



Dear Parents,

With Mrs Hughes representing Channing at the ASCL conference, I thought I would give you an update on a few practical matters in school at the moment. Our mock exams for years 11 and 13 are in full swing and I would like to commend both year groups on their hard work so far. It is clear that they have prepared diligently and are using these exams as the opportunity to practise for the real ones, exactly in the way they are intended. Handing out GCSE certificates to our current year 12 students this week was an opportunity to reflect on those public exams. Ultimately, GCSEs, A-Levels or any other form of qualification are rarely an end in themselves (qualifications taken for the joy of learning in later life might differ here) but are a chance to open a new door and take the next step. It is important to remember this, especially during times that are dominated by exams. We prepare for and take them because they allow us to do something even more exciting afterwards, to have options and make choices about the future direction of our lives.

On a different note, as you may already know, every year we welcome a pupil from the János Zsigmond Unitarian College in Kolozsvár (Cluj), Transylvania, to our Sixth Form for half a term. This is the happy result of a Scholarship Fund set up by former Channing pupil and Governor Amanda Davidson, whose own grandmother, mother and aunt also benefited from a Channing education through the original Transylvanian scholarship scheme which started in the 1890s.

The 2025 scholar, Kincső Balázs-Blénessi-Pataki, is 18 and comes from a Unitarian family, as do all the scholars. She will join Year 12 for half a term in September and I am keen to find a supportive family for her to live with for the six weeks she will be in London.

She is deeply interested in Chemistry and Anatomy, as she would like to pursue medical studies in higher education; she is passionate about writing, and published her first children's book in 2022! Kincső speaks Hungarian, Romanian, German and English.

I hope that hosting Kincső is something that you might feel able to do. If you would like to help, or would like any further information, please do let me know by emailing Hanna Fathers at hmsec@channing.co.uk. I know that previous visiting scholars have found their experience at Channing and in London to be life-changing and look forward to continuing this important tradition.

I would also like to highlight Ramadan, starting on Friday 28 February. I am currently speaking with a number of our Muslim students to ensure that we have suitable provision in school, including a room to pray and support for those choosing to fast. If your child is planning to fast, it would be helpful if you could contact my assistant Ms Matharu (skaur@channing.co.uk) to let us know, so teachers can be mindful of their needs. I am also conscious that we have a year 10 parents evening on 11 March and I am in conversation with our catering team to ensure some provision is available for those members of our community who will break their fast during this time.

In sporting news, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our U13 netball team who had qualified for the national quarter finals of the Sisters n Sport competition. Unfortunately, Bedford Girls' School got the better of them and won by 8 goals. However, getting to this point is a huge

achievement, knocking out some big names in the process. I hope the girls and coaches are extremely proud of their achievement.



And sporting success stories do not finish here. Our U12 and U13 footballers made it through to the Middlesex County Cup Semi-Finals, our U13s are also in the quarter finals of the ISFA competition whilst our U12s sadly lost in the round of the last 32 in the ESFA National Cup which includes well over 100 schools. Please read on for more details, but the future is bright with our youngest teams showing great potential in regional and national competitions.

And so we go into the last week before half term. Valentine's week, no less. To all of those who have not yet put the date in your diaries to get something special for your significant other, you are welcome.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Freddie Meier
Deputy Head

Notices

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 our 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 CLOSING


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 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.)



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.*

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.

An Evening of Music Theatre, Thursday 13 February 2025 6.30pm

You are warmly invited to **An Evening of Music Theatre**, which is to be held in the Arundel Centre this **Thursday 13 February at 6.30pm**. This is an excellent opportunity for the students taking Music Theatre examinations after half term to showcase one of their songs to an appreciative audience.

If your child has been asked to perform in this concert they will be required for a final rehearsal between 4.30-6pm in the Arundel Centre. If your child is staying at school after 4pm we will provide a packed tea.

There is no charge for this event and there is no need to reserve tickets.

Thursday will provide a little snapshot of many of the students' preparations and promises to be thoroughly entertaining of well known musical showstoppers.



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Classics News

Last week Year 12 Classical Civilisation students visited Warwick University for their annual Ancient Drama Festival. This year the focus was on Aeschylus' 'Agamemnon,' arguably the most famous tragedy from the ancient world and the first in the Oresteia trilogy. The play follows the figure of Clytemnestra as she plans and executes her revenge against her husband, Agamemnon, and his concubine, Cassandra, upon his return from the Trojan War. The afternoon performance was complemented by lectures from leading academics, including a talk by Dr Paul Grigsby on the context of the play and Dr Emily Clifford on the iconography of the Furies. The day was an excellent opportunity for our students to get a taste of university life, expand their knowledge of the ancient world and, most importantly, see this phenomenal play brought to life.

Sports News

U12 Netball Fixtures vs North London Collegiate School

It was fantastic to see our four Year 7 teams in action during their recent netball fixtures against North London Collegiate School. The girls showcased their determination and teamwork throughout each match.

Although we were unfortunate not to come away with wins, it was clear that progress has been made. The matches highlighted



both our strengths and areas where we will continue to develop as a team. With this experience under their belts, the girls are well-positioned to keep improving and growing in confidence. Well done to all players for their effort and dedication!

U13s Netball Fixture v Belmont School

On Monday, the U13A & B teams played against Belmont School.

The A team had a slow start losing the first quarter. Over the next 3 quarters, as their confidence grew, shooting, defending and movement improved. The team showed real determination playing their way back into the game.

Although we won the last three quarters, the A team was not able to secure a win. The team played some good Netball and learnt a lot about their skills and ability.

Self Defence Extra Curricular Club

Recently, we launched an exciting new self-defence club in partnership with The Karate Academy, running on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes. The sessions have gotten off to a fantastic start, with students showing great enthusiasm as they learn essential techniques to build confidence and stay safe.



It's been inspiring to see the students engaging so positively, developing their awareness, discipline, and defensive skills. We're excited to continue supporting their growth through this valuable and empowering opportunity.

There are still a few spaces available on Tuesdays — any students interested in joining should email Ms Nelson.

A big thank you to The Karate Academy for their ongoing support!

U12 and U13 Football

Channing football teams have had an impressive and eventful start to the term.

On January 10, the U13s secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Bishops Stortford College in the ISFA Cup Round of 16. Poppy L scored a dramatic extra-time winner to set up a quarter-final clash against Allyn's School.

The U12s faced two significant fixtures recently. On 15 January, they battled against a strong Basildon side in the ESFA Cup but were defeated 4-1. Reaching the final 32 out of over 100 national teams was a remarkable achievement. They bounced back strongly on 21 January, delivering a 4-0 win over JFS in the County Cup quarter-finals. Goals came from Cecilia R, Eva B, Luliya R, and a penalty from Bea B.

The U13s continued their impressive form on 24 January in the Sisters n Sport Cup, where they avenged an earlier season loss by defeating Latymer School 4-2. Despite Latymer scoring twice from set pieces, Poppy L and Siena R found the net, with Siena scoring twice to restore the lead. In the closing moments, Dahlia C made a brilliant run down the right wing and delivered a perfect cross for her sister Anoushka to seal the victory.

Just days later, on 27 January, the U13s faced Queens Park Community School in the Middlesex County Cup. Due to poor weather, the match moved to a smaller 3G pitch with reduced goal sizes. Despite dominating possession, it was tough to score. With just 10 minutes left, defender Issie G unleashed a powerful shot from near midfield, breaking the deadlock. A tactical switch to secure the win saw Channing hold on for a well-earned 1-0 victory and a place in the County Cup semi-finals, joining the U12s.

Both teams continue to show determination and progress as the season unfolds.

U15 Football vs The Latymer School - Sister n Sport

On Friday, 24 January, the U15 football team traveled to The Latymer School to play in the first round of the Sisters n Sport Cup. The game started off really well, and we were in control. Maya and Isla both came close early on, but their shots went just wide. Then we got a free kick right on the edge of the box, and Neve's shot rattled the post! We could all feel a goal coming.

Just before halftime, Latymer got a corner and managed to score. It was frustrating, but we didn't let it bring us down. After a really motivating team talk, we came back for the second half feeling ready to turn things around.

Not long into the second half, Milla was fouled in the box, and we got a penalty. Lexie stepped up, stayed calm, and smashed the ball into the top-left corner. We were back in it—1-1! Not long after, Milla dribbled down the wing and crossed the ball perfectly to Lexie, who coolly placed it into the net. We were ahead, 2-1!

It was so close to being our game, but just before the final whistle, Latymer got another corner and scored again to make it 2-2. We were all so determined to win, but extra time didn't bring any more goals from either side. The match went to penalties, and GG made some phenomenal saves to keep us in the game. Sadly, it wasn't enough, and we lost on penalties.

Even though we didn't win, we're so proud of how we played. This was our best performance as a team, and we've come so far since September. We've grown stronger, work better together, and give everything we've got in every game. We might not have won this time, but we've learned so much, and we're more ready than ever for our next match.

Neve C Captain U15 football team

Sustainability News

This week the Eco Reps are working in year groups to research and then produce presentations on the best and worst sustainable products around. Year 7 are looking at shampoos and conditioners, Year 8 makeup, Year 9 moisturisers, Year 10 palm oil in food products and Year 11 microplastics in products and the problems these cause. They are producing posters, and presentations for their year groups with top tips to send home so we can be more aware of our shopping habits.

As always many of the students are already thinking sustainably. Eliana in Year 9 uses the Yuka app and explains it for us below:

'When you get the app, you can choose to either scan a product or search it up. It will then rate it from excellent to bad and it will tell you the reasons for being so. Yuka is a great app for seeing how good the products you are using are for you. This can be a hair care product you use or your favourite food.'



Music News

Music at Lunchtime

This week, for a very special edition of Music at Lunchtime, we had our very own SPRAYTAN. A band consisting of enthusiastic Year 11s, played us a varied setlist consisting of covers and originals; 'Enough is Enough', 'Liar', 'Johnny B Goode', 'So Blue', 'Kill Her' and then their encore, played after massive demand as the crowd was chanting 'SPRAYTAN! SPRAYTAN!', was 'It's All Going Down Tonight'. Since "War On Flora", there's been a vacuum in the all-girl rock band sector for Channing, so to see



another rocking group of like-minded friends coming together to continue the legacy was seriously exciting. Bea MN gave us some incredibly powerful vocals, supported by Allegra L on lead guitar,



Lauren W on rhythm guitar, Darcy G on bass guitar and Lulu C on drums. Aside from totally awesome music, they also had a totally awesome stage presence and looked the part completely! The crowd was buzzing, the energy electric; I think I speak for the entire audience when I say that we can't wait to see them perform again soon! You can hear the first four songs on Channing's Soundcloud account using this link [HERE](#)

Reviewed by Eve C

History of Art News

Last Thursday, our History of Art class had the most spectacular introduction to our new topic, Identities, at the Wallace Collection. We were able to see an extensive range of portraits at the gallery. Our



aim was to build skills in analysing compositions and deciphering the identities of the people portrayed. Firstly, we looked at Louis XIV, King of France, by Antoine



Coysevox. Miss Ward regaled us with the history of the piece and how Louis was a 'fashion icon' shown by his extravagant lace cravat and curly locks. We also found out he made many of his nobility go

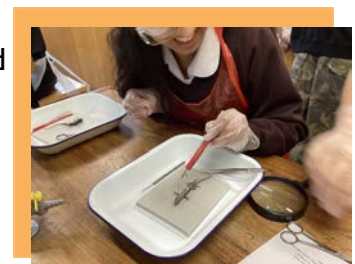
into debt due to his strict and expensive dress code policies. We then went on to explore and analyse portrait pieces ourselves, the most memorable being Rembrandt's 'Self-Portrait in a Black Cap'. We all gathered together to discuss our favourites, mine being 'The Swing' by Fragonard - a Rococo masterpiece. Despite a rainy journey, we had the best time as it was truly enriching to look at pieces enhanced by our new found knowledge we have gained in class over the past term and a half.

Matilda, Year 12

STEM News

Anatomy Club

This week the students had their first whole animal dissection when they dissected a lizard. In the external examination the students looked at the animal using magnifying glasses to see the ridges on the soles of the feet. They also saw the many small teeth lining the mouth. Then they made a single large incision down the torso to open up the lizard. Inside, the skin was black to assist with temperature regulation as lizards are cold blooded. The students were also able to examine the lizard's heart, lungs, stomach, liver, small and large intestine and bladder. Next week we will dissect a frog. Once again the club was supported by three fantastic sixth formers.



Chemistry Race at Cambridge University



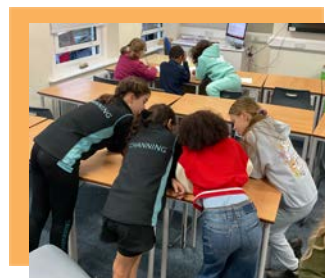
On Saturday we travelled to Cambridge University to take part in the annual Chemistry Race, where we attempted numerous tricky chemistry problems over a 2 hour period. The questions required us to think scientifically and apply our knowledge to unfamiliar concepts, from and beyond our A Level studies. It was a great learning experience, and the competitive, fast-paced atmosphere during the competition excited and motivated us, and looking back it was good fun!

Catherine S, Phoenix M and Yining Z in Year 12

Problem Solving Club

In this week's problem solving club, teams battled it out to be crowned the maths relay champion. There were 25 questions in increasing difficulty and each team had to answer a question correctly before being given the next one in the relay.

Team B were the winners of the sprint finish!



Channing Archives

A view from a bench - I wonder how many alumnae sat here (at the Senior School) over the years? This is a splendid picture from the School archive taken in 2013.

