



Dear Parents,

It has been an extremely busy and most enjoyable week, celebrating Languages & Heritage Week and with the chance to show off our wonderful school to prospective I1+ families at Open Evening on Tuesday. I am extremely grateful to all our staff and students for putting on a whole host of exciting activities, with particular thanks to Ms Gilleece and Ms Ruiz in the Admissions department and to the Year 10 and 11 students who were such fantastic tour guides. Our visitors commented frequently on the warm and positive atmosphere that was palpable as they toured the school and this is, of course, at the heart of what Channing is all about.

This was also evident in our two assemblies this week. On Tuesday a dozen MFL students talked about where their study of languages at Channing has already taken them, and what they hope they will give them the opportunity to do in the future. Travel, food and culture all featured very highly! Indeed Ms Pavlopoulos has written an article for The Linguist magazine on the state of language learning in the UK which includes a section extolling the virtues of language learning. I am delighted to have her permission to share that section here.

Languages are for all and the need for them and their benefits are clear. On an individual level, the brain and wider learning benefit. Evidence from researchers, including Ellen Bialystok, shows that language learning increases academic success across all subjects; memory, attention, reasoning, problem-solving, inhibitory control and the ability to sift irrelevant information are enhanced. Its impact reaches into late adulthood to stave off dementia, with economic and social benefits. The Max Planck Institute in Leipzig recently confirmed that learning a second language strengthens neural connections in the brain's left hemisphere.

Then there is the socio-political advantage. Languages are inherently social. They make us curious to broaden our cultural understanding and exposure to different perspectives. 'Clear and precise communication is more crucial than ever before to the health and security of every nation', according to the British Academy. This communication and human connection are vital for cross-border cooperation, especially in the light of current conflicts. SeamlessM4T and other AI translation tools cannot replace these, so we should foster the diversity and potential of home, heritage and community language knowledge within the UK as well as the development of new language skills.

Finally, money talks. The economic cost to the UK of its lack of language skills was estimated at nearly £50 billion a decade ago. A tidy sum, likely even larger now as fewer linguists enter the job market. The advantages to businesses operating globally are obvious. Tim Pryce, former CEO of Terra Firma Capital Partners, values the benefits which multilingual employees' 'better communication skills, increased cultural awareness and much broader perspective' bring to an organisation.

These three points explain strong public support for language learning: 71% of UK adults believe a language should be compulsory until the age of 16.

This morning our Inclusion Group led an assembly for our first Senior School Heritage Day celebration. It was wonderful to see so many pupils and staff wearing something that signifies their heritage and the assembly was a thoughtful exploration of how we express our heritage through our clothing choices, and considering cultural appropriation versus cultural appreciation. As a

Unitarian school, our ethos is built on tolerance of others' views and a willingness to engage with them. In celebrating Heritage Day we have a chance to share our histories and our unique genealogies and celebrate the ways that we are different from one another.

The group highlighted that at school our pupils are usually required to wear the same as everyone else: they are asked not to wear statement jewellery, nail varnish, make up or hair colour. In Years 7 - 11 they are required to wear school uniform to show that they are a part of this community and, as they pointed out, in some ways this makes getting dressed every school day a bit easier. They don't have to think about how they want to present themselves, or what they want to say about their own personal style and culture through the clothes that they wear. But on non-uniform days, on days that they aren't at school and for the Sixth Form, they suddenly have an opportunity to think about what they **do** want to wear and how they want to express themselves through the clothes that they choose.

While for many girls that simply means swapping their school uniform for anything from Brandy Melville, for others their fashion choices are a powerful form of self-expression and cultural identity. The group used their assembly to explore fashion as a global language, where cultural heritage plays a significant role in shaping both local and global fashion directions. Designers often draw from cultural and heritage starting points to influence their collections. However they posed an important question: when does cultural heritage influence spill over into the negative realm of 'cultural appropriation'?

Kim Kardashian's Kimono collection, Gucci's Sikh turbans, Victoria's Secret's Native American headdresses, Marc Jacobs' fake dreadlocks and Lady Gaga's burqa all led to outrage and, in some cases boycotts, for cultural disrespect. These instances were all deemed guilty of the 'cultural appropriation' transgression. The group explained that in planning Heritage Day they had some concerns that some pupils might miss the mark and accidentally offend others. They used a helpful quote from Caryn Franklin, fashion and identity commentator and author of 'Skewed: Decoding Media Bias' to clarify:

Ceremonial clothing that isn't part of our own culture, religious garb in general or anything that sexualises another's cultural appearance – these are obvious no-nos... Before you dress up or use another cultural element, stop and try and understand what you are doing, the significance of what you're wearing. Make sure you're respecting that culture. Appreciate it, don't mock it.

On the flip side, though, the group also suggested that there might be a danger of worrying so much about straying into the realms of offence that we miss out on the wonderful benefits we can gain from cultural appreciation. The whole point of Heritage Day at Channing is to celebrate different cultural experiences as an opportunity to learn about and participate in the customs, beliefs, and traditions of other cultures. It's a way to expand our horizons, gain new perspectives and appreciate the diversity of the world.

As Inclusion Officer Scarlett said in her thoughtful reflection at the end of the assembly, "Our heritage is more than just history; it's the foundation of who we are and how we connect with the world. In honouring where we come from, we find not only pride in our own roots, but also a deeper respect for the diverse cultures that surround us. By celebrating these differences, we open ourselves up to new perspectives and strengthen the bonds that unite us. Let us remember that in embracing our heritage, we are creating a future where every voice and identity is valued."

My thanks to the Inclusion Group, Ms Mackie and Ms Hawker for today's assembly and for underscoring this important topic. This is especially valuable as we have pupils and families profoundly affected by conflict around the world, and in the Middle East and Ukraine in particular.

It has been nearly a year since the terrible attacks of 7 October in Israel and many in our community have been affected by this and the subsequent conflict in the region. Our thoughts are with all in our community who continue to be impacted by this conflict and the others raging around the world. I am very grateful to our Head Girls for taking the lead in organising an opportunity for coming together in quiet reflection, to which all Senior School pupils and staff will be welcome. More details will be shared with the school next week.

Unfortunately this will take place while I am off and I am sorry to be missing this and all the other events over the next two weeks which make Channing such a special community. I shall look forward to making a part-time return in the week before half term and offer my grateful thanks in advance to Mr Meier and the Senior Leadership Team for steering the school in my absence.

In the meantime, let me wish all our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah next week a sweet and happy New Year: *shanah tova!*

With warmest wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Calling All Wikipedia Editors!


Do you enjoy editing Wikipedia and contributing to accurate, well-sourced information? We'd love to talk to you! If you are a member of our School community and edit Wikipedia articles, please get in touch with Mr Subramaniam in the Channing Marketing Department at nsubramaniam@channing.co.uk.

Access to The Day for Parents

Channing has a subscription to The Day newspaper, a great source of information for our students and parents alike. If you'd like to access this resource for free, you can use [this link](#). Enjoy!


ABRSM Practical Music Examinations - AUTUMN TERM, w/c 2 December 2024 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

We will be holding Autumn Term **Practical** music examinations over two or three days during **w/c 2 December 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.



ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place for 2-3 days during **w/c 2nd December 2024**



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

*Consent forms must be submitted by **4pm Wednesday 16th October**.
Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.*

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 Wednesday 16 October** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.

Year 11 Concert, Tuesday 1 October 2024 6.30pm

We are delighted to invite parents and friends to attend the Year 11 Concert, which will be held in the Arundel Centre this Tuesday 1st October at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for our GCSE music students to display their excellent talents as soloists on the stage of the Arundel Centre. Do please come and support these exciting young musicians next Tuesday. **There is no need to reserve tickets for this event.**

Parking

A reminder to all parents to please not block the gate or park in the Lauderdale House car park. Parking there is for patrons of Lauderdale House only and the gate is in constant use.



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Languages & Heritage Week



Students in every year group enjoyed a cornucopia of languages activities during Languages & Heritage Week.

It began with an Assembly where some of our Sixth Formers who currently study French, German and/or Spanish ran through what they enjoy about Languages, what they are planning to do in future and the wonderful range of trips which we offer to our students at Channing.

All forms enjoyed a quiz which explored the source of loan words such as 'almanac' (Arabic) and 'slalom' (Norwegian).

In all language lessons, students were encouraged to DEAR (drop everything and read - or be read to) in the language they are learning. Some students recorded themselves reciting a poem in the language they are learning or speaking in the language of their heritage.

Whilst Year 12 linguists were visiting a poetry, art and cultural workshop hosted by the European Parliament Liaison office, Year 7 students were busy creating their own interpretations of 2D and 3D European monuments for our European Day of Languages Creative Competition to be judged by Mrs Hughes.

A further highlight of the week was our lanyard challenge, introduced by our new Head of French & Spanish, Miss Becker. Students enthusiastically approached staff to find out the word (in French, German, Spanish or Latin) on their lanyard and its meaning and the winners will be announced shortly. The week was rounded off with our Heritage Day.



Ms Pavlopoulos & Ms Mackie

Pupil Success

Congratulations to Regina G in Year 10 who was shortlisted for the John Locke Institute 2024 Global Essay Prize competition last term. The John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize is acknowledged as the world's most prestigious essay competition for high school students. This year, 34,823 ambitious students from more than 150 countries submitted their essays.

Regina spent last weekend at the John Locke Institute Academic Conference and at the Award Ceremony was awarded a Merit Certificate in recognition for her outstanding achievement. Congratulations, Regina!



Geography News



Senior Geography Society were delighted to welcome back Professor Danny Dorling to speak at St Aloysius' College on his new book "Seven Children Inequality and Britain's Next Generation". This book looks at seven children from the middle of parental income brackets and how they live post pandemic and during the cost of living crisis. Professor Dorling's lecture raised a lot of interesting questions from students and subsequent discussions in school and I am sure at home. It was wonderful to welcome many students from local schools including St Aloysius College, La

Swap, Camden School for Girls, Highgate Woods, Queens Park Community School, Mill Hill and of course many Channing students.

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

Great musicians have joined Channing this year and five superb Year 7s took to the stage in this week's Music at Lunchtime! The concert kicked off with a beautiful cover of 'Somewhere Only We Know' by Lily Allen, sung by Circe S in 7JG. Up next was Evie D in 7JG who powerfully sang 'Fight Song' by Racheal Platten with such grace. Moving onto the cello, with 'Serenade' composed by Bridge and played with great elegance by Erin L in 7LR. On the piano Iris M in 7JG graced us with a beautifully crafted version of 'Kleines Preludium Anfänger auf dem Klavier' by J S Bach. Madison Y in 7CW rounded off the stellar concert on the double bass with a stunningly lyrical performance of 'Tempo di ballo' by August Nölck. A huge well done to all the wonderful performers! Do listen to the recital [HERE](#).





National Youth Orchestra Success!

Many congratulations to Anna R-B in year 11, who after two rounds of auditions, has been awarded a place as a trumpeter in the National Youth Orchestra for their 2024/25 season. This is a fabulous achievement, particularly at this age. The NYO's first concert is on 4 January at the Barbican and tickets are available now. They will also be performing Holst's Planet Suite at the BBC Proms next summer. Well done, Anna!

Sports News

U15 Football

On Monday, the U15 team travelled to Teddington School to compete in the first round of the ESFA competition. Channing started strong but Teddington were hungry for the first goal, we conceded first but we weren't going to let that stop us. Teddington got another but then a wonderful ball was played into Milla and she smashed into the side netting, it was 2-1. We quickly equalised when Darcy whipped in a corner and it bounced off their defender's leg! We were level.

Teddington quickly realised that Channing was working really hard and they must do something about it, their striker then smashed the ball into the top corner from a free kick to make it 3-2. Channing responded fast as Neve played a ball over the defender's head and Darcy beat the retreating defenders to bury it into the bottom corner. It was 3-3! Just before halftime Channing conceded another goal and then the half time whistle blew. There were 7 goals shared between both teams in the first half!

After a team talk from Mr Garnett, we were ready for the second half. The second half began and Teddington scored another goal. The score was now 5-3 however, Channing was not done yet, Dasha played the ball to Darcy and it was 5-4! Then Teddington scored another and Lexie couldn't quite get her hands to the ball. Channing quickly responded again and Neve got round two defenders and played the ball through to Darcy and she smashed it into the top corner! It was 5-5! Not much later, Channing gave away an unlucky penalty. Lexie tried her best to stop the ball from hitting the back of the net but there wasn't much she could do as the striker smashed the ball into the bottom corner. Teddington got another goal and although our defence was very strong, there wasn't much they could do about it.



The final score was 7-5 but we learnt a lot from the game. Only 2 goals separated us from Teddington and there were 12 goals shared between the two sides. We were so close to reaching the second round of the ESFA competition. Everyone played exceptionally well and we are ready for our Middlesex Cup fixture next Monday.

Neve C, Year 10

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 football team had an outstanding 12-0 win against Latymer school. In a very one-sided game Channing pressed the Latymer defence high up the pitch barely allowing them time in our own half. With two goals from Eva who scored one truly outstanding goal, Annabel with two



goals, Luliya with two as well, Phoebe with one goal and an unlucky crossbar and last but not least OUR HATRICK HERO Iona-Mae! We did a great job at all our positions from solid defence to swift attack. We all played different positions we may have not played before, it might have been hard at first but it was a good experience. We even had Erin replaced in goal by our left winger Poppy as she insisted she wanted to try it! Now that we have won this match we will go onto the next round and see what we can do. Go Channing!

Amaya C, Year 7

U13 GSA Condover Hall Netball Tournament

On the weekend we went on a netball trip to Condover hall. There were 9 girls playing on the Channing team. We arrived on Friday night with our first match on Saturday morning. Our first match was against LEH where we lost 7-3, however we hadn't properly woken up yet from our evening of activities at Condover hall with the JCA team! Next we played Bedford Girls where we pulled ourselves together and beat them comprehensively 14-3. After these matches we had 4 more matches where we only won one. The 2 out of the 3 matches we lost were quite close but our last match was against Godolphin and Latymer where we got beaten 20-2.



After this, we got into the trophy cup which is the middle competition. Although we lost 4 out of 6 of our matches, the ones we won we won by a lot, causing us to be in the second best group. However, sadly we did not get to do the competition on the last day because of the weather. On Friday and Sunday we enjoyed lots of outdoor and indoor activities. These included climbing walls, ziplines and some very high obstacle courses. We also did some laser tag and some people decided to go tunnelling. Overall, we had so much fun and we definitely recommend it to the year below.

Iris F, Year 8

U12 and U13 matches against Highgate School

Tuesday saw our first set of netball matches against Highgate School. The girls had an amazing time in their first netball matches. They worked so well together as a team, helping each other out and showing great teamwork. You could really see how much fun they were having, and they all played brilliantly. It was a fantastic start, and they can't wait for the next game!



Reading News

Coram Beanstalks Reading Leaders

This week, a small group of avid readers in Years 9 and 10 from Channing and St Aloysius attended a Reading Leaders training session, which was delivered by Coram Beanstalks, a literacy charity that works with young people to promote reading for pleasure. Students who attended the training will deliver weekly 1:1 reading sessions with Year 7 pupils at Channing and St Aloysius every Monday after school from 16:15 to 17:00. They're all looking forward to meeting their reading partners and can't wait to share their love of reading.



If your child is in Year 7 and you think they might benefit from some dedicated time to read for pleasure with a mentor, please encourage them to sign up to the programme [here](#). All the information has been posted on their Form Google Classrooms.



Year 8's Big Read

After voting for the book they wanted to read as a whole cohort, Year 8 finally started *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill during form-time reading. This is modern gothic horror at its best and the perfect read in the run-up to Halloween!

Year 8 News

Year 8 have been busy bees with their form board competitions. It has been a great opportunity for collaboration, team work, fun and getting to know their tutors. We can't wait for the Year 12 Form Seniors to judge who the winning form is!



STEM News



Air Dry Clay Club

This was the first week of the Biology department's air-dry-clay club. The pupils made animal and plant cells. The pupils learnt that there are far more structures in a cell than they are taught in Year 7! Next week, we will be attempting to make the human digestive system.

There are still spaces in the club available, please email Mrs Hillier if you would like to attend on Friday lunchtimes.

Fish Club

Exciting times at Fish Club this week: those students who were present carried out research and came to a group decision as to which type and size of tank they would like to purchase. Having considered lots of factors such as delivery options and dates, budget, size, and ease of maintenance, they chose to order a Juwel Primo LED Aquarium that has a capacity of 110L. They have also ordered some accessories and once the fish tank is set up and established, they will monitor the levels of oxygen, nitrates, chlorine and other essential chemicals before introducing their first fish in a few weeks' time.

Anatomy Club

This week the students dissected a sheep's heart. They investigated the size of the atria and ventricles and discovered that a heart is not one pump but two. At the end of the session, the students prepared slides to view the heart muscle under a microscope. The sixth formers did a great job explaining the different structures in the heart. Next week, we will dissect a sheep's eye.



Maths Drop In

The ever popular Maths support session for all our students happens every Thursday after school in the T rooms for all years. It is especially popular with Sixth Formers - here are Catrin and Mrs Williams in action last Thursday.

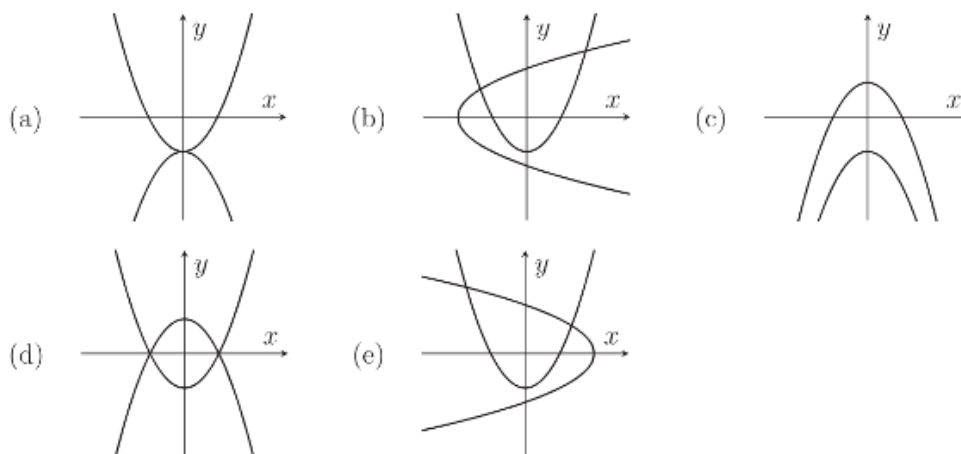
MAT Prep (Oxford Maths Test)

We have 2 students preparing for the Oxford University entrance exams in Maths. They are having an hour-long lesson after school every Monday with Mrs Wootton. This is one of the questions they are doing this week: do have a go at home!

I. A sketch of the curve

$$(x^8 + 4yx^6 + 6y^2x^4 + 4y^3x^2 + y^4)^2 = 1$$

is given below in



Open Evening Maths Fun

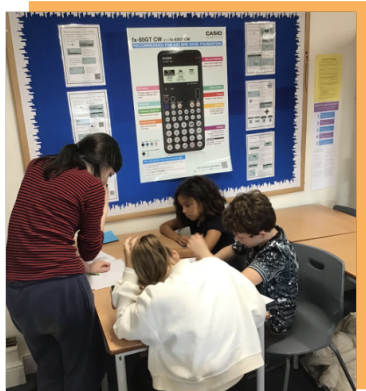
Year 8 were great Maths Ambassadors this week at our open evening Problem Solving Club. They helped with the 'cut a cake' challenge, the 'make a cube from pyramid challenge', the Maths treasure hunt challenge and much more Maths fun. They helped give the primary school visitors their passport stamps. Well done Year 8!



Mathletics

Mr Bowman and Mrs Williams have started Mathletics, getting our quickest Mathematicians ready for their first Hans Woyda match next week. It is not for the faint hearted. They were practising their pythagorean triples and difference of 2 squares last week. Good luck next week!!! Go Channing!

Outreach Problem Solving Club



We had our first session with our partnership primary schools this week. Miss Williams organised the sixth formers Caelle and Charlie leading a carousel of Maths puzzles and strategy games. Much fun was had by all!

CERN Trip

Ms Cooper has been busy planning the STEM trip to Geneva! This is for Years 10-13. We are taking 30 pupils and Ms Cooper, Mrs Wootton, Dr Spinks and Mr Daw are busy getting everything ready for a STEMtastic trip to CERN and all the STEM museums around Geneva.

You will have a full update next week.

Economics News

The Economics Department has been buzzing with activity recently. The Economics Society delved into a first lively debate on the dynamic pricing strategy used by Oasis and Ticketmaster last month. Our Economics Book Group had its first meeting and will be exploring *Follow the Money* by Paul Johnson, Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. They will meet weekly to discuss what has been read and ask questions. Additionally, Year 12 Economists took the lead in teaching Year 10 about key concepts like the basic economic problem, opportunity cost, and production possibility frontiers, enriching their understanding of these foundational topics.

Drama News

This week the Drama Department hosted the first of a season of Design Workshops led by Jess Maliphan-Gray. The first was a special effects makeup workshop, where students learned how to create bruises and wounds using putty, fake blood and bruise wheels. Not for the squeamish, but lots of fun, students in KS4 and 5 got well and truly stuck into creating gory (yet perfectly painless) illusions.

