



Dear Parents,

Lots of really interesting and important things have happened in school this week and I have been trying to bring them together for today's Word from the Head in a way that will make sense and not be too long-winded!

I think the best place to start is with the thought-provoking assembly given by the Literary Society - or Lit Soc - on Tuesday. They explored the power and importance of storytelling, starting with the premise that humans have been using storytelling as a way to make sense of the world for thousands of years. Even before pen was put to paper, people told stories: storytelling can be dated back over 30,000 years, when they were etched onto cave walls using stone and natural resources. Oral tradition is another form of storytelling with ancient roots, but whether it is drawn on a wall or spoken out loud the main purpose has remained the same: to connect people, foster empathy, and transmit knowledge and values.

Between them the members of Lit Soc explored the role of storytelling in Passover and in Shakespeare as protest and a fight against oppression. They explored Disney's role in homogenising fairy tales and how storytelling underpins fake news. Ultimately storytelling prevails because it appeals to our fundamental traits as emotional and social animals. As they put it, *'Storytelling traditions bind us to our cultural identities, myths and legends communicate our innate human fears with stories of monsters that hide in the dark or the people destroyed by their own greed, and many forms of story shape our perception of society, or things in the universe we cannot fully understand. Stories, and the various forms of written and spoken word, will always be what shapes how we as humans think about ourselves and everything in the world around us.'*

That idea of storytelling as a way of connecting and transmitting has been evident as we go through our traditional rites of passage with Year 13 and Year 11 this week. The stories we tell about our community and the values we hold so dear were at the forefront of the Leavers' Assembly yesterday afternoon, an occasion which is simultaneously a moment of sadness, as we bid farewell to Year 13, but also one of joy, as they are stepping out into an exciting future. I like to use William Ellery Channing's line, *"Each of us is meant to have a character all our own, to be what no other can exactly be, and do what no other can exactly do"*. I love it - it encapsulates everything that we need to remember in a world that can often make us doubt our worth and compare ourselves unfavourably to others. In my view, that is our students' most important achievement - to have made a start on becoming the character that they are meant to be, something unique and entirely their own.

When they leave us they may not yet have explored fully what it means to be them, but I know that they have all, in their own ways, used the opportunities afforded to them by life at Channing to discover their interests, talents and personality. That is exactly what school is for. And having completed school, they are ready for the next step, although I did have to tell them (as I did the Year 11s earlier today) that - whether they wish it or not - they will be part of Channing forever. Some of them will be desperate to kick the dust of Channing, and indeed North London, off their feet and head out into the world without a backwards glance. However some of them will feel more rooted in, and connected to, this school where they spent their formative years. I quoted this extract from Terry Pratchett's *'A Hat Full of Sky'*, which I think summarises beautifully the relationship between the school and its former pupils:

*“Why do you go away?
So that you can come back.
So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours...
And the people there see you differently, too.
Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”*

So leave they will, and well-equipped to take life on, whatever it may throw at them. That’s not to say that there won’t be times where they struggle with the challenges life gives them, but those are the times when the values in which they were grounded at Channing will stand them in good stead. The Channing Promise and its core tenets of kindness and respect for everyone is a genuine foundation for a good life to be lived well. They are values for all times in our lives, not just those moments spent in school.

Every year at this time I repeat the words of philosopher Edmund Burke, ‘All that is necessary for the victory of evil is that good men do nothing’. That was nearly 300 years ago and he was absolutely spot on. The value of what our students have learned at Channing - beyond knowledge in the classroom and skills in their extracurricular activities - is that they are good people and they act. They stand up for their peers when they feel they need support and they rally against injustice, wherever they may find it. They know that whatever their personal circumstances, they have been privileged by the chance to attend a school like Channing and they are always keen to share that with others. Above all they have risen, again and again, despite their personal challenges.

You may remember (it’s the fourth time now!) that every year at the Year 13 Leavers’ assembly I like to end with an extract from the speech given by President-Elect John F Kennedy speaking at the State House in Boston, just two weeks before his inauguration in 1961:

“For of those to whom much is given, much is required. And when at some future date the high court of history sits in judgement on each one of us—recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state—our success or failure, in whatever office we may hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions:

First, were we truly people of courage—with the courage to stand up to one’s enemies—and the courage to stand up, when necessary, to one’s associates—the courage to resist public pressure, as well as private greed?

Secondly, were we truly people of judgement—with perceptive judgement of the future as well as the past—of our own mistakes as well as the mistakes of others—with enough wisdom to know that we did not know, and enough candour to admit it?

Third, were we truly people of integrity— people who never ran out on either the principles in which they believed or the people who believed in them—people who believed in us—people whom neither financial gain nor political ambition could ever divert from the fulfilment of our sacred trust?

Finally, were we truly people of dedication—with an honour mortgaged to no single individual or group, and compromised by no private obligation or aim, but devoted solely to serving the public good and the national interest.”

As our Year 13 students head into the world we wish for them a future in which they can demonstrate courage, judgement, integrity and dedication. I have no doubt they will, because the Channing Promise will guide them, and because each of them has a character all their own, is what no other can exactly be, and can do what no other can exactly do. They go with our love and best wishes.

Likewise in this morning's last whole school assembly we said goodbye to Year 11. They are a wonderful group who have worked so hard and are definitely ready to get underway with their GCSE exams: as I said to them, they are more prepared than they think they are and they just need to get started! Sadly some of them will not be returning to Channing in September and we wish them happiness in their future schools and colleges. For now, though, the whole year group has enjoyed a morning of celebrations together and I look forward to seeing them again at results day in August to share their successes with them.

This morning's assembly was also an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of the Channing community and remind ourselves of the stories we tell about our past and our heritage. Nine years ago, we lost a much loved Year 10 pupil to cancer. Her name was Rosie Peto. There is a bench and rose garden as a memorial to her at the back of school, just above the MUGA, and every year at this time we ask the whole school community to wear red in her honour. I was delighted to see so many of the school had remember to do that.

We also have a prize which was created in her name, The Rosie Peto Memorial Award, which goes to a Year 11 student who has shown resilience and courage. Her year group devised the criteria for the award:

- Someone who's constantly caring and cheerful
- Someone in the year who is always willing to cheer someone up when they look down and willing to listen to their problems
- Someone who always has a positive attitude
- Someone who's kind and generous
- A team player that always supports their year group.

The Year 11 students voted for the recipient themselves and I was delighted to present the rose bowl, alongside a bouquet of roses and a voucher, to Eve C.

My theme in assembly this morning was about endings and beginnings, and a reminder that we can always choose to make a new beginning. Each day is a new day with new possibilities. We don't need to wait until New Year's Day, or the start of a new term, to make a fresh start. I ended with a traditional Irish blessing, an ancient Celtic prayer, which seems fitting for the journeys ahead.

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

With best wishes this week to everyone in our community, and Happy Easter to those Orthodox Christian families who will be celebrating this weekend. I wish you all a joyful long weekend!

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Please see our new extra curricular timetable starting next Monday, there are some slight changes to the timetable due to public exams beginning and loss of some facilities. [Extra-Curricular TT Summer 2024 WITHOUT NSH .docx](#)

Support Miss Allen at her Football Match: Sunday 5 May 2024

Join Miss Allen and her football team, AFC Wimbledon Women, at their final game of the season where they'll be crowned FAWNL South East Division One Champions! This is your chance to witness history and cheer on Miss Allen and her amazing women's team as they lift the trophy. **Entry is FREE using the link below!** Secure your spot now and be part of the celebration!

<https://tickets.afcwimbledon.ltd.uk/list/partnerAdvantage?code=AFCWSCH>

LAMDA Showcase Evenings: Monday 20 – Tuesday 21 May 2024

A warm invitation to the LAMDA Showcase evenings where 64 students present their original interpretations of comic and tragic characters over 2 nights. The students' wonderful creativity and hard work mean the evenings will be highly entertaining. A running order is on the ticket page. <https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-productions-and-concerts/>.



Requests for help from the Careers Department:

Work Insight Volunteers - Friday 21 June

Could your organisation offer a **Work Insight visit** for some **Year 10 students** on the **morning of Friday 21 June 2024**? Small groups of students, accompanied by a member of staff, spend some time in a workplace, finding out about the world of work. Sometimes organisations ask pupils to complete a pre-visit task, and the visit itself might include a site or office tour, discussions with employees and a work-based simulated group activity. We are particularly looking for visits to organisations involved in **law; business services; the creative sector; retail** and those where **foreign languages** are critical. Please get in touch by completing this [form](#).

Careers Convention - Thursday 20 June

We are also keen to welcome parents, contacts and alumnae to Channing for the **Careers Convention on Thursday 20 June**. Miss Wilberforce will be in touch with those who have helped in the past and we hope you can support us again. If you are a parent new to Channing, or have not volunteered before, please do so [here](#).

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>

Chatting with Channing - The Forest School

Step into the enchanting world of Channing School's Forest School program, where nature becomes the ultimate classroom. In our latest podcast episode of "Chatting with Channing," Mr Rich and Miss Baker take us on a journey through the history, diverse activities, and profound impact of Forest School on the Junior School students at Channing School.



A Journey Through Nature: Learn about the evolution of Channing's Forest School program, which began seven years ago and has since expanded to cover reception through year four, offering a wide range of outdoor activities.

Driven by Passion: Meet Mr Rich and Miss Baker, the passionate leaders behind Channing's Forest School, who bring their love for the outdoors and expertise in gardening to create an immersive learning experience.

Empowering Students: Discover how Forest School fosters confidence, resilience, and creativity in students, as they overcome challenges, explore nature, and engage in child-led activities.

Seamless Integration: Explore how Forest School seamlessly integrates with the broader curriculum, from history and geography lessons to art and storytelling, enriching students' learning experiences.

Promoting Well-being: Learn how Forest School enhances students' well-being, physical health, and environmental awareness, while instilling a deep sense of responsibility for nature and sustainability.

Tune in to our podcast episode to uncover the wonders of Forest School and witness the joy of learning in nature.

Listen on [Spotify](#) [Apple Podcasts](#) or the [Channing Website](#).



Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

Sports News

Cheerleading

A huge shoutout to our Channing Cheer Squad! The Eagles placed second out of 8 teams at their recent competition, which is an incredible feat. All those early Monday morning practices have definitely paid off. Your dedication, teamwork, and spirit truly shone through! Congratulations to all students involved.

Cricket

On Monday 29 April, Channing's U12/13 cricket team played their first game against CLSG. We bowled first and despite taking wickets we couldn't stop their score rate. We batted and were scoring really well but as we were playing the -5 runs format, we lost a total of 55 runs resulting in us losing the game. It was a great start to the season and hope we can improve for the future.

Iyla R, Year 8

Football: U13 Haringey Football Tournament

Last Friday, we had the chance to go and play in an all day football tournament against some schools located near us. It was an amazing experience and we had the opportunity to improve our football skills during our games. The group matches lasted 8 minutes, with no outs or halftimes, and we played to our fullest. We played 6 group matches, of which we won 4 and lost 2. Some memorable scores were the 4-0 win against Park View, and the 3-0 win against Fortismere's B team. Due to our victories, we were then advanced to the quarter finals. We were placed against Fortismere's A Team, but we unfortunately lost in a close game. Overall we had a fantastic time, and are very grateful to Mr Garnett and Miss Allen for giving us the chance to play in the tournament.

Scarlett P & Milla C, Year 8

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

Last week we were treated to two ensembles - flute and strings, as well as some lovely soloists! First we heard from the senior flute ensemble: Elene, Georgie, Catrin, Eliza and Emily B, playing Allegro: First movement from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart. They were fabulous. This was followed by Indy on the flute playing Intermezzo by Mascagni, it was a joy to listen to. Then we were treated to a lovely performance of 'I have Confidence' from the 'Sound of Music' by Winnie. It was expressive and very captivating. Finally we heard from the wonderful string quintet of Natalia, Simran, Elizabeth, Zoe and Yutao, playing the First movement - Allegro from Quintet in G Minor K516 by Mozart. There were some amazing solos from Natalia and as a quintet they were synchronised and talented. Do listen [HERE](#).



Reviewed by: Hannah D, Georgie G and Natalia B

Sixth Form Concert

This is always a special evening in the music calendar as it is an opportunity for our leaving Year 13 musicians to give a final solo performance on the Arundel Centre stage. It also provides an opportunity for our Year 12 A level students to perform for their end of year examination, so we started the evening with Eliza C singing 'What baking can do' accompanying herself on the piano. Far from being half baked, Eliza sang with great feeling and expression - as did Georgie G in her excellent rendition of 'Pulled'. Hannah D certainly 'brought it on' with her excellent and stylish performance of 'One perfect moment'.

Evie M's 'Warwick Avenue' was superb, displaying amazing vocal control and again a stylish delivery. Natalia B showed her great technical prowess on the violin in a beautiful and delicate performance of Ravel's 'Pièce en forme de Habanera'. There was so much poise and delicacy also in Katherine S' playing of Alkin's 'Les regrets de la nonette' on the piano, followed by Katherine R's beautiful tone on the bassoon in Milde's Romanze. It was a joy to have Mr M accompany his daughter Tessie M on the Double Bass in this excellent performance of Eccle's Largo from his Sonata in G minor.

Eliza really captured the dreamy impressionistic mood of



Caplet's Reverie on the flute and Yanna then sparkled with an exciting rendition of C C White's Levee Dance on the violin. Our next performer first played her piece at Channing in her scholarship audition whilst in Year 6, so Emily B played the famous Sicilienne by Fauré with great maturity! Leili A gave a mesmerising performance of that classic 'Losing my mind' with real characterful singing. Sophie S and Imani M-R gave a lovely duet performance of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' followed by Anushka D's astonishingly brilliant performance of 'Astonishing' from 'Little Women'.

The evening closed with Ruby D's final solo performance at Channing and again one that she sang as a young Year 7 - 'Don't cry for me Argentina' - as we would expect, it was a stunning and emotional performance. Our leaving

Year 13s have given us so many wonderful performances as soloists and in ensembles over the years and we will miss them - but tonight was a wonderful 'goodbye' concert and a real celebration of their musical achievements. Do watch the concert [HERE](#).

Inspiring Music: Annual performance of the Concert Orchestra at the Junior School

Channing School's annual performance by the Concert Orchestra is a cherished tradition that not only delights the parents of performers but also offers a magical experience for the Junior School students. This year, the addition of the Brunner Show Choir added an extra layer of musical excitement to the event, creating a memorable morning for all in attendance.



The repertoire for this year's performance was carefully curated to captivate audiences of all ages. From the soulful strains of "Adele in Concert," arranged by Michael Brown, to the iconic anthem "Bohemian Rhapsody," arranged by Peter Martin, each piece showcased the talent and versatility of the performers.

The Concert Orchestra's rendition of "How to Train Your Dragon," arranged by Sean O'Loughlin, transported listeners to the fantastical world of the beloved film, while the Brunner Show Choir's heartfelt performance of "Fix You," arranged by Adam Anders and Peter Astrom, tugged at the heartstrings and left a lasting impression.

For the Junior School students in attendance, the performance was not just entertainment but a source of inspiration. Seeing their older peers perform in a large ensemble serves as a reminder of the possibilities that await them as they continue their musical journey. Many of the current performers once sat in the same audience as Junior School musicians, making this event a testament to the transformative power of music education at Channing.



As parents watched with pride and Junior School students marvelled at the musical spectacle unfolding before them, it became clear that this annual performance is more than just a showcase of talent—it's a celebration of the enduring legacy of music at Channing and a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing the next generation of musicians.

Geography News

Year 12 Fieldwork

The Year 12 geographers have spent three days at Flatford Mill carrying out a range of fieldwork techniques, collecting coastal data at Walton-on-the-Naze and changing spaces, making places data both in Dedham and Ipswich. Well done to the Year 12s for their boundless enthusiasm and dedication to their Geography fieldwork.



Senior Geography Society: Earth Day

To mark Earth Day the Year 12 Senior Geography Society gave an excellent assembly to Year 7, 8 and 9. The focus this year is on the commitment to reduce plastic production by 60% by 2040. Year 7 baked some amazing cakes, many of them decorated in geographical themes. The bake sale raised an impressive £289.70 for Just One Tree which is fantastic, meaning that 289 trees will now be planted.

English News

As Mrs Hughes has mentioned, the Literary Society shared an assembly with the school exploring the importance of storytelling throughout human history. Bea D, Mia B, Ella G, Chloe H, Evie M, Maddy B and Erica M delved into stories and traditions that interested them: from the origins of storytelling on cave walls to the importance of communal storytelling in Passover and Shakespeare, all the way to the stories we tell on social media. Students were asked to consider how we are all storytellers in one way or another, as a way to make sense of the world, feel connected and communicate. We hope this will encourage everyone to read and share their stories.



Library News

Talk by author Teri Terry

On 26 April, Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend a talk by the author Teri Terry. Terry has written and published 16 books over the course of her career, including the *Slated* trilogy, which is her most popular book series about a girl whose mind had been wiped. Aspiring authors in the crowd had an amazing time because she described her creative process when starting a book, shared her inspiration for her novels and even read us the first chapter of one of her newest books, *Shatter Me*. At the end of the talk, there was a short Q&A session. Year 9 really enjoyed the talk, as it shed light on the world of a famous author and gave us all an opportunity to meet an incredible individual.



Ellie S, Year 9

Trinity Schools Book Award Ceremony

Year 7 and 8 Book Club went to Latymer Upper School for a Book Awards ceremony. The ceremony started out with introducing what the ceremony was and why the TSBA started. Afterwards they presented the TBSA award to Ann Sei Lin for her book *Rebel Skies* and the book *Lies Like Wildfire* by Jennifer Lynn Alvarez got presented the TBSA+ award. Then we got to see who won the competitions for best student creative response and book review. Ellie M won a creative response runner-up prize for her poem about *Rebel Skies*.

After the ceremony, where the winning authors were announced, we went to an exhibition where all the creative responses and reviews from all the competing schools were displayed. This year's theme was Elemental and the shortlisted books were:



Fish Boy- Chloe Daykin
Arctic Star- Tom Palmer
Ghostlight- Kenneth Opper
The Girl from the Sea- Molly Knox Ostertag
The Elemental Detectives- Patrice Lawrence
Deelight- Frances Hardinge
King of the Dragonflies- Kacen Kallender

Rebel Skies- Ann Sei Lin

All the responses were amazing, from all the schools. They ranged from poems to paintings to dioramas and even sculptures! My favourite ones were based on the book *Rebel Skies* as many people made models of what were called Shikigami, paper beings, and some of them were huge! Ann Sei Lin, the author of *Rebel Skies*, also won TSBA this year and definitely deserved it!

Below is the link to the website where you can find out more about the winners of this year's competition and maybe you could enter next year as well?

<https://www.trinityschoolsaward.com/creative-responses>

Violet D & Hannah C, Year 7

STEM News

Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

This week our budding witches had a potion-making class. We mixed exciting combinations of substances, including the elixir of life, snake venom, dragon's whiskers and unicorn horns to find out what would happen. We saw lots of interesting changes - from the formation of shiny metals, to bright yellow paint-like substances, to foaming and bubbling. Next week, we will try some alchemy-like experiments, but making silver rather than gold.



Anatomy club

This week the students dissected a sheep's heart. The sheep's heart is similar to a human heart in size. They studied the left and right ventricles, seeing that the walls of the left ventricle were much thicker than those of the right. They also investigated the arteries and veins going out of and into the heart. Finally they examined the valves between the atria and ventricle. At the end of the dissection, the students prepared some slides of the cardiac muscle. Next week the students will be dissecting a frog.



National Scientific Thinking Challenge



Year 10 students completed the National Scientific Thinking Challenge in one of their Science lessons on Wednesday this week. The challenge was set by a group of friends from science departments at Warwick, Southampton, Bristol, Newcastle, Manchester and Oxford Universities to test and encourage deep thinking skills in STEM related contexts. Thanks to the team involved in creating the challenge, and we look forward to finding out the results!

Channing Archives

It was lovely welcoming so many families into the School for yesterday's Open Morning at the Senior School - we were all in reception/Junior School at one stage so with this in mind we would like to share a lovely picture of a Kindergarten (Reception) Class circa. 1990s. Recognise anyone? If so please let the Alumnae Department know by emailing alumnae@channing.co.uk.



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