



Dear Parents,

This week has marked two really important anniversaries in the life of the Channing community.

Monday was Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. In the words of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, it is a day that encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. It is a day to remember the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups.

On Monday 20 January the Sixth Form were fortunate to have a visit from Paula Zeff, a survivor of the Holocaust, who shared with them a powerful testimony and a message of kindness and tolerance. However, as time goes on, living memory accounts are decreasing and therefore it is imperative that we continue to remember and share the stories we are told. As a result the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 was 'For a Better Future'. It aims to create an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

Last Friday Cerys and Ariella in Year 12 delivered a moving Senior School assembly about the Kindertransport. This involved many brave, determined people working together to secure better futures for the Jewish children whose lives were in danger. They used the remarkable example of Florence Nankivell, a British woman who set up the first Kindertransport. She helped to negotiate an agreement in which children from Nazi Germany and Nazi-occupied countries could be allowed to leave on trains, largely going to Britain.

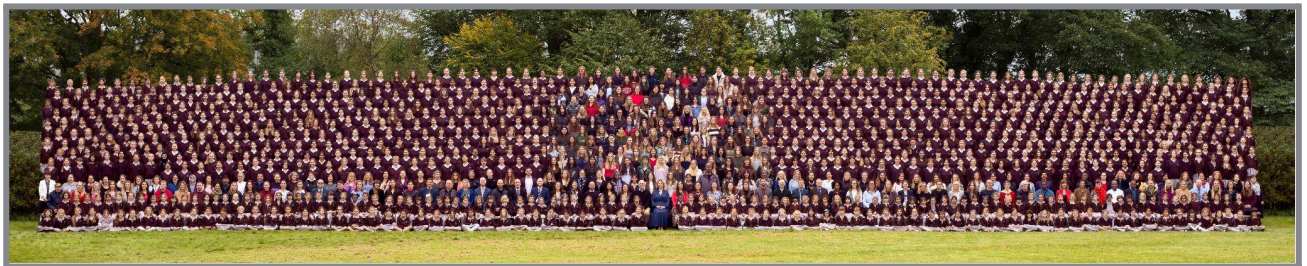
The Kindertransport rescued at least 10,000 children, most of whom were Jewish, in a mission that likely saved their lives. Whilst the journey and experience was very difficult for many children as they had to leave their families and did not know if they would ever see their parents or their homes again, it was a far better fate than that suffered by those who remained in Nazi Germany. Cerys and Ariella shared this poignant video which encapsulates the experience of those involved, and its impact on their lives: [Kindertransport _ with Subtitles edit.mp4](#). Please do take 12 minutes to watch it if you can.

As part of the reflection at the end of assembly, Ariella shared her own experience of visiting concentration camps and seeing for herself the sites where the deaths of millions of people took place. As she put it, "This experience demonstrated to me that the children who escaped symbolise the hope and belief in the survival of the Jewish people, as well as of humanity in general. We are the children of this generation and we, as well as all the children of all future generations, must continue to strive for a better future." As Paula Zeff said to the Sixth Form in her talk, "In order to remember the Holocaust, the most important thing we can do is go home, and when asked, 'What did you do in school today?', instead of answering 'Nothing', say 'We learned about the Holocaust and how to make a better future.' That simple act of reflection can make such a big difference." I am enormously grateful to Cerys and Ariella for their thoughtful and thought-provoking assembly.

A very different anniversary was celebrated on Tuesday this week, as Channing turned 140. In Tuesday's assembly I enjoyed the opportunity to contrast the school that opened on 28 January 1885 with 35 girls and 10 staff with the more than 1000 girls and 200+ staff who are part of Channing today.



Channing House 1885



I have enjoyed the opportunity to trawl through our archives and find accounts of the preparations made for the opening of the school, which took only 6 months from inception in June 1884 to opening in January 1885. The aim was to set up a school in which "the daughters of Unitarian Ministers could obtain, on the easiest possible terms, a first class education that would enable them to go to any university if they so desired, and yet at the same time fit them for all the work of a woman's home life". I love the fact that right from the start, our founders were ambitious for the futures of Channing girls!

The school opened initially in what was Sutherland House, now named Channing House, on the corner of Cholmeley Park Road, which was described as 'a delightful country lane, steeply banked and pleasantly wooded'. It was Emily Sharpe who suggested that the school should be named after William Ellery Channing, who had visited North London a few years earlier. However it was Matilda Sharpe who was the driving force in the early life of the school. When she died in 1916 aged 86, the Headmistress Miss Talbot (herself a Channing girl from the first intake in 1885) wrote, 'She wanted the best for her girls; she would have nothing second-rate; so they must read the best books only, see the best pictures, hear the finest music, study the greatest minds of all the ages.' Matilda Sharpe's inspiring words are inscribed on a plaque on Founders' Hall: Never forget: life is expecting much of you and me.

If you would like to find out more about the history of the school, our marvellous marketing and archive team have created an interactive timeline, using our digital artefacts. You can find it here: <https://www.channing.co.uk/about-us/history-timeline/> - enjoy!

I am indebted to the House Officers who have put on a week of party-themed events for this week's Charity Week. Movie watching, party bag selling, an enormous game of musical chairs and even a bouncy castle have made an appearance. Today's slumber party-themed home clothes day has demonstrated an extraordinary array of nightwear (and yes, I took assembly wearing a very smart new pair of pyjamas!). My thanks also to Judith Hibbert, our Catering Manager, and all her team for the fantastic party lunch on Tuesday - including hundreds of Channing cupcakes. They followed this feat with a fantastic Chinese lunch on Thursday to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the start of the Year of the Snake - thank you!

Finally this week, a last call to sign up for the opportunity to contribute your thoughts to the development of our vision for Channing 2035. This will be in the form of World Café-style facilitated sessions looking at what you love about Channing, what you dislike, what you think we should change and what you think we should create. Senior School parents should click on [this link](#) to book their place. For Junior School parents please use [this link](#). There are just a few places left so please book quickly if you have not yet done so.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Personal Safety

A reminder to all parents to please speak to your children about personal safety when walking to and from school, especially while using mobile phones in public. We have recently received reports of phone snatching in the area. We will do the same in school.

Extracurricular PE timetable revision

As the Sports Hall is out of action due to mock examinations, please see the revised extracurricular PE timetable for the weeks commencing 3 and 10 February. The normal timetable will resume after half term on Monday 24 February.

 [MOCK SPRING PE Extra-Curricular TT 2024-25.pdf](#)

Careers help needed for Year 12 Springboard Day!

On Thursday 27 March 2025 we hold Springboard Day, an event primarily for Year 12 students who are planning for life after Channing. We would like to have employers from a range of sectors to join the university and gap year exhibitors at the Springboard Fair and are therefore looking for volunteers and contacts who might help.


Please let us know if you, or someone you know, would be willing to represent their employer and field of work from 3.15pm until 6.30pm in the Sports Hall at Channing on 27 March. Substantial refreshments for exhibitors will be provided during a break. Please note that this event will replace the employer fair that has previously taken place at the end of the Channing Careers Convention in June, so if you have been involved in that in the past we would love to see you at this event instead.

If you are not able to attend, please consider putting us in direct contact with a named person in your organisation who manages early careers and graduate recruitment, so we can invite them to join us. Our Year 12s will be joined by Year 12 St Aloysius students for the whole day, Channing Years 10 - 13 after school, and students from other partnership schools and Channing parents in the early evening, so there will be a significant number of visitors from a range of schools. Please email the Careers team at careers@channing.co.uk to let us know how you can support us - we greatly appreciate your input.

ABRSM Practical Music Examinations, Spring Term


w/c 31 March 2025 - APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN

We will be holding Spring Term Practical music examinations over **two or three days** during **w/c 31 March 2025** 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



ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place for
2-3 days during **w/c 31st March 2025**



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

*Consent forms must be submitted by 4pm Wednesday 12th February.
Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.*

take an ABRSM Practical examination this term.

(Please note: examinations in the Summer Term will only be available for pupils in the Junior School, these will take place 16-18 June.)

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 12 February** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.

Invitation - Join Channing Community Choir!

Parents are invited to join the Channing Community Choir and perform at the Spring Term Choral Concert at St Joseph's Church in March. Further information can be found on the invitation here: [PDF Invitation - Channing Community Choir at St Joseph's.pdf](#).



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

History News

Tracy Borman Lecture: 30 January 2025

As part of the Channing History Lectures Series, renowned Tudor Historian Professor Tracy Borman gave her first annual lecture at Channing on the subject of Thomas Cromwell and his role and influence in Tudor politics. Professor Borman is the namesake of Channing's A Level History Award, *The Tracy Borman Women Making History Prize*. Her accomplishments are many. She is the Chief Historian for Historic Royal Palaces, the charity that manages Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace, the Banqueting House Whitehall and Hillsborough Castle. She is the Chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. In 2024, Tracy was awarded an OBE for services to heritage in the King's Birthday Honours. Tracy is the author of several books on the Tudors. Her most recent book is *Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I: The Mother and Daughter Who Changed History*.



Following her fascinating talk, Professor Borman joined parents and students for wine, nibbles, and a book signing.

Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture

Another event took place this week as part of the Channing History Lectures Series, that was, Mr Raine's talk on the Allied responsibility for the Holocaust. This lecture looked at the historical debate about the bystanders, especially the Allies and what, if anything, explains the lack of action by the Allies to stop or limit the Holocaust.

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

First up was Cristina C in 11GR on the saxophone, and she played 'Vacances' by Damase. Her lovely and warm tone fit perfectly with the lyrical lines of the piece and made for a delightful performance. Next up was Eliana H in 9GHa who sang and accompanied herself on the guitar, playing and singing 'Wildflower' by Billie Eilish. Eliana's angelic voice beautifully blended with her guitar playing, creating a truly gorgeous and emotional rendition of 'Wildflower.' Issy P then graced us with a lovely cover of 'What'll it be?' by Nieper, Perrin, Silk. Her voice was soft, calming and worked so well with the song. Up last, but by no means least, was Maya H-B in 12KW who sang an original song, accompanied with the guitar called 'It's this way.' Her lyrics and melody were so wonderfully crafted, and Maya's divine voice tied the whole song together. What an amazing song she has composed! Huge well done to all performances!! Do listen [HERE](#).



Year 10 Concert

Last Thursday, our Year 10 GCSE Music students had their first formal concert of the academic year in the Arundel Centre. The concert included all but one of our Year 10 GCSE Music cohort, with each pupil performing a solo piece on their main instrument/voice with an addition of an ensemble item too. There were 16 performances in total and the concert was attended by a mixture of fellow pupils, parents and staff.

Becky R started off the concert with a rousing and uber-confident vocal performance of 'I Can Hear The Bells' from the musical 'Hairspray' followed by Margot v P on the piano giving a hypnotic and flowing rendition of Einaudi's 'Gravity'. Then followed a convincing performance of the 1st movement of Rieding's violin concerto in Bm, op. 35 by Solara W, coupled by a sensitive and reflective vocal performance of 'A Gaelic Blessing' by Rutter and sung by Chileshe G. Next, the ever popular 'Prelude in C', BWV 846 by JS Bach was played flawlessly on the piano by Ella B, followed by a meticulous reading of Cimarosa's 'Sonata in G', C 34, 1st movement, by Sabrina K. This was followed by a characterful and spirited performance of Rousse/Littorie's 'Fantaisie Valse' given by Ari A, and Ane J rounded off the first half of the concert with an

unaccompanied confident rendition of Martini's 'Gavotte' on the violin. Next, Nia H gave a personal account of Litten's 'Sad Ghost' on the piano, followed by a thoughtful performance of Mascagni's much loved 'Intermezzo' from the opera 'Cavaleria Rusticana' played on the flute by Indy D.



The ever popular crooning number 'Blue Moon' by Rodgers & Hart came next, sung superbly by Susie D, contrasted by Darcy D's dextrous and spirited cello performance of Goens' 'Tarantelle' op. 24. What came next was a real treat by two of our Yr 10 students,

Serrana B on vocals and Renatta R A on the piano, who gave a rousing duet rendition of 'Always Remember Us This Way' from the hit movie 'A Star Is Born'. This was followed by Georgina V on the recorder who played superbly the 'Mexican Hat Dance' by Bullard. The concert was rounded off by two final items. First, Imogen B gave a mature and articulate performance on the piano of

two Scarlatti sonata movements - Adagio e cantabile from Sonata in A, K.208 and Allegro from Sonata in A, K.209 - followed by Serrana's emotionally charged and powerful vocals & guitar rendition of Alexander/Mabe's 'The Climb'.

We wish to congratulate all our Year 10 GCSE Music students that took part in this concert for their fabulous performances, especially as it was their first formal outing on stage as a group since the beginning of their course. A final thanks must also go out to the dedicated music teachers that prepared our students for this concert, and Mr Boxall, Mr Kokkinos and Mr Wedmore for their piano accompaniment for some of the items. If you missed the concert and you would like to watch it click this link [HERE](#).



Art News

Sunflower Inclusion Project

On Wednesday our Year 12 artists and volunteers from the Inclusion society ran a creative workshop for our Year 6 students at the Junior School. The sunflower is the symbol of Invisible Disabilities and it was chosen by students to raise awareness and cheer up yet another grey January afternoon. Over 300 sunflowers were created - these will be installed at both the Junior and Senior School over the next few weeks.



English News

Congratulations to Regina G in Year 10 for her outstanding initiative and achievement in entering the Harvard International Review Academic Writing Competition. Regina showed great independence and drive in researching and writing an essay on the subject of inequalities in a VUCA world, focusing on educational provision for refugee children. Her excellent essay was commended by the judging panel. Well done, Regina!

Debating News

On Monday the Channing Senior Debating team competed in the second round of the ESU debating competition, hosted at Highams Park School. They opposed the motion, 'This house would not copyright musical works'. They argued extremely well, highlighting how copyrighting safeguards intellectual property against piracy and plagiarism, stabilises corporate investment in the music industry and allows artists to monetise their work. Although we were not put through to the semi-final round, the team represented the school eloquently and with poise. Well done to Leila A, Serrana B, Molly S, Saira C and Amelia D.



After the Battlefields

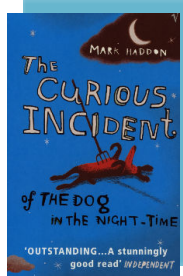
Shouts roll across the field, like the smoke
From the gunshots, from the bombs that are the only light in grey sky
"For Britain," an agonised soldier cries weakly,

His last words.
Shouts roll across the city, and the cheers
As peace is made, papers signed, few returned home
Shining meadows painted with wildflowers
Willow trees sway
Where bodies once lay.

Natalie L, Year 9

Reading News

This week on Channing's very own staff audiobook series, enjoy listening to Ms Penglase read from [*The Curious Incident of The Dog at Night by Mark Haddon*](#). As children grow the precious



bedtime reading routine is often replaced by homework and screen-based activities, but all is not lost. Reading the same book as your child can open up a whole world of shared experiences. Research shows that reading for pleasure leads to improved academic outcomes across the curriculum, builds empathy and supports well-being. This book is a fantastic opportunity to read alongside your child, sparking meaningful conversations about resilience, different ways of thinking, and the challenges of navigating a world that doesn't always make sense. Christopher's story is both touching and eye-opening, providing a fresh perspective on problem-solving, independence, and the importance of understanding those who see the world

differently. Engaging, insightful, and full of warmth, this novel is a perfect shared reading experience that will stay with you long after the final page.

STEM News

Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad

Five Year 12 students took part in the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad after school last Thursday. Questions were on a range of applications of chemistry, from clay pigeon shooting to agarwood and carbon nanotubes. Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad (UKChO) is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Well done to Natasha H, Mei-Xing L, Phoenix M, Eva S and Catherine S who all took part in the competition; we look forward to finding out how you got on!

Science Detectives Club: Year 7 and 8

The first science detectives club session was a great success - we managed not only to identify the murder victim using fingerprint analysis, but we also managed to determine that his stomach contents tested positive for poison; so we know his cause of death too! Now we need to move on to narrowing down possible suspects and analysing the evidence collected from the crime scene to help us to find his killer. Do come along to B9 lab at 12:30 on Friday if you would like to help us to solve this dastardly crime!



Anatomy Club

This week the students dissected a sheep's eye. They started with an external review, locating the optic nerve at the back of the eyeball and feeling the firmness of the eye. Then they made a first incision into the sclera, which was very tough and difficult to penetrate, and carefully cut round to open up the eyeball, revealing the retina and also releasing the vitreous humour, a jelly like substance inside. They fully removed

the lens and used it to magnify words on their instruction sheet and finally extracted the iris from around the pupil. The students were surprised by the shimmering colours of the retina, shades of blue and silver.

Next week we will dissect a small lizard. Please let Ms Rao know if you would like to come along, 12.30pm in C15 on Tuesdays.

Robotics Workshop

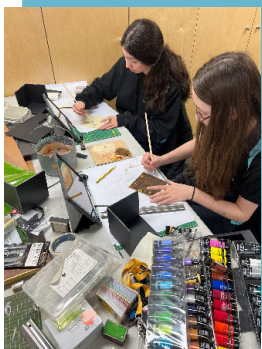
Last Friday 22 students and 13 staff from 8 Hong Kong schools visited Channing to take part in a robotics workshop with year 7 Channing school students.

The students worked together in groups to program Marty robots to navigate an obstacle course. They learnt about colour sensors and were able to put their knowledge to the test with the afternoon's competition.

All the students (and staff) had a great time and enjoyed not only learning about robotics but also about the learning experiences in different countries.

Drama News

Model making workshops and set painting were taking place this week in Drama, as students developed their skills backstage. Model makers worked in 1:25 scale, developing paint



texture and patterns, using a scalpel to cut wood and foam board and designing a floor covering which supported to communicate themes visually.

We are currently preparing for our KS3 production of 'Daisy Pulls it off' and Jess Maliphant-Gray has been guiding students as they paint backdrops and cloths and do a variety of behind the scenes jobs.



Channing Archive

What a difference the glorious sunshine makes! I can imagine the 1963 Rounders Team having great fun on one of the delightful days we've had this week.



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