



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be writing this week's Word from the Head at the end of my first part-time week back at school. It has been wonderful to see so many staff and students over the last few days and be welcomed back so warmly. I was particularly pleased to see the Year 7 girls head off for their Stubbers adventure this morning: we know this is a trip which lives long in their memories and I have no doubt that they will have had a fantastic day. It was also lovely to see so many Year 7 parents at the Channing Association coffee morning after they dropped their children off. Having missed all the parent Welcome Evenings so far this term I was very pleased to have the chance to catch up with you!

I am sure that you would like a bit more information about the reason for my unexpected and untimely absence. I was increasingly unwell over the last three weeks of the holidays, to the point that I ended up in A&E on the Tuesday after the Bank Holiday weekend. It turns out that I have gallstones, one of which had gone rogue and blocked my bile duct. I am sure some of you will know how painful and unpleasant that is; suffice it to say after a week in hospital the issue is resolved. I am extremely relieved that I am no longer in pain nor (thank goodness) bright yellow from the resulting jaundice.

Unfortunately I will need to be out of school again for two weeks from 30 September for an operation to remove my gallbladder and subsequent recuperation, with a part-time return in the week before half term. Happily, rather like an appendix, humans can manage perfectly well without our gallbladders. Less happily, I am on a draconian low fat regime for the next few weeks leading up to my operation. I look forward to making a full recovery and lots of cake afterwards!

I am enormously grateful to Mr Meier and the Senior Leadership team for ensuring that the start of term has gone smoothly for our students and staff, new and old. They have led the school beautifully in my absence and it is good to know that we can plan for my next absence. I thank you for your support of them and of your children in these first two weeks of term. I look forward to returning to school full time and fighting fit from Monday 4 November.

In the meantime I am excited to get stuck into school life for the next two weeks. This includes the customary start-of-year whole school assembly, which usually takes place on the second day of term and will now take place on Tuesday next week. I find it a truly inspiring experience to be in the Sports Hall with the whole school gathered together and have already got my theme planned. You'll find out all about it in next week's Word from the Head.

Given that I am meant to be on light duties on my phased return this week I hope you will forgive a short message this week. I end with two reminders which I have promised to share. The first is about Yondr pouches. A large number of girls are arriving in school each morning claiming that they are unable to find their Yondr pouches. Replacements can be issued in school and will be charged to your school bill. Before we start doing that next week, you may wish to have a hunt with your child over the weekend to make sure they really can't find it.

Secondly, please can I remind you not to drive along The Bank and wait at any time to pick up or drop off your children, as this is very disruptive to our neighbours. The road was narrowed when the council refurbished The Bank earlier this year and the parking spaces which used to exist just outside Reception were removed. We must also ask parents to not park in front of the entrance gates into the school as this blocks access for people trying to exit the school. As always, we urge you to park further away from school and get your children to walk to meet you. If there are specific issues e.g. leg injuries which require you to drop your child off outside school, please contact the School Office to discuss their needs.


I hope that you - and indeed your children - have had a fulfilling and enjoyable first full week of term. I am sure that many of them are feeling pretty tired with the full days and mental effort of being back at school, and I wish you all a restful weekend.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Autumn Term Extra & Co Curricular Timetable

 AUTUMN TERM 2024 EXTRA & CO CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

School Contact List

 Who should I contact Sept 2024.pdf

Chatting with Channing

In our latest episode of Chatting with Channing, we had the privilege of speaking with Reverend Daniel Costley, a Channing Governor and a Unitarian minister. Reverend Daniel Costley shares his journey to becoming a Unitarian minister and how his faith has influenced his personal and professional life. He explains the core beliefs and values of Unitarianism, including freedom, reason and tolerance. He discusses the welcoming and inclusive nature of Unitarian churches and the importance of community and individual spiritual exploration. Reverend Costley also highlights the Unitarian commitment to social justice and interfaith dialogue. He shares his role as a Governor at Channing School and the importance of education and creating safe spaces for students.



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



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Psychology News

Neuro Narratives

The Psychology department has started this new academic year with a bang. We are delighted to share with you issue 2 of Neuro Narratives, our psychology magazine written by our talented students. This issue again covers a range of topics chosen by the students. I am incredibly grateful for their contributions and a special mention to our subject leaders Charlie and Zara for their input. You can access issue 2 [here](#).

Dr Guy Sutton

Also this week we welcomed Dr Guy Sutton to Channing to deliver a day of neuroscience for our Year 13 psychology students. Dr Sutton spoke to them on a wide range of topics, from neurons and the brain through to the effects of drugs and trauma on brain function. He introduced the

students to advances in brain scanning technology and explored the mind, brain and crime. Dr Sutton also gave us a glimpse of the future when talking about neurobionics and brain-computer interfacing. Students were also treated to a brain dissection where they got to see up close the different parts of the brain.

A huge Channing thank you to Dr Sutton for a fantastic day and giving Channing students a taste of what undergraduate teaching is like.



PE News

Saturday 7 September saw us running our first ever pre-season training for football and netball.



To start the day, the students had a two hour session run by two phenomenal London Mavericks Super League netball players. Vicki Oyesola took a defensive session with the students to work on their interceptions and tracking of the ball. Kira Rothwell led an attacking session working on movement and strong passes. This was then concluded with some match play at the end where the students were able to put into practice what they had learnt.

It was great to hear the amazing questions the students had for Vicki and Kira, especially about their journey into netball and how they started: for Kira that all began in Year 7! The students worked hard and had a very enjoyable experience ahead of the amazing sports year they are about to embark on.

In the afternoon a group of twenty four students demonstrated their skills in two sessions led by our Head of Football Mr Garnett and PE teacher Ms Adeboyo. Mr Garnett focused on running with the ball to break lines and Ms Adeboyo on passing and creating space off the ball.

The session finished with two small-sided games in which the girls attempted to put their new-found skills into match practice.

All girls participated with fantastic enthusiasm and effort throughout the afternoon. Well done to all involved.



We have an exciting season ahead with fixtures for the girls in the English Schools Competition, Independent Schools Competition, Middlesex tournament and Sisters n Sport cups. In addition we also have teams in the Haringey league and a number of tournaments throughout the year.

STEM News

Anatomy Club

The anatomy club starts on Tuesday 17 September, for Year 7 and Year 8 students who have signed up via Schoolbase. We will start with the dissection of a starfish, examining the structure of an invertebrate. Next week we will dissect a cow's heart.

Year 9 Teen Tech

Teen Tech is a club for students in Year 9 who are interested in researching and solving a problem in society. It could be a simple idea which could make life easier, simpler or better. It could be a skill that you would like to showcase. Or it could be that you have an interest in an area that you would like to research. You can work individually, or in a team of up to three. We meet weekly at lunch time. We will also speak with people in industry working in your chosen area of interest. We will also go on a trip to learn about innovation in science.



The best projects go forward to the TeenTech Awards Final for judging and the winning school in each category will receive a cash prize. We have a great track record of success in this competition and I have no doubt that this year's Year 9s will be just as innovative and successful!

Year 7 and 8 STEM Club

STEM Club is run by the Year 12 subject leaders and KS4 STEM Ambassadors. We will be working on termly projects and students will have the opportunity to take part in competitions, hear from STEM professionals and even go on trips in conjunction with some of the other STEM clubs. If you like working in a team to design and build things then this is the club for you! Look out for more information on your form's Google classroom.

Reading News

The Year 8 Big Read launched this week with a student vote for the book they would like to read as a whole year group. Students voted from a selection of five books diverse in content, genre and style. Susan Hill's chilling Gothic horror *The Woman in Black* came out on top with 40% of the votes, followed by Manon Steffan Ros' post-apocalyptic novel *The Blue Book of Nebo* with 27% of the votes. Each student will be gifted a copy of the book, which will be read aloud to them every Monday during form time. We can't wait to hear what the students have to say about the novel!

The Big Read Shortlist:

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

The Woman in Black begins on Christmas Eve, when Arthur Kipps' step-children invite him to tell a ghost story. Arthur is too disturbed by his own memories of Eel Marsh House to share his story aloud, so he writes it down.

In his story, a young Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is sent to settle the affairs of Alice Drablow. He sees a woman dressed in black at her funeral, though apparently no one else does. At Eel Marsh House, a house beyond a causeway (a road that is covered by water when the tide comes in), Arthur is haunted by noises and sightings of the woman.

The Blue Book of Nebo by Manon Steffan Ross

Set in a post-apocalyptic Wales, this quiet, eerie story is told through a little blue diary shared by twelve year old Dylan and his Mum as they survive day to day in the deserted town of Nebo.

The End came when Dylan was six, after a nuclear disaster in a nearby city – most of the population died or fled, but Dylan and his Mum stayed put, adapting to life outside of a society. They grow their own food, learn to survive without electricity or running water, and borrow the things they need left behind by the town – for Dylan, this means reading every book he can get his hands on.

But as Dylan begins to grow into a man, he senses that his mother is keeping secrets about his past hidden from him and their relationship – entirely cut off from the rest of the world – becomes tense. But can things ever truly go back to the way they were? And could Dylan and his mother survive if they did?

The Girl Behind the Myth by Jessie Burton

A dazzling, feminist retelling of the Greek myth. Exiled to a far-flung island by the whims of the gods, Medusa has little company except the snakes that adorn her head instead of hair. But when a charmed, beautiful boy called Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is disrupted with the force of a supernova, unleashing desire, love and betrayal.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

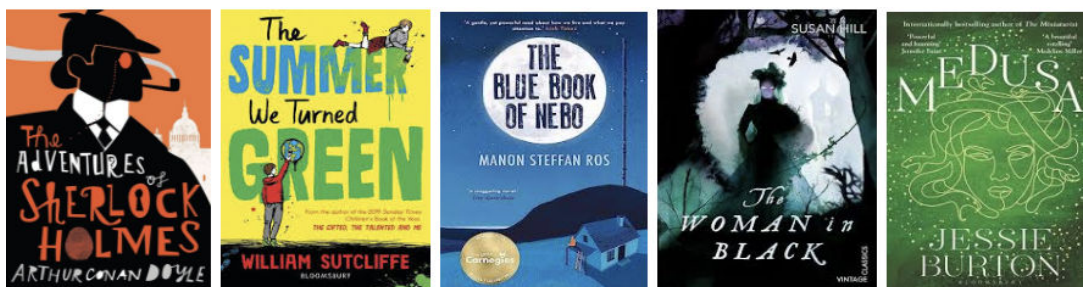
Set against the foggy, mysterious backdrops of London and the English countryside, these are the first twelve stories ever published to feature the infamous Detective Sherlock Holmes and his side kick Doctor Watson. They first appeared as stories in the Strand Magazine and feature some of his most famous and enjoyable cases, including 'A Scandal in Bohemia', 'The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle' and 'The Red-headed League'.

The Summer We Turned Green by William Sutcliffe

It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Then his dad followed her.

Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them...

Can Luke save his family when all they want to do is save the planet?



Careers and Higher Education News

Students in Year 13 are currently fully engaged in writing their personal statements for university applications. Those applying for Oxbridge or medicine have an early UCAS deadline and must submit their forms by Friday 27 September. Year 13 parents may wish to download this parents' information sheet that was originally distributed at the Higher Education Information Evening in February. [Channing parents university information sheet 2024-25.pdf](#)

Year 11 students have been discussing their Morrisby profiles during 1:1 meetings with Ms Wilberforce. They completed a thorough set of Morrisby psychometric tests during Enrichment Week last June and their personalised reports include suggestions for subjects they might wish to study further and possible careers that might suit their aspirations, aptitudes and personalities. Students can share their reports with their parents and use either Morrisby or the Unifrog platform to research these suggestions further.

Channing parents can create their own Unifrog accounts and explore the various progression tools available, although they cannot see what their student has been researching! The parent sign up code is **CHNNparents**.

Our first careers event of the academic year will be the **Sixth form interview and assessment skills event** on Monday 25 November which we will be running during the school day from 1.00 - 3.00pm. We will shortly be asking parents and other Channing careers supporters to volunteer as interviewers, and you may wish to save the date now in your calendars.

Channing Archives

This week we would like to share these pieces from a collection of paintings and drawings we hold in the School Archive drawn and painted by Matilda Sharpe, one of the School's founders, in the mid 1800s!

