thank you to Martie G and Anna R-B for changing the decor in the tank for a more Spring-time feel - it's looking great!

Anatomy Club

This week the students dissected a mouse; our first whole mammal. For the first time they were able to see the diaphragm, extending across the torso, under the lungs and heart. Beneath the diaphragm they saw the liver, a large organ composed of three lobes. One student found the pancreas, a small leaf shaped organ, behind the liver.



Students also tracked the digestive system, from the oesophagus, through the stomach, small intestines, large intestines and rectum. The two kidneys were also visible behind the intestines.

Next week is our final dissection for the term where we will be dissecting a sheep's brain and also using the microscopes to examine the tissue.

Chemistry Race at Oxford University

During the first Saturday of the half term break, five Sixth Form Chemistry students (Beth C, Isabel K, Sophie L, Tessie M and Isabella W) travelled to Oxford University to take part in the annual Chemistry Race. This is a challenging competition that takes place simultaneously at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and involves teams of Chemistry students from all over the country; this year there were 99 teams taking part across the two sites!



Dr Spinks was impressed with the teamwork skills shown by the Channing team and with their perseverance and resilience. Some of the questions were really challenging, but the students didn't give up and they managed to answer some complex problems as a result. Well done to Beth, Isabel, Sophie, Tessie and Isabella on receiving an honourable mention for the Channing Team!

Science Journal Club

At Science Journal Club this week, we read an article that discussed the existence of a new kind of magnetism. Altermagnets had previously been theorised to exist, but never before seen. Altermagnets have been measured for the first time and they could help scientists to make new types of magnetic computers. As we didn't know much about different types of magnetism, we researched ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism to find out more about these first to help us to understand the article. It turns out that the magnetism we learn about in school is ferromagnetism and that antiferromagnetism is similar, but the electrons' spins are alternately up and down.

Whilst antiferromagnets lack the external fields of ferromagnets, they show interesting internal magnetic properties because of the alternating spins and this has made them useful in computing applications. Altermagnets look like antiferromagnets, but the sheets of spins look the same when rotated from any angle. This property could boost the storage on computer hard drives, because commercial devices contain ferromagnetic material that is so tightly packed that the material's external magnetic fields start to see interference – altermagnets could be packed more densely. It has been suggested that these magnets could even lead to spintronic computers that use magnetic spin instead of current to perform their measurements and calculations. Something to look out for in the future!

Maths News

Maths Ellery Club

This started on Wednesday with 13 students clamouring to do the famous 'Alien Invasion' with Mrs Wootton. It is a tricky, problem based, Maths in Action project where the students have to apply their knowledge to locate the UFOs and save the students on the school trip. In the first session they used scale drawings, loci and bearings to locate where the spaceships have landed. Next week they will be exploring speed and number patterns to uncover more clues.



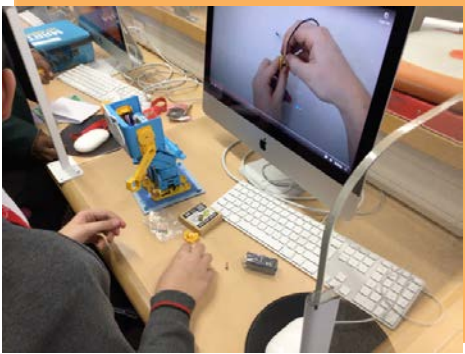
Problem Solving Club

Problem Solving Club started back this Wednesday with the primary school students putting their mental maths to the test. Students worked independently and in teams to solve 10 tricky conundrums and the scores were very close with team A winning 17 points to 14. We look forward to seeing how they fare next week.

Year 10 Maths lecture: The Story of the elusive shapes

This week our top set mathematicians watched a lecture from Marcus du Sautoy where he took the students on a tour through the mathematical and cultural world of shapes. They found out why bubbles are always round, why eggs are super strong, exactly how long the coastline of Britain is and even what shape the universe might be!





Robotics Club

This week the pupils created a self walking robot. To create their robot, first they understood how light can be used in nature to change the growth of plants. Next they learnt the ways in which the light sensor works and how it can be added to the robot. Finally they coded the robot to adjust its walking based on the readings from the sensor. The image shows the pupils trying to attach a light sensor on the Marty Robot's head.

MFL News

Year 6 German Taster Day

The MFL Department was delighted to welcome Year 6 students from the Junior School for a German Taster yesterday to prepare them for their choice of language for Year 7, where they have a free choice of French, German or Spanish. After Brezels at break, students enjoyed taster lessons delivered by Miss McGinnety, Frau Stöckmann, Herr Waring and Frau P with activities including Number Splat, the story of Rotkäppchen and singing a round to order various German foods. Finally, all were treated to an Austrian-themed lunch by our lovely catering staff.



Year 9 German Trip to Aachen

Guten Tag! Over the half term the Year 9 German group went on a school trip to Aachen in order to help improve both our language skills and our understanding of German culture. This trip included trips to museums, such as Beethoven's house and one exploring German history, visiting German penpals at the Couven Gymnasium, to try to talk in an unfamiliar language and trying to understand each other, both forming bonds and friendships.

Other activities involved going to a point called the Dreilaendereck where the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany's borders meet, going to the Lindt chocolate factory and having an expert cooking lesson, cooking traditional German foods, of course. We were also privileged to have time to explore the wonderful town, buying a Secret Valentine (similar to a Secret Santa gift) for other students which were given anonymously at the Valentine's party. Not only this, but we tried traditional Berliner (German doughnuts) in one of our short morning lessons, with other activities including karaoke and watching movies. Overall, it was an extremely rewarding trip and great fun to go on. We wish it was longer!



Saira C and Rosie N, Year 9

Meet Syster!

Our German Language Assistant, Syster, was recently interviewed by Maya and Zara, who are studying German for A level.

Where are you from?

I come from the northernmost state in Germany, Schleswig Holstein. I grew up in NordFriesland near the Danish border and I studied in Kiel on the Baltic Sea.

What are you studying in Germany?

I actually finished studying in December last year. I was studying Economics and English to become a teacher at a vocational school. I did an apprenticeship at a bank previously so I wanted to teach there and work with students gaining practical work experience alongside school.

How do you help pupils with their German at Channing?

I plan my own German lessons where the focus is on speaking practice where we revise the topics as well as doing activities like dialogues, role plays and plays. I also do projects like the sustainable food project with Years 8 and 9 and we will do an intercultural project with another school in Germany called 'Planet Partners'.

Do all pupils studying German at Channing have the chance to speak with you?

Yes, everyone learning German can practise speaking with me.

What's the best thing about Channing?

The people and the environment: everyone was very welcoming and made me feel comfortable, even though it is hard working abroad in a new country. As a student, there is so much you can do with extracurricular activities and trips and I am very happy to be here.



Library News

National Reading Champions Quiz



Eight pupils from Years 7-9 took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz on Thursday. They competed against schools from across the country for a place in the final. Team A (Hannah C, Imogen B, Mariia S and Natalie L) came third and Team B (Amelia D-A, Rafaella C, Anoushka C and Roxy F) came tenth out of twenty-three teams. Congratulations to both teams! The seventy-five questions tested their knowledge of children's books and literary culture in a fun and fast-moving online quiz.

Careers News

Careers in Sport



During the mock examination period when the Sports Hall is out of action, the Careers department collaborates with the PE team to show students how sport can provide both direct career opportunities and incredibly important transferable skills. During the week we welcomed external speakers including parents Ms Romaya, a professional tennis coach, and Mr Geey, a sports lawyer. We were also joined by alumna Emily Mills, who now works in sports sponsorship at the LTA but has previously worked

in football. They all gave enlightening accounts of their careers which prompted many interesting questions from pupils. We are very grateful to these friends of the school for giving up their time to come and share their career stories.

Ms Wilberforce, Head of Careers and Higher Education, shared her 'Careers Lessons from the Womens' Boat Race' with Year 10 and with Years 7 and 8 focused on how PE develops hand-eye-brain coordination and dexterity. Pupils tried mirror writing, the chickpea challenge and tested their reaction times. We then considered the careers that would require these skills, coming up with a wide-ranging selection.



Higher Education News

On Tuesday evening the Arundel Centre was full of Year 12 parents and students keen to hear about how Channing supports students applying to university in the UK and elsewhere. Ms Wilberforce explained the UCAS Apply process and outlined the various factors that students must consider as they narrow down over 50,000+ different courses at more than 150 universities to their final shortlist of 5. The tricky role for parents as 'critical friends' who can ask pertinent questions and advise and encourage, without nagging, was also touched upon! After some questions a visiting speaker, Owen Walding from Oxbridge Applications, explained the way in which applying to Oxford and Cambridge is different to applying to other universities. Finally Miss Cannell described the Channing Oxbridge process and reminded students of what they should already be focusing on if an Oxbridge application is their aim.

Partnership News

Year 7 DT Club

At St Aloysius' College, our Year 7 pupils have been using fretsaws to cut out the clock faces they designed. They will be staining the wood or using vinyl for a splash of colour to their work, before adding details and attaching a clock mechanism.

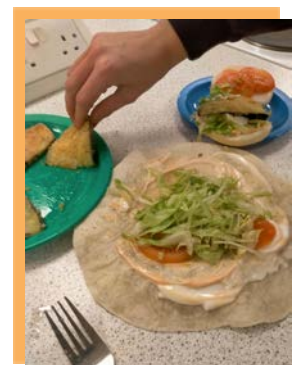


Year 5 & 6 Science Club

Pupils from Brookfield and St Joseph's school returned this half-term, and as requested this session we made slime that they could take home! They had been given a chance to make slime before, but due to the chemicals in the method, they were unable to take it home. The pupils had great fun following the method with help from the Sixth Form helpers to produce some slime that they proudly took home with them.

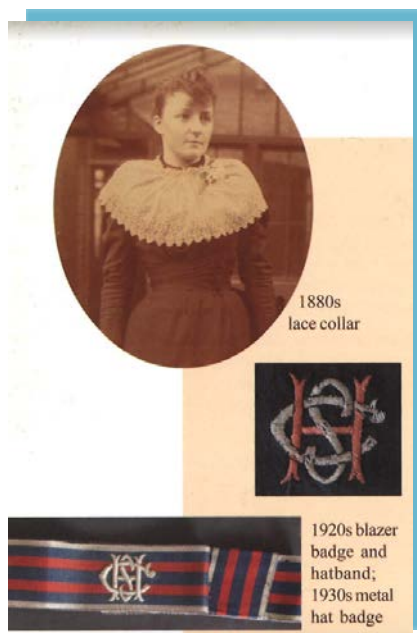
Cookery at St Aloysius

Monday this week saw students cooking healthy chicken wraps and burgers, again with the help and guidance of Mrs Hibbert and other members of her team. Following an initial panic on discovering ingredients for the vegetarian option had been forgotten, Mrs Hibbert's team displayed some of their other talents, sprinting to the Senior School and back to fetch the missing



ingredients for the aubergine option. Thanks once again to the catering team for all their help and support.

Channing Archive



As we gear up for the [Heritage Weekend](#) at Lauderdale House, where we will have a stall displaying artefacts from the School Archive, we thought it would be fun to share some pictures of the uniform from years gone by. Please pop by to say hello!