



Dear Parents,

This week, the school has been buzzing with excitement as students and staff came together to celebrate STEM Week, with this year's theme centred on medicine. With a packed schedule of interactive workshops and hands-on experiments, it has been a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the wonders of STEM and its impact on the world around us. The highlight earlier this week was of course the Oscar-worthy performance by Mr Holmes arriving late in assembly with symptoms of a heart attack (please do not worry, this was entirely scripted) only for our Sixth Form speakers to highlight how Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Computer Science would save him. Phew!

Throughout the week, students have taken part in a range of engaging activities, including: a Smart Doctor activity, defeating the tumour in Science, visiting Bletchley Park, programming trains in Computing, a Maths in Action lecture trip, and getting passport stamps for completing a range of activities on offer during lunchtimes and in lessons. We were particularly grateful to Dr Judy King, consultant oncologist at the Royal Free Hospital, who gave a highly engaging and informative talk on Monday. There have also been several STEM-based competitions on offer to all year groups; thank you and well done to those students who have taken part.

One of the key focuses of this year's STEM Week has been celebrating the invaluable contributions of female scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Women have played a crucial role in shaping scientific discovery, often overcoming significant barriers to make history-changing contributions.

I was delighted to hear the pupils talk about Marie Curie in assembly, one of the most famous scientists of all time and as it happens, one I decided to learn more about on my morning commute recently. Born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867, Curie faced numerous obstacles as a woman pursuing higher education. At the time, women were not allowed to attend universities in Poland, so she moved to Paris to study at the Sorbonne. There, she earned degrees in physics and mathematics, eventually becoming the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Her groundbreaking research focused on radioactivity, a term she coined. Alongside her husband, Pierre Curie, she discovered two new elements—polonium, named after her homeland, and radium. Their work revolutionized our understanding of atomic science and paved the way for numerous technological advancements, particularly in medicine.

After Pierre's death in 1906, Marie Curie continued their research, becoming the first female professor at the University of Paris. She won a second Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911 for her work on radium and its compounds, making her the only person in history to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. Her discoveries led to the development of X-ray machines, which were instrumental during World War I. Curie herself helped equip ambulances with mobile X-ray units, driving them to battlefields to assist doctors in diagnosing injuries. Her efforts saved countless lives and demonstrated the direct impact of scientific innovation on society. Working with radioactivity of course took its toll and, unfortunately, killed her in the end. She is buried in the Pantheon in Paris, where France celebrates great secular personalities. Her coffin is lined with several sheets of lead as her body remains radioactive to this day.

Despite facing discrimination in the scientific community, Curie's dedication and perseverance left a lasting legacy. Her research laid the foundation for modern cancer treatments using radiation therapy, and the Curie Institutes in Paris and Warsaw remain leading centres for medical research today. Marie Curie's story continues to inspire young scientists, proving that passion, resilience, and hard work can break barriers and change the world - a message that remains relevant for all girls and one I am proud we continue to give to the young women in our care.

As the week comes to a close, we look forward to seeing how our students continue to explore and embrace STEM in their studies and future careers. A huge thank you to all our teachers, guest speakers, and participants for making this STEM Week a resounding success!

With warmest wishes,

Freddie Meier  
Deputy Head

## Notices

### Attendance Policy

Updates to the school's attendance policy can be found [here](#).

### Ally Wylie Tower Foundation - Book Donations Needed

Do you have pre-loved books at home that you could donate to the Ally Wylie Tower Foundation? We are looking for donations of books for children and teenagers (fiction or nonfiction) that can be donated at food banks in the local area. You can bring your donations to the Library until **Friday 28 March**. Books need to be in good condition and for children and teenagers - we can't take adult books for the moment. Thank you very much!

## Forthcoming Events

### Parent Webinar: Tina Lond-Caulk, The Nutrition Guru

A Webinar with Tina Lond-Caulk, 'Eat Well & Feel Great: The science of nutrition for improved academic and physical performance', Monday 17 March 2025 from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

Further information and joining details can be found here:

 [Parents Webinar for Wellbeing Week 2025.pdf](#)

### Wellbeing Week Timetable

 [Proposed Timetable for Wellbeing Week 2025](#)

### Channing at St Joseph's, Thursday 20 March 2025

#### 7.30pm St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill

Everyone is invited to the Senior School's *Channing at St Joseph's* event, which will be held in the splendid setting of St Joseph's Church on Thursday 20 March at 7.30pm. This year's programme of choral and orchestral music includes the sublime 'Requiem' by Gabriel Fauré, whose centenary we celebrated at the end of 2024. We will also be singing a selection of songs from Les Misérables. We will also hear from our wonderful brass musicians in an exciting fanfare by Malcolm Arnold and our Senior Strings will also be performing. It is a delight to have the Channing Community Choir singing which includes parents, friends, staff and the students from the *Conabor Choir* and the *Cantemus Chorus* all accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra who will also play the 1st movement from Brahms' 4th Symphony.

**Please note that if your child is a member of any of the ensembles mentioned above they will be required for the FINAL REHEARSALS and the concert.**

#### **FINAL REHEARSALS**

Wednesday 15 March - 6.00pm-7.30pm Founders' Hall

Thursday 16 March 2.25pm-4.45pm St Joseph's Church

**Following the rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert students will not be able to return to school.**

All performers will be required to return to St Joseph's Church by **7.10pm** on the evening of the concert, which should finish by 9pm. Students will be expected to wear Concert Dress unless they are in Year 7, who should wear smart school uniform.

Tickets are priced at **£10 for adults** (children under the age of 18 are FREE) and are available now by clicking on the link below (or pasting the link into your browser). [Ticket booking](#)



CHANNING

# Girls Enjoying Success

## Music News

### A level Music Recitals at St Michael's

Our five music A level students had the wonderful opportunity to perform their A level recital programmes in full at the St Michael's 'Saturdays at Six' series of concerts last weekend. First to perform was Hannah D who played two pieces on the piano, a sonata by Haydn that was played with a great sense of style and accuracy and that contrasted with 'New Kid' by Chris Norton, a very upbeat and exciting jazz style piece played with real flair. Hannah finished with the haunting song from 'The Last 5 Years' - 'Still Hurting'. Hannah was able to capture the mood of this song beautifully giving a moving rendition of it. Natalia B then took to the stage with a violin recital that started with Stravinsky's introduction to his Suite Italienne - a crisp and exciting start to this recital, which was followed by the ethereal and enigmatic 'Piece en Forme de Habanera' by Ravel. Natalia mesmerised with her complete control of the violin in this beautifully poised performance. Then the fireworks followed in a dazzling display of virtuosity in Brahms' 'Scherzo'. Georgie G started her recital with the charming Prelude to Paul Reade's 'Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite', played with immense detail and superb tonal quality. Next came another song for 'The Last Five Years' - 'A Part of That' sung with real feeling. Georgie finished with the well known 'Adelaide's Lament' from 'Guys and Dolls' giving an absolutely fabulous characterization of this comic song - a real showstopper! Eliza C also started her recital on the piano and with a Spanish flavour in 'Rumores de Caleta' by Albeniz. Eliza was able to encapsulate the essence of the piece beautifully in this well controlled performance. She then went on to give two absolutely stunning performances of two great showstoppers, with 'Gimme Gimme' from 'Thoroughly modern Millie' and 'When it all falls down' from 'Chaplin'. There were real shades of Roxie Hart in these performances which wowed the audience. Finally Evie M gave her recital of four songs starting with that powerful song 'At Last' delivered superbly. Then a complete contrast with the warm and heartfelt song 'We've only just begun' by the Carpenters which led into a mesmerizing performance of 'Feeling Good', certainly we all felt good after that! Evie's final number also looked back to last year's production with a dazzling,



sparkling, sensational rendition of 'All that Jazz'. Whilst not a huge audience they were greatly appreciative and our students received well deserved rapturous applause. Our thanks to Mr Paul Dean, Director of Music at St Michael's for inviting our students to perform and for making us feel so welcome. Do listen [HERE](#).

### Diploma Success

Many congratulations to Imogen B for gaining a distinction in her Diploma for Piano. A huge achievement! Well done, Imogen!

### Music Theatre Examinations

Last Thursday and Friday 13 students mainly in Years 11 and 13 took Music Theatre examinations and we have just received the results. We are delighted that all candidates not only passed, but most candidates achieved Distinction level passes. Additionally we had three students taking Diplomas in Music Theatre, all of whom were 'Approved' for their Diploma and with Evie M being 'approved at the upper level' with 91/100. Congratulations to our Music Theatre candidates!

## English News

### Trip to see 'Hamlet' in Shakespeare's birthplace

On Thursday 6 March, the Year 12 and 13 A Level English students (and a select group of enthusiastic Year 10s) journeyed to Stratford-Upon-Avon for a production of 'Hamlet', put on by the Royal Shakespeare Company and featuring Luke Thallon as Hamlet and Jared Harris as Claudius. After a quick detour to Shakespeare's house and a lovely lunch by the Avon River, we made our way into the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Upon entering and seeing the distinctly boat-shaped set, it became clear that the play is staged on a ship, with the ensemble dressed in naval uniforms and life jackets. This creative set design was



utilised throughout the play: during the visitation by the spirit of his father and Hamlet's confrontation with Claudius after his concealment of Polonius' body, he descends to the ship's groaning, smoky engine room. At times, the backdrop was a sophisticated party, with a live string trio playing onstage and the costumes changing from naval-wear to black-tie, Claudius' office, the blue-lit setting of his prayer as Hamlet decided whether to kill him where he knelt. And, throughout all of this, the stage grew steeper and steeper as the steady boat that only rocked occasionally during the first half became a sinking

ship: a symbol of the growing unrest between the family and the wider political turmoil. But the setting for most of the play's emotionally charged moments was the deck of the boat itself; during the final duel, the gradient of the ship became so steep that the entire ensemble, the Queen and Laertes too, all slid down the deck and fell overboard, all within the span of a few minutes! In reality, they fell through a black curtain into the wings below the stage, but understanding the illusion didn't make it any less frightening or impactful. The only characters who remained onstage at the end were Claudius, who was left slumped against the stairs coming out of the deck; Horatio, who cradled Hamlet as he succumbed to the poison, and Hamlet himself, who got up and walked to centre stage right at the end as the lighting turned





white, and spread out his arms in acceptance before the stage went dark.

In Ms Wilkinson's words, it was a more emotionally driven Hamlet than the usual depiction, which is a risk that we all unanimously agreed paid off! Many of us were more than teary by the end. Seeing the play in its intended form is hugely helpful in understanding Shakespeare's intentions and the lines that carry more weight when spoken out loud, and seeing it in a more modern context goes to show the timelessness of Shakespeare's writing. What an amazing production: 5 stars from the English students! A huge thank you to Ms McGovern for organising this trip, and to both Ms Wilkinson and Ms McGovern for taking us.

*By Eve C*

## Arts Week News

Last Wednesday we had a wonderful 'in conversation' event in the Arundel Centre. Ms Hill, our Director of Drama, facilitated a discussion between Carrie Cracknell, a renowned theatre director, and Hannah Shlenker, a Channing alumna and early career set designer. The topics ranged from the influence of AI in the creative fields, through what a working day would look like and even touched on what they had learnt from both successful and less successful creative projects. Listen [here](#) to the podcast of the event.



We were also treated to a talk from our very own Ms Ward, who spoke to a group of staff and students about Lavinia Fontana whose work in the field of allegorical painting made her a female trailblazer who was able to earn a living in a discipline that was reserved for men.

On Friday, staff and sixth formers dressed up as their favourite female characters from books. The photograph taken outside the Arundel Centre shows the creativity that went into the making of the costumes. We also had an assembly which explored the work

of a range of women throughout time who have used the arts to disrupt the status quo and reflected on the importance of using our creativity to make our voices heard. During lunchtime, pupils wrote postcards for our charity, Women for Women.

A huge thank you to all of the staff and students who took part in the week and made it so enjoyable, educational and inspirational.

'It was amazing to see such a wide variety of inspirational female character costumes, showing how impactful and important literature is for young women. I loved seeing the breadth of female creativity in the assembly, showing how instrumental the arts are in creating change.'



*Evie M, Year 13*

## Social Impact News

### Communittea

Communittea is a monthly afternoon 'tea' event held at Channing Senior School in which students can connect with the older generation by offering companionship as well as tech support. Students



gain valuable advice from guests by listening to a wide range of personal experiences and learning about the challenges and triumphs that have shaped their lives, leading to where they currently are. These conversations are not only filled with laughter but offer unique insights into the diverse and unique paths that life can take you on, providing students with guidance on navigating their own journeys, both personally and professionally.

*Tanvee, Year 12 Social Impact leader*

### Social Impact

It has been another busy term for our Social Impact team: in January, we welcomed Gabriel Felder into the department who is coordinating our vital work, mainly with our local partnership primary and secondary schools.

We also organised another edition of the popular Baking Session, this time recruiting from a very enthusiastic pool of Year 7 students. The event was set up in partnership with La Sainte Union School who opened up their brilliant food tech space for our bakers. It was very pleasing to see how our girls mixed naturally with the LSU students and worked effortlessly in mixed teams of 2 to 3. Diego and the Channing catering team had all the ingredients ready for a traditional apple crumble, and as the pictorial evidence shows, they turned out beautifully!

We also received a lot of positive feedback from the three primary schools that welcome our Year 12 volunteers to their Wednesday morning breakfast clubs. The children embrace them – in many cases, literally! – and are excited to share activities like jigsaw puzzles, colouring-in and Snakes & Ladders with older students. The attributes that came up most when we visited the Breakfast Clubs in question were 'reliable', 'empathic', 'patient' and 'enthusiastic'. Two schools even approached us asking whether the volunteering opportunities could be expanded to twice a week, which is the clearest sign of our students doing a fantastic and important job.



This term also saw the successful continuation of Science, Problem Solving and Minimus clubs. What we noticed again was that all three clubs hit the right balance between meeting the children's prior knowledge and their natural curiosity to go further and expand the familiar with the new and unexpected. The value we are aiming to add to the visiting students' experience is palpable, and all clubs are perfect examples of what it means to create an impact, both academically and socially. We asked 3 children to describe what they think about Science

club:

*"We don't get to do science in school so this is fun. We're making a volcano at the moment and I also discovered that I like to explode things." Jago, Brookfield Primary School*

*"It's really fun, especially when we got to look through microscopes. I never knew you could look at germs and see their inside."* Elisheba, St Joseph's Primary School

*"You can use the stuff we learn in everyday life. We always find out new things in science and every Wednesday I learn more."* Rhys, Brookfield Primary School

We are thankful for the support of Channing colleagues and volunteers for their engagement with the Social Impact work at the school. We would also like to thank LSU and St. Aloysius' College for collaborating regarding the use of their facilities to facilitate joint sessions of cooking and D/T.

*Mr Felder and Ms Kung*

## STEM Week News

### Competitions

#### Year 7 - 8 - Science Poster Competition

How is chemistry involved in all the objects around us at school, in the playground, at home, in the swimming pool, in the music room, in the bathroom, in baking, in the kitchen, etc? Choose a place and tell us about the chemistry! The deadline for this competition is 4 April and we have had some fantastic entries so far! This competition is open to schools in the South East of England. All entrants will get certificates and the overall winners will receive Amazon vouchers. Email entries to Dr Spinks at [cspinks@channing.co.uk](mailto:cspinks@channing.co.uk) with "Chemistry around us" as the subject.

#### Year 7 - 13 Science Poster Competition

The researchers at UCL have considered lots of different ideas for improving air quality - can you help them by coming up with a new idea or invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings? Choose an indoor public space where you often spend time – this could be an area where you learn, or a place you visit regularly like a library, café or cinema. Do you think the air in this space is healthy and clean? Why? Come up with an idea or invention to change the air in your chosen space, making it healthier to breathe. How will it work? Could it be used in other public places too? The deadline for this competition is 27 March and a range of prizes will be awarded nationally. Email entries to Dr Spinks at [cspinks@channing.co.uk](mailto:cspinks@channing.co.uk) with "STEM week poster" as the subject.

#### Maths Form Competition

All week students from across all years have been taking part in the maths form competition. They have been working in teams of 4 to answer some puzzles and conundrums. Scores will be added at the end of the week and winners will be announced in next week's Word from the Head.

### STEM Passports

Year 7 and 8 were given STEM passports this week. As they completed in-class and extra curricular activities they were given stamps or stickers for their passport. There will be merits and prizes for completed passports and the form with the most participation will also get a prize! Students will have until the end of Friday 21 March to drop their STEM passports in the box by reception.

### Medical Talk

On Monday 10 March, Channing STEM students were lucky enough to be visited by Dr King, a medical





oncologist, who specialises in breast cancer cases and clinical trials. It was inspirational to hear about her amazing career in medical research and the students from Years 10-13 asked so many questions.

Here is an account from two budding biomedical science students:

We found Dr King's presentation, not only educational, but also very inspiring to the future medics and biomedical researchers in the room. In light of International Women's Day, Dr King also spoke about the importance of female representation in science based fields, which further motivated Channing girls to pursue careers in STEM. It was an invaluable opportunity to speak to a medical professional and we have enjoyed all the other experiences provided during STEM week.

#### 1. Maths in Medicine 48f breast cancer - what is the benefit of chemo?



Dr King explained how she used her strong science background constantly in her career and that maths was always in the background helping her too! Here is one example of where she uses maths to explain the benefits of chemotherapy or hormone therapy to her patients.

*Eva and Natasha, Year 12*

### Sixth Form Team Maths Competition

On Wednesday Mrs Wootton took our Channing team of sixth formers which consisted of: Scarlett D and Maddie B in Year 13 and Catherine S and Elise C in Year 12 to the Team Maths Competition at the London Academy of Excellence in Tottenham, organised by AMSP! What a team! They smoothly coped with the 3 challenging rounds against 31 other North London Schools.



Their favourite round was the crossnumber round where they used roman numerals, factorials and binary amongst many other techniques. Here they are in action doing the crossnumber. We were very proud that they came 13th. Well done Channing!

### Year 7 and Year 8 Prime numbers Treasure Hunt

All week year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in a prime numbers treasure hunt. The scores will be totalled at the end of the week and the winners will receive merits and prizes.

### Guess the mathematician

Mr Bowman dressed up as 3 Mathematicians this week and students had to guess who he was. There is a prize for every student who guessed who Mr Bowman was on Monday - Wednesday this week.

Here are photos of him: Have a go at home?

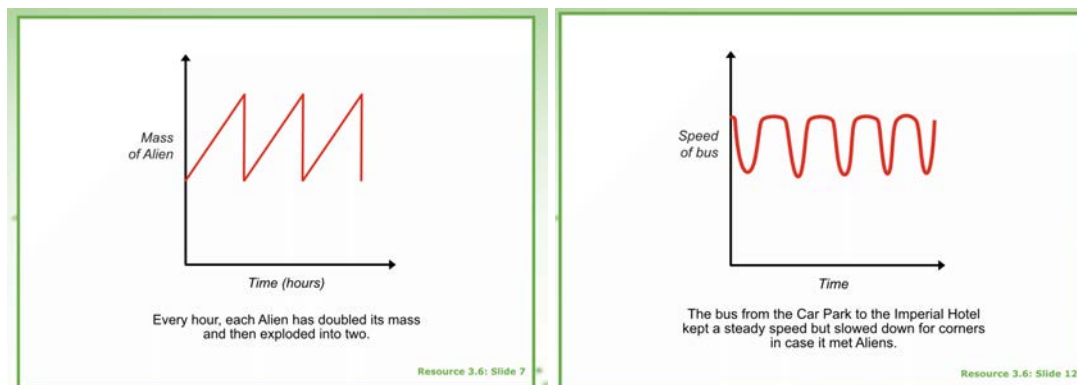


### Ellery Programme: Alien Invasion!

Today we were exploring different charts to measure speed, distance and even fog. It was really fun and I learned new things about the charts. We matched graphs with information about the aliens and we also explored how we were going to escape.

As well as watching the hilariously clichéd news on the alien attack, we learned about lots of different line graphs measuring things like the speed of the school bus, the decreasing of the daylight and even the amount of times the aliens exploded in two to multiply. It's an incredibly bizarre and interesting topic!

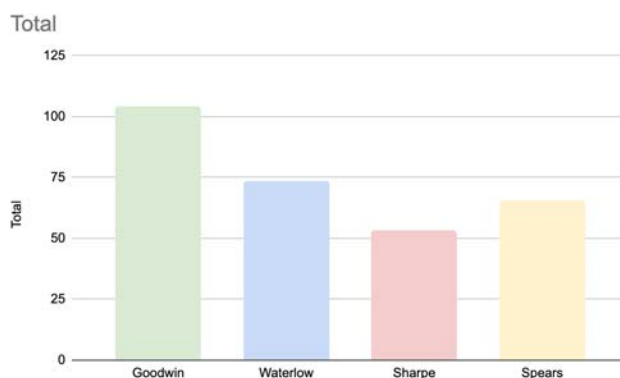
*By Eliza J, Julia H and Maia C*



### Year 7 Maths House Competition

During their maths lesson on Wednesday, Year 7 took part in a house competition. There were 4 activities - Sudoku, Crossnumber, Primes and Tangrams. Groups won points for their correct answers and worked together, each strategising differently!

In the end, Goodwin came out on top with a total of 104 points. Well done Goodwin!



Look out for more STEM Week news in next week's Word from the Head!

### Politics News

#### Year 12 Politics Conference

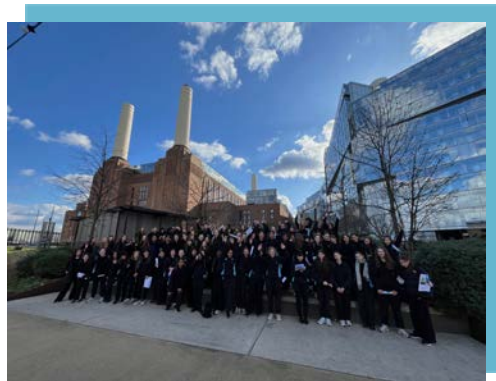
The Year 12 Politics students spent a riveting day on 10 March at a Politics conference in central London. Entitled 'The state of the state', the conference heard from a variety of speakers from across the political spectrum, who talked about a range of issues, such as UK-US relations, reform of the House of Lords, the importance of smaller political parties and the rights of minorities. Speakers included Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, Richard



Tice, Emily Thornberry, Siân Berry and Daisy Cooper, who were all very gracious with their time and took a range of questions from the audience. Of significant impact was Lord Dubs, a Holocaust survivor and campaigner for human rights, who spoke movingly of his own experiences as a child of the Kindertransport and his firm conviction of the rights of refugees and economic migrants. The afternoon ended with a Q&A session with Alastair Campbell, former spin doctor to Tony Blair and now the co-host with Rory Stewart of the popular podcast 'The rest is politics'. Mr Campbell sent a strong message to the audience of the importance of voting in elections and getting involved in politics, no matter at what level or what party.

## Geography News

Year 8 and Year 12 geographers went to Battersea Power Station to carry out fieldwork investigating themes of 'sense of place' and 'sustainability'. We also went up Lift 109 exploring the panoramic views over London. Travelling back we took the Uber boat looking at the historical and modern landmarks en route.



## Young Enterprise News

### TeeMotion & Charms & Co

Our two thriving Young Enterprise teams are having a busy and productive time as they work hard to maximise their profits. The term kicked off with a successful day at the **Spitalfields Market for the YE Trade Fair on 25 February**, where both teams had their first opportunity to experience the challenges of selling directly to the public. Both stalls were inviting, attracting positive feedback from customers and guest judges alike, with several sales made throughout the day. Credit goes to both teams for their proactive approach—they engaged with passersby, encouraging them to explore their T-shirts and charm bracelets, which resulted in a steady stream of sales and customised pre-orders. This early success has allowed the teams to restock and prepare for the next two markets.



Our next selling event will take place on **Saturday, 15 March at Brent Cross Shopping Centre**, where both **TeeMotion** and **Charms & Co** will be trading all day. We encourage you to visit and show your support or venture further afield to **Portobello Market on Saturday 22 March**, when the teams will be hoping for strong sales, positive feedback, and ideally, some sunshine or at least dry weather. Both teams are optimistic that





their printed T-shirts, charm bracelets, and new necklace range will be popular with Saturday shoppers.

Looking ahead, the **YE Company Programme Competition rounds** will begin in **April**—dates and venues will be announced soon, so stay tuned for updates of their progress and successes.



In the meantime, both teams are accepting pre-orders and can create customised items to your specifications. They will also be selling at school in the lead-up to Easter, provided they don't sell out beforehand!

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for our Young Enterprise teams.

Please follow them on Instagram;

**Charms & Co:** [here](#)

**TeeMotion:** [here](#)

*Mrs R Williams, YE Centre Lead*

## Sustainability News

Today the Eco Reps were making their own sustainable deodorant using coconut oil, essential oils, bicarbonate of soda and arrowroot. Over the last few weeks the Eco Reps have been researching and putting together presentations on make up, shampoo and the use of palm oil and looking at how sustainable and environmentally friendly these products are.



## Channing Archives

I wonder how many of the pupils in the 1920s used their impressive mathematics and science know-how to move the game around the court in their favour when playing tennis? Perhaps that could be a challenge for the next STEM week!



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