



Dear Parents

What a week this has been! With multiple events almost every day, our staff and students have been busy in a whole host of activities. As a snapshot, this week every year group in the Senior School had workshops with Meedu (The Middle East Education Project) or Stand Up! Education; the A level Geography, German and History students have all been out on trips, as have Year 7 to the Science Museum and Year 8 to Hampton Court Palace, while Year 10 are in Malaga on a 4 day Spanish trip. We have hosted Year 5 pupils and parents for their 'Life in the Senior School' morning, two guest speakers for Sustainability Week (of which more in the section below), training for 35 Channing and external delegates from 'Girls on Board', a pastoral programme we will be implementing here over the coming months, practice Oxbridge interviews for our Year 13 applicants and - if that wasn't enough - the 11+ assessment for the Year 7s of 2024. The Channing Association Winter Fair in the Junior School this afternoon has topped off the week brilliantly! My enormous thanks to all the staff who organised and accompanied the trips and events, and to the Junior School parents for the CA Fair today.

A moment of calm in the week came in assembly on Tuesday morning with Rev Kate Dean, Minister at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel. She talked to us about what being a Unitarian means, starting with a picture of the beautiful Chapel building on Hampstead High Street, which they call a 'spiritual home for open minds'. She told the school that Unitarians tend to be agnostic, which came as a surprise to me. It's certainly unusual for a religious group to begin with the belief that it is not possible to know whether God exists!



Rev Kate shared that Unitarians were at the forefront of the campaign to change the law so that same sex couples could marry. Even now, 9 years later, Rosslyn Hill Chapel is one of the few places in London where same sex couples can have a religious or spiritual wedding ceremony. You would expect Unitarians to be open and tolerant, so there was some surprise when the campaign wasn't supported by everyone. Even now, not all Unitarian churches hold a licence to conduct same sex weddings. But, Rev Kate went on, *"We like to say 'we need not think alike to love alike' and we have to accept that we're not always going to agree on everything, however uncomfortable that can feel sometimes. It doesn't mean that we don't like or even love each other any more. It just means we sometimes have to agree to disagree, and do it respectfully. If we put up walls or barriers, that's not going to help anyone."*

This was the theme of her entire assembly and she illustrated this point with a photo of two gravestones in Het Oude Kerkhof (The Old Cemetery) in Roermond, Netherlands. As she explained, in 18th century Dutch society people lived separate lives according to their religious background, and this continued when they died. This cemetery has separate sections for Catholics, Protestants, and two sections for Jews. The gravestones, known as the Grave of the Little Hands, are those of a Catholic noblewoman and a Protestant colonel who, against

everyone's wishes, fell in love in 1840 and got married - even though there were differences in their religious background and their class. On his death she arranged for him to be buried on the edge of the Protestant section, so that his plot was right next to her family's Catholic plot on the other side of the wall. Later, when she died, two matching headstones were made with male and female hands bridging the religious divide, symbolising an eternal connection and the unity of love.



Rev Kate also talked about the origins of Unitarianism in Transylvania, which holds the particular honour of being the only country that became Unitarian - briefly - back in 1538, as a result of the Edict of Torda. According to Rev Kate, the Edict of Torda was a legal statement and a public declaration which affirmed that "in every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve." The declaration concluded: "For faith is the gift of God and this comes from hearing, which hearing is by the word of God." In other words, the Edict gave the preachers of Transylvania the freedom to interpret the bible according to their own understanding and said that the authorities should not punish preachers for speaking their mind, giving religious freedoms unheard of in other parts of Europe at the time.

This freedom to question, to challenge and to be curious is at the heart of our Unitarian ethos at Channing. The key, as we all know, is to help teenage children understand the true meaning of 'tolerance' when we talk about kindness, respect and tolerance at school. Rev Kate's thoughts on this really resonated with me and I share here the last part of her assembly verbatim:

"We are really lucky to be living in a time and place where we are able to express our opinions freely. But with this freedom comes responsibility. We are responsible for our actions and our words. If we start from a place of kindness, even when we disagree, we can find ways to co-exist, to live together. This is what it means to be tolerant. This is what it means to practise acceptance.

Now, there is a possibility that if we remain in our cosy cliques, surrounded by people who agree with us, we can form echo chambers. But we have our Unitarian tradition of spiritual inquiry, of questioning and soul searching, which encourages us to reach out beyond our own cosy community, to explore the views of people who are not like us. So, how do we build the bridge between differences of opinion? We hold in the balance a wish to belong - to a country, to a community - and yet a yearning to explore our ideas, our faith, our own individual path.

I am a Unitarian but I am not here to tell you what to believe. What I think I can do is to remind you to be your best self. You know what that is. The 'Golden Rule', to treat others as you would wish to be treated, is one thing, but going that step further to treat other people as they would wish to be treated is sometimes known as the 'Platinum Rule'. That is showing true empathy and kindness.

When you encounter someone for the first time, it's a natural instinct to notice what's different about them - whether that's physical appearance, accent or something that they say. We can

make that path of friendship smoother when we recognise the similarities rather than focussing on the differences. When we seek out the common ground, it is going to make someone feel much more comfortable than pointing out differences, othering them.

We are living in times where our society is being increasingly divided. Holding a particular view or political opinion seems to draw a line which is difficult to cross. We have lost the shades of grey and we must try to work harder to find that common ground. In those moments perhaps we should be asking, where is God, or if you prefer, goodness, in this conversation or situation? Perhaps that is the way in which we can find the highest power of goodness to help navigate the distance between us."

We woke this morning to the news that the pause in hostilities in Israel and Gaza has ended and our thoughts and prayers are with all those suffering as a result of the conflict. Let's hope that those involved in the negotiations are able to find the highest power of goodness to help them navigate the distance between them.

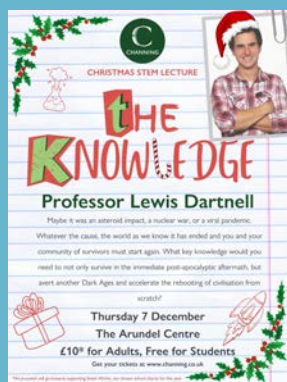
With warmest wishes for what promises to be a very chilly weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

We want your food and coats!

As part of Partnerships Week, we are asking pupils to bring in non-perishable food items and second-hand coats for us to donate to local food banks and charities. We are accepting women's, men's, and children's coats. Pupils can bring their donations to the pink bins that are located in front of the AC or under the Christmas tree. If you have any questions, please email Mrs Hillier.



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>

Harington Christmas Fair

You are warmly invited to the Harington Christmas Fair and Open Day, which will take place on Saturday 9 December from 10.00am to 2.00pm and entry is free - Harington at 54 Cholmeley Park, Highgate, London N6 5AD.

The Harington Students and Staff have been busy planting a wonderful selection of seasonal bulbs and plants for sale at the Christmas Fair. Their Students will be looking forward to visitors coming along to the Christmas Fair and Open Day to view their work at the Harington Horticultural site.

You will also be able to enjoy:

Christmas decorations, art and crafts, gifts and cards.

Beautiful Christmas wreaths.

Seasonal bulbs and plants.

Live music and Christmas carols by our good friends the London Metropolitan Brass.

Delicious refreshments, cakes, chutneys and jams - Homemade by the Friends of Harington.

Fantastic Raffle Prizes organised by the Friends of Harington.



Photographs

Gillman & Soame took portrait photographs in September. If you haven't already, please order these photographs as soon as possible (especially if you would like them for Christmas). If details have been mislaid, please contact Gillman & Soame directly at action@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password **channing374rbd2023** and they can assist.

Parent Volunteers needed for Careers Event

On Tuesday 16 January 2024 from 4.00 - 5.30pm the Careers Department is seeking volunteers to help us run our Sixth Form interview and assessment skills event. Sixth Formers will hear from experts beforehand and then complete a carousel of recruitment and assessment activities including psychometric testing, group exercises and a short face-to-face skills-based interview, with feedback.

We need many parent volunteers from all year groups to act as interviewers. You will be provided with example questions to use - or can use your own - and will interview and give feedback to several students. You do not need to have any particular recruitment expertise - being an 'unknown adult' to the young person is the most important requirement!

If you can help on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at the school, between 4.00 and approximately 5.30pm (or 6.00pm if you would like to stay for a drink and nibbles) please respond here:

[Interview and Assessment Skills Event responses](#). Alternatively get in touch with us at careers@channing.co.uk.

Thank you very much for your help. We will be in touch with volunteers before the end of term.

Upcoming TooledUp Events

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

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



CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Sustainability Week

We have held our second Sustainability Week at Channing, with a range of special events. On Monday we were visited by Conor O'Keefe from the Natural History Museum. He gave an excellent lunch time talk on engaging different groups of people with the climate crisis, and spoke about how the Natural History Museum is challenging young people to think sustainably.

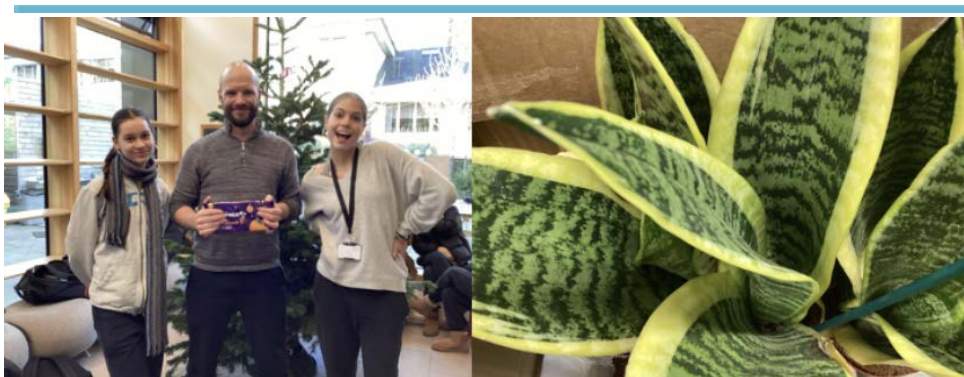
On Tuesday we heard from Peter Hume, a Marine Ecologist from Scotland, who exposed the illegal dumping of fish in Scottish seas this summer which made international news. Peter gave an amazing online talk on the importance of seagrass and the dangers of different types of fishing especially bottom trawling. When questioned by students how we can help on an individual level he underlined the huge difference that can be made by people choosing carefully what they buy.



On Wednesday Cath Demetriou, a local sustainable arts and crafts teacher, held a sustainable Christmas workshop and helped us make woodblock printed Christmas cards, recycled card wool-wrapped Christmas trees, felted mushroom decorations with acorn cap tops to name but a few. Everything was made from recycled material and biodegradable.



Congratulations to Sharpe who won the walk to school day on Monday! They had the highest number of students using a more sustainable form of transport instead of travelling by car.



Also this week every form received their own snake plant. Snake plants filter indoor air, help to remove toxic pollutants and are easy to care for. Each form gets to name their plant and decorate their plant pots. The Eco Reps are responsible for looking after them.

Finally, assembly this morning was taken by Lola and Grace, our Sustainability Officers, with many of the Eco Reps, on the topic of COP 28. You can see their presentation [here](#).

Music News

Many congratulations to Elene K, Year 8, who has just gained a Distinction for her Grade VIII Piano examination. This is a fabulous achievement for anyone, but particularly so at such a young age. Well done, Elene!

LAMDA News

This week the LAMDA students performed and filmed their Duologues in class for a self assessment alongside their post-it now feedback. Now, they are preparing for a mini showcase in class next week, when they will perform their scenes to a wider peer audience.

An apposite time then to share this resource on Tooled Up: [Everyone Gets Stage Fright: A Chat with Dr Anna Colton by Dr Kathy Weston](#).

Performance anxiety (or stage fright) is a universal experience and can occur when doing anything in public. This webinar explores causes and offers solutions. Relevant for adults and children, from those with low level test or social anxiety to barristers and West End performers. If your child suffers from performance anxiety, you could watch this presentation together. It features supportive explanations of bodily responses to situations, the symptoms this causes and a range of simple practical strategies that can be tried by anyone - young and old - to combat them.

History News

AQA Student Conference: The Tudors

The Year 12 and 13 History students attended the AQA Tudor Day with Historian Tracy Borman and AQA Chief Examiner Keith Milne on Tuesday 28 November. The students had the opportunity to listen to Prof Borman speak on Henry VII and the establishment of the Tudor dynasty. This was particularly special because she has agreed to support a new award at Channing: The Tracy Borman Women Making History Prize. This will be awarded to the student who, through their pursuit of History at A level and desire to study it at university, best exemplifies the qualities of a future contributor to historical scholarship and to advancing women's presence in the field. This will be given at the Year 13 Leavers' Assembly in May. The remainder of the day was spent with Keith Milne working on improving essay and source interpretation skills on the Tudors.



Year 8 Hampton Court Palace Trip

On Thursday the whole Year 8 cohort, led by the History department, visited Hampton Court Palace. Built in 1514 by Henry VIII's minister, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the Palace was then 'gifted' to Henry, who set about an ambitious building programme. During the Tudor period, the palace was the scene of many historic events. In 1537, the King's much-desired male heir, the future Edward VI, was born at the palace and the child's mother, Jane Seymour, died there two weeks later. Four years afterwards, whilst attending Mass in the palace's chapel, the King was informed of

the adultery of his fifth wife, Catherine Howard. She was then confined to her room for a few days before being sent to Syon House and then on to the Tower of London. Legend claims she briefly escaped her guards and ran through The Haunted Gallery to beg Henry for her life but she was recaptured. Year 8 had a wonderful day exploring the Palace, which was also home to several Stuart monarchs, such as Charles I who spent his honeymoon there. The students also braved the winter elements to spend a splendid hour exploring the fabled maze, the UK's oldest surviving hedge maze. Commissioned around 1700 by William III, it covers a third of an acre and is known for confusing and intriguing visitors with its many twists, turns and dead ends. Many thanks to those teachers who accompanied the History department, and to Year 8 for their entertaining company.

English News

Year 11 Poetry Live Trip

Last Friday, Year 11 travelled to the Dominion Theatre to attend Poetry Live, where we listened to world-famous poets, including Carol Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker and current poet laureate Simon Armitage, perform their work. Many of the poems we study for our AQA English Literature GCSE were discussed and the event allowed us to expand our knowledge regarding the context of these poems. Being able to watch the poets perform live, whilst also describing their creative process was truly fascinating and an extremely valuable experience. We also received exam tips from the head examiner Tony Childs, who provided thoughtful insight into the best techniques for unseen poetry exam questions. Overall, it was an interesting, informative and enjoyable way to spend our Friday!

Sereny, Year 11

Art News

On Friday 24 November Year 12 and 13 Art students visited the Wellcome Collection and Tate Modern. At the Wellcome they were able to learn about the notions of beauty and its modifications over time in 'The Cult of Beauty' which comprised a rich and provoking collection of art, artefacts and installations of varied content, blurring the boundaries between art and science.

At Tate Modern students were treated to an extraordinary installation: [El Anatsui's](#) 'Behind the Red Moon', a monumental sculptural installation made of thousands of metal bottle tops and fragments. Crumpling, crushing, and stitching them into different compositions, large panels are pieced together to form massive abstract fields of colour, shape and line.



The second highlight was the Phillip Guston exhibition, 'For over 50 years'; the artist restlessly made paintings and drawings that captured the anxious and turbulent world he was witnessing. Born in Canada to a Jewish immigrant family, he grew up in the US and eventually became one of the most celebrated abstract painters. His early work included murals and paintings addressing racism in America and wars abroad. During the social and political upheavals of the late 1960s, Guston grew critical of abstraction, and began producing large-scale paintings that feature comic-like figures, some in white hoods representing evil and the everyday perpetrators of racism. These paintings and those that followed established Guston as one of the most influential painters of the late 20th century. Plenty of food for thought for students to extend their current projects!

MFL News

At the Senior School, students have the option to learn two languages out of French, German and/or Spanish.

Our students have achieved exceptional success this Autumn across all three languages:

Congratulations to Hannah R who won the Schools Laureate Prize (KS4) in the national Stephen Spender competition for her translation from the original German of *Hansel and Gretel* and her own creative response. Her wonderful work (and the original) can be read [here](#).

Students have also enjoyed well-deserved success in the [international Poesiae poetry recitation competition](#), where 220 schools participated. Leila A won the Year 9 competition for Spanish with Federico García Lorca's *Mariposa del aire*. The Year 10 competition was won by Ellie W in French (*La Petite Pomme* by Géo Norge) and Winnie D in German (*Die Lorelei* by Heinrich Heine). In Year 11, Opal H was the winner for German with her superb rendition of *Lob des Lernens* by Bertolt Brecht.



Classics News

Tuesday saw the annual Classics Symposium enjoyed by students from Years 10-13 at Channing, Fortismere, LaSWAP and Francis Holland School (Regent's Park). Dr Liz Gloyn from Royal Holloway started the event off with a fascinating talk on the Stoic philosopher Seneca and his radical ideas about the family and relationships. She had us thinking about *oikeiôsis*, the Stoic concept of self and the way in which we relate to others, and the way in which this challenged the traditional Roman hierarchical family structure with the *paterfamilias* as the head of the household.



Dr Albert Bates from Cambridge then spoke about the octopus in classical art and literature and the ways in which art and the octopus intersect: perhaps we are just as crafty as the octopus when we make mimetic art. He reminded us that Odysseus is compared to an octopus in *Odyssey 5* and showed us all manner of beautiful Greek vases and Roman mosaics. The evening was rounded off by a delicious Italian meal kindly put on by Judith and her catering team. It was great to bring classicists from different schools together and we look forward to more partnership events next term.

Sports News

Badminton

GCSE PE U16s Badminton - vs London City School for Girls

On Monday 27 November all 8 Year 11 GCSE girls competed in a friendly competition against London City School for Girls. They played a series of competitive doubles matches to 21 points and relished the opportunity to be challenged by girls from all age groups. With some strikingly creative shots from Catherine Stobart in a singles game Channing gained some points and the girls worked well collaboratively to approach the games strategically. Well done to everyone who was involved!

Netball

U14 Netball - Nationals School County Tournament

On Sunday 19 November, the U14 team who were a mixture of year 8 and year 9 students competed in the National Schools Middlesex County Tournament. We had a slow start to the tournament and lost our first game against St Paul's Girls School. However, after a regroup our second game was much closer and we managed to draw against Godolphin and Latymer 8-8. Because of our one draw, and one loss it meant that if we wanted the opportunity to finish first or second in our group to get to the semifinals, we had to win our last two matches. Luckily we were successful at this and won against North London Collegiate 11-6 and 15-3 against The Latymer School, with some fantastic shooting from our shooters, Eleanor, Florence and Indy. The results came down to the goal difference between us and Godolphin & Latymer. Overall although it was not the result we wanted. These girls should be proud of their performance at the end! They also got to meet an England Netball and London Pulse player Halimat Adio!



U13 Netball - Independent Schools Netball Plate Match v Sir William Perkins

On Tuesday 21 November the U13 A Netball team competed in the first round of the ISNC Plate Competition against Sir William Perkins School. They held a strong 10 goal lead throughout the match and it was inspiring to see them playing for each other. Captain Violet L was superb at guiding the team whilst on the court. The last quarter was much closer and it was a tense finish with Channing winning 35-31. This will take them into the next round. Congratulations to Florence LB and Josie E for being players of the match.

UI2B Haringey Schools Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 28 November the UI2 B team competed in the Haringey Schools Netball Tournament. The girls played 6 matches and developed their own style of play as the games went out. I am pleased to report that they came 2nd in the tournament and had a successful day!



UI3 A & B and UI2 C & D vs Francis Holland

On Tuesday 28 November the girls played against Francis Holland. Even though the UI3 A team were the only team to win, we are incredibly proud of our UI2 C & D teams who slotted in and played against Francis Holland UI3 teams! They gave them a fight all the way to the last minute. Very proud of the girls!

UI2A vs Greig City Academy - Haringey League Netball Match

On Tuesday 28 November, the UI2 A team played their last Haringey League match against Greig City Academy. They had a tremendous game and displayed great passages of play down the court. The girls went on to win the game. This resulted in 4 out of 4 wins for this team. Well done girls!

Football

UI3-14 Friendly v South Hampstead High School

On 20 November, the UI3s & UI4s combined to play a friendly fixture v South Hampstead High School (SHHS). This was a short but intense game of football with Milla C making the opening goal for Channing. It was then a back and forth game with chances from Renata R just shy of going into the back of the net. SHHS did not give up, resulting in a 2-1 loss for Channing, but gaining some good minutes for the players. Thank you to everyone who played and braved the cold.

UI4-15 Haringey League v Harris Tottenham

On 22 November, the UI4s & UI5s combined to play our very first fixture of the Year 9 & 10 Haringey League v Harris Tottenham (HT). This was an exciting game with Channing and HT going toe to toe for the full game. There were many opportunities to score from the first whistle including shots on target from Darcy D and Natasha R, including a penalty which we were unfortunate not to convert. After multiple chances to score, we finally did so with Darcy D capitalising on a shot in front of goal. The game continued with many counterattacks going both ways with Talia G, Grace G, and GG pushing up the field from defence, creating some attacking overloads. Renata R, Lexie N, Neve C, and Sasha M also combined well passing their way through the defence. With great intensity, we unfortunately conceded through a counterattack in the final minutes to end with a 1-1 draw. A terrific effort from all players involved: we are all excited for the next match.



Geography News

On Wednesday, the Year 13 geographers went to the Royal Geographical Society for an A Level study afternoon. They listened to three lectures on Hazards, Changing Places and the Carbon Cycle which reviewed topics they studied in Year 12. The afternoon ended with a session on exam technique.

Partnership News

Partnerships Week

This week was a busy week in partnerships as it was the National Partnerships Week where schools around the country celebrated their collaborative work. At Channing we have hosted nearly 100 pupils this week in Chess, Young Enterprise, Robotics, Gaming, German, iBrick, Multisports, Latin, Minimus, Medical Discussion, Science, Debating and Reading Clubs. Pupils from our partner schools also enjoyed a party in the dining hall where they received certificates for their involvement this term and the Latin department hosted their Latin Symposium which was a fabulous success.

I am also delighted to announce the start of a new partnership with Highgate Primary School where Year 12 volunteers from Channing went along to their Breakfast club to read and play games with the pupils there. Pupils from Highgate Primary will be joining us next term for our weekly clubs and events.



Here are some photos below of some of the successes this term.



Science Club

This week, being the last week of Science Club before Christmas, we thought it would only be right to have a Christmas themed week! Pupils were given chromatography equipment and asked to design their own Christmas cards, and baubles. The pupils made some fantastic designs which they were then able to take home and give to their loved ones. We look forward to having them back next term!



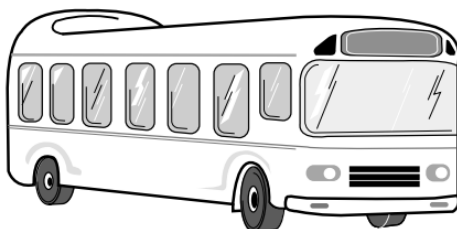
German Fun Club

Students from Channing Junior School and St Joseph's Primary School have enjoyed a taste of German language and culture this term, led by Year 8 German students including Alaia P, Aenea E, Edlyn B and Kaitlyn M. Together with our German Language Assistant direct from Kiel, Syster, Frau P and Frau S, students have learnt to introduce themselves, to count and to ask for food (always very important!). They recited a poem, *Herzlichen Glückwunsch*, to Tate B who won the *Poesiae* recitation competition for Year 5 German with her [lovely rendition](#) of Arne Rautenberg's *ichsoerso*. We are also so grateful to Diego for inspiring us with *deutsche Kekse* and this week's Winter treasure hunt proved great fun and memorable. Students describe this as '*the best club ever*'!

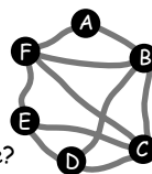


Brookfield Puzzle Club

This week was the last puzzle club session of the term. The students have worked on some tricky problems and have really developed their problem solving skills. See if you can do one of the problems from this week.



Six towns are connected by bus routes.
The bus goes from A back to A.
It visits each of the other towns once.
How many different bus routes are there?



This table shows the bus fare for each direct route.
B to A costs the same as A to B, and so on.

A to B	B to C	C to D	D to E	E to F	F to A	B to D	B to F	C to E	C to F
£4	£3	£4	£4	£3	£4	£5	£3	£2	£2

Which round trip from A to A is the cheapest?

Robotics and Coding Club

Isaac and Sophia are the latest group to finish building their robot. The robot was engineered to run really smoothly and Isaac managed to break the loading record by lifting 4 bricks onto the robot's back and then transporting them to their destination. Sofia and Anoushka have been downloading code to their robot's brain to move around an obstacle course. Meanwhile, Aayu has started creating a multiplication app using App Lab, which has a design mode and a Javascript coding mode.



STEM News

Sixth Form Maths Enrichment Lecture

Last week the whole of Year 13 had an enrichment lecture from Mrs Wootton titled 'Prussian Bridges and Chinese Postman'. In this Year 13 learnt about the famous Bridges of Konigsberg, where the citizens of this influential Prussian City in the 18th century puzzled for decades as to whether there was a route over the 7 bridges connecting the 4 regions of the city. All of Year 13 learnt about the fundamentals of Graph theory and worked hard to find a traversable route. Here they are hard at work.



They found out about how Euler proved it was impossible and then how his work was used in Decision Maths two centuries later when a Chinese Mathematician called Kwan Mei-Ko invented the 'Chinese Postman Algorithm' which minimises the total distance



walked by a postman delivering mail. Our students learnt how to find the minimum distance through the network by using the algorithm. It was all about the odd and even vertices!

Year 7 Maths in Action

Mrs Wootton and Ms Hadley's class were learning about substitution by playing a substitution dice game. This was after learning about Algebra with 'Football Algebra'. They are enjoying their success with the Key Stage 3 Puzzle of the Week competition and are currently second on the leaderboard!



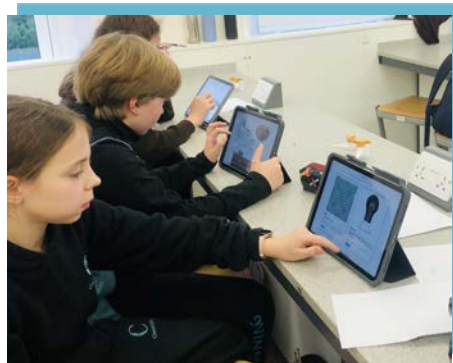
Glider Challenge

The glider challenge for Years 7 to 9 kicked off on Monday this week. The students have been trialling different designs to see which will travel the furthest. We look forward to seeing how their final gliders fare on test day (Mon 11 December). There is still time to get involved. Look out for the posters around Brunner House.



Science Club

In Science Club this week, we delved into the significance of studying the mind and behaviour scientifically. We conducted experiments showcasing



various psychological phenomena, such as primacy and recency, memory intrusion, and the Stroop effect, all of which have been pivotal in psychological discoveries. Furthermore, we explored the concept of selective attention and watched this video clip: http://www.theinvisiblegorilla.com/gorilla_experiment.html. Can you see how many times the players in white passed the ball? To conclude the session, we explored a variety of optical illusions that you can try: <https://www.optics4kids.org/optical-illusions>.

Marine Biology Club

The pupils have happily settled into a little routine at Marine Biology Club. They have set up a feeding and visiting rota and are cleaning the tank every week. The fish even seemed quite excited to see their human friends and posed for a number of fish selfies! Perhaps they were hungry after the weekend?! The pupils have agreed that they would like to learn more about the anatomy of a fish....more to come next week!

Science Journal Club

Charlotte chose an article this week that was about “How to get a better night's sleep by hacking your brainwaves”. We were excited about this one as we thought we would be able to find lots of new ways to get plenty of sleep. Disappointingly, the article focussed on how to track sleep using sleep trackers to identify patterns. We felt that most people are reasonably well aware of their own sleep patterns and that we didn't really need trackers to help with this; indeed, our own experience of these trackers was that they were unreliable and often misinterpreted watching TV or reading as sleep time. Whilst some of the trackers also blocked out some sound, these were really expensive and a magic recipe for a great night's sleep was not forthcoming!

CREST Awards

Georgina V, Isobel B and Isla M made good progress with their experiments to investigate the strength of materials. However, the tiles that they had sustainably sourced were very thick and did not break, even when 1.5 kg was dropped from a height directly above the tile. They had to modify their experiment to use a different style of ceramic tile that was thinner. The new tile broke when 0.3 kg was used.

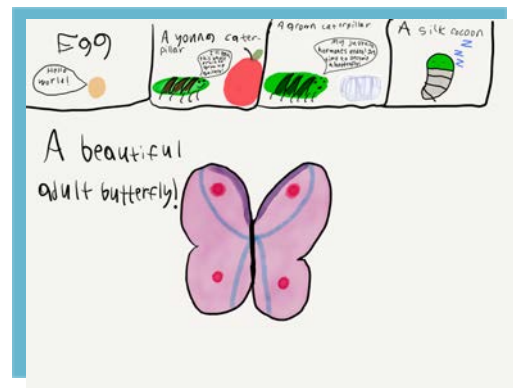




Ekta A and Caye B continue to investigate fizzy drink recipes with the aim of making a drink that does not have a vinegar flavour! Last week their drink was fizzy, but did not smell very appetising.

Science question of the week

This week's Science question of the week was 'How do caterpillars turn into a butterfly?'. Once again we had lots of brilliant answers which were very enjoyable to read through. The winner this week gaining a commendation is Nancy S who had a very detailed and thorough answer to the question. The runners up were Tamara P, Ruchi P, and Mariia S who all received a merit. Well done everyone!



Science Museum Trip

This week all of Year 7 went on a trip to the Science museum. We had a brilliant day, looking through the exhibitions, having a go at lots of fun experiments and watching demonstrations in the Wonderlab, and watching Antarctica in 3D at the IMAX cinema. Great fun was had by all!



STEM Careers Club

Elise C, Liv C and Parisa G began to investigate online work experience this week, with Liv and Elise both beginning their programmes of study. As Parisa has already completed an online work experience course, she has begun to focus on the other requirements for a degree in medicine and is using the time to begin organising her materials.

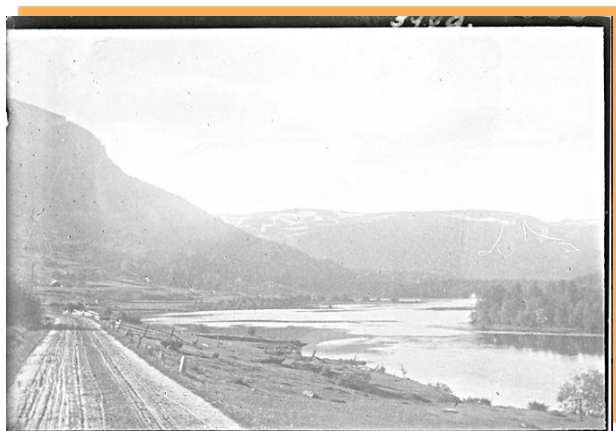
UCL Prize Lecture 2023



Year 12 pupils, Sylvie and Zoe had the opportunity to attend the UCL Prize Lecture 2023. The title was '*Using AI to Accelerate Scientific Discovery*'. The lecture was delivered by Demis Hassabis, co-founder and CEO of Google DeepMind, one of the world's leading AI research groups. We learnt about AlphaGo, AlphaFold and the latest AI product of the company, SynthID which is an AI generated watermark to recognise AI created items. His advice to teenagers, " Believe in your idea and try it. Be braver."

Archive News

As we come to the end of Sustainability Week we are all surely grateful for the wonders of this planet we call home. As such we would like to share this glass plate photo of a lake from (circa.) the early twentieth century.



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channing_school



@channingschool



ChanningSchool



020 8340 2328



info@channing.co.uk



The Bank, Highgate, N6 5HF