



Dear Parents,

What a difference a day makes! I had a plan for this week's Word from the Head which went out of the window at about 5.10pm on Wednesday with Rishi Sunak's decision to call a general election for 4 July. Cue lots of excitement for our Politics A level students, seeing their syllabus in action in real life, and of course many of the Year 13 girls will be able to vote for the first time. Only a few weeks ago in the Junior School I gave an assembly on the right to vote, talking about the privilege and responsibility that this is, and I know that our Year 13s will take it very seriously. I am also delighted to say that Ms Devine, Head of Politics, and her team will be swinging into action once the internal exams are over to run our very own mock general election here in school, so everyone will have the opportunity to exercise their democratic muscles at Channing! More on this in due course.

However for me as an independent school leader, and for our sector as a whole, it brings into clearer focus the prospect of a Labour government which proposes ending business rate relief for schools run as charities, like Channing, and imposing 20% VAT on all independent school fees. I wrote a Word from the Head back in December in which I mentioned the talk I had heard from Jonathan Simons, Head of the Education Department at the think tank Public First, whose view was not so much whether there would be a Labour government - he was predicting a 95% chance of a Labour victory back then - but rather how large its majority will be, and therefore how fast and how confidently they might be able to make these radical policy changes.

As you know, at Channing we are members of a number of professional associations which represent independent schools and the Independent Schools Council (ISC) is making a positive case for independent schools with politicians to highlight the potentially negative consequences of the proposed VAT policy. They are talking to a wide range of people including Ministers, civil servants, opposition spokespeople and MPs, schools groups and bodies across education more widely. In their messaging they are highlighting the diversity of independent schools and the potential effects of the proposed policy on them, including smaller schools, SEND, faith provision and those offering a different educational ethos. Their key message is that Labour should not assume that schools and parents could simply absorb VAT increases, or that imposing VAT on fees would have no other consequences.

There is a lot of speculation about what exactly this might mean for individual schools and the sector as a whole - and I know you are as concerned as I am to find out more. Unfortunately until the next Government is in place we will not know for certain the details of any legislation. The sad fact is that VAT is a consumer tax and will be added to fees to be paid directly to the Treasury, rather than a business tax, such as corporation tax, which would be levied on the school. We will of course seek to mitigate some of this impact if and where possible, and the Governors and Senior Leadership Team are already considering some difficult choices. As a charity we are a not-for-profit organisation: we are also a well-managed school with tight control of our finances. We recognise that there is a fine balance between the priorities of providing a broad high quality education and providing value for money. Most importantly, ensuring that we continue to offer a

first-rate education and enable girls to enjoy success at Channing is our top priority. Please rest assured that I will keep you informed of developments as soon as we know more.

In the meantime, I would like to end this half term with a tribute to the staff here at Channing. This has been a very busy half term - not just for Year 11 and Year 13 with their public exams, but with a myriad of other activities too. There have been a variety of day and residential trips: among them Year 9 went to the WWI Battlefields while the Junior School girls have enjoyed residential in Years 4, 5 and 6, and there have been dozens of fixtures across several sports. Year 7 & 8 took part in the stunning production of *Alice in Wonderland* and girls in all years have done ABRSM exams and LAMDA exams. They've attended hundreds of sessions of their extracurricular clubs and societies, and in between all of this they've been working hard in lessons too. None of this happens without the time, effort and thoughtful attention of all our staff, both the teachers and support team. I am beyond grateful for all that they do and wish them a well-deserved and enjoyable break over half term.

As we break up today we are sorry to be saying goodbye to a small group of staff who are leaving at this point in the year. Our three Modern Languages assistants, Celia, Anais and Syster, leave us at the end of their contract. Each of them has made such a fantastic contribution to the department, giving our students the chance to practice their language skills with native speakers and enthusing them about the language and culture of their countries. They have organised all sorts of competitions, events and activities and we wish them well for whatever comes next (including, in at least one case, teacher training!). We also say goodbye to Mr Dombele, our PE Graduate Assistant who has been with us for the last term and a half, and a huge thank you for his efforts.

Finally, and invisible to the vast majority of pupils and parents, we are very sad to be bidding farewell to Rebecca White, our HR Manager, after eight years at Channing. Having originally joined as Assistant Clerk to the Bursar she has undertaken a number of professional HR qualifications as the school has grown and the role has developed. Rebecca has been invaluable to me and to Mr Hill, the Bursar, with her unfailingly positive and unflappable attitude and her sage advice. She leaves to take up a post looking after HR compliance for the 39 schools in the Ark Academies group: an exciting challenge for her, and she goes with our very best wishes.

I hope that all of you will have a good break this half term, although I know that for Years 10 and 12 particularly the rest will be balanced with revision for their internal exams which start immediately after the holiday. Years 7-9 have a few more days of focused lesson time before theirs begin, and then there is the excitement of Enrichment Week and Founders' Day to come. So much to look forward to in the second half of term!

For now, warmest wishes for the week ahead.

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Requests for help from the Careers Department:

Work Insight Volunteers - Friday 21 June

Could your organisation offer a **Work Insight visit** for some **Year 10 students** on the **morning of Friday 21 June 2024**? We've only received half the number of visit spaces we need to accommodate all Year 10 students. Small groups of students, accompanied by a member of staff, spend some time in a workplace, finding out about the world of work. Sometimes organisations ask pupils to complete a pre-visit task, and the visit itself might include a site or office tour, discussions with employees and a work-based simulated group activity. We are particularly looking for visits to organisations involved in **law; business services; the creative sector; retail** and those where **foreign languages** are critical. Please get in touch by completing this [form](#).

Careers Convention - Thursday 20 June

Offers of help are also still needed for the afternoon careers fair and networking session on Thursday 20 June. If you, or someone from your organisation, could spend a couple of hours talking with students in an informal way about your career and ways to get into your sector, we would love to still hear from you. If you are a parent new to Channing, or have not volunteered before, please do so [here](#).

Year 13 Leavers' Ball - Saturday 22 June

A reminder to Year 13 parents: please don't forget to buy your leavers' ball tickets!
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1164897>

LAMDA Enrollment for 2024-25

We had 2 wonderful LAMDA Showcase evenings this week followed by 2 days of Examinations with 4 visiting LAMDA Examiners - more on this in the next edition.

Meanwhile, the end of the course for this year means enrollment for next year begins. If your child will be in Year 8 or 9 next year and you would like them to take LAMDA lessons please see the [LAMDA Invitation Letter 2024-25](#) and [LAMDA Further Information](#) and fill in the [Enrolment Form](#) before Monday 3rd June.



East London Shakespeare Festival, 7 June - 3 August

East London Shakespeare Festival Presents...

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

A professional production touring London Parks



Book tickets: www.elsf.uk

Shakespeare's sparkling rom-com! Sun-soaked mischief & romance under the Mediterranean stars... Family friendly!

Higham Hill Hub, 7 - 9 June
Leyton Jubilee Park, 15 - 16 June
Hoxton Community Gardens, 20 - 21 June
Applecourt Arts, 22 - 23 June
Fellowship Square, 27 - 30 June
Highams Park, 05 - 07 July
Lauderdale House, 10 - 11 July

Forest Gate Community Gardens, 12 July
Crystal Palace Park, 13 - 14 July
Clissold Park, 18 - 21 July
Valentines Park, 25 - 26 July
Springfield, 27 - 28 July
Langthorne Amphitheatre, 31 July
Wanstead Park, 3 August




East London Shakespeare Festival
In association with London Borough of Waltham Forest, Hackney Council & Newham Council

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Touring London's outdoor parks & spaces.
Shakespeare's sparkling Romcom - sun-soaked mischief & romance under the Mediterranean stars... Set against the luxurious backdrop of a modern-day Messina, this opulent tale is brimming with wit, trickery & mischief with heart coming out on top. With ELSF's trademark contemporary twists and turns, high-energy party numbers & audience participation. Alongside a community engagement programme with lots of opportunities to get involved. Family Friendly!

VENUES / DATES


Higham Hill Hub, 7 - 9 June
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BYO PICNICS & MASK MAKING WORKSHOPS
Gates open 60 mins before the show so bring a picnic, bring a chair and soak up the atmosphere. The actors will be running the mask-making workshops - make your own mask and be part of the masked party!

Join our Community Cast and be part of the show,
For more info visit www.elsf.uk

Directed by Rosie Ward and Produced by ELSF, Ursula Early & Rosie Ward

Special thanks to our Partners




Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

This week at Music at Lunchtime, we had a packed recital showcasing a range of talent! Firstly, we heard from the Clarinet Crew: Georgie M, Claudia D, Nuha I, Flores MP, all in Year 9. They played La Ci Darem La Mano Mozart, and were very together, playing fabulously. Then we listened to Sophie C 7KN, who sang Heart of Stone with great emotion. Next, Beth H 7JG sang the classic Somewhere Over The Rainbow. It was expressive and very captivating. Hettie F 7CWI was up next, playing Moon River on the trombone - which was a real pleasure to listen to. Following her, Nuha returned to the stage and played a fantastic solo of Sunny Blue on the clarinet. Following this,



Kira S I0DK took to the piano with her amazing rendition of Rumores de La Caleta Albeniz, without any music! Finally, Scarlett D and Eliza C in Year 12 closed the show with a performance of 'Who will love me as I am?' - this duet was a great way to end the recital - do listen [HERE](#).

Reviewed by Georgie G and Natalia B

Sports News

Middlesex Athletics Qualifier

Eight eager young athletes from Channing competed in the Haringey Borough Athletic Trials on Friday 17 May, hoping to represent the borough in the forthcoming Middlesex Championships. Though there was a lot of competition, Margot VP and Chileshe G deserve special recognition for impressing the selectors and earning spots on the Haringey team. Chileshe will compete in the long jump, while Margot will show off her skills in the 75-metre hurdles. Hopefully, both of them will have success at the Middlesex Championships! Congratulations once again.



Haringey Swimming Gala

On Monday 13 May our Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 & 10 swimmers entered the water for the Haringey Swimming Gala. Each and every athlete gave outstanding performances and exemplary sportsmanship, superbly representing Channing. An enormous congrats to both teams! While the Year 9 & 10 team just lost out on first place, finishing in a well-deserved second, the Year 7 & 8 team achieved an excellent fourth place finish.



Partnership News

Communita

Volunteering for Communita was an opportunity for us to give back to the local residents. Communita is dedicated to supporting the local elderly community. During the hour and a half, all of the students assisted them with technology, listened to their stories and funny jokes, and offered warm hospitality with tea and cake. Our first experience with Communita was unbelievable; equipping us with the skills and compassion needed to volunteer effectively in other projects that will also benefit us and our local neighbourhood. In conversations, we were given great advice for our future, and taught important life lessons. It was fascinating to listen to their compelling stories. Overall, the experience left us feeling warm hearted and made us realise the significance of doing small things to make others feel good. We look forward to the next Communita on Thursday 11 June.

Ella C and Emily S, Year 10

Reading at St. Joseph's

We visit St Joseph's to read on Wednesday mornings and every week we sit down with a new student whilst they read to us. We discuss and ask questions about the book to engage with the students as well as help them with their reading and understanding of tricky words.



This opportunity helps us to connect and support younger children to progress in their reading. Out of the many people who signed up for it we are so grateful to have been chosen for this. Thank you so much to St Joseph's for making this experience possible.

Coco, Isha, Anna and Emily, Year 9

Reading at HSLI

This past half term, we have been assisting as reading mentors, alongside Year 10 St. Aloysius' College students, in a programme involving Year 7&8 students from St. Aloysius and William Ellis at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution. The program seeks to encourage reading among students who are less enthusiastic. During the sessions, we read books from a variety of genres and participate in one-on-one and group discussions about the themes and plot of the book. This process has been very rewarding for us and the students involved, as it has been an opportunity to have interesting conversations about various different types of books, we are able to engage with the wider community and importantly, encourage reading.



Tal, Daisy, Rose, and Amara, Year 10

PSHE News

Speaker: Hephzi Rudolfsky

Last week, Year 9 were fortunate to hear Hephzi Rudolfsky speak about her mother Lady Zahava Kohn's experience surviving the holocaust. Sadly Zahava is no longer with us but her daughter Hephzi continues to share the amazing story and the positive outlook her mum took to life. The inspirational story was received with huge interest by the Year 9s, who asked lots of great questions and some stayed behind at the end to find out more and to share their own feelings.

English News

Congratulations to Amelia Z in Year 7 who has been shortlisted in the GSA's Haiku Writing Challenge. The competition attracted hundreds of entries, and award-winning poet, Karen McCarthy Woolf, was hugely impressed with Amelia's haiku:

Barren trees tremble.
Bluebells bring sudden colour
To the crisp, cool earth.

We await the announcement of the overall winner in June!

In Year 8, we've been delving into the world of non-fiction, writing advice leaflets from the perspective of Napoleon in *Animal Farm*, advising on how to be a great leader. Here is a characterful contribution from Emma L; are you convinced by Napoleon's top tips?



7LR have been getting creative in English this term. As part of their study of Shakespeare's whimsical comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, students performed scenes from the play, focusing on using body language and tone of voice to communicate the



characters' feelings. They've also been working on an extended project which involves stepping into the shoes of a director and devising their own concept for a production of the play. We've had everything from candyland to a Swiftian (Jonathan not Taylor) inspired Lilliputian world.



History News

History Society Debate

On Thursday, in the second instalment of a bi-annual debating competition between History societies, the GCSE History Soc took on the A Level History Soc. The topic for debate was:

'We are living through the greatest era in History.'

The debate was well attended and in the end students saw the A Level students narrowly get the better of the GCSE students on the strength of a strong closing statement by Maya A (Year 12). Individual praise goes to Lulu C (Year 10), Tal M (Year 10) and Nina F (Year 10) for well delivered critiques of the present era and for challenging the basis on which something can be considered great. A Level students Charlotte C (Year 12) and Maisy M (Year 12) offered an excellent defence of the current era.

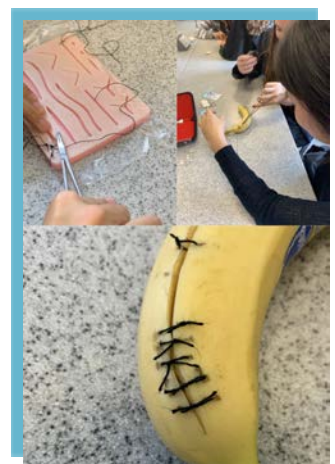


Mr Raine and Mr Martini-Phillips thank all students for their enthusiastic participation and look forward to a rematch in autumn 2025. The series is tied 1-1. Our next debate will focus on causation.

Careers News

Medical Discussion Group

Year 12 potential medical students took a break from discussing medical ethics and turned their hands to tying surgical knots and suturing recently. It proved more difficult than it looks but hopefully one day in the not-too-distant future they will become experts. In the meantime, let's hope no-one at Channing needs to be stitched up!



STEM News

Anatomy Club

This was the final meeting this academic year for the anatomy club. The students dissected a sheep's brain. As usual, this began with an inspection of the external anatomy, seeing the spinal

cord attached in a horizontal plane to the rest of the brain, because sheep walk on four legs. This is different to mammals who walk on two legs, where the spinal cord is attached downwards.



The students carefully removed the dura mater of the meninges membrane covering the brain and were surprised to find it very tough and hard to cut (more like a plastic sheet than tissue). They then made a large incision down the centre of the brain to inspect the cerebellum and cortex. Finally, the students carefully removed slices of tissues to look at under microscopes.

The club will start again in the academic year 2024/25 and is open to Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

It was good to see some of our budding witches back in the lab again this week. Marina, Sofia and Ruchi became A-level Chemists (magic in itself) and completed a practical that is usually studied in Year 12 - using Tollens' reagent to test for aldehydes. Aldehydes are able to reduce the silver ions in the solution to metallic silver, causing a spectacular silver mirror to form on the inside of the test tube.

There will be no more sessions now for this academic year as we move towards the examination period and enrichment week, but look out for more information about this club in September if you are interested!



Channing Archives

Fun and friendships are everywhere to be seen at Channing today, just as it was 100 years ago, as depicted in this lovely photo from the early 1920s!



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