



Dear Parents,

I spent the first three days of this week at the Girls' Schools Association (GSA) Conference in Manchester. This annual event is always a professionally exciting and fulfilling occasion. Monday was packed with inspiring speakers: General Sir Roly Walker, Chief of the General Staff of the British Army; Lucy Pearson, Head of Education at the Football Association; Dr Paul Redmond, sociologist and inventor of the term 'helicopter parents'; and Mandy Hickson, former RAF fighter pilot. Their differing perspectives on leadership provoked some interesting reflection on and discussion of our own leadership of schools.

2024 is the 150th anniversary of the GSA and the conference provided plenty of opportunities to celebrate this. A particular highlight was the private screening of *Captains of their Ships*, a short film featuring the staff, students and alumnae of GSA schools, created to celebrate this important anniversary. Over one hundred students from GSA schools were interviewed and filmed taking part in lessons and activities as part of the process and I was very proud that footage from Channing made the final cut! It was wonderful to see our footballers, netballers and scientists on the big screen on Sunday evening. Eve Johnstone, one of our two Head Girls, is included in a voiceover speaking about the power of her all-girls education and I am delighted to be able to share [the film](#) with you today. Do please take the time to watch it over the weekend.

Reminding ourselves and others of the power of an all-girls education is vital in the current climate. On Tuesday we had an update on the legal action being brought against the Government by the Independent Schools Council (ISC), on behalf of the seven membership associations which represent our schools. At the GSA we feel very strongly that the case studies used by the lawyers should highlight the importance and value of all-girls schools. I attach [here](#) a letter from Donna Stevens, Chief Executive of the GSA, which explains the kinds of case studies the legal team is looking for. I encourage you to read it and respond if you feel your situation might meet their requirements and you would be willing to support the case.

The final word this week must go to the cast, crew and production team of *We Happy Few*, which played to packed houses in the Arundel Centre this week. Based on the true story of the all-female Artemis Players, who put on over 1000 performances of 35 plays across the UK during World War II, it is a witty and thought-provoking story in which a relatively small cast played multiple roles with great skill, emotion and demonstrating a wide range of talents. They also played a key role in stage management and technical work and I am extremely proud of all of them. A huge thank you and congratulations to Miss Hill for her direction, Mrs Maliphant-Gray, whose artistic vision for productions at Channing never fails to amaze me, and Mr Maliphant-Gray for overseeing the production. Thanks also to Ms Lindsay, Miss Bacon, Ms Vince and Mr Subramaniam for their hard work and support. And finally, of course, congratulations and well done to all of the students involved - they encapsulate everything that makes our school so special! You can read more about the show, and last week's stunning Autumn Concert, in the section below. Please take the time to listen to the music while you are out and about over the weekend.

With best wishes for the weekend, wherever it may take you,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Charity Collection

Every year, we collect food, hygiene articles and coats/blankets for charitable organisations and food banks including the Alexandra Wylie Tower Foundation (<https://www.awtf.org/>). These articles make a huge difference in our local area. We will start this year's collection on Monday 25 November and our pupils are encouraged to leave any items you would like to donate in the foyer of the AC.

We would be grateful for any donations of the following:

- Non perishable foods such as dried food, tins etc.
- Unopened hygiene articles such as shower gel, soap, toothpaste, period products (please do not donate any bladed items such as razors though)
- Coats (all sizes welcome, both children and adults)
- Blankets (both full sized and those for babies)

Many thanks in advance for your generous donations.

Forthcoming Events



STEM Christmas Lecture: Simon Singh

We are delighted to be welcoming the celebrated science author and physicist, Simon Singh for this year's STEM Christmas Lecture on Thursday 5 December. If you ever wondered how the writers of The Simpsons have smuggled mathematical jokes into their scripts then wonder no more!

For further details please read the poster here: [Simon Singh STEM poster.pdf](#)

External Event: Japanese Drumming Taster Event at The Arundel Centre

On Saturday 7 December 2024 The Tamashii School of Taiko will be giving an afternoon concert of traditional Japanese drumming. Proceeds from this external concert will be given to the charity "Women For Women International". Further details and how to book tickets can be found below; [7 Dec Poster.pdf](#)

[7 December 2024 The Tamashii School of Wadaiko.pdf](#)





CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Drama News

This week concluded the run of three performances of 'We Happy Few' by Imogen Stubbs. Audiences have been wowed by an expansive array of characters, Shakespearean excerpts, not to mention love loss and heartbreak (along with a bit of swing dance thrown in for good measure!). The cast have excelled themselves with this epic piece and deserve all the praise they have received for their ambitious interpretation of this funny and moving text.



Music News

Autumn Concert

Last Thursday, 14 November, some 220 students from all year groups performed at St Joseph's Church for our annual Autumn Concert. What a feast of music and talent the night proved to be! Miss Zanardo kicked the show off with the huge Concert Orchestra playing a fabulous selection of numbers from Lloyd-Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera'. This ensemble has reached a real zenith with this performance, one that Miss Zanardo, who has built this ensemble up from just 10 players when she arrived in 2010 to the 60 strong ensemble we saw last Thursday can be rightly proud! The Conabor Choir then entertained with a humorous piece entitled 'The Broomsticks flew all around!'.



Mr Dodds impressive Brass Ensemble then gave a delightful performance of 'A whole new world' from the musical Aladdin. It was then the turn of Miss Zanardo's inimitable 'Brunner Show Choir' starting with the ethereal and beautiful 'Shall we dream' by Aussie composer Mike Atherton following with the upbeat 'Stitches'. Choir number three then took the stage with the first of three pieces in our 'sacred corner'. The Chamber choir sang the Kyrie from Leavitt's Petite Mass; a mellifluous and lyrical setting. The Senior Strings with saxophonist Kezia C and soloists, Eve C, Teresa G, Anna G and Juliet B, then performed the exquisite and poignant setting of the Nunc Dimittis by Burgon. The Conabor Choir finished this little trio of pieces with a touching Agnus Dei set by Morris Grey. Then it was the turn of the Senior Strings on their own performing Finzi's

'Romance' - a beautiful rendition with the sound wafting around the amazing acoustic of St Joseph's.



Following this was something 'completely different' (in those immortal words) - the 100 strong Cantemus Chorus sang 'My crazy student life' by Pinkzebra with lyrics that resonated with so many parents and students inside St Joseph's that evening! Chacapella then took to the 'stage' to sing 'Royals'; full of energy and excitement this was a superb performance from this group that is run by 6th form and who rehearse themselves. The evening closed with two stunning performances from the Symphony Orchestra; firstly the highly evocative 'Vltava'

describing the river running through the Czech Republic and finishing with the hugely energetic last movement of Haydn's 104th Symphony - 'The London'. All of us in the Music School are immensely proud of the students' achievements and superb performances at this concert and if you were not able to get there, then do listen [HERE](#).

'Relaxed Renditions' Concert

Wednesday lunchtime saw the first 'Relaxed Renditions' concert in the Music Department. These are a more relaxed lunchtime concert with an invited audience. They are held in MSI and will be happening once every half term. Congratulations to Georgia C 7CWi, Sophie M 10GH, Milly P 8VS and Thea T 8VS for performing so beautifully to their selected audience. If you would like to be involved in one of these concerts next term, please contact the Music Department.

Art News

On Wednesday 13 November Sixth Form artists visited the exhibitions 'Francis Bacon - Human Presence' at the National Portrait Gallery and 'Haegue Yang - Leap Year' at the Hayward Gallery. The eclectic range of work displayed helped to inform the students' current projects.

Francis Bacon Exhibition, National Portrait Gallery

The exhibition explored the theme of human presence in Bacon's work, drawing on artistic influences from Bacon's life, including Rembrandt, Picasso, Freud and Velazquez.

Bacon is one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th century, whose style was figurative, but dark and distorted, veering towards abstraction. Of the people who he liked to paint there were the Sainsburys, his friend and contemporary Lucien Freud, Frank Auerbach and his long term lover and companion George Dyer. Bacon also painted historical figures who had been immortalised in other works of art including a range of works of Pope innocent X based on the original works of the 17th century Spanish painter Velazquez.

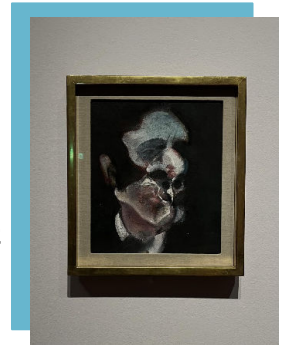


Bacon's work is both profound and disturbing and unlike anything else. It is difficult to pinpoint why Bacon's work is brilliant, his work is dark and disturbing, but his vision and execution are masterful and unique. He is unlike anyone else and his work is unforgettable.



'Study for a portrait of pope innocent X'. Bacon's reimagining of Velazquez's painting transforms the image into a visceral and haunting figure, giving the painting a deeply unsettling violent undertone.

'Study of George Dyer'. George Dyer was Bacon's lifelong partner and his many portraits reflect their turbulent and intense relationship. Bacon's paintings of Dyer vary between soft, dark and bleak, perhaps reflecting the nature of their relationship. The smears and fragmented nature of the painting convey a sense of confusion while the contrast with the bold background enhances the impression of isolation.



'Three studies for Portrait of Lucien Freud'. Lucien Freud, a close friend of Bacon, was a frequent subject of his work. In this triptych, a sense of movement unfolds across the panels, each depicting Freud from a different angle and capturing his complex nature. The fragmented swirling forms and deliberate distortion evoke a sense of physiological tension and unease.

Olivia L

Haegue Yang Exhibition, Hayward Gallery

This exhibition presented a world of immersive and multisensory installations and sculptures that weave connections between disparate histories, cultures and traditions.

Originally from South Korea, Yang has experienced many different cultures throughout her life, especially after moving to Germany in her twenties, during the 1990s. This has influenced her wide-ranging inspiration which draws on diverse histories and customs, including East Asian traditions, contemporary art history and nature.



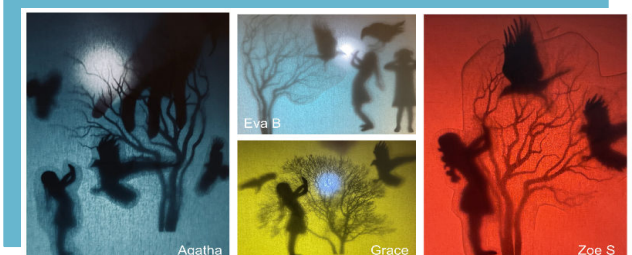
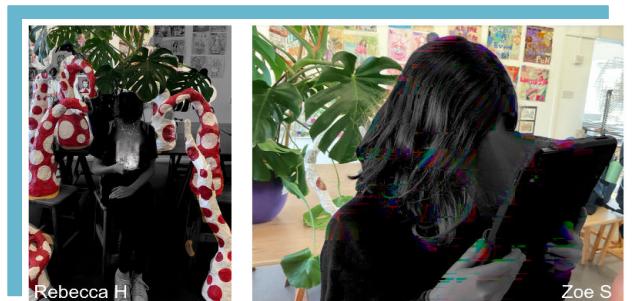
Yang uses domestic objects such as window shutters, blinds, chairs and drying racks to create an uncanny exploration of her curiosities. This creates very visually intriguing installations which can be closely linked to her multicultural influences. When analysing her works, feelings of introspection and wonder are evoked by her surreal sculptures.

Elise C

Year 7 Photography Club

The Year 7 photographers have been learning editing skills to create images that question our engagement with technology and how this affects attention and awareness in our surroundings.

They have also been using a shadow theatre, silhouettes and coloured light filters to create photographs inspired by Hitchcock's 'The Birds'.



Sustainability News

Well done to Goodwin House for having the most students (174) that didn't come by car on the Clean Air days last week. In joint second place were Waterlow and Spears, with 156 students, and coming very close on their heels was Sharpe with 153 students. Well done to everyone who took part.

Sixth Form Enrichment News

Networking Skills Workshop with Mr Oli Barnett

On Monday, our Sixth Form students participated in an engaging and hands-on workshop on networking skills, led by Channing parent Mr. Oli Barnett. The session provided invaluable advice on how to build meaningful connections in the professional world. Students had the opportunity to put these new skills into practice in a fun and interactive exercise, with their teachers stepping into the roles of business executives the students aimed to impress. The session was both insightful and enjoyable, equipping students with essential tools for their future careers. A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Barnett for delivering such an interesting and practical session!

Talk by Alex Ntung

On Monday 11 November, our Sixth Form students had the privilege of attending a captivating talk by Alex Ntung, who shared his remarkable life story. Growing up in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, Alex spoke with heartfelt candour about his harrowing experiences of surviving a genocide and the challenges he faced on his journey to becoming a refugee in the UK.

His powerful account was both deeply moving and profoundly thought-provoking, offering students a unique insight into resilience, hope, and the human spirit's ability to overcome unimaginable adversity. The talk left a lasting impression, sparking meaningful reflection and important discussions among our students.



Talk by Fiona Jing

On Monday 4 November our Sixth Form students had the pleasure of hearing from Fiona Jing, CEO of OTW Travel. Fiona spoke with passion and honesty about her remarkable career journey, from her school days to studying at Cambridge University, working at ITV, and ultimately founding her own travel company.

She shared invaluable insights, blending practical advice with personal anecdotes, and highlighted the transformative power of travel. Fiona encouraged students to approach travel with purpose and intention, emphasising its potential to broaden horizons and foster meaningful connections. We are grateful to Fiona for sharing her story and wisdom with our Sixth Formers.



English News

Debating

On Tuesday, the Channing Senior Debating team went to Ashmole Academy to compete in the first round of the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace Debating Competition. This is a prestigious national competition and the standard of the first round was exceptionally high. Our team opposed the motion,



'This house would implement a four day school week', arguing that this motion is logistically impossible and that it fails to safeguard the most vulnerable pupils in our education system. The judges commended the team on their ability to listen and respond and the overall quality of their points and delivery. We are delighted to be one of three schools who won the heat and progressed to the second stage of the competition. Well done to Saira C, Amelia D-A and Leila A-H in Year 10 and enormous thanks to Serrana B in Year 10 and Molly S in Year 12 for their support in preparing to compete.

Channing Archives

This week we would like to share one of the glass plates from Matilda Sharpe's collection. I think it depicts a gathering of angels and some of heaven's other inhabitants in a beautiful garden - what do you see?



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