



Dear Parents,

A brief Word from the Head from me today, at the end of the most extraordinary and wonderful Enrichment Week. Full write-ups of everything that has happened in the week will appear in next week's instalment, with some already included in the second section below, so for now I wanted to share a couple of reflections and thoughts in advance of the final two weeks of term.

It was great to see so many of you cheering on your children at Sports Day on Monday afternoon, and fantastic that the unpredictable, chilly weather of the previous weekend had finally disappeared. I was proud to see such a high level of participation across each year: in every group of girls with whom I chatted, each one had run, jumped or thrown something in support of their House. Without exception each of them said that they had done their best and were happy with their efforts, even when that was a third or fourth place. The afternoon underscored for me the value of these communal events which give everyone, from elite athlete to fun runner, the chance to support their House and their year group, and demonstrate the character and ethos of the school.

I saw more of that character-building out with Year 9 on their practice Duke of Edinburgh's Award walk on Tuesday morning. A big shout out to Team Already Lost, who lived up to their name beautifully in the first hour or so but by the end of the walk had become increasingly confident navigators. At the end of the walk and on the coach home it was great to hear the groups reflecting on their performance on the day and what they would need to do differently over the next two days to complete their assessed expeditions. This is just part of what makes DofE so valuable and I am extremely proud of the high levels of participation at Channing: it's really special.

Also this week Year 7 have been doing all sorts of interesting activities, including making films today, Year 8 have enjoyed their language trips, Year 10 have been immersed in oracy, careers and rollercoasters, Year 12 have made a start on higher education plans. I cannot list everything here as I will undoubtedly miss something out but I would like to record my enormous thanks to all the staff for everything they have done this week. An enormous amount of time and energy has gone into the planning and organisation of this incredible selection of activities and my special thanks to Mrs Bhamra-Burgess for her oversight and masterminding of the whole week. A massive thank you to the colleagues who organised residential trips and those who gave up their time to accompany them; to everyone who led and organised day trips and activities; and to everyone staffing the activities put on. I know your children will have benefited immensely from their efforts.

Now we are back to work for the last two weeks of term, and Monday will bring a return to the classroom and also the last of the exam results. With that in mind, I wanted to share a reminder of how we ask our Channing students to think about these. While we can repeatedly encourage them to care about their performance only in relation to themselves, it is human nature to compare oneself with others - but we all know that's not helpful. If you got 74% and your neighbour got 75%, does that prove anything in the longer term about your relative value as people? Of course it doesn't.

Over the last few years we have been working hard to move away from that view of results and think about them differently, and as parents you have a huge role to play in ensuring that your child has a positive and healthy attitude to what these exams have told them. Because we approach exams, and indeed any kind of assessment, in learning mode rather than performance mode (the latter, of course, being retained solely for the ones that *really* matter in Year 11 and Year 13) it is effort, rather than outcome, which deserves the most praise. Therefore the best questions you could ask about results in the coming week might be: 'What did you discover you know well?' 'Which skills were your strongest?' 'What areas are you going to need to work on next year?' and not (please!) 'What did you get?' and 'What was the highest mark in the class?'. Thank you in advance for your support.

Finally this week, we are thrilled to have received news from Haringey Council that the final planning consent for the redevelopment of Brunner House into our new science and DT building will be granted before the end of term. We have been anticipating this for months and are already prepared to start the first enabling works in the summer holiday. Likewise we have made plans for the coming year and the loss of classrooms that will come along with the first phase of the works. I am pleased to report that, rather than lose our facilities at Stanhope Road or on the Junior School courts to temporary buildings, we have signed a lease for a self-contained block of 6 classrooms at St Aloysius' College on Hornsey Lane. A short walk from school, with its own separate entrance, connected to the Channing WiFi network and brought up to standard by our fabulous estates team over the last couple of months, these classrooms mean that teaching can continue uninterrupted for the duration of the building works. My thanks to timetablers Mrs Williams and Ms Newman for enabling a small number of lessons for every year group to take place on the St Aloysius' site. The move to a new structure of the school day in September, with standard 45 minute periods and 5 minutes of walking time between each lesson, means that the walk around the corner for these lessons will incur no loss of teaching time.

If you did not visit school or the Haringey planning portal to see the plans during the consultation in the Autumn term, I am delighted to say that you'll be able to see all the drawings on display at Founders' Day next Saturday. We are looking forward to welcoming you into school from 9.30am. We will also be hosting a stand for our partner charity, Smart Works, and encourage you to bring a donation of pre-loved work clothing suitable for use by the charity's clients as they embark on their search for a job. You can find out more about their mission [here](#) and see the section below for details of exactly what clothing would be most welcome for donation.

Please don't forget that school ends at 12.30pm on Friday 28 June in preparation for Founders' Day the following day, and I look forward to seeing you on Saturday to celebrate the highlights of the school year. For the first time this year's school charity, Smart Works, will be represented and you will be able to speak with our Charity Officers about our fundraising efforts. SmartWorks will accept donations and I would invite you to read on for details below.

For now, let me wish Eid Mubarak to our families who celebrated Eid-UI-Adha earlier in the week and a happy Summer Solstice to those celebrating the festival of Midsummer.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Smart Works Donations - Founders' Day 29 June 2024

Smartworks is this year's school charity. It provides high quality interview clothes, styling advice and interview training to women in need. We will be holding a clothing drive as well as the chance to make financial donations on Saturday 29 June, Founders' Day.

Smart Works want high quality:

- shoes, dresses, skirts, trousers, blazers, outerwear, accessories, scarves, flat shoes, handbags, especially in larger sizes

Smartworks do not want:

- items with holes rips or stains, tired looking items, items with odour, casual clothing, menswear, fast fashion or poor quality clothing

By bringing along your high-quality clothing donations you will be helping Smartworks to change the trajectory of another woman's life. That one special item of clothing is far more empowering than an assortment of poor quality items. Please have a look in your wardrobe and we look forward to collecting your donations on Saturday.

Kind regards,

Ava and Maisy, Charity Officers

GSA 150th Anniversary Survey

We are working with the Girls' Schools Association (GSA) to understand the ways in which attending a same-sex school equips girls for success in both their personal and professional lives beyond their academic years. As part of this, the GSA has asked member schools to invite parents to complete a survey. This survey will take around 10 minutes and will ask you questions about your/your child's experience of same-sex schools and their benefits. There is also an opportunity for you to share your views on how same-sex schools could better support pupils in making better-informed choices about their future. Staff and pupils will also be completing their own questionnaires.

We would really appreciate it if you were able to complete this survey. All responses will remain anonymous and will be used to better understand how to support pupils and families in GSA schools. Please click below to access the survey:

<https://impacted.typeform.com/GSAparents>

The window for this survey is open until the end of July. Thank you.

Channing Association News

Second Hand Uniform sale - Monday 24 June

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale on Monday 24 June 3-4pm in Founders' Hall. Parents/guardians and students are all welcome to attend. We prefer card payments but do accept cash as well.

Donations of clean, gently used uniform can be left with the school office until Monday 24 June. No non uniform items and no shoes/coats please. This is a great opportunity for year 11 families to start clearing out uniform before your girls move to Year 12 in September.

Channing Association Open Positions - Secretary and Co-chairs

Our secretary Caroline Kent will be stepping down at the end of this school year and we would like to thank her for all her help over the last two years. The CA is looking for a new secretary to start in September. The position involves taking minutes at CA meetings (5 meetings a year in total).

Additionally, the CA are looking for a new co-chair to join Ms Menendez and Ms Bennington for the next school year.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the CA and would like to help with either the secretary or co-chair positions please get in touch with Alex Bennington or Lucy Menendez directly on Classlist.

Who Should I Contact?

Please use this document to find contact details for members of school staff:

 [Who should I contact 2024.pdf](#)



Girls Enjoying Success

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Music News

Music at Lunchtime

Today was the final lunchtime concert of the year and what a way to end! We started with Angie R 8LV playing 'Juin Bacarolle' on the piano by Tchaikovsky. She played with impeccable tone and expressed the emotion of this piece very well. Next Alaia P 8MH took to the stage with her rendition of 'Riptide' by Vance Joy, sung and played on the piano simultaneously! She showed evident talent and captured our attention. Then Nancy S 8MH played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata op14 on the piano, which featured a return from Angie to turn the pages of this exciting piece. She played expressively and she was very enjoyable to listen to. Following, Evangelina U 9CS lit up the stage with 'Always Remember Us This Way' by Lady Gaga. She was extremely passionate and strong. Finally, Serrana B sang 'Vampire' by Olivia Rodrigo, with Renata R on the piano. This duo brought the energy to this performance and marked an excellent close to



the end of the year. Thank you all for your performances this year! The Year 12 A level Music class has loved listening and reviewing them each week :) Do listen to Friday's recital [HERE](#).

Reviewed by Hannah D and Natalia B

Sustainability News

On Saturday the Eco Reps ran a joint stall with Highgate School at the Highgate Village Eco Fair. Here we made eco crafts with members of the public (pine cone bees and stick dragonflies), sold sunflowers that the Eco Reps had planted 3 weeks earlier for the charity [Just One Tree](#), and spoke about what Channing was doing to promote sustainability. We also had a representative from [Hedgehog Street](#) on the stall who helped us to survey hedgehog sightings in the area and ask members of the public to sign a pledge to have more hedgehog friendly gardens. Finally as it was also Clean Air Day on Saturday 15 June we asked parents to sign the petition to ask London Transport to run the 603 bus at school times so that pupils could use this to travel between school, Muswell Hill and Swiss Cottage. ([Link to the letter](#) if you would like to sign up as a parent). I would like to thank the Eco Reps that gave up their wet Saturday afternoon to support this event.



Eco reps help local children make pine cone bumble bees and stick dragonflies.



Members of the public discuss local sustainability issues.



Mr Matjilla signs the pledge to have a more hedgehog friendly garden

Enrichment Week News

Talk the Talk

Year 10 pupils attended a talk by the author and activist Laura Bates followed by oracy workshops run by the organisation Talk the Talk at St Aloysius school. Thirty St Aloysius pupils joined them for the day. Laura Bates's talk focused on the power of storytelling to challenge gender stereotypes and her own new young-adult novel *Sisters of Sword and Shadow* (available to buy at the discounted price of £8.00 from the [Children's Bookshop](#) in Muswell Hill - just mention you are from Channing). Also in the workshops, pupils completed the 'Talk About Communication' workshop which was an exciting and engaging master class developing speaking and listening skills. The workshop provided numerous speaking opportunities and students were coached and supported throughout the day to deliver a structured two minute presentation on a topic for which they had a genuine passion, to their peers.



Pupil Testimony:

On Wednesday, Year 10 Channing and St Aloysius students had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities related to careers and oracy. The day began with a talk from the author Laura Bates, the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project (<https://everydaysexism.com/>). She explained the immense impact that the stories that we are subjected to from birth have on our stereotypes, and how discriminative reporting in newspapers and magazines can prevent women from aspiring to be in positions of political power, furthering the problem. This is what led Bates to creating her website: a platform for people all over the world to share their experiences with sexism. With her project having grown into a global movement, she has been able to use the stories shared by individuals in parliament, schools, and the White House, amongst many other places, to change school curriculums and to tackle the way in which we respond to discrimination internationally.

*After reflecting upon the books that shaped her childhood, Laura was inspired to write her debut fantasy novel, *Sisters of Sword and Shadow*, to change the mindsets of young people around the world. Her book tells the story of Cass, a seventeen-year-old girl living in Arthurian England rebelling against a society where gender roles are rigidly enforced.*

In the afternoon, students took part in a workshop run by 'Talk the Talk', an organisation specialised in teaching effective communication skills for success in both personal and professional spheres. We learnt a variety of vocal, visual and verbal techniques for clear and compelling public speaking: for example, we were shown the importance of eye contact and hand gestures, as well as using both anecdotes and facts to engage listeners. Another main focus of the workshop was on actively listening and providing and receiving supportive feedback to improve our skills. Working in groups, we met new people and worked together to give constructive feedback to our peers.

A huge thank you to all the teachers and staff involved in organising these events; we thoroughly enjoyed the day and we learnt many invaluable skills that will undoubtedly benefit us in the future!

Siana C IORMn

Year 8 and Year 9 Enrichment Activities

Ms Lindsay organised a fun packed activity week for those Year 8 & 9 students who remained in school in school, from cookery classes, theatrical costume design, some whizz bang Science practical fun and much more!



They practised their culinary skills to create the perfect Mornay sauce at St Aloysius school as part of a partnership event.

Thank you to Mrs Maliphant - Gray for running, and the Art department for resourcing, brilliant theatrical special effects and costume design workshops. Everyone got to experiment with theatrical make up and create mythological creature-inspired costumes out of paper. A lot of thought went into the planning and design stages which led to some fantastic outcomes! Can you guess the mythological creatures that inspired the designs here?



Sports Day

The sun came out for this year's Sports Day, and everyone in the school brought their House spirit and best running shoes for this great event. The day was jam packed with field and track events, with everyone supporting each other and taking part - even the teachers in the relay! It was a day that both celebrated the capabilities and talents of the students and allowed everyone to have fun no matter what. We wanted to say a massive thank you to Ms Nelson and the PE department for the best Sports Day yet!



By the Sixth Form House Officers

Careers Convention

The day began with all the students in Year 10 and Year 12 attending four specific career talks that interested them. There was a wide variety to choose from including ones given by doctors, entrepreneurs, civil servants, journalists, broadcasters and lawyers. These talks provided a valuable insight into the career paths into these professions as well as what was involved in the day-to-day-lives of the speakers.

The talks inspired students to consider a wide array of pathways into different careers and gain a better understanding of what different jobs involved.

After lunch, an ex Channing student gave a talk to the entire two year groups detailing her unique career pathway. This provided students with an insight into the wide range of choices that are available when leaving school. The speaker provided comfort that although things will not necessarily always go to plan, there will always be another option or alternative pathways to consider. This seemed to provide a sense of reassurance to the audience.

Finally, we had the chance to network with some of the speakers as well as others who came in especially for the networking event. We were able to have personal one-on-one conversations with professionals and build new connections.

The whole day was a wonderful experience for both year groups to help us to reflect on the range of options that the future could hold.

We would like to thank all the guest speakers for giving up their valuable time to come to Channing. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Ms Wilberforce for organising such a successful event!

by Charlotte S & Tara M, Year 12

Sixth Form Enrichment trips

On Tuesday, the English and Art History departments joined forces to take a group of Year 12 pupils to the National Portrait Gallery. The pupils were treated to a talk from Ms Ward on six remarkable Regency women ranging from the infamous actress, Nell Gwyn, to Queen Charlotte herself. The pupils chose the portrait that they were inspired by to do some creative writing. Here are some examples of their work:

You and I are the same, your art is the brush and mine is the stage, but we both create characters. You paint her in blue, let her be remembered as a Madonna when we both know that's not true. And now we're coming together, your portrait will remember my character.

I'll be covered in pearls, maybe you'll give me a rose to hold or a crown to wear, but we both know that's all part of the character, another line in the script. Of course it's my beauty that will live on, I'll be put next to queens and duchesses for people to look at. I want them to look closer, know there's skin beneath the peel. People like me don't have to play by the same rules as people like them. So make them look at me.



by Maddie B and Maya G, Year 12



While I sit here in the king's garden with his gifts of pearls and clothes and his favourite dog, I cannot help but feel remorse. I was taken to his palace at 15, not knowing the man I had married. In childhood I wanted to join a convent, and devote myself to my Catholic faith. However I've found myself tied to a country that is unfamiliar with different beliefs, married to a man when I'd been dreaming of being a nun. The only hope I give myself is that I might change this country's religion and make it my own. My gaze meets the artist, but the queen he paints is not me.

by Farah H and Annabel B, Year 12

Channing Archive

We will be welcoming our new Year 7 parents to the Senior School on Monday next week so we thought it would be nice to share this photo of Year 3 in 2003 from the Archive - can you remember what you and/or your child was doing at school in 2003?



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