



Dear Parents,

As you know, this week has been Sustainability Week and I am enormously proud of and grateful for the work that Bella and Olivia, our Sustainability Officers, and their dedicated band of Sustainability Reps, have done. From elephants to car travel to pre-loved clothes, they have raised awareness and provided interesting, thought-provoking events. My huge thanks to them and to Mrs Walker, our Sustainability Coordinator, for doing so.

An important aspect of the week has been a focus on fast fashion - why it's a problem and what we can do about it. Fast fashion refers to the industry of mass-producing cheap clothing to meet fast changing trends and rapid consumption, and teenagers are some of the most important target consumers for these retailers. In assembly on Tuesday morning Olivia, Bella and a team of Sustainability reps explained to the school how this creates a large number of environmental problems which we can see on both small and large scales.

They started with the frankly astounding fact that 10% of current total global greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the fashion industry. These come from every stage of the manufacturing of clothes, starting with the production of materials such as cotton which requires huge amounts of fertiliser to grow. This then pollutes local ecosystems. Cotton also requires large amounts of water. We learned that it takes 3781 litres of water to make a pair of jeans, which is the same amount of water you'd drink in three years! More water is used in textile dying, which produces 20% of global wastewater. Further emissions are produced by exporting these clothes around the world to be sold. Worryingly, fast fashion emissions are projected to increase by 50% by 2030 if current growth rates continue.

Fast fashion clothes are often worn for a really short amount of time, partly because of constantly changing trends and also because the clothes aren't designed to last. Therefore, fast fashion often goes to landfill. 87% of clothes produced end up in landfill sites or are incinerated. Although there are some government strategies to tackle this problem, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme which makes companies contribute to the cost of recycling which will make sure that textiles are recycled more effectively and avoid going to landfill, largely it is down to fast fashion companies to make sustainable changes.

One way companies can do this is by using local producers instead of overseas manufacturers, which will therefore reduce the air miles clothes travel to be sold. Additionally, companies can invest in using natural dyes, renewable energy and by supporting ethical labour practices just to name a few. The girls made the point that some companies really prioritise this. However, more recently many fast fashion companies have pledged to increase sustainable practices but face accusations of greenwashing. Greenwashing refers to companies making themselves appear more environmentally friendly than they truly are. In the context of fashion, it is when companies present sustainability initiatives whilst not addressing the actual problems of fast fashion that need to be targeted.

They identified issues with companies such as H&M, who have committed to using 100% sustainable or recycled materials by 2030. Although this shows an intent to reduce the negative impacts of fast fashion, these targets are not in fact being followed. An example of this is H&M's recycling programme, where only a small percentage of collected clothes are actually recycled into

new garments. A large number are instead shipped to developing countries and dumped, creating further environmental and social challenges.

The good news is that we as consumers also have a part to play and the team ended the assembly with a positive message, highlighting some of the things that we can do to make a change away from fast fashion:

- We can choose to support companies which are actually sustainable, such as those which promote transparency, or who have brand accreditations, such as B Corporation certificates
- There are also websites which rate how sustainable brands are, such as Good On You. They rate companies based on three broad categories: people, planet and animals
- We can also choose to buy clothes from charity, second hand and vintage shops instead of consuming fast fashion. There are so many events in London to buy second hand clothes from, as well as websites such as Depop, Vinted and Ebay
- Another way you can contribute is by donating clothes that no longer fit you to charity shops and trying to buy your clothes from there. This not only stops clothes from filling up landfills but also directs your money to a good cause.
- Try to avoid overconsumption as much as possible: only buy new clothes if this is essential

Olivia ended assembly with a personal reflection: *"It can be hard sometimes to move away from fast fashion towards more sustainable options, especially due to the convenience and affordability of fast fashion, which honestly I can be guilty of sometimes. It can often feel hopeless looking at the complete inaction large companies are taking, but by taking small steps we can start to make a bigger difference individually, especially because companies are focused on what the consumer wants. They will sell differently if we buy differently."*

That uplifting thought encapsulates the strong sense of social justice and belief in personal agency which I love about Channing. I hope that some of your children will have been inspired by what they heard and want to take part in the Upcycled Fashion competition. It's a simple challenge: can you change a pre-loved accessory or piece of clothing into something new and usable again? It's open to all year groups, with a deadline of Friday 29 November to either send photos to Mrs Walker or bring in the finished piece so that the team can create a display. As an avid watcher of the Sewing Bee, I am looking forward to seeing what is produced!

And so to the weekend. You may remember that I wrote a few weeks ago about the 'Celebrating Black Lives' exhibition which has been curated by Art teacher and Inclusion Coordinator Ms Mackie, with works created by Channing pupils during October's Black History Month. The show will be taking place this Sunday, 17 November, at the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel in Hampstead from 1pm - 6pm. There will be works displayed by more than 50 Channing students from Years 8 and 9. Tea and cake will be served at 3pm and all are welcome. Some of the works are showcased on the [Channing Art Instagram page](#) and you can find out more [here](#).

Finally this week, a huge thank you to all of the fantastic musicians and singers involved in last night's wonderful Autumn Concert. We were treated to a wide-ranging programme and an extraordinary level of performance. My thanks also to the fabulous Music department staff, Mr Boxall, Ms Zanardo, Mr Fallon, Mrs Daniels, Miss Bacon, Mr & Mrs Dodds and Mr Brown. There will be a full write up and a chance to listen again in next week's Word from the Head.

Wishing all our families who are celebrating today a blessed and joyous Guru Nanak Jayanti, and with warmest wishes to you all for the weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes  
Headmistress

# Notices

## Pupil Photograph Orders

Gillman & Soame took Year 7 - 13 portrait photographs earlier in the Autumn Term. 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](mailto:action@gillmanandsoame.co.uk) or on 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password channing288fxp2024 and they can assist.

## House Tops

Just a reminder that Channing Senior House tops are available to purchase on the Uniform for Kids website and in-store. These will be perfect for house events such as House Singing next term and especially for bringing that extra team spirit to Sports Day in the summer!



## Careers Department request!

## Volunteers needed for Sixth Form interview and assessment skills event

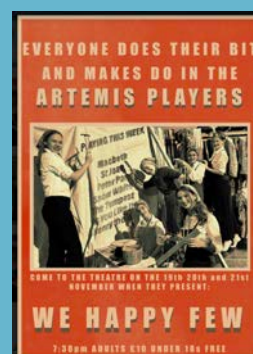
This year our Sixth Form interview and assessment skills event will take place on **Monday 25 November** from **1.15 - 3.15pm**. We hope to have at least 30 parent volunteers from all year groups carrying out short practice interviews with sixth formers, giving them opportunities for networking and helping develop their employability skills. If you could spare some time to help, we would be very grateful. Please indicate your availability here: [Interview skills event](#).

Ms Wilberforce

## Forthcoming Events

## We Happy Few Tickets

Tickets are available for this year's KS4/5 play, 'We Happy Few' by Imogen Stubbs. It follows a group of female actors touring Shakespeare plays around the United Kingdom during World War II. It is based on Nancy Hewins' touring group, the Osiris Players. Follow the link [HERE](#) to book yours now! 7:30pm on Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 November in the Arundel Centre.



## STEM Christmas Lecture: Simon Singh

We are delighted to be welcoming the celebrated science author and physicist, Simon Singh for this year's STEM Christmas Lecture on Thursday 5 December. If you ever wondered how the writers of The Simpsons have smuggled mathematical jokes into their scripts then wonder no more!

For further details please read the poster here: [Simon Singh STEM poster.pdf](#)



CHANNING

# Girls Enjoying Success

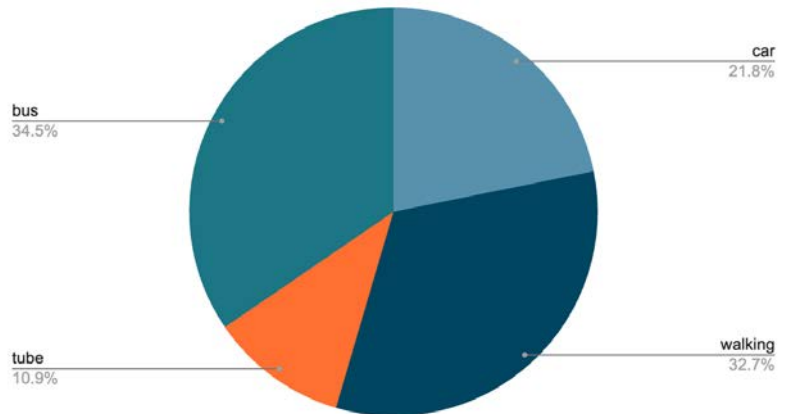
## Sustainability News

### Sustainability Week

On Monday the Eco reps surveyed students on how they travelled to school and collected air pollution data. Well done to everyone who didn't come by car, keep it up, it makes a difference! Here are the results:

The World Health Organisation recommends exposure to PM 2.5 and should be less than 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Outside Channing most of the readings were sadly above this figure and the highest was 6.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Ways students travelled to school 11th Nov 24



On Monday we had Alison Williams from the Happy Elephant Company tell her interactive and [inspirational story](#) of how she set up a company that makes sustainable jewellery from a Tagua seed grown in the Andes Mountains in Ecuador. It is called the [Happy Elephant Company](#) because Tagua seeds look like ivory and can be shaped into ornaments and jewellery without killing elephants.

During the whole school assembly on the problem of Fast Fashion, the Sustainability Officers, Bella and Olivia, launched the [upcycling competition](#). All year groups are welcome to enter; the deadline is 29th November.

On Tuesday students from all year groups had an enjoyable time making different ecocrafts including leaf printing, wicker weaving, wooden spinning tops and leaf lanterns.

On Wednesday Eco Reps from year 11 and 13 attended the mock cop at Highgate School. They represented different countries and discussed many of the questions currently being debated in Baku.

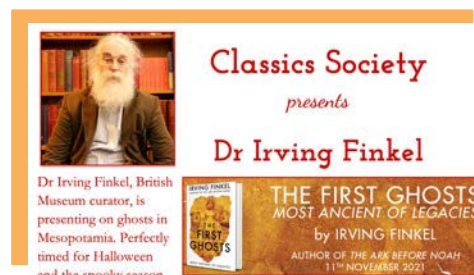
On Thursday we had a preloved clothes sale and geographically themed cake sale to raise money for the charity [Just One Tree](#). Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success! We raised £370.





## Classics News

Classics Society welcomed Dr Irving Finkel, a curator in the Department of Middle East at the British Museum, to talk about his research on ghosts in Mesopotamia. He introduced us first of all to Assyriology and the cuneiform script, doing his best to recruit a new crop of Assyriologists in the process! He then explained ancient ideas towards ghosts and - most crucially - how to combat these unwanted visitors: inscriptions, clay tablets and obsidian amulets seem to be the best way. Dr Finkel signed a copy of his book 'The First Ghosts' and we hope students will race to the library to find out more about this fascinating subject.



## History News

### Pursuit of History Programme

The second instalment of the Pursuit of History Programme took place on Tuesday morning. Students discussed myth, memory and the First World War. Students read the work of war poets and academic historians in preparation. Again, Ms Wilkinson joined the group and a lively discussion was held on the value of war poetry as a window to understanding the war, the nature of remembrance in Britain and the value of personal experience in getting a more rounded understanding of the war. This was a hugely enjoyable topic and the students had much to contribute. If it weren't for lessons beginning, the session would have gone on for hours. The next session is on 3 December and the topic is the Bronze Age Collapse. Interested students in Years 10 and 11 should see Mr Raine for more information.

### History Speaker: Professor Susan Doran

On Tuesday afternoon, the Sixth Form historians were privileged to hear Professor Susan Doran, Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College & St Benet's Hall, Oxford University, give a talk on the Tudor Reformation. Professor Doran provided a fascinating insight into the upheaval caused by Henry VIII's break with Rome, and the impact it had on English society. Her most interesting argument was that had Mary Tudor lived longer and had a son, England would have reverted to Catholicism, something that the A level students now need to consider more carefully in their studies.



Lauren S in Year 13 writes: 'Professor Doran gave an insightful and fascinating talk on the English Reformation, covering the mid-Tudor monarchs and change and continuity during the period. The talk was engaging and certainly gave us a chance to consider some of the key themes of the course, such as the Break with Rome and the religious turbulence during the late-Tudor period in England in more depth. It was incredible to hear from such a respected historian and we are very grateful for the opportunity to develop our knowledge beyond the A level curriculum.'

Lauren A in Year 12 writes: 'The lecture by Professor Doran provided a nuanced perspective on the reformations of the Church and its impact on society at the time and gave us a well-rounded and easy to understand lecture full of useful and relevant information.'

## Drama News

Year 11 students performed in their Component 1 GCSE Examination last week, providing audiences with 7 original devised pieces of provocative political theatre which Bertolt Brecht himself would be proud of! Topics included; the dangers of smartphones, the monarchy, the VAT increase on private schools and sexual harassment on public transport, to name a few. Congratulations to all the students involved.



## Music News

### Music at Lunchtime



The concert kicked off with an articulate performance of 'Allegro' from Concerto in G by Vivaldi, played beautifully by Anya J in 11HG on the violin. A very commendable performance of a very challenging piece! Next, we had Kezia C in 12RD play us 'Rhapsody' by André Wagnein; what a treat! She played absolutely masterfully (as usual), and with such incredible passion that it was impossible to look away. After that, we had an emotive performance of 'Colors of the Wind' by Pocahontas, sung fabulously and with great maturity by Lara G in 8VS. Then Evie D from 7JG sang a lovely rendition of 'Maybe' from Annie; perfectly suited to her voice and sung with such clarity! Finally, the queen of Music at Lunchtime, Maya HB in 12KW, treated us to a flawless performance of 'We can't be friends' by Ariana Grande, bringing her fabulous signature flavour and singing its difficult vocal runs effortlessly.

A very strong start to this half of term - it's going to be hard to top! Do listen to the recital [HERE](#).

*Reviewed by Eve C*

## Politics News

### Royal Grammar School Guildford Model United Nations Conference

Last Saturday Ms Devine, Head of Politics, took eight Channing students to Royal Grammar School, Guildford, to take part in their Model United Nations (MUN) conference. The Channing students represented Hungary, joining committees such as Human Rights, Women and Environment. Ranging from beginners to more experienced speakers, they all debated their resolutions with aplomb. Congratulations to: Saira C, Darcy G, Ava N, Rukmini B, Margo R, Leila A-H, Lauren A and Amara P. As a follow-up to the conference, a very lively discussion, chaired by Darcy G, was held during this week's MUN club, where the attendees debated Amara P's resolution from the conference.

## Partnership News

### Communittea

Every month during term-time Channing Senior School and HNCP host our popular monthly community teas in Channing's dining room. Local residents enjoy a wonderful assortment of freshly made cakes and sandwiches, accompanied by hot beverages. Guests are able to enjoy some company, get help with their digital devices if needed from our student volunteers and, at some of the teas, enjoy live music from some of our talented musicians.



From one of our regular volunteers:

*Personally I come to Communita because I love connecting with the community and it feels great to volunteer and help out. Also talking with the guests helps me learn a lot, not only academically as I feel like I learn from their stories and knowledge but also helps me build more confidence talking to people I don't know. In general it is a great experience that I always enjoy and feel proud to do.*

Leila L, Year 11

## MFL News

### MFL Success

Congratulations to Carlotta who was selected by the Fellows of Girton College, Cambridge as the Winner of their Modern Languages Taster Day competition with her excellent write-up of the day in Italian:



### Una giornata bellissima

La giornata è iniziata con un'introduzione al Girton College, parlando con i professori dei diversi corsi di lingua che si possono seguire a Cambridge e conoscendo altri studenti. In seguito, siamo passati al seminario culturale, dove ho appreso della rivoluzione messicana e ho intrapreso un'interessante discussione su come l'arte e la cultura possano essere rivoluzionarie. Poi è arrivata l'ora di pranzo! Innanzitutto, abbiamo esplorato gli splendidi giardini che il college ha da offrire, poi chiacchierato con molti studenti e infine, visitato il museo del college, che comprende molti rari manufatti romani e anglosassoni. Più tardi, ho intrapreso il corso di russo iniziale, dove abbiamo acquisito familiarità con l'alfabeto russo e scoperto tutti i fantastici viaggi che Cambridge ha da offrire. La giornata si è conclusa con una sessione di domande e risposte, e un'introduzione alla vita a Oxbridge, particolarmente sulle differenze tra questo sistema e le altre università inglesi. Nel complesso, è stata una giornata impegnativa ma davvero divertente; ho imparato molto di più sulla vita universitaria e su come le lingue possano influenzare la carriera. Vorrei tanto ringraziare Ms. Pavlopoulos per aver organizzato questa fantastica opportunità!

### Translation:

The day started with an introduction to Girton College, talking to professors about the different language courses you can take at Cambridge and meeting other like-minded students. Following this, we moved on to the culture workshop, where I learned about the Mexican Revolution, engaging in an interesting discussion about how art and culture can be revolutionary. Then it was time for lunch! First, we explored the beautiful gardens that the college has to offer, then chatted with many students and finally, visited the college museum, which includes many rare Roman and Anglo-Saxon artefacts. Later that day, I undertook the Russian *ab initio* course, where we became familiar with the Russian alphabet and discovered all the amazing trips Cambridge has to offer. The day concluded with a Q&A session, and an introduction to life at Oxbridge, particularly the differences between this system and other English universities. Overall, it was a busy but really exciting day; I learned a lot more about university life and how languages can influence your career. I would like to thank Ms. Pavlopoulos for organising this amazing opportunity!

Carlotta B P, Year 11

### Nice Trip

Pendant les vacances de Toussaint un groupe de deuxième et première élèves, accompagné par Madame Romero et Madame Pavlopoulos, a voyagé à Nice en France pendant quatre jours. Nous avons logé chez des Niçois, qui était parfait pour pratiquer notre français. Chaque jour nous avons



eu un cours de français pendant trois heures où nous avons pratiqué les temps de conjugaison et le vocabulaire, tout en pratiquant nos conversations avec un français.



L'après-midi nous avons fait des activités différentes, une visite guidée de Nice, un cours de cuisine de crêpes, un déjeuner avec des élèves du Lycée Stanislas, du shopping dans la rue principale et nous avons visité le musée Matisse. Pour moi, le point fort du voyage a été de rencontrer des élèves niçois et d'être en mesure de leur parler en français et nous en avons appris plus sur la culture française et nous nous sommes fait des amis incroyables à l'étranger!

### **Translation:**

During October half-term, a group of Year 11 and 12 students, accompanied by Ms Romero and Mrs Pavlopoulos, travelled to Nice, France for four days. We stayed with local residents, which was perfect to practise our French. Every day we had a three-hour French class where we practised our conjugations and vocabulary, whilst practising our conversation skills with a French native.



In the afternoon we did different activities, a guided tour of Nice, a crêpe making lesson, had lunch with pupils from the Lycée Stanislas, shopping on the main street and we visited the Matisse museum. For me, the highlight of the trip was meeting pupils from Nice and being able to speak to them in French - we learnt about French culture and made some amazing new friends abroad!

*Natasha B, Year 12*

## **STEM News**

### **Year 10 Marine Biology Club**

This week, students learned about the importance of regularly changing out a significant proportion of the tank's water to ensure algae and bacteria do not overpopulate and pollute the tank. The students used a combination of buckets, a syphon and teamwork to remove a third of the water and replace it with fresh water.



Students also took the time to design a new badge for Marine Biology Club (affectionately known as Fish Club!) which will be worn proudly by all members. A big thank you to Mr Grossman's son, who turned the initial design made by members of Marine Biology Club into the finished design you see here. Badges have been ordered and will hopefully be with us ready to be handed out at next week's meeting.

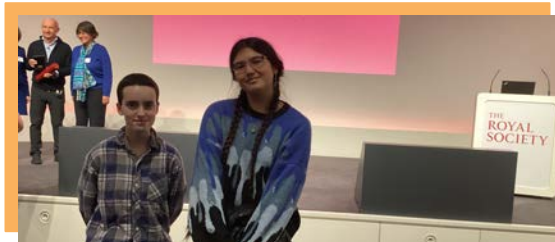


Next week, students will be creating information cards for each of the fish they have introduced so that others can find out their names, species, personalities and other interesting facts.



## Computer Science News

The Computer Science department, along with pupils Sylvie and Alice, attended the presentation and Lecture for this year's Royal Society Milner Award for outstanding achievement in Computer Science. The lecture entitled *Privacy for the paranoid ones: The ultimate limits of secrecy* was delivered by Professor Artur Ekert, who is the winner of the Milner Award Medal for 2024. The lecture provided an overview of his invention of entanglement-based quantum cryptography that has linked the concept of quantum theory with the study of communication. This breakthrough has sparked a surge in global research efforts and continues to inspire new research directions, especially to detect eavesdropping. A huge thank you to Mr Rogers who joined us at the event.



## CREST Awards

Hero K joined the animation team of Violet L, Zeruchi B and Alizeh M this week and helped the team to find suitable measurements to use to create their flip-book machine. All the cardboard and materials that they had chosen from Amazon arrived and they began to cut this out in preparation for the building phase. Cutting out required the use of a craft knife and so they had to research risk assessments for their use to ensure that they were aware of the safety precautions needed. The build uses a hot glue gun, which also required a risk assessment as this is not something we usually use in our lessons.

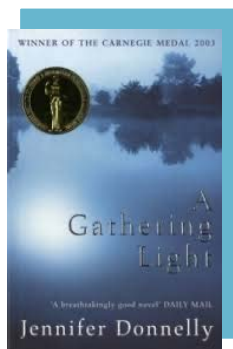


Scarlett C, Maya S and Mariia S continued to investigate their bath bombs and there was a good deal of fizzing involved! The bath bombs that they made last week were crumblier than they would have liked and didn't hold the shape of the mould very successfully. Today they tried changing the amount of oil that was added to their bath bomb mixtures to determine what the best quantity to use would be.

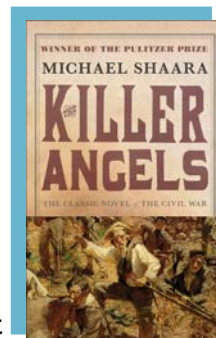


## Reading News

In our teacher audiobook programme this week, we have Mr Raine reading from [\*The Killer Angels\* by Michael Shaara](#). Journey back to the Battle of Gettysburg and experience the Civil War through the perspectives of legendary figures Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and the soldiers who fought beside them. Explore the lives, beliefs, and challenges faced by these men during the Civil War.



We also have Dr. Hayward, bringing to life [\*A Gathering Light\* by Jennifer Donnelly](#)—a captivating coming-of-age story set against the haunting backdrop of a true murder case. This novel transforms everyday life into something magical and profound.



Don't miss out on these two incredible stories!

## Channing Archives

It was great seeing so many of our alumnae at our *Drinks in...Covent Garden* event last week, which is where Nina S, from the Class of 1991, shared this brilliant photo of the girls with Decathlete, Daley Thompson - how exciting!



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