



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed your holidays, wherever you were, and that you are entering 2025 with enthusiasm and excitement. I certainly am, and in our first assembly of term this morning I outlined some of the events to come in the weeks ahead.

Having unveiled our vision for Channing 2035 and our brand new set of strategic objectives to our staff on Monday morning, I'll be doing the same for our students in assembly next Tuesday and, of course, for you on Tuesday evening. These five objectives are the culmination of 8 months of work - but the most exciting part is still to come, with the contributions you, your children and the staff will be making to bring these to life. If you have not yet reserved a seat for the presentation at 7.30pm on Tuesday next week, please do click [here](#).

We're launching our vision for Channing 2035 now to coincide with our school's 140th anniversary later this month. You'll get a chance to enjoy some birthday cake on Tuesday and we'll be having a week of birthday events in school in the week commencing 27 January to celebrate the anniversary itself on Tuesday 28 January.

In our first assembly of 2025 this morning I introduced the staff who are new to the Senior School this term:

In the Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (RPE) department, Miss Jehan joins us on Ms Kiff's departure. She is joined by Mr Iberi while Mr Headey remains on personal leave. Mr Kokkinos is our new Assistant Director of Music and Mr Wedmore completes the new Music department team as Music Graduate Assistant. We also welcome Mr Hartley as Bassoon teacher in the Junior & Senior School.

In the Modern Languages department, Mrs Hernández Campillo is now on her two term sabbatical and Mr Jackson joins the department this half term, until Ms Stavena returns to us for the remainder of the year.

Ms Grant joins the SEND Department as temporary SENCO and we have a number of new support staff: Mr Felder, Social Impact Coordinator; Mrs Fowler, HE Coordinator; Miss O'Connor as St Aloysius supervisor and Miss Dorey as maternity cover PE Administrator. On that note we were delighted to hear news of the safe arrival of a baby boy to Miss Allen and her partner during the Christmas holidays.

In the Junior School, we are pleased to welcome Mr Davies as our new Deputy Head (Academic).

We know you and your children will make all of our new staff feel at home and we look forward to their contribution to the Channing community.

The first assembly of 2025 was also a chance to offer some thoughts about making the most of the term - and year - ahead. I explained that I have stopped wearing a watch since my operation last

term, and it has really altered how I think about time. After all, most of us can find out the time by using our smartphones nowadays, so we technically don't need a watch any more. Despite this, lots of us do wear watches, both as timepieces and as fashion statements.

I showed them a picture of the most expensive watch available to buy in the world in 2024 (not including auctions for historic watches). It's called the Billionaire and made by Jacob & Co. In May, singer Usher wore the ruby version (a total of 714 natural rubies equalling 147.65 carats) to the Met Gala. You can buy it for \$5 million.

I posed the question, why does time matter to us so much as humans? There are all sorts of ways to answer that question, but I think the main one is that time is limited. It's a resource that we can use, either efficiently or wastefully. I gave the example of our school day. Each lesson is a limited amount of time: 45 minutes of learning. Our students and teachers have that limited amount of time to make gains and progress in their learning. Hopefully, by the end of the lesson, they will have learnt something. If not, we could say that it has been a waste of time.

Yet there are other times in our lives when we can't be sure how much time we have. This is true of life itself too. Without wishing to be morbid, no one can say for sure how long they will be on this earth. The fact that our existence on this earth is limited by time can be an upsetting thought, but it can also help us to reflect on what we want from the time that we have available and make the most of it. The American poet, Mary Oliver, found her own words for this idea. In her poem *The Summer Day*, she asks:

*Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

In our reflection I asked:

- Do you have the time to live your life, your one wild and precious life, fully, and make the most of it?
- Do you have the time to waste on unimportant things?
- What do you want to make time for today?
- What would be a good use of your time today?

I asked them to be encouraged by the knowledge that their time on Earth is limited, rather than disillusioned. I urged them to make each moment count by finding ways to use their time that are good for them and kind to others.

On that note I wish a productive, happy and healthy 2025 to you and your families. We have much to look forward to in the term ahead and I am excited by the prospect.


With warmest wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Extra & Co-curricular Timetable

Please see here details of the clubs and activities for the term ahead:

 [Spring Term Extra & Co-curricular Activities - Timetable 2024 - 25](#)

Lost Property

Lost property will be displayed outside Founders Hall on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 January for students to check for any lost items. Any lost property not collected will be kept in the New Sports Hall for students to check.

Staff Contact Document - January 2025

 [Who should I contact 2025.pdf](#)

Forthcoming Events

Creative writing challenge for Year 8

On Tuesday 21 January the author [Tamsin Winter](#) will give a talk to the whole of Year 8 about her books and career as a writer. She has set an optional creative writing challenge - please see details [attached](#). The deadline for entries is Monday 13 January and the winners will be announced at Tamsin's talk on 21 January. Prizes include signed copies of Tamsin's books. For more information about the talk, please follow this [link](#) to the library website [student login only].

Calling All Sports Enthusiasts - the Careers Department needs You!



We are excited to announce our upcoming Careers in Sport Week, taking place in the week before February half term, 10 - 14 February 2025.

To make this week a success, we are seeking volunteers to share their expertise and inspire our students by giving talks to different year groups. Whether you are a sports professional, a coach, a therapist, an agent, involved in the business side or simply passionate about the sports industry, your expertise is invaluable.

We would be delighted to hear from:

- Previous parent volunteers: your past contributions were invaluable, and we would love to have you back!
- New parent volunteers: we are especially keen to hear from new volunteers with connections to the world of sport.

By volunteering, you will be helping students develop a deeper understanding of the range of careers possible within the sports industry, and highlighting the skills needed to be successful. To volunteer, please indicate your availability [here](#)

We look forward to working with you to make this a memorable and impactful week for our students.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Nicola Wilberforce
Head of Careers and Higher Education

Channing Association News

Year 7 & 8 Disco

The Channing Year 7 & 8 disco will take place on Saturday 1 March. We have also received an invitation for Channing Year 7 girls to attend the UCS Year 7 disco on 25 January. Please see the "What's On" section on Classlist for further details.



Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

MFL News

Onatti French Play

Just before the end of term, Year 9 French students had the exciting opportunity to watch a play in French! French actors from an MFL theatre company, Onatti, who are touring their play across the country, came to perform 'Prendre sa Revanche' for us in the AC. Here is what one of our students thought of the experience:



'We watched a play about two antique dealers, called Ver and Hugo, who try to fool customers by passing off fake antiques as real ones, but they end up becoming the fools themselves when they are discovered! The play was entertaining and interactive, making it a really amusing and enjoyable experience for us. Despite initially being worried about whether we would understand a whole play in French having only studied the language for two years and a term, we were amazed by how much we understood. We found that the language was

straightforward to understand, and, this, alongside the actors' delivery, meant that we could follow a whole play in a different language!'

Sonia H, Year 9

We had the opportunity to watch actors perform a French play which was performed as a comedy. I found it helpful as the two actors spoke in French very slowly with clear intonation. What I really enjoyed about the play was how they made it interactive and allowed the audience to participate. This kept my interest and engagement throughout the whole play. I particularly enjoyed performing in it myself! Overall, I found watching and participating in this play, and participating in this play very exciting, and a fantastic experience.'



Jasmine C, Year 9

Channing Archives

A blast from the past... This space is now the Medical Room and the Sixth Formers have their very own building!



PREFECTS' COMMON ROOM 1958



CHANNING



channing_school



@channingschool



ChanningSchool



020 8340 2328



info@channing.co.uk



The Bank, Highgate, N6 5HF