



Dear Parents,

This week has seen the most extraordinary range of activities taking place in school. Let's start with our inaugural Arts Week, which ingeniously combined activities for World Book Day and International Women's Day with a wider celebration of the arts. As you will see in the section below, there has been a school-wide debate over who should be crowned the Queen of Crime, Agatha Christie or Holly Jackson. We discovered in assembly this morning that it's Agatha Christie, by the slimmest of margins: I'm sure she would be relieved! This featured alongside lunchtime talks from Channing alumna Lucy Steeds, whose debut novel, *The Artist*, is the [hottest literary property of the year](#), and acclaimed theatre director Carrie Cracknell in conversation with Channing alumna Hannah Schlenker about their careers in the theatre.

This morning's International Women's Day assembly, led by the Sixth Form Literary Society, provided an inspiring selection of women who have used creativity in the arts to make their voices heard and disrupt the status quo. From authors Sappho, Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley to singer Poly Styrene and photographers Haley Morris-Cafiero and Zanele Muholiwe, we were treated to pictures and video clips illustrating the power of the arts to change women's lives. We have also seen an extraordinary array of World Book Day costumes from the Sixth Form and staff - do take a look on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#) feeds for some photos of today, and indeed all the activities which have been taking place throughout the week. My thanks to Ms Donington and her team of staff and students for all their hard work organising the events.

This week is also National Careers Week and Ms Wilberforce, Head of Careers and Higher Education, used Tuesday morning's assembly to explain that a career is a person's journey through life, learning and work - in other words, that every student at Channing already has a career, probably without even realising it! She reminded us that change happens and things don't always go according to plan, using the example of the transformation from the ubiquitous horse-drawn cabs in the streets of New York City in 1900 to one dominated by cars in 1913. She made the point that the hansom cab drivers were for the most part also the drivers of the new taxi cabs: they had to think creatively and develop new skills rather than be left behind as the world moved on. Luckily, she emphasised, Channing students already have all the attributes they need to be successful. Ms Wilberforce highlighted some of the Channing characteristics such as perseverance, resilience and curiosity, alongside the attributes of Fearless Learners, which are so valuable in the world of work.

On that note, may I make a plea for volunteers and contacts in the areas of Retail, Professional Services, Computing, Tech, Performance and the Creative industries to talk to Channing and St Aloysius students at the Springboard Fair later this month? Please let us know if you, or someone you know, would be willing to represent your employer and field of work from 3.15pm until 6.30pm in the Sports Hall at Channing on Thursday 27 March. (Don't worry, you won't be on your feet all that time - there is a long break with substantial refreshments provided!). Please email the Careers team at careers@channing.co.uk to let us know how you can support us - we greatly appreciate your input.

The third major event of the week was, of course, the fabulous Key Stage 3 production of *Daisy Pulls It Off!*. It was hard to believe that the cast were all only in Years 7-9 as the quality of their performances was remarkable, with some splendid comic timing and not a little pluck. Huge congratulations to Mrs Maliphan-Gray, who created an fantastically accurate version of life in a 1920s girls' boarding school (I'm considering a radical rethink of our school uniform as a result!), and to Ms Vince who directed the topping tale of Daisy Meredith, alternately viewed as the ornament of the Upper Fourth and beastly sneak scholarship girl. Of course Daisy's wit, intelligence and integrity won the day in the end, with some super Conabor spirit and 100% Braver behaviour. Well done and congratulations to the capital cast and to all the crew, ably led by Mr Maliphan-Gray, as well as Miss Lindsay for her choreography and Miss Bacon for the singing. The show played to packed houses for three nights and the audience loved it - what a brilliant achievement!

Finally this week I wanted to let you know that Miss Weston, Director of Sport, has made the decision not to return to Channing from her maternity leave. We wish her every success in the future. As a result I am delighted to announce that Ms Nelson, who has been Acting Director of Sport in Miss Weston's absence, is taking on the permanent role effective immediately. I know you will join me in congratulating her.

And so to the weekend, which will undoubtedly include a well-deserved rest for everyone involved in *Daisy Pulls It Off!* - but whatever you are doing, I hope you will be able to enjoy the lovely Spring sunshine.

With warmest wishes,

Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Uniforms - House Tops

A reminder that House tops are available to purchase on the Uniform for Kids website and in-store. These are perfect for house events and will be great for showing team spirit - especially with Sports Day coming up in the summer term!

Don't forget to get yours in time for upcoming events!



Ally Wylie Tower Foundation - Book Donations Needed

Do you have pre-loved books at home that you could donate to the Ally Wylie Tower Foundation? We are looking for donations of books for children and teenagers (fiction or nonfiction) that can be donated at food banks in the local area. You can bring your donations to the Library until **Friday 28 March**. Books need to be in good condition and for children and teenagers - we can't take adult books for the moment. Thank you very much!

Forthcoming Events

Violin concert - International Women's Day

Saturday 8 March, 1pm, St Andrews Church, Alexandra Park Rd, London, N10 2DD

The Muswell Hill Violin Studio will be hosting a concert tomorrow to celebrate International Women's Day. The advanced students will be performing at St Andrews Lunchtime Concerts and you will get to know the beautiful music of Amy Beach, Rebecca Clarke, Florence Price, Josephine Trott and others, in their original works or arrangements for Two Violins.



It is a free and child-friendly concert, there will be a special corner for little ones to paint, read and play with toys and puzzles. Guests will be welcomed with cake and prosecco at 12.45pm. Performance starts at 1pm, finishing 1.45pm - no interval.

Parent Webinar: Tina Lond-Caulk, The Nutrition Guru

A Webinar with Tina Lond-Caulk, 'Eat Well & Feel Great: The science of nutrition for improved academic and physical performance', Monday 17 March 2025 from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

Further details and joining details featured on [PDF Parents Webinar for Wellbeing Week 2025.pdf](#)

Channing at St Joseph's, Thursday 20 March 2025

7.30pm St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill

Everyone is invited to the Senior School's *Channing at St Joseph's* event, which will be held in the splendid setting of St Joseph's Church on Thursday 20 March at 7.30pm. This year's programme of choral and orchestral music includes the sublime 'Requiem' by Gabriel Fauré, whose centenary we celebrated at the end of 2024. We will also be singing a selection of songs from Les Misérables. We

also hear from our wonderful brass musicians in an exciting fanfare by Malcolm Arnold and our Senior Strings will also be performing. It is a delight to have the Channing Community Choir singing which includes parents, friends, staff and the students from the *Conabor Choir* and the *Cantemus Chorus* all accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra who will also play the 1st movement from Brahms' 4th Symphony.

Would you please note that if your child is a member of any of the ensembles mentioned above they will be required for the FINAL REHEARSALS and the concert.

FINAL REHEARSALS

Wednesday 15 March - 6.00pm-7.30pm Founders' Hall

Thursday 16 March 2.25pm-4.45pm St Joseph's Church

Following the rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert students will not be able to return to school.

All performers will be required to return to St Joseph's Church by **7.10pm** on the evening of the concert, which should finish by 9pm. Students will be expected to wear Concert Dress unless they are in Year 7, who should wear smart school uniform.

Tickets are priced at **£10 for adults** (children under the age of 18 are FREE) and are available now by clicking on the link below (or pasting the link into your browser). [Ticket booking](#)

Channing Chamber Music Evening, Thursday 13 March 2025

Parents are warmly invited to the Channing Chamber Music Evening on **13 March at 6.30pm in the Arundel Centre**. The programme includes music for Brass Ensemble, String Quartet, Voices, Flute Ensemble, Clarinet Trio and String Octet. With composers ranging from Purcell and Vivaldi to Joplin and Mancini, our talented musicians will take you on a musical journey with this diverse programme encompassing many styles and genres. Students that are in any of these ensembles will be expected to rehearse in the Arundel Centre from 4pm – 5.30pm on the day of the concert.

This promises to be a delightful evening showcasing the music from many of our smaller ensembles. I do hope you will be able to join us for this event. There is no charge for this event and there is no need to reserve tickets.



Girls Enjoying Success

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Arts Week

This week Channing has been hooked on the murder mystery genre. Lit Soc and Y8 Literary Officers launched the week with a whole-school assembly in which they debated who is the Queen of Crime - the legendary crime writer Agatha Christie or the rising star of young-adult fiction, Holly Jackson. Team Agatha Christie argued that Christie pioneered the success of the genre, developed

interesting female characters and used her knowledge of poisons from her time as a nurse to bring authenticity to her fiction. Team Holly Jackson emphasised the greater connection that modern readers might feel with teenager Pip, who solves crimes whilst doing her A-Levels and uses everything from podcasts to fitbits in her detective work. Who was crowned the Queen of Crime?



That was left to the audience to decide. In form time on Monday all pupils read an extract from Agatha Christie and an extract from Holly Jackson and then voted on their favourite. The winner was... Agatha Christie!

8AK commented that, 'Jackson is more modern and relatable' and that Christie would benefit from 'a romance subplot to engage the reader.' While 12/13RD preferred Christie's 'interwar-period style of writing' and 'the lack of modern technology in [her] books as the solving of the mystery truly relies on the detective's skills and wit'.

And in the library on Thursday, the plot thickened as pupils took on the role of a detective to solve a murder mystery. They had to use clues left at the crime scene to solve the murder of a fictional library assistant, choosing between three suspects and explaining who, why

and how the murder was committed.

Thanks to Molly S, Yasmin O, Eve C and Opal H from Y12 Lit Soc and Rafaella C and Hettie F from the Y8 Literacy Officers for developing and delivering such an engaging assembly for World Book Day.

History of Art News

On Tuesday 4 March, History of Art and English A level students were invited to hear Lucy Steeds, a Channing alumna, talk about her new book 'The Artist'. The book is a historical fiction novel set in the 1920s in the South of France. We were told about how much research and preparation went into the writing of this novel; from reading Art History books, to immersing herself in French culture. Lucy told us that she would go to galleries and look at certain paintings for an hour, letting herself write freely while looking at one work. This allowed her to produce more interesting insights into the work of art than simply trying to describe its appearance. She told us about the process of publishing after writing, whereby she sent her manuscript to agents and collaborated with them to edit and refine her work. It was so interesting to hear about the process behind novel-writing and her journey into becoming an author, starting at Channing school.



Lana, Year 13

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

The inaugural lunchtime concert of this half of term began with a serene flute duet of 'Sicilienne' by Fauré, performed by Catrin C in 13PS and Elene K in 9GHa. Setting the tone for a Fauré-centered rest of term (if you know, you know), it was certainly beautiful, and both the dialogue between the flutes and the unspoken conversation between the flautists was evident. After that, Yasmin L in 9JB

performed 'Czardas' by Monti, which began in the dramatic lower register of the violin and climbed as the piece did. At one point, the dramatic pause employed by Yasmin and Mr Kokkinos tricked the audience, and some members began clapping! Nevertheless, Yasmin ploughed on into the fast section of the piece, dazzling us all with both the speed and dexterity of the runs. The challenging ending, which involves some extremely high harmonics and demanding double stopping was played masterfully and with great ease. Well done Yasmin!

Next, Evie D in 7JG sang 'Drivers' Licence' by Olivia Rodrigo. The last time we heard Evie, she sang 'Maybe' from Annie, so to hear her sing such a contrasting song that demanded such a different tone was amazing! Especially impressive from a Year 7- she has got many fabulous lunchtime concerts ahead of her! Following Evie was Ramun N in 8VS playing 'Indigo Moon' by Elissa Milne on the piano. A truly gorgeous piece of music, which Ramun

certainly did justice. The emotion was perfectly captured by her delicate use of pedal and rubato. Beautiful, Ramun! Up next was Susie D in 10MG, who sang us 'Cry me a river', the drama and feeling of which was performed expertly. The piece requires a wide range and clean passages; a challenging sing, deftly performed by Susie! Finally, Madison Y in 7CWi played 'A Deep Song' by Walton on the Double Bass. What a performance! She showed amazing musical maturity and precision in both her technique and tonality. I'm really looking forward to seeing all of these performers again soon! Do listen [HERE](#).



Reviewed by Eve C

STEM News

Planet Parade

Students, parents & staff spent some of last Friday evening looking skywards for the [Planet Parade 2025](#). This was a rare event where the planets lined up in such a way that many of them were visible in the same area of the night sky.



Using a phone app and a telescope made it easier to spot them but they could be seen with the naked eye. The light pollution of London made things a bit harder but nevertheless students and staff reported seeing Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn.

Ellery Programme: Alien Invasion

Last week, we listened to some clues about where 4 alien spacecrafts had landed in Manford. We had to find the scale of the map to help us figure out where the 4 ships had landed so we could use the information to know where to avoid this week. This week, we found the average of our own walking paces calculating the mean, median and mode. We then watched a news show with information about the aliens that have come to the city. We found the areas that they were in and found roughly how to get from some places and back to the car park without going into the alien infested zones. We also calculated how long it would take using our average walking pace. It was very fun and interesting and we also learned new ways to calculate averages.



By Eliza J and Madison Y

Robotics and Coding Club

Gouled is the first of the boys from St Aloysius' College to have built his robot. He has enjoyed testing the general movement of his robot and using the robot claw to grip and move bricks from one place to another using the remote control. Gouled will now move on to programming and downloading code to the robot brain so that it moves around an obstacle course independently. All students will ultimately compete to see which robot completes the obstacle course in shortest time.



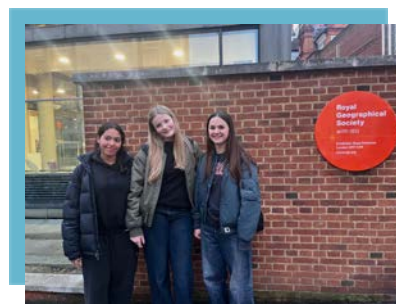
Anatomy Club



This was the final meeting this term for the anatomy club, and the students dissected a sheep's brain. They began, as usual, with an external review of the brain, examining the spinal cord, cerebellum and the cortex. Then they carefully removed the meninges membranes which cover and protect the brain. These are extremely strong and difficult to cut. Finally they dissected the brain into 3 pieces: the cerebellum and the two frontal cortices. The Anatomy club will begin again next term for year 7 and 8 students who are interested in seeing how organisms work.

Geography News

Last week, Senior Geog Soc went to The Royal Geographical Society to hear Professor James Cheshire from UCL speak about 'The Power of Maps'. He presented some fascinating maps to help make sense of our increasingly complex and challenging world. We will be following up exploring his maps at Senior Geog Soc.



Channing Archives



Spring has sprung, it would seem, and with that in mind we would like to share this picture entitled, 1982 Nostalgia Lunch Party, from the Archive. Here's to penalty more luncheons on the lawn and lots of sunshine to accompany them!



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