



Dear Parents,

And so to the end of a busy and exciting Autumn term and the last Word from the Head of 2024. As always this week has been a whirl of Christmas-related excitement, from our beautiful Carol Concert at St Michael's on Monday afternoon to yesterday's Christmas Classroom extravaganza, via not one but two Christmas lunches, Brass Ensemble carols, Jazz Christmas songs, the Christmas Debate and the not-so-secret staff pantomime this morning!

These traditions are part of what makes our school community so special, and it is always a joy to see the staff and pupils who are experiencing Channing Christmas for the first time finally understand what all the fuss is about. They show off our students' creativity, teamwork and talents to the full, and I am lucky enough to get a front row seat for all of it.

I'd like to give particular credit to Ms Wilkinson for a stunning selection of readings on the theme of A Celebration of the Word for the Carol Concert on Monday. I used the opportunity of assembly on Tuesday morning to highlight two of the choices which I found particularly moving. The first is an anonymous piece of writing created in a women's poetry group in Afghanistan:

where I come from,
men learn to speak to women
using everything but their tongues

where I come from,
women learn how to whisper

I will give birth to sons
and teach them to speak
in flowers instead of fireworks

I will give birth to daughters
with blades where their tongues should be

where I come from
is not what comes from me

Coming hot on the heels of the GSA Conference and the 150th anniversary film I shared last week, this resonated very strongly with me. I reminded the girls of their privilege in being able to attend school, to know that they have a future in which they will gain qualifications, a job, and be able to make their own choices about their lives. The world they are entering may not be fully equal but they have every reason to be confident that their voice will be heard and that they have the power to effect change. This is not a given for millions of girls and women around the globe.

My second choice is a complete contrast, and one that I hope many of you will also recognise (dog owners or not) for the power of unconditional love that it describes:

A Lesson On Love

My dog and I do not speak the same language.
Yet every day, she tells me:
*I trust you to know when I need to go for a walk.
I will let you hold me when you need to
and I will ask you for love when I need it.
On the days you are sick, I will lie beside you.
I will look for you in rooms when you are not here,
and I will greet you with so much joy
when you come home.
I will guard you when you sleep.
I will wag my tail and let you know
that everything will be okay
on your bad days,
and I know that you will do
the same on mine.*

And from this I learn that my dog
and I actually do speak the same language.

After all, the universe is a kindly ancient thing.
It gave love as a mother tongue to every living being.

- Nikita Gill

I picked up on the final stanza to remind the girls of the Quaker rules of speech, which I have shared with them in assembly before. Quakers believe that there are three questions we must ask ourselves before we speak any words to other people:

- Are they necessary?
- Are they helpful?
- Are they kind?

They apply to online interactions as much as in-person conversations, and I asked everyone to remember these as the last few days of term ramp up and we become more tired and frayed around the edges. For the most part it seems they have been successful in doing so, and this morning I encouraged them to remember them over the holiday too. I also suggested to them that they might try putting their phones away for chunks of time during the holidays in order to be fully present when they are with family and friends. I'm beginning to think that Dr Kathy Weston of Tooled Up Education can read my mind: do read this week's [Wednesday Wisdom](#) to see why!

As always the last act of term is to say goodbye to those members of staff who are leaving us at this time. We bid a temporary farewell to Mrs Hernandez-Campillo, who is taking a two-term sabbatical from January, and Miss Allen, the PE Administrator, who is going on maternity leave. Two departing members of staff have been with us only briefly: Ms Hawker, who has been in the Senior School SEND department for two terms, and Grace Devaney, who has been with us at the St Aloysius classrooms and in the Library for just this term. She has found a permanent role at a local prep school and we wish her every success with her teaching career.

Two of our leavers have been with us for just over two years. Ms Kiff, teacher of RE and Philosophy, is leaving us to travel the world, starting in India in January; Mrs Ryan, the Junior School Welfare Assistant, is also on the move, to Spain. We thank them for all they have contributed to life at Channing and wish them every happiness as they explore pastures new.

An extraordinary confluence of events means that it is all change in the Music department. Two of our visiting music teachers, Miss Trigg (bassoon) and Miss Herbert (cello) leave us after 6 and 17 years respectively. We thank them for inspiring countless musicians on their instruments and wish them well with their next chapters. Mr Fallon has been with us for only four terms but has had a huge impact in a short space of time: the Live Lounge has provided the students involved with a great opportunity for performance, and treated us to some wonderful entertainment. He will be missed as he returns to his home town of Dublin.

Our Assistant Director of Music and Head of Year 11, Ms Zanardo, has been at Channing for 14 years. It is hard to overstate the enormous contribution she has made to the life of the school in that time, as a consummate musician and teacher and leader of numerous choirs, orchestras and ensembles. You may not know that she also arranges and composes many of the pieces performed at concerts. She has also supported countless girls through her pastoral roles and led Waterlow to many House victories. As she leaves us to return to her first love, music, she goes with our love and very best wishes.

Finally we say goodbye to Miss McGinnety, Deputy Head (Academic) in the Junior School. Remarkably, Miss McGinnety has been at Channing for the whole of her 11 year teaching career, joining as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) and working her way up to her current role on the Junior School Senior Team. The outpouring of affection at Mark Reading this morning, from girls in every year group from Reception to Year 13, is testament to her impact at Channing. She is returning to her roots in Manchester and we wish her every success and happiness as she continues her career there.

I look forward to introducing all of our new colleagues in the first Word from the Head in January.

Together we have achieved so much this term, both in and out of the classroom, and as I said in Mark Reading earlier today, I am enormously proud to be the Headmistress of such a remarkable school. I look forward to seeing many of you at the launch of our vision for Channing 2035 on the evening of Tuesday 14 January, where I will be outlining our thinking about the future direction of a Channing education and our new strategic objectives. I hope you will find it thought-provoking and interesting, not least in the ways it will affect your child's experience of Channing, and there will be opportunities next term to engage in further discussion of the ways in which our new objectives might be brought to fruition. If you have not yet reserved a seat, please click [here](#).

It remains only for me to wish you merry Christmas and happy Hannukkah to those of you celebrating these holidays, and to all of you a joyful (and hopefully restful) break.

With warmest wishes for a happy New Year and all good things in 2025,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Extra & Co-curricular Timetable

☰ Spring Term Extra & Co-curricular Activities - Timetable 2024 - 25

Chatting with Channing – From Theorems to Serums: Simon Singh on Maths, Physics, and Inspiring Curiosity



In our latest episode of Chatting with Channing, we are delighted to feature Simon Singh, the celebrated author and TV producer behind bestsellers such as *Fermat's Last Theorem*, *The Code Book*, and *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets*. Simon was this year's speaker at the sold-out annual Christmas STEM lecture, *From Theorems to Serums, From Cryptography to Cosmology ... and The Simpsons*.

Interviewing Simon in this episode are two of Channing's keen mathematician sixth-formers, Alisa and Natalia. Simon takes us on a whirlwind journey through his life and career, as Alisa and Natalia pose engaging questions that explore the pivotal moments that ignited his passion for mathematics and his transition into media. Simon's insights are inspiring not only for students but also for anyone interested in blending technical disciplines with creativity. He also uncovers the hidden mathematical gems in *The Simpsons* and offers valuable advice for those eager to delve into the world of STEM.

This episode is a must-listen for anyone who loves science or maths—or for those seeking inspiration from someone who has followed their curiosity to unexpected and rewarding places. Listen on: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or the [Channing Website](#).

Forthcoming Events

Creative writing challenge for Year 8

On Tuesday 21 January the author [Tamsin Winter](#) will give a talk to the whole of Year 8 about her books and career as a writer. She has set an optional creative writing challenge - please see details [attached](#). The deadline for entries is Monday 13 January and the winners will be announced at Tamsin's talk on 21 January. Prizes include signed copies of Tamsin's books. For more information about the talk, please follow this [link](#) to the library website [student login only].

Calling All Sports Enthusiasts - the Careers Department needs You!



We are excited to announce our upcoming Careers in Sport Week, taking place in the week before February half term, 10 - 14 February 2025.

To make this week a success, we are seeking volunteers to share their expertise and inspire our students by giving talks to different year groups. Whether you are a sports professional,

a coach, a therapist, an agent, involved in the business side or simply passionate about the sports industry, your expertise is invaluable.

We would be delighted to hear from:

- Previous parent volunteers: your past contributions were invaluable, and we would love to have you back!
- New parent volunteers: we are especially keen to hear from new volunteers with connections to the world of sport.

By volunteering, you will be helping students develop a deeper understanding of the range of careers possible within the sports industry, and highlighting the skills needed to be successful.

To volunteer, please indicate your availability [here](#)

We look forward to working with you to make this a memorable and impactful week for our students.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Nicola Wilberforce
Head of Careers and Higher Education

Channing Association News

Year 7 & 8 Disco

The Channing Year 7 & 8 disco will take place on Saturday 1 March. We have also received an invitation for Channing Year 7 girls to attend the UCS Year 7 disco on 25 January. Please see the "What's On" section on Classlist for further details.



Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

LAMDA News



In their last lesson of term the LAMDA students performed their Duologue scenes in mini showcases to a peer audience. All 6 showcases were theatrical feasts filled with comedies, such as 'The Importance of Being Earnest', poignancy, such as the contemporary play 'The Maladies', and revolutionary passion from the suffragette agit-prop play, 'The Apple'. The students enjoyed watching and giving each other invaluable feedback about: What Works Well and Even Better If - applying some of the advice to their own performances. It has been exciting

seeing the development of each scene week by week to this final performance point. Congratulations to all 64 students.

Sustainability News

Congratulations to Scarlett in Year 9 and Louise in Year 8 who won the [upcycling competition](#). Scarlett made 2 tops and a dress out of previously used clothes and material. Louise changed a pair of old jeans into a skirt and added accessories. Well done to everyone who took part.



Classics News

Year 11 British Museum Trip

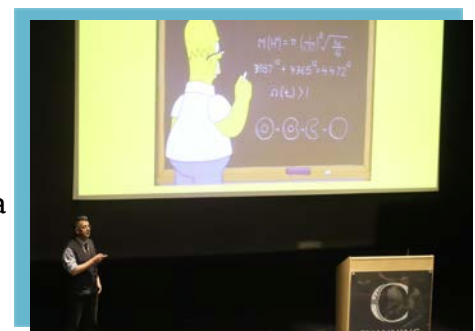
Last week the year 11 Classical Civilisation students took a trip to the British Museum to see the artefacts they are studying as part of their GCSE course. After jumping on the tube at Archway we arrived at the British Museum in time for opening and headed off to the Mycenaean room before the crowds descended. The students looked at a variety of objects from gold signet rings to votive offerings which they have studied but never seen in person before. After a pit stop in the cafe to fortify ourselves we visited the magnificent Parthenon Sculptures, followed by the Bassae frieze and a quick look at a Panathenaic amphora. It was a pleasure leading the girls around the museum and seeing their appreciation for these spectacular ancient artefacts.



STEM News

Channing Christmas STEM lecture 2024

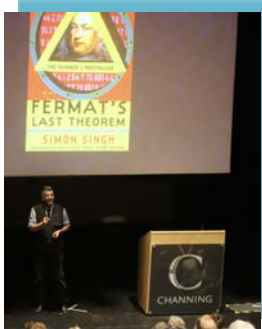
The STEM lecture featuring the author, journalist and Mathematician/Scientist Simon Singh was a sell out performance. Over 200 parents, students, teachers and partnership schools attended our second Christmas STEM lecture. We were very lucky to secure him to come to Channing School. Before the talk he was questioned by Natalia and Alisa in Year 13 for the 'Chatting with Channing' Podcast. They questioned him about his impressive career in Maths and



Science research and journalism, including work at CERN, Geneva.

Georgie V in Year 10 writes:

The AC was riveted by the recitation of Simon Singh, a widely-regarded physicist and author, on the evening of the 5th December. He spoke of the magic of the human mind, the mathematics cleverly woven into the Simpsons and the fascinating mystery of Fermat's Last Theorem. It was a deeply interesting and entertaining talk with his passion for his job expressed at the heart of it all, and I for one thoroughly enjoyed the edited lyrics from "Call off the Search" by "Katie Medua" to make them undeniably more mathematically accurate.



After the entertaining and thought provoking talk Simon Singh sold books in Founders Hall where parents, students and colleagues enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. We are grateful to everybody for turning out on this cold and very rainy evening.

Music News

Carol Concert

On Monday we were at St Michael's Church for our annual Carol Concert, which this year was a very special event indeed. The theme of A Celebration of the Word shone throughout, with the thought provoking readings chosen by Mrs Wilkinson and ably read by the team of readers with students, Esme E, Greta P, Emma L, Susie D, Anna R-B, Aimee R and Eve J selected by Ms Kanmwaa. This theme was also reflected in the medieval writings set to music by

Benjamin Britten in his Ceremony of Carols which was performed in its entirety throughout the concert accompanied by

renowned harpist Sioned Williams, who left the church spellbound during her harp solo, Interlude. With the Chamber Choir leading the combined choirs of Cantemus Chorus, Conabor Choir and Brunner Show Choir showcasing the beauty of Britten's music. Special mention must go to the Chamber Choir who took the lion's share of the work, starting with the haunting candle-lit processional of 'Hodie' and with solos from Bella K, Bela R, Evie M, Hannah D, Georgie G, Sophie D, Scarlett D, Eliza C and Lauren S. Many congratulations to Miss Jenny Bacon, our Head of Vocal Studies, for her superb training of the Chamber Choir and Cantemus Chorus. It was also an emotional

event for our Year 13s being their last Carol Concert, but especially for Miss Zanardo as she led her fabulous Brunner Show Choir for the final time on Monday. For those of you that were not able to be there, you can watch the entire concert [HERE](#).



Music at Teatime - LIVE LOUNGE

On Tuesday 10 December we had an extra recital at tea time featuring 'Live Lounge'. This was an energetic and exciting performance of four covers, starting with Jade's 'Angel of my dreams', then

Sabrina Carpenter's 'Please please please', then onto the Christmas themed 'Snowman' by Sia and finally Kelly Clarkson's 'Underneath the tree'. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Fallon for his excellent work with this group, which has developed into a superb ensemble in his time with them. This was Mr Fallon's last performance with Live Lounge as he sadly leaves us at the end of this term. Do watch the performance [HERE](#).



Music at Lunchtime

First up, for our final lunchtime concert of the autumn term, we were treated to a performance of 'Suo-Gan', a traditional Welsh Lullaby, and Tango from Suite Latinesque, played by the wonderful Cremona strings led by Miss Sophie Bircumshaw. Their playing as a group was perfectly balanced; Suo-Gan was sweet and beautifully played, whereas the Tango, by contrast, was exciting and dynamic.

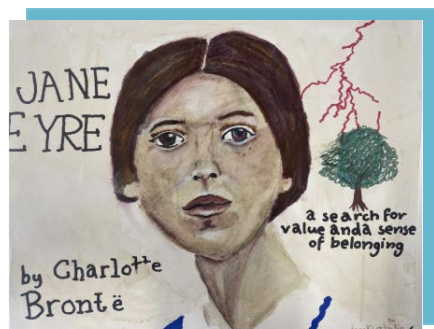


Next was the fabulous Clarinet Crew led by Mrs Vicky Wright, who brought some festive spirit to Channing with 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'. They also played 'I'm Gonna Be' by The Proclaimers - a familiar and undeniably fun tune that worked perfectly for an ensemble of clarinets! The dialogue between the upper and lower clarinets in 'I'm Gonna Be' was amazing, and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' put a smile on everyone's face. After that we were treated to a GCSE ensemble consisting of Alexa LB in 11RMn and Imogen B in 10MG on the violin, Maika PY in 12SF on the viola and

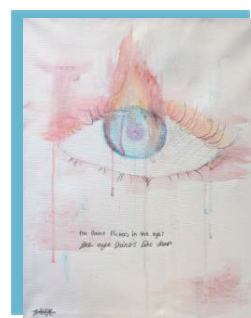
Sophie L in 13SD on the cello. After an exciting start where her A string pinged off of Sophie's cello, the group took it in their stride and played 'Adagio' from quartet no 3 in G by Mozart flawlessly, communicating wordlessly and playing with amazing musical awareness. Finally, music at lunchtime regular Mei-Xing LC in 12EH treated us to an emotional 'Carry Me Home' by Jorja Smith, singing and accompanying herself on the guitar. Her beautiful clear tone complemented the song beautifully, and her amazing stage presence left the audience transfixed and many of us feeling choked up. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Do listen [HERE](#).

English News

Year 9 have been getting creative with *Jane Eyre* this week. In Ms Grierson's class, students created posters that bring to life Brontë's metaphors while in Dr Hayward's class, students designed their own movie posters for cinematic adaptations of the novel. What vivid and artistic pieces from Safiye Y in 9KN and Natalie L in 9GHa!



Natalie L (9GHa)



Safiye Y (9KN)

Reading News

To welcome in the festive season, listen to Dr Spinks read from Claire Keegan's [*Small Things Like These*](#), a wintry tale set in an Irish town in 1985. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, enters into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him — and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church. This novel is a moving exploration of the best and worst of what it means to be human. Enjoy!

MFL News

Congratulations to Elizabeth in Year 12 who won the global Poesiae Recitation competition for German with her excellent recitation of Eva Rechlin's *Die Wolke*.



Sports News

We have had a great term of full of sporting fixtures and events. In October the PE team took 40 students from Year 8 - Year 10 to Barcelona on a football and netball tour. The netballers were treated to masterclasses by international netball players Sasha and Kadeen Corbin. The football students had the opportunity to face local Barcelona schools that play Spanish-style football. Despite the unprecedented weather, the students had a fantastic time.

Football

The U12A team have reached the quarter finals in the Middlesex Cup and the last 32 in the English Schools U12 National Cup. The 13 A team are into the quarter finals of the Middlesex Cup and have reached the last 16 in the Independent Schools South East Regional Cup. We also entered for the first time in the English Schools B Team Cup, although we unfortunately lost in the first round.

The Year 9 and 10 team have played in the English Schools National U15 Cup, the Middlesex Cup and the Independent Schools Cup and Trophy. Although they didn't progress beyond the opening rounds in all these competitions, the opportunity to play matches has been broadened.

One of the highlights of this season so far has been the First XI playing in the Independent Schools U18 Cup. In the match itself we were unfortunate to draw one of the tournament favourites, St Joseph's College from Ipswich, who fielded a number of Ipswich Town Academy players. Although we lost the game the team had a great spirit and kept up the effort throughout the full duration of the match. This is the first time Channing has fielded a First XI in any competition and this team should be proud of their place in Channing football history.

We are looking forward to having more fixtures across all age groups and all teams will participate in additional leagues starting the spring term.

Netball

Netball have had several fixtures out against our local rivals for all age groups as well as competing in Middlesex School Prelims for U15 and U16 as well as National school county rounds for U16. Our U15B team came 3rd in the Haringey League tournament.

Our U12 and U13 teams competed in the Haringey league competition and faced local schools such as Fortismere, Greigy City and St Thomas More. U12 won 2 and drew 1 and U13 Won 3 and lost 1

U13 Sister n Sport Shield competition round 3 vs JAGS school

Last Thursday our U13 team faced JAGS in the round 3 of the Sister n Sport shield competition. This was a great game! It was the toughest school that our U13's faced in the competition so far. The game was goal for goal for the majority of the match. Our U13's were two goals



down with 1 minute 40 seconds left and managed to bring the game back to a draw by the end of the 4th quarter. The rules of this competition state that if there is a draw at the end of the 4th quarter they continue play until the next goal is scored. Fortunately just before the final whistle blew for full time, JAGS took their centre pass which was not received in the centre third and therefore awarded us with a free pass. The nerves of our students did start to take over a little, but they stayed focused and with hard work and grit we managed to score the final goal - winning the game 21 - 20. We are so proud of them and they are now through to the quarter finals of the competition. Congratulations girls!



And also...

Two Year 10 teams competed in a Haringey volleyball tournament at St Thomas More School and came 3rd and 5th in the tournament. They really loved the tournament and can't wait to play some more.

And finally our Channing Eagles Cheer Squad came joint first place in round 1 of the Winter Pyramid-Off senior league with more competitions to come in the New Year.

Thank you to all those students who compete and attend extracurricular clubs. We can't wait to see you all again next term with some new exciting clubs starting too!

Channing Archives

Ahead of the Christmas recess we are delighted to share some photos of the Junior School in the snow from a 2002/3 album.



Wishing you many happy returns for the holidays and Happy New Year!

