



Dear Parents

When I wrote to you yesterday afternoon about the vile piece of antisemitic graffiti found in the bathroom at lunchtime, my main aim was to ensure that you had been informed about it before your children came out of school so that you were forewarned and prepared for the fact that they might be upset or anxious about the rumours which would be circulating. Little did I know that the letter would find its way far beyond the school community and, within hours, into the national media. I know that none of us would ever have wanted to find our school at the centre of this kind of attention and especially not for this reason.

However, whatever is circulating more widely, my focus has been firmly in school throughout. After I wrote to you yesterday we reported the incident to the police as a hate crime, and Mr Meier and I spent 90 minutes with an officer making statements yesterday evening. I also reported it to the Community Security Trust (CST), and I am grateful for the ongoing guidance and support that both organisations are giving the school. While this is now a police matter and I cannot give you any more information about the investigation, I would like to update you on what I have said to our staff and pupils so that you can be reassured about how seriously we view this and what steps we are taking to further educate and support everyone in school.

This morning I spoke to our staff to offer support and guidance on how they can support your children but also in recognition of the fact that they themselves may well have been affected by this criminal act and to offer them support as well. I reiterated that we are shocked and horrified that this would happen in our community - it directly contravenes everything that Channing's Unitarian values and ethos stand for.

When addressing the girls I made it abundantly clear that antisemitism has no place at Channing. I told them, "this graffiti and what it represents is abhorrent, cowardly and totally unacceptable...if you know anything about what happened yesterday lunchtime, you need to talk to us as a matter of urgency. Until we can resolve this issue, our school cannot truly be the kind, respectful, inclusive place which we have always believed it to be...Everyone has the right to feel safe in school, and now some people don't."

And let me reassure you all once again: it is very important to me that all of you feel safe and supported in school and I want to say this in particular to all the Jewish members of our community. We stand by you irrevocably and we have your back. Antisemitism and any attempt to intimidate you or to make you feel unwelcome will be answered in the strongest possible terms. This incident strikes at the heart of what Channing means as a school and I cannot let it go unanswered - not in our school and not on my watch.

Our next focus is on education on this issue, and we have been in touch with a number of organisations including the Holocaust Educational Trust, Stand Up! Education, Solutions Not

Sides and the Anne Frank Trust to talk about how they can help us with staff training and pupil workshops. More details on these will follow. In addition I continue to be concerned that you should feel adequately supported in talking to your children about the issues, and to that end offer another couple of resources you may find useful: [Wellbeing Resources \(pajes.org.uk\)](http://www.pajes.org.uk) from the CST, and [Supporting your Jewish Students](#), useful resources from the Union of Jewish Students which were supplied by one of our alumnae.

The letter I sent you yesterday included a link to an article from [TooledUp](#), and I am very pleased that we launched this new service to you earlier in the week. As you will be aware, their website offers you a wealth of information about every aspect of your children's journey to becoming adults. We have certainly found the material incredibly useful. In case you missed the webinar on Tuesday evening it has been recorded: please click [here](#) to access the video. Log in instructions were sent via email on the same evening, but for convenience, please click [here](#) for the instructions. Upcoming events that might interest you are listed in the notices below and we will continue to post these every week.

Last night I said goodbye to the police officer just a few minutes before the start of the Seville Music Tour concert, and I was grateful that I would have the opportunity to sit quietly for a while in the Arundel Centre and reflect on the events of the day. However I was not expecting to be so deeply moved by the sight of a full cross-section of the Channing community singing and playing such beautiful music, standing side by side, immersed in the joy of performing together. They exemplify everything that makes our school so special and I will admit to being overcome with emotion by the opening renditions of 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord' and 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. I was also struck by the lyrics of the traditional song, 'Simple Gifts':

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gain'd,  
To bow and to bend we will not be asham'd,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come round right.*


I hope and I pray that we will come round right. I thank you for the kind messages of support so many of you have sent me over the last 24 hours, and I apologise that I have not been able to acknowledge each of them individually. Likewise some of you who have written with specific concerns are still waiting for responses, which will come next week. I extend my warmest wishes to each of you for a weekend which I hope will be restorative for us all and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Channing Association Fireworks tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

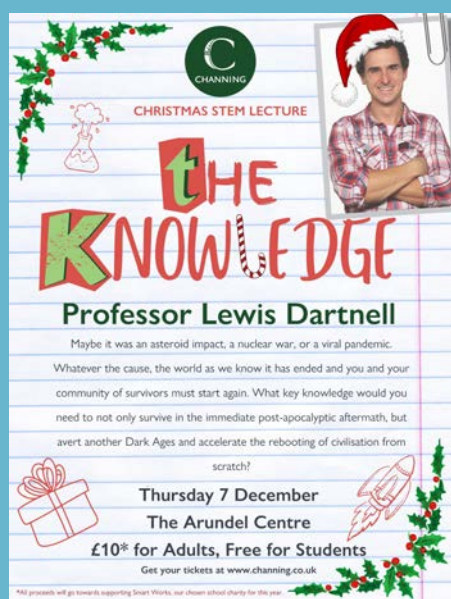
Mrs Lindey Hughes  
Headmistress

# Notices

## Diabetes Awareness

Every year around 700 children in the UK become seriously unwell because the signs of Diabetes have been missed. It is World Diabetes Day on 14th Nov. and to mark this we have been asked by the Diabetic team at Whittington Hospital to share the attached poster with you to alert you to signs to look out for (  Diabetes Poster.pdf )

Ms Tas Franklin (Senior Nurse)  
Ms Abi Levinson (School Nurse)



## Christmas STEM Lecture

We are delighted to invite parents and students to the inaugural Channing Christmas STEM lecture on Thursday 7 December 2023. This year we will have the opportunity to hear from astrobiologist, research scientist, presenter and author Professor Lewis Dartnell who will discuss his Sunday Times 'New Thinking' Book of the Year and international bestseller, *The Knowledge: How to Rebuild our World from Scratch*.

To book tickets, please visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/49571>

## Upcoming TooledUp Events

### Live Q&A with a Consultant Psychiatrist: 2nd November, 20:15 GMT

Dr Anna Conway Morris, a consultant psychiatrist who specialises in adolescent mental health.

### Expert Online ADHD Conference: 10th November, 9am GMT

Dr Ned Hallowell, Dr Abby Russell, Dr Blandine French, Dr Samantha Hiew, Dr Saadia Arshad, Dr Aja Murry, Dr Ingrid Obsuth, and Dr Vilas Sawrikar, exploring topics such as the diagnosis journey, ADHD and mental health, ADHD and girls, ADHD and academic progress, learning and classroom practice, ambition, aspiration and employability.

### Understanding Girls with Dr Tara Porter: November 21, 19:30 GMT

Dr Tara Porter is a Clinical Psychologist and Writer. She worked in the NHS for over 25 years in child and adolescent mental health and has her own successful private practice. In this webinar, clinician and author, Dr Porter will be exploring why some girls are struggling so much at present, and will provide parents with ideas for bolstering their relationship with their daughters whilst supporting their mental health.

### [Webinar on Self-Harm with Dr Dennis Ougrin: November 29th, 17:30 GMT](#)

Following his successful and fascinating webinar on discussing real-world trauma with children, psychiatrist Dr Dennis Ougrin returns to help parents and educators with an equally sensitive topic: self-harm. Please note this is a live Q&A rather than a 'talk'.

### [Expert online conference: Reaching Girls Early: Proactive Approaches for Mental Health, Appearance Anxiety and Body Dissatisfaction: 26th April 2024, 9.30am BST](#)

Guest speakers include Dr Sophie Nesbitt, Dr Lucia Giombini, Dr Amita Jassi, Dr Helen Ringrow, Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith,

### **Chicago Pre-Show Podcast**

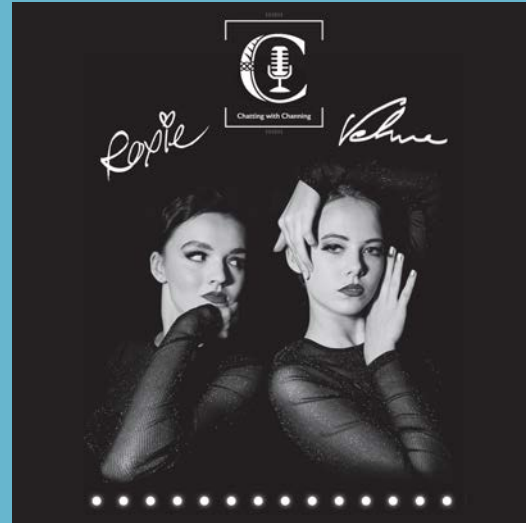
Listen on: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Channing Website](#)

We're delighted to go behind the scenes and have a conversation with some of the key figures behind the upcoming production of 'Chicago'. Joining us are the talented individuals who have played roles in bringing the production to life.

*Miss Hill, the Director of the Show and the Head of Drama, who has guided the production with her artistic prowess and creative vision.*

*Ms. Zanardo, the Musical Director of 'Chicago', responsible for weaving the enchanting melodies and harmonies that have breathed life into the musical's iconic songs.*

*We're also joined by two Sixth Form students, Eliza and Evie, who stepped into the limelight as the leading ladies, portraying Roxie and Velma.*



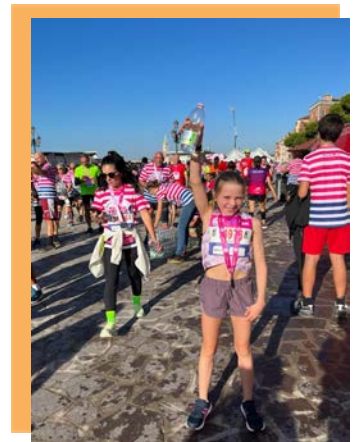
CHANNING

# Girls Enjoying Success

## **Sports News**

### **Cross Country**

Huge congratulations to Cross Country runner Sonia H (Year 8) who, over the half-term, successfully completed a 10km in Venice in under 60 minutes. Sonia regularly participates in cross country at Channing along with many others and is looking forward to her next competition. Well done!





## Fencing Success



Congratulations to Olivia W (Year 8) who was selected for the Great Britain Women's U17 foil squad for the European Fencing Confederation (EFC) cadet event in Manchester last month. She competed against girls from all over the world! Most recently, Olivia won bronze at a National U14 competition in Cambridge in September – well done, Olivia!

## History of Art News

On Tuesday 10 October, the History of Art students were delighted to hear from Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff, founder of Art Historical London, at a lunchtime talk. As an experienced lecturer and a specialist in Dutch Baroque Art, she delivered an interactive presentation on decoding symbolism in artwork. Her talk focused on the inclusion of animals in paintings and the hidden messages they carry. Thank you to all of those who attended this event.



## Politics News

On Wednesday, Year 12 Politics students had the opportunity to visit Parliament. We were first led into the 900-year old Westminster Hall, and shown the plaques marking where various monarchs, including the late Queen Elizabeth II, lay in state.



Next we were taken into the Central Lobby, where our guide pointed out the four mosaics depicting each of the Patron Saints of the UK. We even managed to fit in some revision of our recent topics of devolution and the way in which members of the public can contact their MP (much to the delight of the teachers).

Following this, our guide Celeste then took us through the 'No' corridor, which is where MPs go to register their views against a bill in the event of a division during a vote. Finally, we got to the main event – the Chamber of the House of Commons (which was considerably smaller than

we thought it would be). In the Chamber, we had an opportunity to consider which laws we would pass if we were MPs and were shown the various aspects which were unique to the chamber by our guide. Unfortunately we were unable to sit on the infamous green benches (because we are not elected MPs), although a few toddlers seemed to be unaware of this rule. Nevertheless, we found it fascinating to see the Speaker's Chair, the benches where the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet sit and the clerks who support the Speaker in controlling the proceedings.

We had one final surprise waiting for us back in Westminster Hall. We were incredibly lucky to be able to meet the current Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay. He gave us a brief overview of his role and career before we had the opportunity to ask him a few questions. It was a brilliant opportunity to meet a working Minister and we feel very privileged to have seen him.

Thank you Mrs Devine and Mrs Garrill for such an interesting and enjoyable trip!

Lauren S and Mia B, Year 12

## Music News

### RSCM Gold Award Success

Many congratulations to Hana D who has gained the Royal School of Church Music Gold Award with a Commendation. This is the highest award available to choristers and is an incredible achievement. Well done, Hana!

## STEM News

### Digital Leaders

Congratulations to the following who have been nominated as the school's Digital Leaders this year and received their badges in assembly on Tuesday:

Arabella G, Naomi E, Aavanya A, Amy C-Y, Saisha D, Elene K, Iyla R, Emma L, Anais K, Olivia N, Zara A, Mimi B, Saira C, Gigi E, Georgie M, Charlotte F, Lexie N, Ari A, Ella D, Chloe C, Emily S, Jess L, Cara G, Scarlett S, Molly S, Amelie C, Haruka M and Avantika V.

The Digital Leaders Team have already met with Year 12 Senior Digital Leader Zoe Q, and each year group team will be holding meetings with Zoe to decide on their priorities for the year before presenting their plans back to their year groups and the whole school later this term.

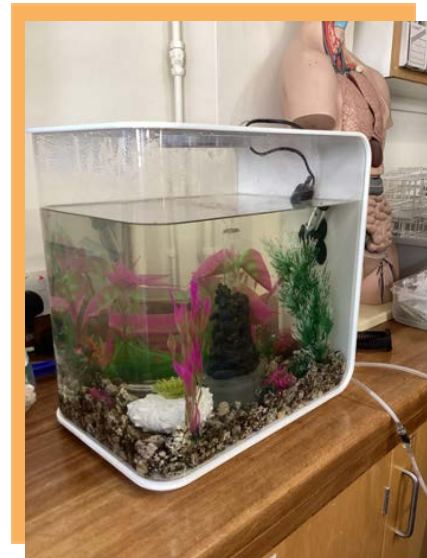
We are excited to see how they will contribute to and support the school's digital strategy and wish them the best of luck!

### The Bebras Computing Challenge

Next week KS3 computer science pupils will be taking part in the **Bebras Computing Challenge**. Oxford University is, in partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the National Organising Body of the UK Bebras Challenge. It is organised in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Last November over 365,000 students took part in the UK, and over 3 million worldwide. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. The pupils will have to solve as many computing problems as they can in 40 minutes!

### Marine Biology Club

Before half-term, members of Marine Biology Club arranged ornaments and artificial plants in their new fish tank to create a welcoming environment for the yet-to-be-purchased fish, and filled the tank with water ready for their impending arrival. But disaster - the pump and tubes to provide oxygen to the tank seemed to be malfunctioning and no bubbles were visible. This didn't deter our Year 10s who set about reading the manual and researching online to try and solve the problem. Special mentions to Rose B, Estelle B and Bea A amongst others for their suggestions and troubleshooting. We are pleased to report that with just a few remaining minutes of Monday's meeting, we successfully fixed the problem and we now have a fully functioning fish tank!



Next week, members of Marine Biology Club will be testing the water for suitable nitrite and ammonia levels, and checking that the water is at the right temperature and pH for tropical fish. If all goes well, we will then introduce our new friends the following week!

### Anatomy Club

This week the students began their dissection of the sheep's brain. They started by spending some time identifying the different external structures such as the cerebellum, brainstem and spinal cord. The optic nerves were also visible. Then they made a large dissection through the middle of the brain to examine the internal structure, the white matter carrying the nerve axons, and grey matter where the different nerves connected. The thalamus in the middle of the brain was also identified.



Next week is the final session for this term and the students will prepare slides of the different parts of the brain and inspect

them under the microscope.

### Science Club

In Science Club this week students made their own test tube rainbows using universal indicator, hydrochloric acid and sodium carbonate. They were able to identify the regions which were acid, alkali and neutral and also where the acids and alkalis were strongest and weakest.

We will be learning about fireworks in Science Club next week and doing their own mini fireworks show.



### Science Journal Club

This week we discussed an article that looked at a study to investigate whether scientists can communicate with people while they are asleep. This led to us thinking about sleep in general and dreams and why different people need different amounts of sleep. We thought about how we can monitor sleep and whether a deeper understanding of sleep would have



any practical applications. Next week's article will be chosen by Tessie M - look out for details on your Y11, Y12 or Y13 Science Google Classrooms for more information, or just turn up to LG2 on Thursday at 12:30 if you would like to join in the discussion.

### Year 10 and 11 STEM Careers Club

We continued to investigate the careers of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry this week by looking at the additional examinations that might be needed for entry onto these university courses. The BMAT is required for Medicine (not for Veterinary Medicine at the moment) and we used two previous BMAT essay titles (below) to discuss some important issues in both of these careers.

*'The option of taking strike action should not be available to doctors as they have a special duty of care to their patients'*

*'If we truly care about the welfare of animals, we must recognise them as fellow members of our communities with their own political rights and status.'*

The discussion highlighted the importance of keeping up to date with developments in these careers so that you can use knowledge to illustrate points of information either in the BMAT essay or during an interview.

### CREST Awards

Our first formal session of the Y9 CREST Awards Club began today and the students have divided themselves into two investigative teams. Ekta A and Caye B are working on a project to look at how fizzy drinks are made and how these could be made sustainably. Isobel B, Isla M and Georgina V are looking at how objects break and are going to focus on wood. They are just at the planning stage at the moment, but it was great to listen to their discussions and hear their ideas and questions that will help to drive their projects forward.



### Science Question of the Week

This week KS3 Science question of the week kicked off again with the question and task: 'Why do the raisins dance? This is a little experiment you can carry out at home with things from your kitchen cupboard! You will need vinegar, baking soda, and raisins/grapes/peanuts'. We received lots of excellent pictures and videos of the experiments the pupils carried out at home, as well as a brilliant explanation of 'why the raisins danced'. This week the winner was Mariia S who received a commendation for her excellent picture and scientifically accurate explanation. The runners up were Maya S, Lily A and Ellie S who all received a merit. Well done everyone!





## Maths News

### UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

Well done to our students from Year 11 to 13 who sat the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge last half term. The results arrived over half term and we are very proud of our students. Between them they received 1 Gold certificate (Haruka M), 4 Silver certificates (Scarlett D, Grace S, Kimberley K, Ashani P) and 32 Bronze certificates. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Best in Year 13 was Grace S

Best in Year 12 was Scarlett D

Best in Year 11 AND Best in the whole of Channing was Haruka M, a very impressive achievement for a student in Year 11. We wish Haruka all the best in the follow on round next week, which is the Senior Kangaroo!



Here are some of the questions for you to try at home:

8. What is the value of  $99(0.\dot{4}\dot{9} - 0.\dot{4})$ ?

A 5

B 4

C 3

D 2

E 1

9. When completed correctly, the cross number is filled with four three-digit numbers.

What digit is \*?

A 0

B 1

C 2

D 4

E 6

**Across**

1. A square

3. A fourth power

**Down**

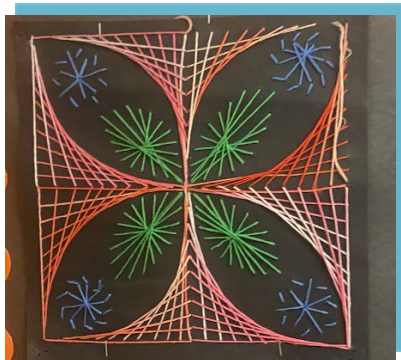
1. Twice a fifth power

2. A cube

1	*	2
3		

### Maths Puzzle Club

The Maths Puzzle Club have been doing curve stitching this term. They are making parabolas out of straight lines! This week Year 7 were designing their curve stitching picture and drew their design using pencil and ruler and next week they will start making their final output using embroidery thread. We are looking forward to having these displayed in the Maths Department.



## STEM Trophy

Each term students have the opportunity to take part in a STEM activity or competition with the chance to win prizes and get their name engraved on the STEM trophy.

Last term a number of Channing students entered a National Competition run by the Chartered Surveyors Training Trust to redesign and improve a local area. For the STEM trophy we chose from the entries that had the best Mathematical 3D diagrams and design aspects from an Art point of view. The winner was Ella C.

Look out for details on this term's STEM challenge in upcoming WFTHs.



## English News



7LR did some fantastic independent research this week, investigating the historical, social and political contexts of Charles Dickens' spooky festive novella, *A Christmas Carol*. Students delivered lively presentations on a range of topics, including the Industrial Revolution, Victorian London, and the history of Christmas.

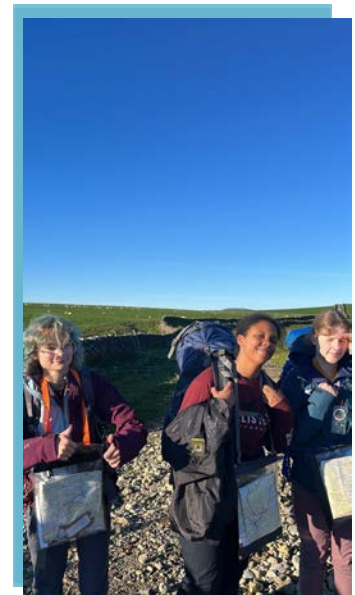
## Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

Our Year 12 Gold cohort had a very chilly time in Malham (a beautiful spot in Yorkshire where Harry Potter and Hermione visit to hide from Voldemort in *The Deathly Hallows Part One*) and were lucky to escape all of the rain in the second week. The moors and stiles kept them busy and all 3 groups had a very impressive fast walking pace (nearly as fast as our PE department's, Ms Gibbins' DoE group when they did Gold at Channing)! We all look forward to their Assessed Expedition in The Black Mountains in July 2024.

Well done everyone, from Ms Yun and Mr Hill.

### ***99 Problems & A Ditch Ain't I Of Them by Gordale***

On Friday 13 October, seventeen year 12 students set off in the rain to the Yorkshire Dales to complete the four-day Gold DoE practice expedition. Thankfully, the wet weather had cleared up by Saturday to make for a dry-ish start at Malham Youth Hostel, where we completed our short acclimatisation walk, did some last-minute shopping in the small town of Settle, and had a warm dinner at the Lister Arms Pub. Despite the cold, all the groups arrived at Littondale Campsite on Sunday evening in good spirits, if not for some soggy boots and achy shoulders. Nevertheless, all the groups can probably agree that the most scenic campsite was at Gordale Scar, where we could see an amazing natural waterfall flowing



down from the hills. Over the three days of tough, hilly walks, all the groups maintained their high morale, meaning we made it to Settle early on Tuesday for the five hour drive back to London. I think we were all looking forward to having a hot meal and a working toilet when we arrived home, although all the groups enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Yorkshire Dales, and made many great memories as a team in spite of the sometimes difficult conditions.

*By 99 PROBLEMS BUT A DITCH AIN'T ONE OF THEM*

### ***Are We Out Of The Woods Yet by Settle***

At break time on the last Friday of half term, we set off in the Chan Van to the Yorkshire Dales. After a long journey, we arrived in the youth hostel which we would be staying in for the next two nights. We unpacked, had our dinner and then started on a night walk (so that we were prepared



for when we would inevitably be hiking in the dark). The next morning we had a full English breakfast and drove to Settle for a quick practice walk and to stock up on food and forgotten outdoor gear. Afterwards, we headed back to the hostel for a safety briefing, a gorgeous pub dinner and to make the final adjustments to our rucksack before our early start the next morning. We awoke early, had our last proper meal for a while, taped up our phones and headed off into the Yorkshire countryside. The next three days consisted of impressive hills, breathtaking views and a huge amount of effort. We trekked over the dales, fell into marshes, saw beautiful waterfalls and slept in below 0°

temperatures. On the last day, we even managed to watch the sunrise as we walked after having left the campsite at 6am! Everyone had such a great time and we can't wait for the real expedition in July.

*By Are We Out Of The Woods Yet?*

### ***Grandma's Footsteps by Malham Tarn***

At Friday break, we headed up to the Yorkshire Dales in the Chan Van. On Saturday we hiked around Settle for 3 hours for an acclimatisation walk to get ready for the next few days, and then went grocery shopping for our actual expedition. On Sunday we set off around 8am after our last hostel breakfast. The first campsite was very nice, and we were told to appreciate it as the next one would be less pleasant! On Monday, we woke at 5am and started to pack and make breakfast for our 2nd day of walking, starting with another massive hill up a field. We had to cross many small rivers and a large flooded area which we all had to jump over- then realising there must have been an easier way as we were all soaked. We arrived at our last campsite at 3pm, set up our tents again and went on a walk to go see the gorgeous waterfall, Gordale Scar by our campsite. On our last day, we woke at 4am and had to cook and pack in the dark, and then walked for 2 hours with only the light from our head torches. We arrived at the finish, Settle and couldn't wait to get back home (we had a great time- of course it was an amazing experience and we don't regret anything) with all the



other groups and then had time for last-minute shopping before heading to the Chan Van for our long journey back to London.

Do dofe :)

Lots of love, *Grandma's Footsteps*

## Partnership News



This week in Science Club pupils from St Joseph's and Junior school pupils worked with the Sixth form helpers to undergo Chromatography. They arranged skittles and then added water to these to produce intriguing colours and designs when the skittles colour spread depending on the different coloured skittle arrangements. They then used water soluble inks to create interesting patterns on chromatography paper and then ran chromatography on these too. Great fun was had by all!

## Library News

Year 7 and 8 Book Club met this week to discuss 'Lockwood and Co: the Screaming Staircase', a suitably scary ghost story for Hallowe'en. And in the next few weeks they will be exploring comics and graphic novels through games, crafts and quizzes.

Amnesty Book Club (for Years 9 and 10) have discussed the following books and human rights issues:

*Dry* by Neal Shusterman - water shortages caused by drought, conflicts over water resources and the right to water and sanitation

*Truth be Told* by Sue Divin - the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland

Their next discussion will be of *Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Boulley, which is a novel about indigenous people in the state of Michigan.

New joiners are welcome to both clubs! Please contact Ms Ramsden (Year 7 and 8 Book Club) or Ms Levontine (Amnesty Book Club) if you are interested.



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

This week in the Senior School Mr Boardman (Assistant Head T&L) led a session with Year 7 where he talked about Fearless Learners and shared some of the research and strategies behind effective study and revision. If your child is in Year 7 it would be useful to follow this up with a conversation about what they learned.



Areas he covered were

- Why your child should have a positive attitude to tests and the importance of low stakes testing
- Why butterflies and nerves before tests are a good thing
- When teachers say "revise" ~ what are the best things your child can do?

Here is a [copy of the slides](#) and [a handout](#) for you to use in these conversations.

## Alumnae News

We hope you enjoy these photos from (circa.) 1920-24: a century apart and Channing girls are still enjoying academic success, a wide range of opportunities and having fun as they learn!

Girls enjoying a trip to Oxford including the University Colleges therein (Magdalen College pictured directly below)



I am curious as to the back story for this picture!

