



Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, Mrs Hughes is off this week and we are not expecting her back until some point during the last week of half term. I have been in contact with her and am glad to report that she is doing well and recovering.

Yesterday was National Poetry Day and we marked the occasion with a thought provoking assembly on Tuesday by Miss Grierson and her team of pupils. They spoke passionately about this year's theme: counting. The poems they presented and the reason why they had chosen them were thought-provoking and insightful. Following this assembly and seeing that it is World Teacher Day tomorrow (October 5th), it feels apt to focus on a poem about teachers:

### ***Where Do All The Teachers Go?***

*Peter Dixon*

*Where do all the teachers go  
When it's four o'clock?  
Do they live in houses  
And do they wash their socks?*

*Do they wear pyjamas  
And do they watch TV?  
And do they pick their noses  
The same as you and me?*

*Do they live with other people?  
Have they mum and dads?  
And were they ever children?  
And were they ever bad?*

*Did they ever, never spell right?  
Did they ever make mistakes?  
Were they punished in the corner  
If they stole the chocolate flakes?*

*Did they ever lose their hymn books?  
Did they ever leave their greens?  
Did they scribble on the desk tops?  
Did they wear old dirty jeans?*

*I'll follow one back home today  
I'll find out what they do  
Then I'll put it in a poem  
That they can read to you.*

You may not be surprised to hear that we indeed do all of these things. We do go home and wear pyjamas and rumour has it that we even made some mistakes in our younger years. The poem raises an interesting question about how we perceive roles though. It is easy to forget, of course, that teachers like all other professionals have their own families and lives outside school. In work, we play a very particular part, being expected to role-model certain behaviours and maintain a certain persona. Outside school, I wonder how many of us are very different people indeed. That said, I would discourage your children to actually follow us home to find out, please.

I think when we were children, teachers always seemed somewhat removed and untouchable. In part, this is down to an important characteristic of our trade: being predictable and consistent. We all know that it is important for children to have routines and having teachers who they know will react in certain ways of course helps this. I like to think that in this respect we are no different to A-List celebrities. We all know their popular persona, their alter ego they put on for the camera or whatever medium they work in. However, do we really know what they are like as a person? Do we even fall into the trap of forgetting that they are a person at times and treat them as something altogether different? I rather like the idea of Taylor Swift having a bad hair day or what is known in our family as a 'grot-day', when we agree that the only achievement might be to buy some milk at the local shops and otherwise we allow ourselves to relax entirely.

This is a particularly interesting debate if we are looking at our political leaders. To which standard do we want to hold them and how far do we want to allow them to be human? I am not suggesting making excuses for poor behaviour in public office but equally do we need to consider how much we ask of them and if the standards are too high, if we set them up for failure. Being human, after all, is also about acknowledging your own weakness (although 'weakness' is a very culturally constructed term in this context). Do we allow people to grow and improve when they are in any public facing position? At a time where instant judgement is king (or queen) the answer is possibly 'not really'. And yet, it feels that sometimes we need to remember that everyone was once a school child and all of us are learners in a journey that lasts our whole life. And if that has not quite convinced you, consider this: Someone taught Shakespeare English...

You might be wondering about the point of this little monologue. Well, it's actually about poetry and its power to make us stop and think. The paragraphs above contained a glut of questions that certainly sprang to my mind after reading the poem I presented to you. In fact, I used a technique called *Free Writing* after reading the poem and illustrated where it might take you if you allow your mind to wander. You may have gone in a different direction. However, that is the joy of poetry. It does not give answers but asks questions and whilst that can be uncomfortable, it is also entirely human.

Let me end by wishing all our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah a sweet and happy New Year:  
*Shana Tova!*

With warmest wishes for the weekend,

Mr Freddie Meier  
Deputy Head

## Notices

### **ABRSM Practical Music Examinations - AUTUMN TERM, w/c 2 December 2024 - APPLICATIONS 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.


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.

#### **Term Dates: 2025/26**

<https://www.channing.co.uk/about-us/term-dates/>


#### **Pupil librarians - applications open for Years 7-11**

The pupil librarians scheme runs from 4 November to 23 May and involves pupils volunteering in the library once a week at a convenient time for them. Pupil librarians will learn new skills and help shape the library service for everyone. The [job description](#) and [application form](#) have been shared with pupils and they have until Friday 11 October to apply.



### **ABRSM Examinations**

Examinations are scheduled to take place for 2-3 days during **w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> October. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.*



CHANNING

# Girls Enjoying Success

## Music News

### Music at Lunchtime

Last week's lunchtime concert began with a beautifully emotive performance of 'Losing My Mind' from the musical 'Follies' by Stephen Sondheim, sung by Amara P in 11HWO with Mr Fallon

accompanying on piano. Next, Flora G in 11HWO played a lively and exciting rendition of the challenging 'Scherzo Goens' on the cello. Mei-Xing L-C, 12EHa, then sang a powerful and amazingly rich performance of 'I'm Not the Only One' by Sam Smith, which suited her voice perfectly. And finally, resident saxophonist Kezia C in 12RD ended the concert with a bang and gave a flawless performance of the very demanding 'Caprice 3' by David Salleras piece. A huge well done to all performers this week! You can listen to the recital [HERE](#).



## Year 11 Concert

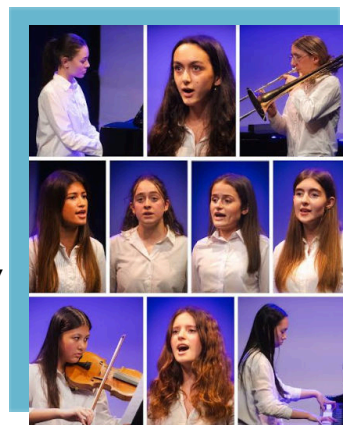
On Tuesday we had our first formal concert of the academic year in the Arundel Centre. The concert actually formed part of the Y11 GCSE Music group's performance examination with each candidate playing a solo piece on their main instrument. With a 'bumper crop' of 28 students this was promising to be a special event indeed!

It certainly got off to a superb start with the flawless and mesmerising performance of Handel's 'Where'er you walk' sung by Bela R, followed by two more baroque pieces - Telemann's 'Vivace' played on the violin by Alexa L-B and Scarlatti's Sonata in A played on the piano by Amber J. Then followed a beautiful rendition of the famous slow movement of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto played flawlessly by Anna R-B. A well known Chopin Nocturne came next played with real expression by Bella A. The witty Dvorak 'Humoresque' was then played on the violin by Jessica L with a touching performance of Tchaikovsky's 'Douce Reverie' played on the piano by Emily G. Staying with the piano, Tabitha W played 'Calm du Soir' by Moszkowski and then Kira S played the mesmerising 'Granada' from Albeniz's Spanish Suite. Squire's 'Danse Rustique' was rattled off superbly on the cello by Flora G and contrasted completely with Bella K's soothing vocal performance of Vaughan-Williams' 'Silent Noon'. 'Summertime' was



beautifully played on the trombone by Eleanor R followed by that classic song 'Dream a little dream of me' sung by Beatrice McN. Staying with the jazz idiom, Tal M played a delightful arrangement of 'My funny valentine' on the piano. Then two engaging miniatures by Hartmann were played with real poise on the piano by Yutao W. Now that the chronological programme had firmly reached into the twentieth century the rest of our performers

bar one were all singers. Juliet B sang the gorgeous 'Cry me a river' classic, followed by another timeless classic from West Side Story - 'Tonight' sung by Winnie D. Emily S then gave a lovely rendition of 'Love look away', and Amara P gave a hypnotic performance of 'Losing my Mind'. We were reminded of last year's production by Delilah B's stylistic performance of 'All that jazz' and then a classic song from Grease - 'There are worse things I could do' sung by Ellie W. The Abba song 'Slipping through my fingers' was then sung convincingly by Estelle B with Chloe L following with 'I dreamed a dream from Les Miserables. Nadia Z's 'How could I ever know' from Secret garden was haunting and beautiful. Allegra L then really spiced things up with a stunning performance of Radiohead's 'Just'





on the electric guitar. Then two songs from Waitress, firstly, Stevie B with a mesmerising performance of 'When he sees me' and then a heartrending rendition of 'She used to be mine' by Martha R. Maya C closed the evening with Hamilton's 'That would be enough'. A really stunning set of performances from a very talented group of musicians. The very appreciative audience of parents, friends and siblings gave rapturous applause as all participants gathered on the stage at the end for a final bow. Do watch the concert [HERE](#).

## Geography News

### Year 11 Geography Trip to Epping Forest

Last Thursday Year 11 geographers embraced the rainy conditions to go to Epping Forest to collect data at Loughton Brook. In particular we measured the width and the depth and pebble roundness and size at three sites on the river and investigated to see how these change with distance downstream. Now in class we will be presenting, analysing and concluding our investigation and looking to see if our results fit the Bradshaw model.



### Geography and Economics Societies join forces

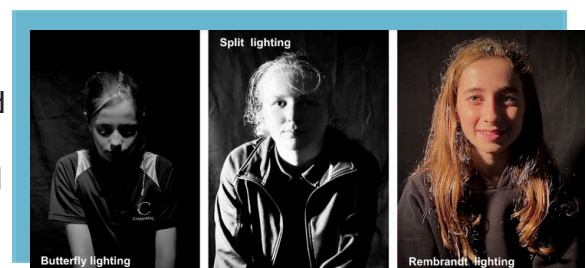


On Wednesday lunchtime Geography Society joined forces with Economics Society to discuss in further detail the lecture given by Professor Danny Dorling. In groups we tried to understand the seven children that he writes about in his book 'Seven Children - Inequality and Britain's Next Generation' and what life looks like for them trying to contextualise the data he presented to real life. Each group presented back to the Society. Next week we are going to explore what causes the inequalities for these children and solutions to try and overcome these.

## Art News

### Year 7 Photography Club

Year 7 Photographers have been exploring compositional devices, lighting setups for portraits and experimenting with different viewpoints. They have engaged brilliantly and been thoughtful and considered in their photographic responses to the weekly focus. We are looking forward to learning some creative editing techniques next week!



## English News

This year, the theme for National Poetry Day was 'counting', and some of the Year 13 members of Channing's Literary Society investigated different poems relating to 'counting'. We really wanted to put an emphasis on the power and value of poetry, in a modern age where it is perhaps less appreciated than it should be, and how it can mean lots of different things to different people. Each of us interpreted the prompt of 'counting' in a variety of ways - some chose poems relating to counting on people, some on time, deadlines and dates and some on money and numbers. We wanted to spark debate and discussion about our chosen poems, because as Salman Rushdie puts it, 'a poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep.' We really enjoyed researching our poems, such as 'For a daughter who leaves' by Janice Mirikitani or 'Sonnet to time' by Sylvia Plath, and hope we shared our passion for poetry with the community, prompting everyone to find meaning in and connection to poetry. Thank you very much to Ms Grierson who made this assembly possible. You can find out more about the poems we discussed [here](#).

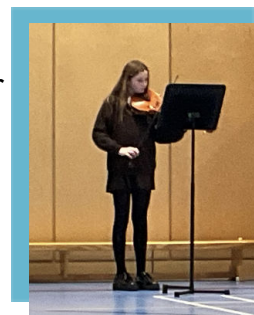


## Year 8 News

A big shout out to Ellie S who performed beautifully on the Viola for our Year 8 assembly this week.

Thank you to Rafaella, Tess and Amandine for launching our Year 8 Poetry competition on National Poetry day.

Well done to India B, 8AK and Greta P, 8VS on being our revision revolution superstars this week.



Lastly congratulations to our tutor nominated star constellations for getting off to a great start this year.

8AK - Aayu M

8CC - Ami C-Y

8EGi - Aavu A

8LV - Siena R and Marni S

8VS - Anya A

## STEM News

### Anatomy Club

This week the students dissected a sheep's eye. First they found the optic nerve at the back of the eyeball, then they made strong incisions into the cornea to fully open the eye. The lenses were still in good condition, although they had become slightly cloudy due to the effect of the preservative. However, it was still possible to see how the lens acted as a magnifier, making text look larger. Many students were struck by the beauty of the retina, showing iridescent shades of blue and silver.



Next week we will do our first whole vertebrate animal dissection, when we investigate a frog. Many thanks again to the outstanding sixth form helpers.

### UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

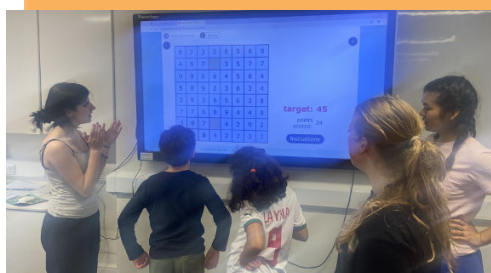


Tuesday saw the first of our UKMT Mathematical Challenges. We had all the Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians and some Year 11s doing this 1.5 hour set of mind-boggling puzzles in the Senior version of this National Competition. Here is a photo of Year 13 in action! You could feel the energy coming out of their thinking! Parents have a go yourself at home - here are some of the easier ones to try! See if you got the same answers as your children!

5. When  $4^5 \times 5^4$  is correctly calculated, how many digits are there in the answer?  
A 4                      B 6                      C 10                      D 16                      E 20
6. One face of a solid polyhedron is an octagon.  
What is the smallest possible number of edges the solid could have?  
A 9                      B 10                      C 12                      D 16                      E 24
7. Which is the largest prime factor of  $3^8 - 1$ ?  
A 41                      B 37                      C 31                      D 29                      E 23

### Active Maths Lessons

We like our students to have opportunities for active learning in Mathematics. Year 10 were asked to complete a collaborative problem solving activity involving simultaneous equations. The winning team was Georgie, Annata, Emma and Nuha! Well done everyone!

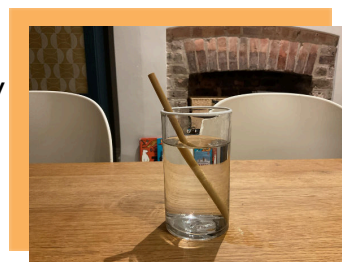


### Problem Solving Club

The Problem Solving Club along with the Junior school and Highgate Primary school was busy this week. Our team of sixth formers provided a fun mixture of number activities. This week it was a times table 'zap it out game' followed by three number puzzles which were completed quickly in competitive pairs! The students couldn't quite reach the top of the board for the electronic 'Zap it out' game!

### KS3 Science Question of the Week

This week's Science question of the week asked pupils to place a straw in a transparent glass of water, and then to take a picture and explain using the principles of physics why it appeared to bend. We had some brilliant responses, and this week a commendation was handed out to Penelope T for her picture and fantastic explanation. A merit was also awarded to Eliza J for her description. Well done all!





## CERN Trip

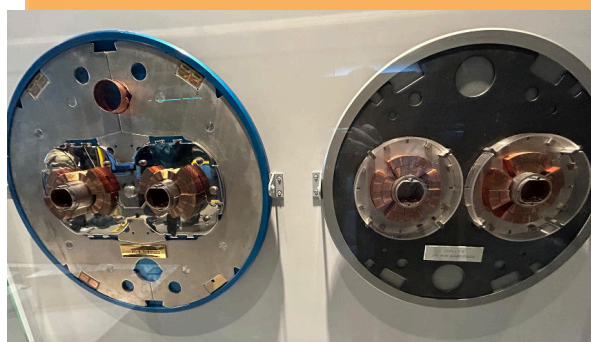
29 students & 4 staff visited Geneva to see CERN, United Nations, History of Science Museum & Meyrin Vivarium Museum

*"In the tunnels of the LHC, communication isn't through words - it's about colliding particles, where minds unite to decode the universe's deepest mysteries, transcending any language."*



### Pupil Testimonials:

Last weekend, we travelled to CERN in Geneva, where our group delved into the fascinating world of particle physics. The museum showcased the fundamental building blocks of our universe by highlighting and explaining about particles such as quarks and leptons, with a standout exhibit on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).



I learned how the LHC accelerates particles to near-light speeds, leading to groundbreaking discoveries like the Higgs boson. The interactive displays made complex concepts accessible and emphasised the importance of science

communication. We also took part in an experiment, which used dry ice and alcohol, allowing us to see traces of the interactions between particles, modelling what happens between particles in the LHC. This visit deepened my enthusiasm for STEM and demonstrated the collaborative nature of research.



*Evangelina U, Year 10*

Last Friday, at quarter to five in the morning, a group of thirty STEM students and teachers met at Heathrow Airport. After a delayed flight and train, we arrived in rainy

Geneva. Our first stop was the UN buildings, which we toured around, seeing conference rooms and art - even getting to listen in on an official debate. Whilst this was very interesting, we were all excited to see CERN (the European Council for Nuclear Research) which we did the next day. CERN has the famous Large Hadron Collider, but also 25 other active experiments which we got to read and hear about throughout the day. We did lab demonstrations and got to hear from a scientist, Dr Paula Collins, who worked making sensors at CERN which was an amazing insight into the daily life of someone working there. We finished the trip with bowling, museum trips and seeing Lake Geneva. Thank you to all the teachers who made this trip happen!



*Catrin C, Year 13*



## Sustainability News



As part of our goal to improve recycling in the school, the eco reps set up mini recycling bins in their classrooms yesterday for hard and soft plastics and another bin for batteries. Forms are encouraged to bring in old batteries from home rather than throw them away, and clean unwanted small hard plastic items such as old pens, toothbrushes and small toys. The sustainability officers Bella and Olivia are working hard to motivate students to reduce, reuse and recycle effectively.

## Sports News

### U15 Football

On Tuesday 1 October the U15 team played against St James in the 1st round of the ISFA cup. After a team talk from Mr Garnett we were ready for the game. From the very start Channing dominated possession playing some really nice passing football. The first big chance of the game came when Neve C played the ball through to Milla and she dribbled down the wing, she then shot but it hit the post! It was so close! We almost took the lead but we just couldn't quite hit the target. St James tried to respond to our fluid football but our midfield and defence were too strong and St James were barely getting into the Channing half. The half time whistle blew and it was still 0-0. Although Channing was the better team we just couldn't quite find the back of the net. The second half started the same as the first with Channing having some good chances to take the lead, we just couldn't find a shot to beat their keeper. Throughout the game our defence was so strong especially Grace G who made some incredible tackles. However, in the last five minutes of the game a Channing mistake near our goal allowed St James to squeeze a shot into the goal. The full time whistle blew and the match ended in a 1-0 loss. We didn't give up and the time we have spent playing together certainly showed in this fixture with the best performance this season. We are now ready for our Independent Schools Cup match against Colfes at home on Thursday 17 October.

*Neve C, U15 Captain*

### Year 7 Football v Wren Academy

Following on from a thumping 12-0 win in the first round of the ESFA National knockout cup on Thursday the U12 Channing football squad had an outstanding match with a score of 6-0 against Wren Academy in the first round of the Middlesex Cup. With tackles to touches, they were amazing. They showed their teamwork and determination from the start to the end.

With a great starting goal from Poppy, Anya went on to score a hat-trick and with that Eva went on to score 2 more! The celebrations just kept coming. In defence we were solid as a rock. We moved the ball well and took our chances. With that all I can say is, well done to the girls, they were fantastic. As we go onto the next round, we will remember that the Channing badge is proudly on our chests and we will keep fighting until we get the win. Let's see what wonders we can work on next time. Who are we? Channing!



*Bea, Year 7*

## Channing Archives

Following a fantastic Year 11 Concert earlier this week we thought it would make for great listening to share this vinyl recording of [\*The Magnificat\*](#) written for Channing School by Hugo Cole and performed by the Channing School Choir in 1954!



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