



Dear Parents,

I want to start this week with my thanks to Mr Meier for his Word from the (Deputy) Head last week. It certainly chimed with me and generated a lot of discussion, not least in thinking about other circumstances in which women make adjustments to their routine for their own safety. My mother (an avid reader of Word from the Head) highlighted the need to park under a street light, for example. It remains deeply saddening that we need to consider these things and I have no doubt that the fathers, brothers and other men in our girls' lives will have taken Mr Meier's point to heart.

The reason Mr Meier was in charge last Friday is that I was in Liverpool attending the annual Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) Conference. As always it was a fascinating two days, with thought-provoking keynote speeches from politicians and thought leaders. You may have seen press coverage of some of it, including Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan suggesting that she [would have punched rude Ofsted inspectors](#) - not a sentiment with which I can agree!

However it does reflect the theme of the speech made by John Camp, this year's ASCL President, in which he considered the fracturing of the unwritten social contract, particularly in relation to behaviour and attendance. He called for a 'change of tone' in the national conversation about education and, listening to some of the experiences related by my state school colleagues over the course of the conference, I understand entirely what he means.

It's a conversation we had at Channing just last week, when we discussed how social norms are changing and people do - or, indeed, don't do - things which would have been considered entirely unacceptable five or ten years ago. "Dog mess", said the Bursar (although he may have used another word for mess). I was a bit surprised until he explained what he meant. I'm sure that many of you, like me, grew up with streets littered with dog mess. That all changed in 1996 when a new law required dog owners to pick up after their dogs, and owners swinging a small green bag alongside the lead on their walks became an entirely normal sight. However he had noticed - and I certainly have too - that the streets of London are no longer as clean as they were and that more and more owners are flouting the law (and common decency) by not picking up after their dog. It's a small thing but it matters, because when we stop acting for the greater good in our individual lives then society as a whole can only be the worse for it.

Under these circumstances, then, we cannot underestimate the importance of character. Alongside knowledge and skills in subjects like maths, history, science and art, it has always been the purpose of school to instil character in our children. However it's entirely possible and, I would argue, necessary, to teach it explicitly, rather than by chance or osmosis. Over the last 18 months you will know that Miss Hamalis and the Junior School team have embedded character education in the Junior School with the eight Channing Characters. They are on posters and stickers all over school, referred to repeatedly in lessons, feature in Forest School and on the Conabor tree in every classroom, and I was delighted that on Monday this week we launched the story books.

Each of the eight characters has their own story, written by a former Year 6 pupil and honed by Miss Wright, and illustrated by professional cartoonist Paul Solomons. He was in attendance on Monday at the launch and was delighted to be presented with his own set of the books. You may already have seen them being read by me (The Brave Mole, of course!), Miss Hamalis and the Junior School staff on our social media channels at [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#). Do take a look and, in due course, you will be able to order a set of books too!

In the Senior School one of the ways I can gauge how well our ethos is embedded is by how often different phrases or mottos are used by the girls in their videos, talks and presentations. This week I had the joy of interviewing the 17 Year 12 girls who have applied to be a Head Girl and, watching their minute-long introductory videos and reading their applications, I was struck by how often the ideas of being 10% Braver, the Unitarian ethos of Open Minds, Loving Hearts and Helping Hands (with which I start assembly every Tuesday) and, of course, Girls Enjoying Success, made an appearance. It was genuinely heartwarming to hear the esteem in which the candidates hold the school and how much our values matter to them.

One of them suggested that she wanted the school to be not just 10% braver but also 10% kinder. It was serendipitous, then, that I received this email from a Channing parent at the start of the week:

*I was in Sainsbury's in Golders Green at about 4pm on Friday and there was a group of four Channing girls there too. I don't know their names but they must have been in either Year 9 or 10. They were in front of me in the queue to pay and in front of them was an elderly man. He accidentally dropped a large box of blueberries all over the floor and the girls all behaved with such kindness and respect. One picked up the blueberries, one alerted a member of staff, one offered to get a fresh pack for the man.*

*We always applaud achievement and effort - whether academic, sporting or other - but it is these small acts of unobserved kindness and good citizenship that really speak volumes about the character of these girls (and, I hope, of all Channing girls).*

I replied to say how delighted I was to hear that the Channing character we try to build is indeed evident in how our girls conduct themselves out in the world. There are undoubtedly challenges with teenage behaviour and, as my correspondent put it, "young people have a bad collective reputation at the moment", so I am heartened to be able to celebrate these acts of kindness where I can.

Another way in which you may wish to help us celebrate the education of girls and young women is to write a letter for the GSA's **Triumph, Like a Girl Anthology**. In the Association's 150th year we're looking for letters from women, girls, and all who walk in allyship alongside us, to speak up for girls and women. This limited edition book will serve as a celebration of our history and bring hope to future generations. Award-winning writer and editor Karen McCarthy Woolf is editor and Stephanie Sy-Quia is illustrator. You can [find out more here](#) and, if you'd like, [submit your entry here](#). Submissions close on 2 April.

With all of this I have not even had a chance to celebrate Science Week with its myriad trips and events, give you a review of last night's stunning Spring Concert at St Joseph's or remind you to have a book ready for Monday's Big Book Swap in support of our Reading for Pleasure initiative. Please read on to hear more about these (and in some cases tune in next week for the full lowdown) and in the meantime, I wish you the very best for the weekend.

Mrs Lindsey Hughes  
Headmistress


# Notices

## Who Should I Contact?

Please see below updated contact information for the Senior School:

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

## Channing Parents' Information Evening in conjunction with Wellbeing Week, 19 March 2024


We are delighted to welcome Andrew Hampton, founder of The *Girls On Board* Approach, to speak to parents on Tuesday 19 March 2024 6:00 - 7:00pm. Years 7-11 were introduced to Girls on Board earlier this term and we encourage you to find out more about how we are using this to enable your children to manage their own friendship issues. More details can be found here:  [Parents Webinar for Wellbeing Week 2024.pdf](#).

## ABRSM Practical Music Examinations - SUMMER TERM 20 -23 May 2024 APPLICATIONS CLOSING ON TUESDAY

We will be holding Summer Term Practical music examinations over two or three days during **20 - 23 May 2024** for candidates in both the Junior and Senior School. These examinations are also open to candidates who have practical music tuition outside of school, providing their teacher has stated that they are ready to take an ABRSM Practical examination this term.


*(Please note: regrettably, Year 6 pupils will be unable to take their examination in the Summer Term, as they are away on a residential trip the week the examinations take place in May.)*

We do need parental consent before we enter candidates, therefore parents need to scan the QR code shown and complete the online form by **4pm on Tuesday 19 March** at the latest. Regrettably, we will be unable to process late applications.



### ABRSM Examinations

Examinations are scheduled to take place during **20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**



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

**Consent forms must be submitted by 4pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Regrettably, late entries cannot be accepted.**

## Clean Air Week, 18-22 March: parking at Southwood Lane

Highgate School is running a 'Clean Air Campaign' during the week of 18 – 22 March to raise awareness about dangerous levels of air pollution and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from school travel. As part of this, Highgate pupils will be distributing leaflets to any drivers dropping off children outside their school buildings on Southwood Lane where they have noted that Channing pupils are sometimes dropped. While we ask you to be respectful of our neighbours when you are dropping off and picking up at Channing, it is important not to impact the wider village and the operations of the other schools in the area either. Please can we urge you not to park in this area either. Thank you!

## North London Book Fest, Alexandra Palace 21-24 March

We have planned a lively and diverse programme including big names like Natalie Haynes, Robin Ince, Lemony Snicket, Michael Rosen, Costa-winner Stuart Turton, and Peter Hain - but also some exciting debut writers including Leo Vardiashvili who featured on Front Row recently and Jay Owens with *Dust: The Modern World in a Trillion Particles*, revealing the hidden consequences of environmental devastation caused by the relentless pursuit of profit and power.

There will be panels ranging from conversations with parenting experts to an exploration of creativity and AI with Robin Ince and Andy Stanton, plus a special Night of Crime and Thrillers. There will be workshops and talks from some of the very best children's writers.

For 50% off book fest events in the Theatre please use NLBFCLOFF50

For 20% off book fest events in the other spaces please use NLBFCLOFF20

Tickets can be booked via the Alexandra Palace website:

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/north-london-book-festival/>

## The Big Book Swap - 10 days to go!!

Students have been invited to participate in a school-wide book swap on **Monday 25 March**. Here's what you need to know:

1. Find a book that you really enjoyed. The book must belong to you (so, not a library book, an heirloom, or belonging to someone else in your family).
2. Wrap it up in whatever paper you have lying around (newspaper, old wrapping paper etc.)
3. On a Post-it, explain in a few words who might like this novel and the genre. **No spoilers. No book title.** For example: About four teenage girls, growing up in Civil War America. A classic.
4. Bring it to school on **Monday March 25** when our reading registration will be Big Book Swap time. Even better if you bring it to school asap and then you won't forget!
5. Monday March 25: swap your book with someone else's! Unwrap. Read. Enjoy.

## Channing Jazz Evening, Tuesday 26 March

The annual **Channing Jazz Evening** takes place on **Tuesday 26 March** at **6.30pm** in the **Arundel Centre**.

There will be a professional *Jazz Quartet* led by our own saxophone teacher and top class jazz musician, Theo Travis. The professionals will be supported by, and play with, our own pupils with performances from the *Channing Jazz Band* and vocal spotlight opportunities for singers. Our own pupils will also be playing and singing with the professionals, giving them a great opportunity to develop their talents.

Tickets are priced at **£10** (children under the age of 18 are FREE but do need tickets) and are available here: [Jazz Evening - Booking](#). Seating will be downstairs, informally around small tables in front of the stage and a finger buffet is included in the ticket price. There will also be a licensed bar. (*Seats will be available in the balcony upstairs as an alternative, but drinks and food are not permitted upstairs.*)

This event is always very popular: get your ticket orders in quickly!

## London Landmarks Marathon, 7 April - Sponsor Ms Newman

Our Deputy Head (Academic), Ms Jacqui Newman, has been persuaded out of running retirement to complete the London Landmarks Half Marathon on **Sunday 7 April**. She and alumna Jessy Croghan (Class of 2012) are running in support of WAVE Hub, a local charity <https://www.wavehub.org.uk/> running events 'with not for' adults with additional needs.

If you are able to support Jacqui or Jessy please use these links to reach their just giving pages:  
Ms Newman: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jacqui-newman-1706352661085>  
Jessy C: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jessy-croghan-1706045372772>

## 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.

## DofE Kit Donations

As part of our commitment to partnership activity in the local area, we are supporting other local state schools with their DofE programmes. A lack of outdoor equipment is a major barrier to participation and we would welcome the help of Channing parents in this. Please see below the details of what is needed and how to donate your unwanted items. Thank you in advance!

### Do you have any spare DofE kit you would like to pass on?

The Channing DofE department is starting an initiative to support pupils in other schools where lack of outdoor equipment is a barrier to them joining in the DofE programme.

We are asking families to donate any unwanted kit so that we can pass it on to those who need it.

We would really appreciate your donations to make DofE accessible to as many people as possible.

#### Items we are looking for include:

- Sporks, cooking and eating utensils
- Hiking boots
- Rucksacks
- Gaiters
- Waterproof jackets and trousers
- Sleeping bags
- Sleeping mats
- Map cases
- Compasses



If you have any kit to donate, we will be collecting it in **The Sixth Form Foyer from 1:00-1:30 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday** during the week commencing **18th of March**. Please ensure that items are **clean and in good condition** before donating. Thank you, Erica, Livi, Lotte & Sophie-Y12



Any Questions please email - [mvun@channing.co.uk](mailto:mvun@channing.co.uk)

## Chatting with Channing - A conversation with Peter Boxall, Director of Music

Step into the world of music with our latest podcast episode featuring Mr Boxall, Director of Music at Channing School. In this engaging conversation, Mr Boxall shares insights into his musical journey, the vibrant music department at Channing, unforgettable performances, and the integration of technology in music education.



**Musical Journey:** Learn about Mr Boxall's inspiring journey into music, from his early fascination with the pipe organ to his role as Director of Music at Channing School.

**Channing's Music Department:** Explore the dynamic music department at Channing, where students have access to state-of-the-art facilities and a diverse range of musical activities.

**Memorable Performances:** Discover the highlights of Mr Boxall's career, including grand concerts at prestigious venues and recitals at St Joseph's Church.

**Technology in Music Education:** Delve into the role of technology in music education, from software tools like GarageBand to the integration of music production in the curriculum.

Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or the [Channing Website](#).



# Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

## Sports News

### Pupil Success

Congratulations to Olivia W in Year 8 who represented Channing at the Public Schools Fencing Championships this week. After a very long day Olivia took the home silver medal in the Mount Haes Girls Foil (Years 7, 8 and 9) category from a field of 90 girls. Well done, Olivia!



Congratulations to Sophia G in Year 10 who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup in Bulgaria in May. This is an amazing achievement and the first time Sophia has been selected in the Great Britain Senior Team!

### Football

Last weekend, the Channing PE Department organised a football trip to St George's Park, home of England Football, for Years 7 & 8. We competed in tournaments, tried hydrotherapy, and got to experience some of the places where the England team play. Overall it was an amazing, rewarding time that we got to share with our friends and our team, and it was a great way to improve and help us get better.

We left early on Saturday morning and had a 2 and a half hour coach ride to St George's Park. We played 5 matches that afternoon before dinner, with mostly wins and one loss. We competed against schools like Notre Dame, Fulham School,



Lady Margaret's and Danes Hill School. It was a series of really well-played and fun games, and we had a blast.



The next day, we had two more group matches before we got separated into the championship and the plate. Unfortunately, we lost both, but only by one, meaning we went into the plate competition. We played a riveting match against Fulham School, 0-0 after two halves. We then had to go into a 5v5, and still 0-0. We finally had to do a 3v3, and still 0-0. We had to go into penalties and unluckily lost by one, but it was a fast-paced, highly competitive game, and it was a great experience to play against them. Our final game repeated the same way: 0-0 after two halves, and after a 5v5, but in our 3v3 we scored and won the game. We came home with massive smiles and silver medals, having had an incredible time there. We are so grateful that we got this opportunity and we had the best time.

*Milla C & Scarlett P, Year 8*

### U15 Haringey Tournament

On Tuesday 12 March, the Year 9 and 10 football team travelled to Highgate Wood school to take part in a football tournament. The tournament was against three schools; Highgate Wood, Fortismere and Woodside. The tournament was a part of the Haringey league. The first team we played against was Woodside and it ended with us winning one nil. The second result didn't go as well as we would've hoped as we ended up losing seven nil. The score didn't matter to us as we tried our hardest and fought until the final whistle. Unfortunately, we also ended up losing the last game one nil. Although we lost the game, it was very tight and we had lots of good chances on goal. In the end, we didn't get the results we were hoping for but everyone played so well and most importantly tried their absolute very best. We all had so much fun and now all we can do is learn from our mistakes and try our very best to improve for our upcoming games.

Congratulations to the U15 team who finished 4th place in the league for the 2023/2024 season.

*Lexi N & Neve C, Year 9*

## Music News

### Music at Lunchtime

This week's lunchtime concert was a delight and one of the most popular of the year so far. There was so much support in the audience and it was radiating with Channing spirit!



First we heard the Intermediate Flute Ensemble, which consisted of Charlotte R 7KN, Florence J 7LR, Luna T 8LW, Georgina V 9GHa, Arianna A 9VS, Indy D 9VS, Cara P 9VS, Cristina C 10GR and Hermione H 10HWO playing Mamma Mia by ABBA. This was really nicely played and it was very coordinated. It was clear that they had a strong ensemble. Next, we heard from an unusual ensemble; three cellos, Darcy D 9VS, Flora G 10HWO and Yutao W 10RMn joined by Maika P-Y 11CW on the piano playing Requiem Op.66 by David Popper. This was such a unique piece and it was so well portrayed by these talented musicians.

Then, Elene K 8AK played Les Ecureuils by Büsser on the flute. This piece was evidently virtuosic as she played many sequential

and scalic passages. Next we heard from Edlyn B 8MH on the violin playing a traditional Scottish reel, she had an amazing sound and her talent was displayed through her precise playing. Next we were treated to Evangelina U in 9CS singing Set Fire to the Rain by Adele, this was incredible, she sang with great emotion. Last, but certainly not least, we heard an amazing duet from Serrana B in Year 9 and Martha R in Year 10, singing Catch me Now by Olivia Rodrigo. The harmonies in this were lovely, their voices blended really well together. They transfixed our audience! Well done everyone. Listen to this week's concert [HERE](#).

*Reviewed by Hanna D 12Pb & Natalia B 12SF*

## Politics News

On Monday, Year 12 and 13 Politics Students had the opportunity to attend a Politics conference (PolEcon) alongside nearly 2000 other students at Methodist Central Church, Westminster. The speakers, made up of notable figures from across the political spectrum such as Wes Streeting, Baroness Chakrabarti, Lord Dubs, Richard Tice (leader of the Reform Party) and deputy leader of the Green Party, Zack Polanski, who engaged the audience with their short yet enticing talks. They were also directly challenged by members in the audience, which was certainly entertaining.

Alongside these politicians, we also heard from a series of political correspondents, including Ed Vaizey, who spoke to us about the importance of the press in shaping the political atmosphere, and how the campaigns of political parties are increasingly focusing on social media to appeal to younger voters. A highlight for all was when Jacob Rees Mogg was questioned regarding his decision to recline on the seats in the House of Commons - to which his answer was along the lines of 'I was just doing what they did in the olden days!', and when Tice was asked some unusual questions about his opinions on Donald Trump.



The final talk of the day was a Q&A session with Rory Stewart and Alistair Campbell, respected political correspondents (and a former MP, in Stewart's case) in their own right, who are best known for hosting the successful *The Rest is Politics* podcast, where they discuss both national and global news stories and developments. We heard some insightful questions from other students and really enjoyed seeing Campbell and Stewart in the flesh, and witnessing the dynamic relationship between the two. Some of us even managed to get our books signed by them after the conference!

A big thank you to Mrs Garrill and Mr Martini-Phillips for organising and accompanying us on the trip. It was a fantastic opportunity to enrich our political knowledge outside the classroom and was certainly an unforgettable experience!

*Lauren S and Mia B, Year 12*

## Economics News

We are delighted to announce that Alisa K and Isabella W in Year 12 were both formally accepted onto the Goldman Sachs Pre-University Women's Event taking place on Friday 15 March. The exclusive invitation was application based. This one-day in person event will introduce students to a unique combination of experiential learning and university readiness. It will give students an



opportunity to develop their strengths, build confidence and gain exposure to the many career opportunities within the financial services industry. We are very excited to hear Alisa and Isabella's reflections when they return to school and we hope to encourage more of our pupils to attend such events in the future.

## Sixth Form News

This week in Enrichment as part of their ongoing, 'Preparation for University' unit, Year 13 had a double session from the superb organisation 'The Schools Consent Project'. This organisation aims: ***"through a series of fun, interactive games and exercises to challenge students' misconceptions, empowering them to identify and articulate their boundaries, and respect those boundaries in others. By adopting a legal approach, we are able to address subjects that can feel challenging, sensitive or taboo. Our workshops give young people agency, enabling them to fully understand the law around sex and consent in order to make informed and sensible decisions."***

Schools  
Consent  
Project

The double session was very well received and provided vital and practical information to the students.

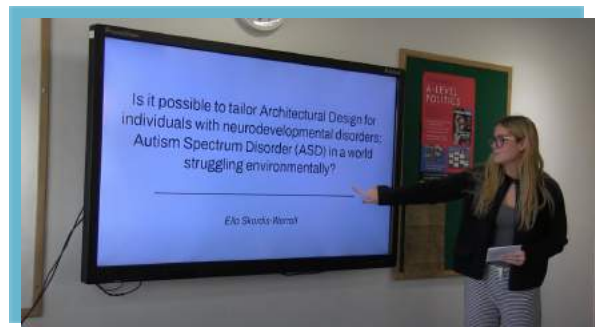


We celebrated International Women's Day 2024 with a Q&A panel-style interview entitled: "Women of Channing", moderated by our Year 12 Careers Leaders, Charlotte and Tara. The interview panel consisted of Mrs Hughes, Ms Fox (Director of Communications and Marketing), and Ms Francis (Alumnae and Development Manager), and the conversation ranged from unexpected career paths and professional challenges encountered as women, to finding a mentor, and women that have inspired us. We all valued the session immensely as so many important points were touched upon, and we really enjoyed getting to know a different side to the panellists and their story! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen; we left the session feeling very inspired!

In PSHE this week our focus turned to the upcoming General election and students were all supported in registering to vote but also given a crash course in the importance of voting for young people (historically the group with the lowest turnout). They learnt about the role of various aspects of our political system and Politics students were encouraged to take a leading role in explaining the significance of different aspects.

## Extended Project Qualification Presentations

In the last fortnight, three pupils in Year 13 have presented the projects they have been working on as part of the Extended Project Qualification. The projects involved students coming up with a topic and title of their choice and then writing a 5,000-word essay on it. They took part in a course of lessons on independent research and project management skills and were supervised by Ms Ramsden, the EPQ Coordinator. The presentation allowed them to share their research with other students and staff and answer questions on it. Congratulations to all three students for



completing this demanding and academically enriching qualification.

Project titles:

Cressida A-L: To what extent should UK Intellectual Property Law restrict the recent development of Artificial Intelligence?

Matilda E: To what extent did US anti narcotic assistance have a positive effect in Bolivia, during the War on Drugs from 1970-present day?

Ella S-W: Is it possible to tailor architectural design for individuals with neuro-developmental disorders; Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in a world struggling environmentally?

## English News

### Creative Writing Club

Members of the Creative Writing Club in Years 7 and 8 have been exploring the haiku. This poetic form, which originated in 17th Century Japan, presents a tiny, precisely observed snapshot of a moment. The haiku has only three lines and seventeen syllables. The traditional haiku is rooted in the natural world and should include a *kigo* - a seasonal reference, and a *kire* - a striking juxtaposition or imaginative leap. The students have created some beautiful, poignant examples, some of which focus on environmental damage.

Barren trees tremble.  
Bluebells bring sudden colour  
To the crisp, cool earth.

*Amelia Z, Year 7*

Black smoke in the skies  
White gulls cry out, black with ash -  
Intoxicated.

*Natalie L, Year 8*

The pond stands still, yet  
Oil drifts across the water.  
The bird stays on land.

*Lucy D, Year 8*

Gum peppered on streets  
Red buses blooming colour  
City life evolving.

*Violet D, Year 7*

Amber eyes glinting,  
The grey fur coat glimmering,  
The cat's quick pounce kills.

*Evie S, Year 7*

## Geography News

On Wednesday, Mrs Blake & Mr Pelton had the pleasure of accompanying the students from the 'Prisoners of Geography' club to the Royal Geographical Society for a lecture on the geopolitics of climate change in the South Pacific. Dr Liam Saddington from the University of Cambridge explored how Tuvaluan climate adaptation and diplomacy has sought to create alternative futures for the small island chain of 11,000 people, propelling it onto the global stage of international climate governance as well as the fragile relations between China, Taiwan and Australia.



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

It felt like the first day of spring as we welcomed the Year 10 DofE cohort to Channing on Saturday for their Silver Training Day. It was a brilliant day and students impressed us with their enthusiastic participation in cooking, navigating Waterlow Park, and putting up tents.

Their concentration and focus on route planning was exceptional as they mapped out their 3 day practice expedition, completing it in record time! They are all now fully prepared and ready to hit the North downs after the Easter break.

Well done to all the students involved and thank you to all the Bronze, Silver and Gold leaders who gave up their Saturday to help make the day such a success.



## MFL News

On Tuesday, our Year 12 Spanish class took part in a (heated) debate over whether Spain should reduce its working hours from 40 to 37. Annabel argued for this motion, stating that if the hours



were reduced, companies would be more in need of extra workers, which would open more job opportunities for people and so decrease the rate of unemployment. Kitty then had the task of countering Annabel's argument by explaining the injustice that is if companies had to pay their employees the same level of salary even with a reduction to their hours. Furthermore, Kitty had other solutions to Spain's problem that did not involve reducing the working day. This debate was really great and very interesting learning more about Spain's economy and the different aspects of their work life in comparison to the rest of the EU.

*Kitty G & Annabel B, Year 12*

## STEM News

### STEM Reading

Inspired by STEM week at Channing, I2EHa discussed their favourite STEM themed literature. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus is a deliciously sweet revenge comedy about a female scientist and her fight to be taken seriously as a research Chemist in the 50s and 60s. [Planetarium](#) by Adrienne Rich recuperates the silenced voice of Caroline Herschel - an astronomer working in the 18th and 19th centuries. Other top recommendations include Kazuo Ishiguro's quietly unsettling dystopia *Never Let Me Go* and *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin, which delves into the world of video game design.

STEM Leader Madeleine B from I2BK recommends *This is How You Lose the Time War*. She says this is 'an enthralling novel set in the middle of a time war. Written through the medium of letters, this book will make you question the nature of time.'

The school library also has a fantastic range of non-fiction STEM related books:

1. *How to Prevent the Next Pandemic* (Bill Gates)
2. *Beyond the Hype* (Fiona Cox)
3. *This Mortal Coil* (Andrew Doig)
4. *Elusive* (Frank Close)
5. *The Metaverse* (Matthew Ball)
6. *The Facemaker* (Lindsey Fitzharris)

and has produced a list of Sci-fi novels that pupils might be interested in reading. A full list by year group can be found here: [Sci-fi novels.pdf](#).

### Science: STEM Week

More information about these activities will be in our STEM week newsletter. During lessons, Year 7s made balloon rockets and Year 8 made bread dough. At lunchtime, Year 7 and 8 students made slime and watched some bubble demonstrations. Year 9 took part in a STEM quiz - the winners will be announced in the newsletter.



### Year 7 Science Fair Devonshire House

11 enthusiastic Year 7 Scientists attended the Devonshire House Science Fair along with Ms Quow and Ms Levontine. They all had done a brilliant job of meeting up beforehand to plan their projects, and then had to individually make their project display boards to take to the fair. Of the 150 Year 7 pupils at the fair, 2 Channing pupils were selected for the semi-finals, and two more were awarded certificates for teamwork in the engineering challenge. Great fun was had, well done all involved!





## Science Journal Club

This week we read an article chosen by Rebecca about AI made from living human brain cells that has been shown to perform speech recognition. The AI is made from small balls of brain cells called organoids. The hope is that systems like this will use less energy for AI tasks than silicon chips. Unfortunately, these currently have a very short lifespan and only last for 1-2 months. But these are still the early days in their development, so who knows what will be possible!

## KS3 Science Question of the Week

This week's Science question of the week was linked to the STEM week theme of 'bubbles'; pupils were asked to discuss what a lava lamp was, and why it worked. As always we had some fantastic answers submitted, but the winning answer this week, which received a commendation, was by Tamara P - well done!

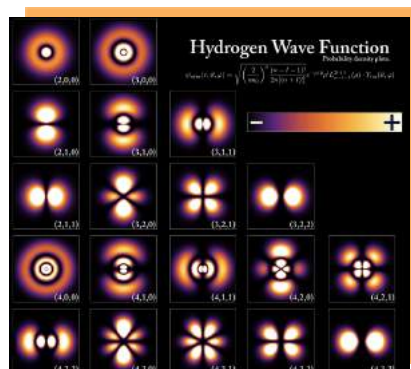
## Maths News

All forms have been enjoying a daily Maths joke and have done the group form puzzle competition in form time. Prizes to the best teams will be given out in Mark Reading!



## Puzzle Club

Monday got off to a great start with Puzzle Club leading the way on making square bubbles with their bubble nets they made in previous weeks. We even made a triangular prism bubble! Year 7 and 8s came to get their STEM passport stamped. Here they are having bubble fun. It was quite difficult getting the double square but here is Ava succeeding!



## Quantum Mechanics

On Tuesday Mr Thomas gave a lecture on Quantum Mechanics which the Sixth Form found fascinating. Using complex numbers in Physics was a mind-blowing thought! Finding out about Quarks, energy levels and the Hydrogen Wave Function is what we like to learn about at lunchtime!

## Maths Presentation: Sophie Maclean

On Wednesday, Year 8, 10, 11 and Sixth Form enjoyed presentations from Sophie Maclean (or Sophie the Mathmo). She is currently doing a PhD in number theory at King's College London. She is also a Maths presenter who has appeared on Numberphile. She did workshops on Pascal's

Triangle, Colouring in Maths and Careers in Maths. Here are some Year 12 pupils proudly showing their map after investigating the 4 colour rule!



## Partnership News

### KS3 Science after school club

This week we had pupils from Brookfield Primary and St Joseph's Primary schools joining us to watch and take part in a range of experiments involving dry ice. We compared wet and dry ice, looked at the effect dry ice had on different indicators, and we also were able to explore what happens when bubbles are blown over dry ice. The pupils all had lots of fun!



## Channing Archive

Looking back to last week's International Women's Day (Friday 8 March) we want to share these photos from the late 1950s - I wonder what these women have been up to since leaving Channing - whatever the case, we celebrate you all.



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