



CHANNING

Word from the Head

29 November 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been a joy to share excerpts from [Captains of their Ships](#), the GSA's 150th anniversary film, in my Junior School and Senior School assemblies this week. There were gasps of recognition as familiar faces came on screen and indeed a round of applause at the end of assembly in the Senior School in response to the positive messages about why our girls' schools are so important.

I reminded the girls that it's Channing's 140th birthday in January (this also elicited a gasp of excitement) and yes, there will be cake! There will also be the opportunity for me to share our vision for Channing 2035 as we launch our new strategic objectives for the next 10 years. Please save the date for 7-9pm on Tuesday 14 January and look out for a formal invitation with an RSVP link which will be sent to you next week. Numbers are limited so you will need to book early, and we will record a separate version of the presentation to share with parents who are unable to attend.

In a week which has been extremely busy, both in school and in my home life, reading this week's [Wednesday Wisdom](#) from TooledUp Education struck a real chord with me. With only two weeks to go until the end of the Autumn term the pace of life gets quicker and quicker and I know that both staff and pupils really start to feel the effects of the intensity of school life. These excellent suggestions about auditing sleep and setting up good routines might well stand us all in good stead!

Two groups of people who will certainly benefit from sleep on Sunday night are our intrepid travellers: the Year 8-11 Germanists have been in Munich since Wednesday and the Year 11 historians in Berlin since Thursday. I have no doubt that they will have had a remarkable time - learning lots, of course, but also soaking up the experience of being in a new city, mixing with peers in a new way and looking at life from a different perspective. It's so very valuable and my enormous thanks to Ms Pavlopoulos and Mr Raine for organising, and all the staff for accompanying, these wonderful trips.

Finally this week, I am delighted to tell you that the 2023-24 Channing Magazine is now [live](#)! My huge thanks to Ms Devine for the epic job of editing a whole year of activity across the entire school into this one fantastic celebration - I hope that you will enjoy reading it. Following our declaration of a climate emergency and in line with our commitment to improve the School's environmental sustainability we publish this digitally. We are aware, however, that a number of families enjoy receiving physical copies of the magazine and some have kept every edition since their daughter(s) joined the school! To order a printed copy of the school magazine 2023-24, please click [here](#) by midday on Friday 6 December 2024.

With warmest wishes for the weekend, whatever it may hold (and some good sleep!),

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 started 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.

Chatting with Channing – Life in the Junior School with our JS Head Girls

Welcome to the latest episode of Chatting with Channing, where we dive into the heart of Channing School through the voices of its community. In this delightful episode, we sit down with Suhanna and Matilda, the Year 6 head girls, to hear about their incredible journey through Channing Junior School. Join us as Suhanna and Matilda share their favourite memories, from science experiments to the camaraderie of sports and music clubs. They reflect on the friendships they've built, their excitement for the transition to senior school, and what makes Channing's nurturing environment so unique. They discuss Channing's traditions, like skipping out at the end of term and the much-anticipated Easter Bonnet Parade. They also highlight the impact of inspiring teachers, the Channing character traits, and the importance of empathy and resilience.

Listen to the full episode now on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and the [Channing Website](#).



Forthcoming Events


Christmas Jumper Swap

The Christmas Jumper Swap will take place on Thursday 5 December. For more information and how to participate please read the flyer here [Christmas Jumper Swap.pdf](#).

12 Hour Live DJ Stream for Age UK

DJ Boardy (Mr Boardman, Assistant Head T&L) is doing a 12 hour live DJ stream for Age UK on Saturday November 30 from 12 midday until 12 midnight. You will find information about the amazing work [Age UK does in this link](#), along with the Just Giving Page. Please consider donating.

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_24.11.24.pdf](#)

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

Harrington Christmas Sale

Open Saturday 7 December from 10.00 - 2.00pm.

Further details can be found at

<https://harrington.org.uk/diary/save-date-harrington-christmas-fair>



Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

Sports News

Netball

U16 National Schools Middlesex County Competition

On Sunday 17 November, a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students competed in the U16 National Schools Middlesex County Competition. We knew it would be a tough tournament, as all schools had incredible players—just like we do. The first game against St. Augustine's ended in a draw, though we felt it was a game we could have won. In the second match against Mill Hill, the team secured a hard-fought 8-7 victory. Unfortunately, consistency proved challenging in the next three games, leading to losses. In the final match against Notting Hill and Ealing High School, we trailed by 8 goals in the first half. However, the team made an impressive comeback in the second half, narrowing the gap to 11-8. With a little more time, we believe we could have turned it around. A big well done to all the girls for their effort and determination. It wasn't our year this time, but we'll continue to work hard and come back stronger next year!

U15 Haringey Tournament

On Tuesday 26 November, the U15 team participated in a Haringey tournament. While they had a slow start in the first game, their determination and teamwork shone through in the second game, where their performance improved significantly. Despite challenging conditions, the team fought hard until the very end, demonstrating resilience and grit. Their efforts paid off, earning them a well-deserved 3rd place finish and medals to take home.

A huge well done to the entire team for their hard-fought effort and fantastic spirit throughout the day!

U13A Sister n Sport Cup

On Friday 15 November the U13 (Year 8) netball team played the Sister n Sport second-round competition away at Claremont Fan School. The team started strong, demonstrating excellent movement in attack and exceptional shooting. Despite a slower third quarter, they regained momentum in the final quarter to secure a 24-14 victory, advancing to the third round. A special congratulations to Erica W, who was named Player of the Match for her outstanding performance. Well done, team!



U13B Haringey League

On Monday 11 November, the U13B netball team played another Haringey League match, this time against Fortismere. The team delivered an exceptional performance, showcasing their skills and teamwork to achieve a strong win. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and fantastic effort!

After their strong win against Fortismere on Monday 11 November, they were back in action on Tuesday 19 November, playing against Mulberry Woodside. The team played well, demonstrating their ongoing progress and commitment. As always, there are areas to work on, but the effort and determination shown by the players is commendable. Keep up the great work, team!

U12 Fixture vs Highgate School

We had three U12 teams out for a fixture against Highgate School - a fantastic opportunity to see so many girls in action! The teams showed great effort, with one win and two losses. It was encouraging to see their improvements, and we're looking forward to more matches ahead. Well done to Annabel S., Isla L., and Helena S. for being named Players of the Match!

Football

U15 Football Match

On Thursday 21 November, players from both the Year 9 and Year 10 teams took part in a football match against James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS). Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to the Year 9 students who came along to support us – it really meant a lot! Although we lost 5-1, every player gave their all with lots of energy and enthusiasm. In the first half, we had plenty of shots on target, but their goalkeeper didn't let anything past her! Our defence was excellent, and even though a few shots got through, Ayla was there to make some crucial saves. Unfortunately, their attackers were too strong, and we conceded 3 goals in the first half.

In the second half, the other team scored two more, however, despite the scoreline, the team showed lots of motivation and resilience. In the final 5 minutes, Milla scored a brilliant goal, which was well deserved and a great way to finish the match. Overall, even though we didn't get the result we wanted, it's clear that our training is paying off and we're getting better as a team.

U12 ESFA Competition

On Tuesday 12 November the Year 7 team played their English Schools second round tie against Kingsmead School.

Channing started very strongly and it wasn't long before Eva B took advantage of a hesitant defence to score our first goal. It was quite evident that this wasn't going to be an even match and with further goals from Eva and Iona-Mae, Channing raced into a 6-0 lead going into the second half.

With a number of positional changes, Channing were still able to dominate the game, however the scoring rate did reduce with only three goals scored in the second half. The game finished 9-0 with four goals from Eva B, three from Iona-Mae and one each from Luliya and Cecilia R.

The next round is a home match against Sandringham School, St Albans who will provide tougher opposition than we have faced so far.



Swimming

On Tuesday, 12 November, we took a group of Year 7–9 pupils to a swimming gala against City of London Girls' School and Francis Holland Sloane Square. It was fantastic to see the girls swimming so well and thoroughly enjoying the event. Well done to everyone who took part—an excellent effort all around!

Oxbridge Forum

Last Monday, Year 13 Channing students who have applied to Oxford and Cambridge were joined by students from other local schools for our annual Oxbridge Forum. This helps prepare students for their upcoming interviews, which mostly now happen online.

Initially Heads of Department led short sessions where students worked in groups on unseen stimulus material. Depending on the subject, this included analysing poems, interpreting graphs and solving equations.

After refreshments, students listened to advice about approaching interviews from Owen Walding, Head of Schools at Oxbridge Applications. Mr Walding and Mrs Bannatyne then role-played a Classics interview with Mrs Bannatyne being a rather variable interviewee! Students were accurately able to identify where and why she impressed, and where she could have improved! The forum concluded with questions from the floor.

This event was followed on Wednesday by an intensive 1:1 online interview preparation day with Oxbridge Applications for our applicants. Actual interviews start in early December and we wish our students the best of luck in their endeavours.

STEM News

Enchanted Chemistry

This term marked the exciting launch of our *Witchcraft and Wizardry Science Club*! Students had the opportunity to witness an ethanol rocket launch and dazzling sugar-powder flames, followed by a vibrant display of flame tests showcasing a full spectrum of colours. Everyone did a fantastic job recalling the elements and making some Goblin gloopy slime! Stay tuned to see what magical experiments they conjure up next week!



CREST Awards

The animation team of Violet L, Zeruchi B, Alizeh M and Hero K worked more cohesively this week - maybe it was the presence of the hot glue gun? There was some problem-solving to be done as the design they have chosen has suggested measurements - these look fine on the video, but are they going to work in practice? Some measurements and calculations might be needed moving forward.



The bath bombs team of Scarlett C, Mariia S and Maya S found that the amount of oil in their recipe was still not optimal as the bath bombs were not holding their shape properly. When they looked back at the original recipe they were not convinced that they had scaled their quantities correctly and so they decided to try again. They have carefully recorded the amounts used in their trials today - fingers crossed for successful bath bombs next week.

Music News

National Youth String Orchestra Success

Many congratulations to Thea I who has been accepted into NYSO's Camerata Orchestra for 2025. Whilst she will only be in Year 8, the orchestra is generally made up of students from Years 10-12. Well done, Thea!

Music at Lunchtime

First up we had Elika Dutta in 11DK playing Jupiter by Holst on the Alto Saxophone, which was an unusual but undeniably well-suited combination! The piece worked perfectly for the rich sound of the saxophone which Elika played beautifully. Then Maika Pastrana-Yanase in 12SF played the 2nd Movement from Sonata No 8 - Pathétique by Beethoven on the piano. An astonishingly difficult diploma-level piece played masterfully by Maika; it felt like a professional recital!

Continuing with the theme of amazingly challenging pieces, Elizabeth Shepherd in 12AH gave us an extraordinary performance of the 2nd Movement from Concerto in D by Mozart on the violin. Another fabulous lunchtime performance under her belt; it'll be hard to top! Afterwards, Violet Dempster in 8CC played Ballade by Burgmüller on the piano. A passionate and musical performance of a piece that requires a lot of dexterity; amazing!



Finally, Danielle Lekach in 7JG accompanied herself on the guitar and sang 'The last great American dynasty' by Taylor Swift. Danielle gave us a sensitively emotive rendition of a mature and hugely challenging song to sing, and the entire room was transfixed as she easily navigated the high and low parts. A huge congratulation to all the performers this week! Do listen [HERE](#)

English News

Year 7 have been describing festive scenes inspired by their work on Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Below is a beautiful example from Evie D in 7JG:

It was a cold, sharp, piercing winter night, the very air seeming to hold its breath as if in reverence to the quiet holiness of the season. The city lay buried under a heavy cloak of snow and the streets were desolate, bleak and barren. Above, the sky was a pallid grey, as if the stars had been taken away.

In the distance, however, there was a bright shining light, radiating through the darkness.

The light seemed to be coming from a window where there was only warmth and contentment, which was a welcoming contrast to the chill that pressed upon the world outside. The small room glowed with the flickering light of candles, their soft flames dancing on a table where a Chanukiah stood, its brass arms polished to a dull gleam, cradling the flames of eight small lights.

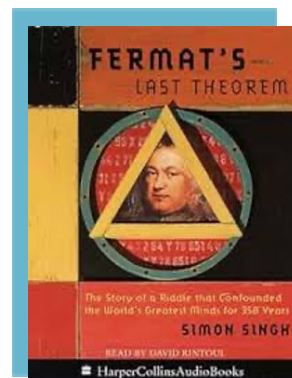
The eighth candle, the shamash (Hebrew for leader) burned brighter than the rest, its steady flame sounding proudly above the others, as if it were a guardian of the light above the rest of the candles flickering below. Around a table, sat a small family, their faces full of happiness. They all sang in unison, as sweet as a bird singing a bedtime story to its children. On the table there were doughnuts, latkes, rugelach and roasted chicken with roasted carrots; it looked like a massive feast with the family laughing, singing and enjoying themselves, which could make anyone smile and feel warm inside.

The children were sitting at the table sipping spinning a dreidel for gelt (chocolate and sweets), the letters were such, nun, gimel, hay and finally shin. The children would be shouting 'no', 'I won' or 'yes'. The letters on the dreidel stood for Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, which in English translates as 'a great miracle happened there' and that is what Chanukah is centered around.

Still, the outside world remained silent, the streets empty of noise, whilst snow fell gently onto the earth. But here, within this modest household, there was warmth that could not be extinguished by the frost of the season, nor the weight of the years, and that is the feeling of Chanukah, warm and welcoming.

Reading

Ahead of the Christmas STEM lecture next week, Mrs Wooton treated students to the opening chapter of Simon Singh's hugely popular book *Fermat's Last Theorem*. It tells the story of the search for a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem - a mathematical problem that gained iconic status after remaining unsolved for 358 years! At the heart of this book is a tale of adventure, discovery and delight in the mysteries of the physical world. Enjoy!



Careers News

On Monday 25 November, Sixth Form students were given the engaging opportunity to partake in an afternoon of interview skill sessions. We began with a short introduction from a speaker from



'InvestIn', a company that specialises in helping students with work experience and interview skills. In this talk she highlighted the important techniques needed to ace an interview, for example eye contact and having a friendly yet professional demeanour. Afterwards we had a carousel of three different activities; a mock interview with Channing parents and teachers, a team building exercise and an in tray task where we had to read emails and respond to them

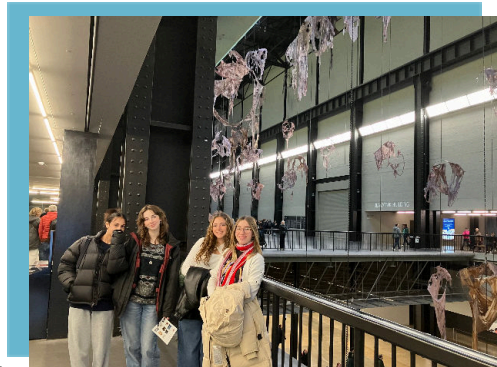
appropriately in order of urgency. Overall, we found this an extremely educational experience, and we will certainly apply the advice we've received throughout the sessions to our professional lives.

Maika P-Y and Natasha B

History of Art News

On Saturday 23 November, Year 12 and 13 Art History students went with Miss Ward to the Tate Modern for the 'Ways of Seeing' conference. We listened to three lectures from various art historians. The first talk by Tate curator, Carol Jacobi, explored the life of 20th century bird painter, Isabel Rawsthorne. Next, we heard art historian Matthew Morgan talk about the 'sublime' in art, beginning with one of Turner's paintings and exploring the work of Kehinde Wiley. The final lecture was given by Melissa Baksh, who spoke about the figures and natural setting in Van Dyke's 'William Fielding'.

During the lunch break, we were given the opportunity to speak to current undergraduate students studying Art History at a variation of universities. We had some time to look around the Tate Modern galleries, looking specifically at Nature and Identity in artworks, and returned to hear a Year 13 student giving us his winning presentation from the 'Articulation' competition, followed by Polly Morgan speaking about her artistic career in the field of taxidermy.



Lana, Year 13



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