



Dear Parents

As you may know, we marked National Poetry Day this week in assembly. It was very moving to watch our Sixth Formers standing in front of the school reciting poetry, as well as talking about their views of the poems. The theme of this year's Poetry Day is 'refuge' and I was incredibly impressed with our students' different interpretations of the theme and how they linked it to the pieces of work in front of them.

Listening to their chosen poems made me reflect on the importance of the arts in our society. We live in a time where STEM subjects are often portrayed in the press as the most important subjects and students are increasingly pushed towards learning Maths and Sciences as routes to success in life. We are extremely proud of our STEM provision at Channing and just last week some of our students went on an incredibly interesting STEM trip to Copenhagen. There is no doubt that STEM subjects matter and this is especially true in a girls' school. Empowering girls to break the proverbial glass ceiling and aim for success in fields that traditionally have seen more male participation is hugely important to us. The fact that Maths is one of our most popular A level subjects is testimony to this. However, I worry about the impact of ignoring the arts. We have already heard about universities dropping some Humanities and Arts courses, and even English Literature seems under attack. I have no interest in pitting Sciences and Arts against each other, but feel strongly that non-STEM subjects deserve a robust defence.

After the horrors of World War 2 and the Holocaust, German playwright Bertholt Brecht revolutionised theatre with the simple idea that a play should be a learning opportunity for the spectator. He argued that watching should not be passive entertainment but active engagement with the subject area. Sitting in a theatre should be part of making sure that we learned the lessons from the recent past.

We need a type of theatre which not only releases the feelings, insights and impulses possible within the particular historical field of human relations in which the action takes place, but employs and encourages those thoughts and feelings which help transform the field itself.
(Bertholt Brecht)

Theatre, Art, Music, Philosophy, History, Poetry and other fields allow us to engage with the world around us and help us decide what form of society we want to live in. Arguably, this has never been more important than in the age of AI and climate change. When I think about the leaders of the future, I hope they will have the skills and sensitivity that our students have

shown in assembly talking about the varying interpretations of 'refuge'. I shudder at the thought of a society lead by a soulless technocracy, constantly looking for the next development and improvement to create ever more economic output, aiming for a perfectionism that is simply unachievable, because human beings are not perfect and will (and arguably should) never be. Is it not this imperfection that will set us apart from the machines? The capacity to think about moral dilemmas and to translate conceptual issues into paintings, music and plays? Or, in fact, to consider the concept of 'refuge' as more than a logistical problem to solve, but to understand the inherent nuances and contexts.

Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it. (Bertholt Brecht)

I would therefore encourage all of our students to celebrate a broad education for its own sake. If you are aiming to be a medical doctor that is wonderful, but I believe you will enjoy LitSoc just as much as a student intending to read Drama at university. To be prepared for the world of tomorrow, we need to make sure that the students of today are taught the right skills. Some of these include logic and an understanding of mathematical concepts, others are empathy, critical thinking, flexibility of thought and the ability to reflect on and understand other points of view. I would like to see this being discussed in a more nuanced way in the press, with less emphasis on how economically valuable a course is measured by graduate salaries but also taking into consideration how it will contribute to a thriving, dynamic and caring society.

All art forms are in the service of the greatest of all arts: the art of living. (Bertholt Brecht)

Talking about a caring society, I am delighted to announce that our pupils have voted for our next school charity and chosen *Smart Works* (<https://smartworks.org.uk/>). Smart Works is a national charity helping over 30,000 marginalised women to move out of unemployment and poverty by supplying coaching as well as outfits and training for job interviews. Many women who are unemployed can experience deprivation and rejection and their aim is to break this cycle. The ethos clearly resonated with our student body and we are very much looking forward to supporting them throughout this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Freddie Meier
Deputy Head

Notices

Channing Association AGM - Monday 9 October

Please see this invitation to  [Invitation - CA AGM 09.10.2023.pdf](#) the next Channing Association AGM. If you would like to attend, please RSVP via Classlist.

Quiz Night - Thursday 12 October 7pm

Fancy yourself a pub quiz expert? Like a night out with great food and drinks and good company? Think you could pass your daughter's end of year exams?!

Please join us for a fun evening of quizzing, food and drinks (and maybe the odd exam question) on Thursday 12 October in the Senior School dining hall. Arrival drinks and food from 7pm, quiz starts 7:45pm.

Tickets £30 including complimentary arrival drink, food and quizzing. Cash bar throughout the night. Teams of 6 to 10 accepted. Haven't got a team yet? Let us know when you buy your tickets and we will add you on to one.

Tickets available at: <https://buytickets.at/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1010499>

Year 8 and 9 Events

We are hoping to run social events for the children in both Years 8 and 9 this year. Suggestions so far include ice skating and bowling/karaoke. If you have any ideas for an event your daughter would enjoy please get in touch with your class rep or one of our Ambassadors on Classlist.

2023 Fireworks Event

Tickets for our 2023 Fireworks Event, on **Saturday 4 November**, are nearly sold out at bit.ly/channingfireworks2023 so don't delay!


There will be Hot Dogs, Burgers, Sri Lankan Curry and Churros on sale (non meat options also available) as well as Beer, Wine, Mulled Wine, Sweets and Glo Accessories.

Gates will open at 5:30pm with the firework display starting at 6:45pm. The DJ and dancers are back this year to help get the fireworks party started and keep it going until we close at 8.30pm!




ABRSM Practical Music Examinations - AUTUMN TERM 4-6 December 2023 - APPLICATIONS CLOSING

We will be holding **Practical** music examinations during **4-6 December 2023** 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



ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place during **4-6th December 2023**



Please scan the QR code and ask your parents to complete the electronic consent form.

Consent forms must be submitted by 4pm Thursday 12th October. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.

their teacher has stated that they are ready to take an ABRSM **Practical** examination this term.

We do need parental consent before we enter candidates, therefore parents need to scan the QR code [here](#) and complete the online form by **4pm on Thursday 12 October** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.

Who Should I Contact?

Who should I contact September 2023.pdf

Lunchtime History of Art Talk

Students in Years 10-13 are invited to attend a lunchtime talk in the AC on Tuesday 10 October from 12.50-1.30pm. The speaker is Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff, founder of Art Historical London, which delivers art lectures and tours around the city. She will be exploring depictions of animals in art and teaching us how to decode their symbolic meanings.

"As centuries passed, a language of symbols developed so that artists could tell stories with deeper and more intricate emphasis, instantly understandable for an audience which did not always share the same spoken language and which was often illiterate. In this talk we'll be looking at how many artists have made use of the symbolical value of certain animals and their behaviour to describe the people depicted in the work of art or even take their place. To know the symbolism associated with these animals greatly helps in the interpretation of works of art, the enjoyment of art and any museum visit!"

Camden Eco Champion Awards

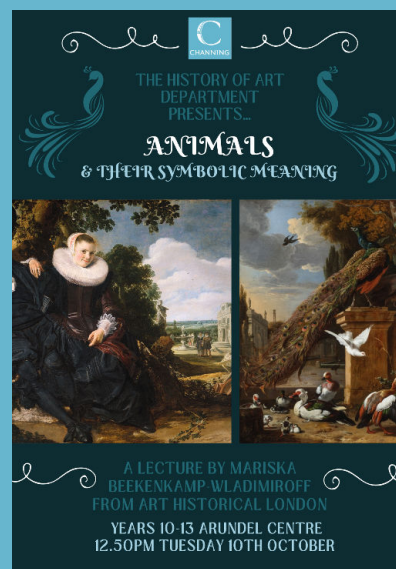
The Camden Eco Champion Awards were created to recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond to protect our environment. The competition aims to highlight those that are committed to creating positive change, and show that any initiative, however small or large, should be rewarded and celebrated.

Nominations close on 17 October 2023. Click [here](#) for more information.

School Magazine

Following our declaration of a climate emergency and in line with our commitment to improve the School's environmental sustainability, editions of the Channing School Magazine are now produced and distributed digitally. I am therefore delighted to share with you the digital version of this year's magazine which you can read [here](#).

We are aware, however, that a number of families enjoy receiving physical copies of the magazine and some have kept every edition since their daughter(s) joined the School! **To avoid printing**



copies that will ultimately go to waste, we are asking that families request a hard copy by midday on Monday 30 October 2023.

To order a printed copy of the school magazine 2022-23, please click [here](#).



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Pupil Success

Well done to **Cressida A-L** in Year 13 who recently entered the [OxBright Essay Competition](#), and has been shortlisted. Congratulations Cressida!



Isabel M made her debut this week as one of only four Year 7 probationary choristers in the newly formed St Margaret's, Westminster Girls Choir, part of Westminster Abbey. This is the first choir of girl choristers at Westminster Abbey so is blazing a trail for future generations. A fantastic achievement for Isabel and inspiring generations to come!

History News

This month the History Department will be recognising Black History Month in the UK. The theme this year is 'Saluting our Sisters.' To mark this, there will be a special assembly on Tuesday to honour the contributions of Black British women to our history, lessons themed on the topic and clubs and societies will explore the Black Tudors, the controversy around the Benin Bronzes, and the abolition of the slave trade.

English News

Literary Society

To celebrate National Poetry Day, the Sixth Form Literary Society delivered an assembly on this year's theme of refuge. Imani MR in 13RD began by reflecting on the way in which poetry itself can become a site of refuge before Y13 students shared some of their favourite poems, including 'A Portable Paradise' by Roger



Robinson and 'Hope' by Nicola Davies. If you would like to learn more about National Poetry Day 2023 please visit the [website](#).

Library

The Library has a wonderful collection of books by contemporary poets, including Warsan Shire, Harry Baker, Sophia Thakur, Rupi Kaur, Hollie McNish and Amanda Gorman. Pupils and parents can browse our poetry books using the [library catalogue](#). Here are some recommendations by year group:

KS3 - Tomorrow is Beautiful by Sarah Crossan, The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman

KS4 - Unashamed by Harry Baker, Somebody Give this Heart a Pen by Sophia Thakur

KS5 - The Air Year by Caroline Bird, Slug by Hollie McNish, Bless the Daughter by Warsan Shire and Shine, Darling by Ella Frears

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

Last week we attended a fabulous 'Music at Lunchtime' recital. From Chopin to Rihanna, there was something for everyone. Leahnora T.L. kicked off the show with her gorgeous performance of 'America' from West Side Story. She really captured the jazzy style of the piece and did the famous song justice. Continuing with the cinematic theme, next was Lucy J, who accompanied herself, playing 'Skyfall' by Adele. Her beautiful voice perfectly matched her piano playing, and she had a large group of supporters cheering her on. Next was our second saxophonist of the show, Cristina C. Cristina, who was 10% braver as she performed her tremendous piece with style and ease twice after a slight accompaniment mishap the first time round. Following this was Katherine S, who played a mesmerising Prelude by Chopin on the piano, completely enchanting the audience with her expert playing. This was followed by an astounding rendition of 'Stay' by Rihanna, which was sung (and accompanied) by Mei-Xing. The audience was absolutely captivated by her incredible voice. The recital was closed by Erica M and she played 'Nightfall Panteleimon', by Michaeloudis, and captured the dramatic Spanish essence of the piece perfectly. This week's recital was absolutely fantastic and you can listen to all the performances [HERE](#).



Psychology News

In the Psychology club, 'Psychology for All' students in Year 10 -13 have been investigating processing and why we find some tasks more difficult than others. A good example of this is The Stroop Test. The task is to say the **colour** the word is printed in, not the word itself. As the students found out, this is quite challenging! We discussed the different explanations for 'the Stroop effect' and the discussions raised some

RED	YELLOW	BLUE	GREEN	PINK
GREEN	ORANGE	PINK	RED	BLUE
BLUE	PINK	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE
ORANGE	RED	YELLOW	BLUE	GREEN
PINK	BLUE	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW

interesting questions like “would the same result be seen in bilingual speakers?” and “If the words are upside down does this change the result?” If this sounds like something you might be interested in please come along next Thursday at 1.00pm in T1, when we will be discussing what psychologists say about personality.

Partnership News



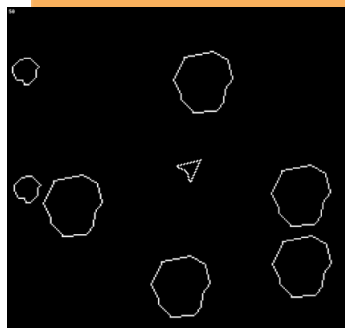
This week we worked alongside over 70 different pupils from Parliament Hill School, St Aloysius' College, Brookfield Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and Acland Burghley. They were involved in Young Enterprise, Latin, Minimus, Reading, Robotics, Game Design, Science, Problem Solving, Debating, Horticulture, Multisports and Engineering. Well done to all pupils involved!

Reading Club

This was the second week that Year 9 pupils from Channing went to St Joseph's Primary School and Year 12 pupils went to Brookfield Primary School to do one-to-one reading with key stage 1 pupils. Much fun was had by all. Well done, and thank you to the wonderful volunteers!

Game Design Club

Game design club members from Channing and St Aloysius started this week with their attempt at recreating the 1979 arcade hit 'Asteroids'. Using GameMaker software they put their coding skills to the test to create their own version of the game.

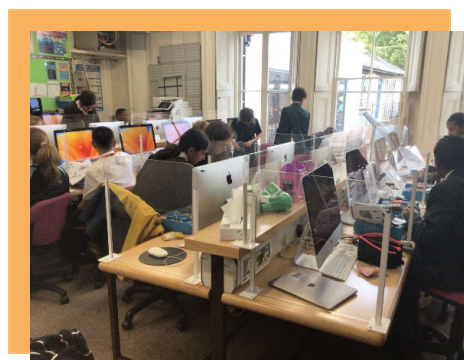


Robotics and Coding Club

Robotics and coding club kicked off with students from Channing school and St Aloysius college paired up and started building their VEX IQ robots. Ultimately they will program the robots to compete by carrying bricks through an assault course.

Latin Club

It was great to have so many keen Year 7 and 8 students coming to study Latin with us. We watched the clip from Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' about 'What have the Romans done for us?' and discussed the legacy of the Romans in Britain today. We also translated our first story, about Caecilius' dog Cerberus!



Science Club

This week in Science club pupils from Brookfield, St Joseph's, and Channing Junior School came together to make red cabbage indicators. Accompanied by the sixth form helpers these were then

tested on a range of different household products to see whether they were acidic, or alkaline. These were then also tested with universal indicators.

STEM News

STEM Ambassador Meeting

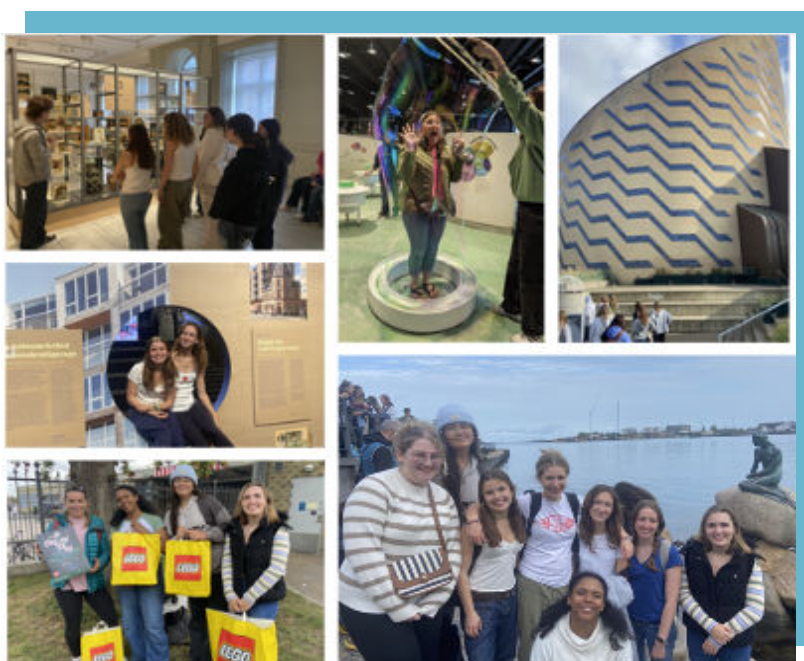
This Wednesday was the first STEM ambassador meeting. Madeleine and Chiara, Channing's Year 12 STEM leaders met with Ms Cooper and 20 STEM ambassadors to discuss what STEM at Channing will look like this year and start to brainstorm the competitions for the year. If you are interested in getting involved, speak to your STEM ambassador form rep.



STEM Copenhagen Trip 2023

Mrs Wootton, Dr Spinks, Miss Williams and Mrs Williams took 30 Year 11 - 13 students to Copenhagen, the beautiful, greenest capital city in the world which will be carbon neutral by 2025. The birthplace of Lego and sleek design did not disappoint. Natalia, Ava, Maddie and Charlotte in Year 12 tell you all about it:

We arrived in Copenhagen at around lunch-time and headed straight out to see Copenhill, a green energy plant with a dry ski slope, designed to be a multipurpose waste to energy plant. We learnt about the process of designing the structure, allowing Copenhagen to become the greenest capital city in the world. Next, we went to the Danish Architecture Museum. The building was very interesting and interactive with multiple slides to go down. We then checked into the hotel and got ready for dinner at the Hard Rock Café. The hotel had live music in the evening where many of us played cards until bedtime. Overall the day was fun and it was also great to see the beautiful city of Copenhagen in the warm sunshine.



Our second day was full of science and sight-seeing. We started off with a walk around the scenic Nyhavn before heading over to the Medical Museum. There, a local history student gave a talk on

the history of healthcare and disease in Denmark. The museum also had many exhibits, including preserved body parts which had been studied by medical students 200 years ago. After lunch at the waterfront restaurants of Nyhavn, we visited the Science Museum, Experimentarium. We explored uses of technology in our future and made time for some fun with bubbles and a laser harp! It was particularly funny to see Mrs Williams in a giant bubble! For dinner we ate traditional Danish cuisine and then went bowling.

We began our third day with a visit to the 'Optoceutics' office, where a talk was delivered by a PhD student from DTU in Copenhagen, who conducts research there. This helped us to understand more about computational neurology and Amelie even got her brain scanned! We then visited Tycho Brahe's planetarium where we learnt more about astronomy and watched a planet show in the auditorium. Some students also made their own stars. We were then given an hour to

explore Copenhagen and find a spot to eat lunch. The surroundings were beautiful and the food was delicious. We then visited the Round Tower from which we could see fantastic 360o views of Copenhagen. After this we went to Rosenborg Castle where we saw the royal crown jewels. After a long day of walking round the city, we spent the evening in Camping Kødbyen where we ate burgers and played crazy golf!



Marine Biology Club

This week, in Marine Biology Club, we learned more about different types of fish such as Guppies and Bubble-headed Goldfish and discovered which fish would work well in a classroom. Upon our discoveries, we found which fish we are going to pick to take care of this year. Using a survey we have picked the best and cutest options and, though there was much disagreement throughout the group, we eventually realised the best fish should be the ones who can live happily in a classroom. In the end, we have picked the beautiful Siamese Fighter Fish, with other options such as Tetra fish and Guppies. We are super excited to welcome these fishes into our Channing home and hope you will welcome them too! Mr. Grossman, will be journeying to an Aquatic Centre to hopefully find our future fishy friends! We will also be visiting pet shops this week to learn about how best to take care of fish (and to get some selfies with fish!)



Beatrice, Year 10

Science Club (Years 7 & 8)

In Science Club this week we made slime and Zoe from Year 12 taught the pupils about the science behind it. Slime is a non-Newtonian fluid that is dilatant, i.e. under stress, the material dilates or expands. Dilatant materials tend to have some unusual properties:

- Under low stress, such as slowly pulling on the material, they will flow and stretch. If you are careful, you can form a thin film (the pupils put all the slime together and stretched it out as far as they could).
- Pull sharply (high stress) and the material breaks.
- Pour the material from its container then tip the container upwards slightly, the gel self-siphons.
- Put a small amount of the material on a table top and hit it with your hand, there is no splashing or splattering.
- Throw a small piece onto a hard surface; it will bounce slightly.
- Adding acid to the slime breaks the crosslinking producing a liquid with lower viscosity. Adding alkali reverses the process and the slime should be regenerated (something for Year 11 to think about in their new topic).



Other well known stress-thickening materials are quicksand, wet sand on the beach, some printer's inks, starch solutions and 'Silly Putty'.

The pupils had great fun making different coloured slime, mixing the different colours and playing with it.

Next week, we will be making crystal gardens and learning about the science behind them.

Anatomy Club

This week the students dissected a locust. They were investigating how gases move around the insect's body. First, the legs and wings were removed, followed by incisions around the insect's abdomen. After more careful cutting, and washing with drops of water, small threads could be seen. These are the tracheoles which carry the gases. The students then studied the tracheoles under a microscope, to see the cartilage rings, similar to those on an animal trachea.



Science Journal Club (Years 10-13)

We had a larger turnout at Science Journal Club this week, which was great. We talked about an article that Beth C chose on graphene and how it has been found occurring naturally in mines in South Africa - it was actually formed 3 billion years before humans discovered it. This led to a discussion on the uses of graphene and then onto the recent Nobel prize winners and their work on mRNA vaccines, attosecond physics and quantum dots. Next week, Tessie M will choose our article and this will be shared with students on Wednesday. Anyone in Years 10-13 is always welcome to come along for a chat about Science. If any students are interested in reading a science-related book over half term, why not go for "how to prevent the next pandemic" by Bill Gates? Then come along to the Science Journal Club to discuss it after the holidays. There is a copy in the school library so get there fast!

Crest Awards (Year 9)

Interested in being a scientist? Want to design and complete your own investigation? If so, then CREST Awards could be for you. CREST is a scheme that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. Bronze Awards introduce students to project work empowering them to work

like real scientists, technologists, engineers or mathematicians. Students choose their own topic and methodologies, giving them complete freedom over their work. Students will need to commit to 10 one-hour long after-school sessions in order to allow them to have more time to complete their experiments. Previous projects have looked at: which crisps are the crispiest; what are the best conditions for plant growth; how can we detect latent fingerprints; investigating dirty hair; and making moving pictures using a zoetrope.

If you are interested in taking part, then come to B9 Lab on Thursday 12 October to find out more and to sign up. If you choose to take part, then sessions take place from 4-5pm every Thursday after school.

Year 7 Independent Investigation

In Independent Investigation this week we rounded off our series exploring geoscience with finding the epicentre of an earthquake in the USA using triangulation. Students found the time lag between primary and secondary waves from the seismograms of three seismometers in different locations in the USA.

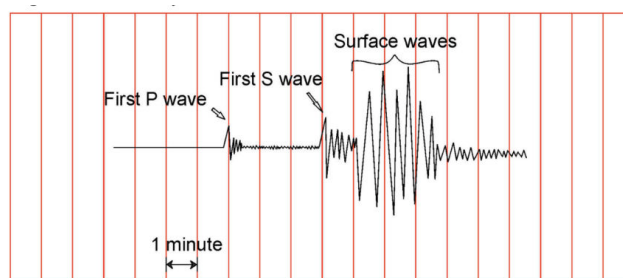


Figure 1. A typical seismogram.

(Earlier)

TIME

(Later)

They used a time P-wave and S-wave time travel curve in order to find the distance from the epicentre and used compasses to map these distances onto a map of USA.

Where the three circles intersected was the location of the epicentre.

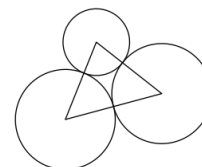
Maths News

It has been a busy week in the Maths Department. After a busy weekend in Copenhagen Mrs Williams smoothly organised the **UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge**. All A-Level Maths students in Year 12 and 13 and top set Year 11 did the difficult set of 25 questions in 90 minutes. They were heads down working non-stop. Try some of the questions yourself at home to see what your children have been up to!! We can't wait for the result in a couple of weeks!

5. Three circles with radii 2, 3 and 3 touch each other, as shown in the diagram.

What is the area of the triangle formed by joining the centres of these circles?

A 10 B 12 C 14 D 16 E 18



6. How many lines of three adjacent cells can be chosen from this grid, horizontally, vertically or diagonally, such that the sum of the numbers in the three cells is a multiple of three?

A 30 B 24 C 18 D 12 E 6

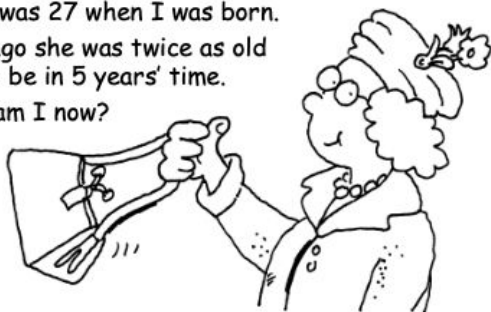
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

It was also the first **Hans Woyda Match** of the season! Mr Bowman took the team up to Highgate to compete head to head against their students. Our team fought valiantly, showing that they were 20% braver being a person down! Well done to Evangelina in Year 9, Scarlett in Year 12 and Rebecca in Year 13. Scarlett was especially brave as she was answering two sets of questions due to a reduced team! Well done, Channing!

Problem Solving Club started this week with Ms Cooper, Ms Hadley and Madeleine, Caelle and Charlie, our sixth form helpers. The Year 6 students from Brookfield and St Josephs worked effectively in pairs to solve a number of puzzles and some even got the solutions before our Year 12 helpers! Try some of the questions yourself at home.

Age old problems

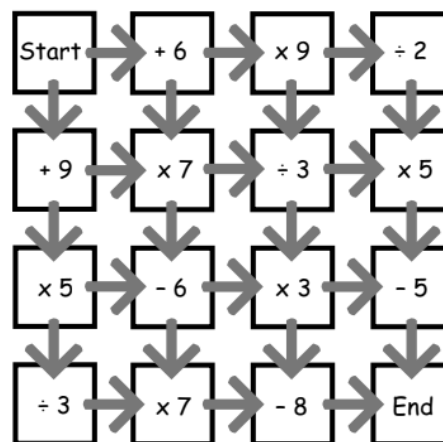
1. My age this year is a multiple of 8.
Next year it will be a multiple of 7.
How old am I?
2. Last year my age was a square number.
Next year it will be a cube number.
How old am I?
How long must I wait until my age is both a square number and a cube?
3. My Mum was 27 when I was born.
8 years ago she was twice as old as I shall be in 5 years' time.
How old am I now?



Maze

Start with zero.

Find a route from 'Start' to 'End' that totals 100 exactly.



Which route has the highest total?

Which has the lowest total?

TeenTech News

TeenTech club has started for the year. This week year 9 students began brainstorming for their innovations and started researching some of the latest technology inventions. If your child is in Year 9 and wants to get involved, sessions take place in A7 on Wednesday at 1pm.



T&L News: Using research-based evidence to help you support your child

Our pupils in Years 7 - 10 seem to be getting used to their Yondr pouches for their mobile phones. Interestingly, you will have seen this week that the government has plans to ask all schools to restrict pupils from using mobile phones during the entire school day. This follows a United

Nations report in July about the risks of smartphones in schools, stating "*only technology that supports learning*" is merited in schools.

Parents might be interested in some of the research behind how phones can negatively impact grades, well-being, sleep and behaviour. We hope that this supports you to have productive conversations with your child about their phone use.

[Research from around the world](#) has demonstrated that excessive use of mobile phones can severely hinder learning in the classroom.

[Excessive use of mobile phones](#) has been linked to poor psychological health, including increased anxiety, feelings of loneliness, and low self-esteem.

[Too much electronics before bedtime](#) can reduce the release of the sleep hormone melatonin, which in turn impacts the quantity and quality of sleep.

[Various studies](#) have found that frequent phone users do experience shorter attention spans and greater impulsivity. Given the link between self-control and academic achievement, this is of great significance

[People who have their phone out during mealtime](#) are 7% more distracted and rated their dining experience as 5.4% less interesting and enjoyable than those without phones. Break and lunch time are key parts of the school day.

Alumnae News

Our Transylvanian connection was made in 1892 when a Unitarian Bishop, Joseph Ferencz, announced that "the Miss Sharpes would like to receive a Hungarian Unitarian girl on a scholarship". Since then the relationship has continued to develop and strengthen. Last week we had the pleasure of hosting two teachers from János Zsigmond Unitarian College. With this in mind we would like to share this lovely picture of a former Transylvanian scholar, Gyöngyi Anghi, who studied at Channing from 1948-49.

