



Dear Parents,

This week I have been thinking a lot about the world of work. On Monday in Enrichment I was explaining to my Year 10 group how income tax works - cue a lot of discussion about, among other things, the fairness of progressive taxation, the average earnings in the UK and whether it's better to have a job which pays just above or just below a tax band. There was some concern among the group about how soon they would need to pay tax when they got a job and I shared with them that I got my first job when I was in Year 10, working front of house in a theatre. I sold the programmes before the show and ice creams at half time, showed people to their seats and swept the auditorium afterwards for rubbish and lost property. I loved it, not just for the enjoyment of working with the team and seeing the show, but also because it gave me my own income - what freedom!

I'm not sure how many of the group were inspired to take on a part-time job as a result of our conversation but it has certainly been a topic of interest in my house recently, with a teenage son who needs to find a way to pay for at least part of his post A level holidays. Writing his CV he became deeply concerned that he had no skills to offer a prospective employer - until I pointed out all the things that he has learned just from being at school. All students learn to be articulate, both verbally and in writing. They learn to make conversation with adults and (usually!) to follow directions. They are able to motivate themselves to complete tasks on their own and to ask for help when they need it. And most importantly they are willing and able to learn new things, which will be vital in any job they take.

This musing on preparation for the world of work was reinforced yesterday when I attended the Joint GSA/HMC Higher Education and Futures Committee meeting, which took place at the University of Bath. It's not a Committee I have attended before and I enjoyed it immensely. The agenda was wide-ranging and extremely interesting, all of it focused on what happens for our students at the end of their school journey. We covered everything from university and other post-school routes into higher education to applications, offers and acceptances, from transition to and thriving in university to employability afterwards.

One of the discussion items related to the extent to which a university should focus on education for its own sake versus developing employability in its undergraduates. Given the conversations we often have in schools about how far our curriculum should develop soft or transferable skills, as opposed to being all about the acquisition of knowledge and the ability to pass exams, it was interesting to hear the debate at the next level. In the same way that schools are often judged by parents on their exam results and university/course destinations, universities can be judged by prospective undergraduates on their likelihood of getting a job quickly after graduation and, crucially, the average graduate salary.

However the conversation demonstrated that the crux of the issue remains the same in both cases. For both schools and universities the love of learning, exploring a passion for a particular subject, need to be balanced alongside the enjoyment of doing so (usually described as the 'student experience' in university league tables) as well as the outcomes. Watching the dress rehearsal of

the Year 7 & 8 production of *Alice in Wonderland* on Monday evening was a case in point. I know that many of you will have really enjoyed watching one of the three evening performances this week: sadly I couldn't get to any of them, for various reasons, so I asked permission to sneak in for the dress rehearsal instead. I've heard fabulous things about the performances since then so I think it's OK now to tell you that the dress rehearsal on Monday was organised chaos, and absolutely wonderful!



While the actors on stage are the most obvious beneficiaries of the whole experience, the dress rehearsal highlighted the number of other elements involved in making the show come to life. I really enjoyed sitting next to Adele, Poppy and Sylvie, the Year 12 technical team, as they ran the cues for sound, lighting and the visual effects. I watched the Year 9 stage management team take control of the props and set changes and the wardrobe, hair and makeup teams work their magic. In practical terms the outcome was a fabulous show but, of course, everyone involved will have learned so much more than that. They have experienced the satisfaction of working together towards an end goal and seeing it come to fruition; learning lines and mastering stage directions; coordinating people, props and costumes: the confidence and camaraderie gained from this is immense. My huge congratulations to all the pupils in cast and crew, both for what they put on in the Arundel Centre this week - and for what they will take away from it too.

The adults involved deserve massive congratulations too, of course: thank you to Ms Vince, the Director, Mrs Maliphant-Gray for bringing to life a stunning visual idea in the set design and costumes, and Mr Maliphant-Gray for masterminding the technical elements. Thank you to Ms Hill for returning from jury service every evening to keep everything under control backstage and to Ms Grierson for her support too - well done to you all, and I hope that you are able to have a jolly good rest this weekend!

No such rest for Mr Boardman, our Assistant Head Teaching & Learning, and his family, who are running the Hackney Half Marathon on Sunday in aid of the Hornsey Food Bank. Details are in the section below in case you feel able to support them and their excellent endeavour.

However, I must admit that I'll be doing nothing quite so strenuous. Whatever you are doing this weekend, I hope that you will enjoy some rest, relaxation and time with family and friends.

With warmest wishes

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Team Boardy runs the Hackney Half Marathon #2024 in aid of Hornsey Food Bank - Sunday 19 May

Mr Boardman (Assistant Head T&L & Geography teacher), is running the Hackney Half Marathon with his wife and children on Sunday. They are running in aid of Hornsey Food Bank which is an independent, community led food bank supporting over 1,000 people every week. Their mission is to offer food and essential household items alongside fresh bread, fruit and vegetables to anyone who needs them. They provide a warm, friendly and non-judgemental welcome to anyone who needs to visit the food bank. [Please donate via this link.](#)

LAMDA Showcase Evenings: Monday 20 – Tuesday 21 May 2024

A warm invitation to the LAMDA Showcase evenings where 64 students present their original interpretations of comic and tragic characters over 2 nights. The students' wonderful creativity and hard work mean the evenings will be highly entertaining. A running order is on the ticket page.



[https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-productions-and-concerts/.](https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-productions-and-concerts/)

Requests for help from the Careers Department:

Work Insight Volunteers - Friday 21 June

Could your organisation offer a **Work Insight visit** for some **Year 10 students** on the **morning of Friday 21 June 2024**? Small groups of students, accompanied by a member of staff, spend some time in a workplace, finding out about the world of work. Sometimes organisations ask pupils to complete a pre-visit task, and the visit itself might include a site or office tour, discussions with employees and a work-based simulated group activity. We are particularly looking for visits to organisations involved in **law; business services; the creative sector; retail** and those where **foreign languages** are critical. Please get in touch by completing this [form](#).

Careers Convention - Thursday 20 June

We are also keen to welcome parents, contacts and alumnae to Channing for the **Careers Convention on Thursday 20 June**. Miss Wilberforce will be in touch with those who have helped in the past and we hope you can support us again. If you are a parent new to Channing, or have not volunteered before, please do so [here](#).

Year 13 Leavers' Ball - Saturday 22 June

A reminder to Year 13 parents: please don't forget to buy your leavers' ball tickets!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1164897>

East London Shakespeare Festival, 7 June - 3 August

East London Shakespeare Festival Presents...

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

A professional production touring London Parks



Book tickets: www.elsf.uk

Shakespeare's sparkling rom-com! Sun-soaked mischief & romance under the Mediterranean stars...Family friendly!

Higham Hill Hub, 7 - 9 June
Leyton Jubilee Park, 15 - 16 June
Hoxton Community Gardens, 20 - 21 June
Applecourt Arts, 22 - 23 June
Fellowship Square, 27 - 30 June
Highams Park, 05 - 07 July
Lauderdale House, 10 - 11 July

Forest Gate Community Gardens, 12 July
Crystal Palace Park, 15 - 14 July
Clissold Park, 18 - 21 July
Valentines Park, 25 - 26 July
Springfield, 27 - 28 July
Langthorne Amphitheatre, 31 July
Wanstead Park, 3 August



East London Shakespeare Festival
In association with London Borough of Waltham Forest, Hackney Council & Newham Council

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Touring London's outdoor parks & spaces.
Shakespeare's sparkling Romcom - sun-soaked mischief & romance under the Mediterranean stars...Set against the luxurious backdrop of a modern-day Messina, this opulent tale is brimming with wit, trickery & mischief with heart coming out on top. With ELSF's trademark contemporary twists and turns, high-energy party numbers & audience participation. Alongside a community engagement programme with lots of opportunities to get involved. Family Friendly!

VENUES / DATES


Higham Hill Hub, 7 - 9 June
Leyton Jubilee Park, 15 - 16 June
Hoxton Community Gardens, 20 - 21 June
Applecourt Arts, 22 - 23 June
Fellowship Square, 27 - 30 June
Highams Park, 05 - 07 July
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BYO PICNICS & MASK MAKING WORKSHOPS
Gates open 60 mins before the show so bring a picnic, bring a chair and soak up the atmosphere. The actors will be running the mask-making workshops - make your own mask and be part of the masked party!

Join our Community Cast and be part of the show,
For more info visit www.elsf.uk

Directed by Rosie Ward and Produced by ELSF, Ursula Early & Rosie Ward

Special thanks to our Partners




CHANNING

Girls Enjoying Success

Music News

Music Success

Congratulations to Emma F in Year 9 who gained a merit in her recent Grade VI piano examination.

Music at Lunchtime

Ava K in Year 7 started off this week's concert with Dance Caprice by Christopher Bunting on the cello. She played furiously and expressively. Rory M in Year 8 followed with Tightrope from the Greatest Showman and accompanied herself on the piano. This showed her wide range of skill and she played sweetly and with lots of emotion. Then Nancy S in Year 8 played Debussy's



Reverie on the piano. She played gorgeously, and overall the piece was very expressive and soothing.

We continued with Stevie B in Year 10 playing Intermezzo by Mascagni on the flute. She had great control and her tone was sweet and tuneful. This was followed by Chloe L in Year 10 singing 'Listen Before I Go' by Billie Eilish. She accompanied herself on the guitar and she really conveyed the emotion of the song and she captured the crowd's attention. Finally Simran T in Year 12 played Remembrances by John Williams from Schindler's list. She played with so much emotion and really hit those soaring high notes. Well done everyone!! You can listen to this week's music at lunchtime [HERE](#).

Reviewed by Hannah D and Natalia B

Drama News

Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students concluded their final week at Channing with two superbly original and innovative pieces of devised theatre. Developed through conducting interviews and questionnaires, they collected dialogue taken from real life experiences to create two pieces of verbatim theatre. 'Clink' looked at prison life in 2024 and asked whether retribution or reformation is really at the heart of the prison system, and how it impacts those that work in it, visit it and reside there. Secondly, 'Miss Conception' presented an investigation into the contraceptive pill and how it has shaped the lives of women that use it and how misunderstanding hormonal birth control has implications for wider society. Both pieces were mature, insightful and impactful for the audience in attendance.



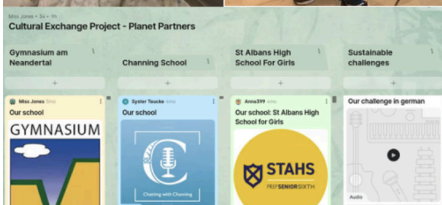
MFL News

Europe Day: Sustainable Fashion Show



This year, Channing collaborated with *Gymnasium am Neandertal* near Düsseldorf and St Alban's High School for Girls on the "Planet Partners" project, focussing on the topic of sustainability. Year 9 German learners investigated sustainable clothing to bring awareness on how important it is to act sustainably in everyday life and also at school.

We worked with our German Language Assistant Syster during extracurricular German speaking sessions to develop a collaborative Padlet with information about us and our school as a whole in German. We were also able to browse through the other schools' posts and explore what they've been up to as well. For example, we all took part in a carbon footprint test and uploaded our result for everyone to see! After completing our Padlet introductions, we moved onto doing more individual research, such as where our favourite item of clothing was



made, and if we believed it was created sustainably. Finally, we began planning and creating our Europe Day Fashion Show!

We used a range of different recycled and reused clothing to keep it sustainable and safe for the environment. A few weeks prior to the show, a voluntary group of Year 9 German learners and Syster explored and picked out clothes from the Department's drama costumes to try and piece together a few outfits for our models. We then laid out all the clothes we had picked, formed groups and designed the outfits for our group models in preparation for the 9th May Fashion Show.

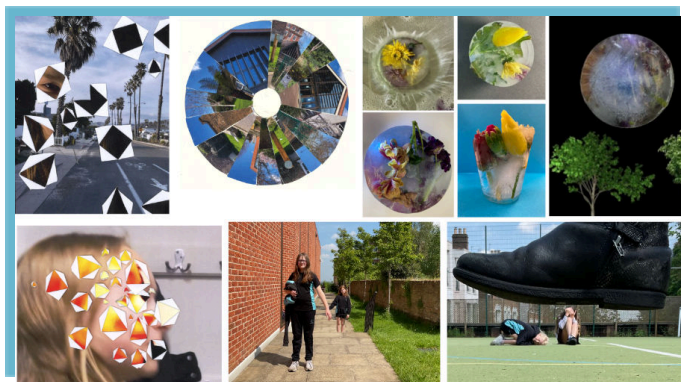
Both German classes made their way to the Sixth Form Centre, where Syster introduced us to the voting system whilst the designated group models got prepared to walk. A member of each group presented a small description in German of their outfit, how it looked and their group's overall opinions on the outfit. As the models walked out, their chosen piece of German music was played and the members of the audience rated each group, adding their individual thoughts on the outfit and music. Once all the models had showed off their clothes and walked the runway, we voted on who we thought was the best and expressed why, in German.

In conclusion, we were able to take part in an educational project in collaboration with other schools and execute our research and knowledge in a fun and enjoyable way!

Art News

Year 7 Photography Club

This term Year 7 Photography club have been exploring a range of techniques and experimental processes including photographing flowers in frozen blocks of ice, texture experiments such as cutting and folding back windows to reveal sections of one photograph behind another, forced perspective and 'Deltiologies' inspired by Liz Orton. Here are a few of their outcomes.



Library News

Creative writing and origami workshops with author Ann Sei Lin

On Wednesday the author Ann Sei Lin ran creative writing and origami workshops for Years 7 and 8. Ann Sei Lin is the author of *Rebel Skies*, a fantasy adventure inspired by Japanese culture. In her creative writing workshops she told us about the culture of papercraft in Japan, including *ofuda* (paper talismans) and *shikigami* (magical familiars that can be made out of paper), and how these inspired her novel. Pupils then developed characters, a story arc and an opening for a short story. After school, Years 7 and 8 Book Club did an origami workshop with Ann Sei Lin. They learned how to make a butterfly and a fox.

Over the course of 1.5 hours, we learnt about the author's childhood and her thought process in developing storylines, as well as some fun facts about Ann Sei Lin and her two books (*Rebel Skies* and *Rebel Fire*). Then, after creating our own characters and their personalities, we were given the opportunity to write our very own stories! Wacky, weird, wonderful or wholesome - all of the stories were amazing. It was so much fun to create our own characters (mine was called Saidie Jackson) and to bring them to life through creative writing! Finally, to finish off the session, we stood in a line at the back of the classroom and played a one-word story. This was a new experience for me - Ann started us off with 'Once upon a time', and we took it from there, each adding our own detail to the story using just one word. In the end, we created some very interesting plots, like a red chair eating a crocodile with lice. Overall, it was an amazing experience and allowed us to walk in the shoes of a proper certified author.

Holly K, 7JG

Ms Sei Lin gave an introduction to her book, *Rebel Skies*. The plot line follows a young heroine with a special ability to manipulate paper into delicate forms of origami. We discussed her personal connections with the book and its characters, influenced by her time spent in Japan. During the workshop, each participant was asked to create a fictional character and develop their backstory and character traits. We then set our characters into a scenario where a plot twist or misfortune occurs. Once written, we were invited to share our work with the rest of the group. The workshop was a great opportunity to meet the author and learn from her techniques and experience. I particularly enjoyed creating a character and learning how to bring them to life using only the written word. We are very grateful to Ms Sei Lin for taking the time to come and talk to us.



Lucy D, 8ZC

Here are some extracts from the short-story openings by Year 8 pupils.

Roxy F 8MH - [Search](#)

Edlyn B 8MH - [Kyouka of the 23](#)

Tati C 7JG - [short story opening](#)

Holly K 7JG - [short story opening](#)

English News

This week in Ms Doningtons' English class, 9CS wrote their own poems, experimenting with different poetic forms. Immy B wrote an ode to fantasy, celebrating the beauty and power of words and storytelling. Thank you, Immy!

Ode to Fantasy

*This world's greatest beauty lives now only as words,
As graceful phrases, crafted powerful fair,
Or majestic prose that with delicate poetry blurred,
Reduces that chasm to a faint line, a single hair's
Breadth separates reality from sweet
Fantasy. In lilac-stained peaks standing lonely
And proud, glist'ning white cities, strong silver tow'rs
And spires, golden halls, tragic wars, great deeds*

*Of valour, the myths, the legends that exist only
In that world of wonder created by us to be ours.
Oh, why, why must it be that that fair world is gone,
Forgotten, drowned in trivialities, seized,
By metal, by fire, by smoke, choked by ash, that none
Of what was is as beautiful more, and great seas,
Green hills, emerald forests, must burn in the fires
Of greed and desire, that all wild, rugged beauty be tainted
With darkness, with doom and despair?
Once was nature pure, life an adventure, now a pyre
Is the Earth, and all things will it burn, and so painted
Only with words are those things that were fair,
Their beauty, immortalised now and forever
In novels and songs and great leather-bound books,
Yet on many are lost, for their bonds do they sever
With this world that from childhood exists in our minds, and which brooks
Such joyful thought, such freedom, such passion, is
Lost in a world where true freedom is gone,
And all are constrained to revolve around wealth, around power;
And those who need nothing are driven solely by this:
By greed. Perhaps this is the reason we look to the dawn,
Cherish beauty, escape to it, hour after hour.*

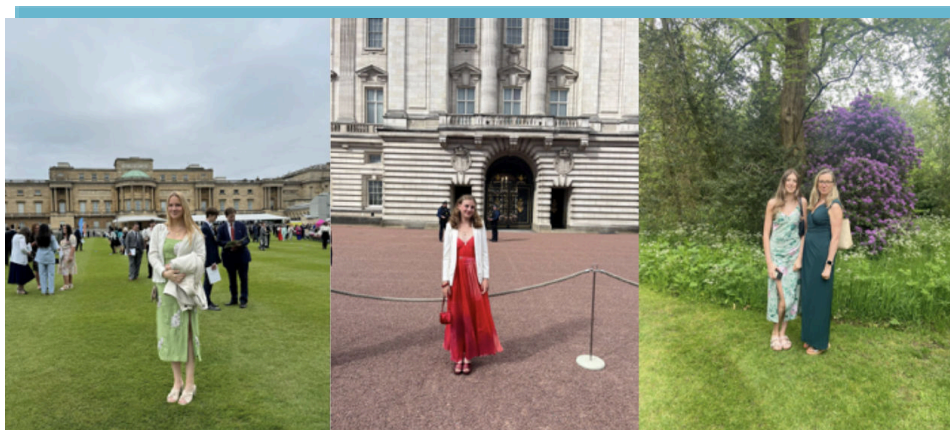
Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace

On Monday 13 May Ella S-W from Year 13, Alice M from the Class of 2022 and our Head of Maths, Mrs Wootton's daughter were all invited to Buckingham Palace Gardens to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Luckily, the weather held out and they all enjoyed meeting the many VIPs, having tea and cupcakes as well as enjoying the flora and fauna in the gardens. Congratulations to them all on completing the Gold DoE Award.

Pupil Testimonial

On Monday I had the privilege of being invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the completion of my Gold DofE Award. After walking around the garden HRH The Duke of Edinburgh spoke to the crowd to express his pride in the young people completing the challenge. Prior to this, a young girl, Hafwen Clarke told the story of her completion of the journey, managing to complete the award alongside her extra difficulty of being unable to hear. This was followed by Tim Peake's inspirational tale of his journey to space, and the ways in which the skills learnt during the DofE award can lead people to a career like his at NASA, and success in life.



EPQ News

Year 12 students undertaking the Extended Project Qualification have continued presenting their projects this week. The Extended Project Qualification gives students the opportunity to devise and carry out an independent research project alongside their A levels. The end product may be a 5,000 word written report or a shorter report accompanying an artefact - for example a film, app or piece of creative writing. Pupils received weekly lessons in research skills and spent around 90 hours devising, researching and writing up their projects. Each student gives a 15-minute presentation followed by a Q&A. The titles of this week's presentations are listed below. Congratulations to all students for completing this qualification and presenting so eloquently and engagingly the results of their research.

1. **Celestine B** - Is mutual aid during COVID-19 the best example of anarchist values in 21st century UK?
2. **Bella C** - To what extent is coastal positioning the primary geographical factor for determining a country's economic success when compared to climate and access to natural resources?
3. **Beatrix D** - Why are rates of suicide and social withdrawal (hikikomori), as well as the phenomenon of 'evaporating' people (Jouhatsu) so prevalent in Japan?
4. **Kitty H** - To what extent are psychological factors more influential in causing alcohol use disorder and recovery than biological factors?
5. **Tabitha J** - Women in the U.S. labour market: what is the cost of interruptions?
6. **Isabel K** - A History of Digestive Issues with Gluten-Allergy, Coeliac Disease, and the Increase in Diagnosis of Non-Coeliac Gluten Sensitivity.
7. **Tara M** - The influence television shows/documentaries have made on motorsport, tennis and golf as well as the athletes within these sports.
8. **Amel O** - Why are music industry related fandoms a popular culture phenomenon in society today?
9. **Maddalena P** - What are the shared creative attributes of significant advertising campaigns over the last 60 years, and how is their success measured?
10. **Aimee R** - What impact has alleged corruption and incompetence within the South African government had on the provision of energy since the end of Mandela's term in 1999?
11. **Lana S** - An evaluation of the factors affecting the changing history of women's fashion and beauty standards since the 1800s in the UK.
12. **Charlotte T** - To what extent is the future of skiing at risk from climate change and if so, should we adapt or mitigate?
13. **Isabella W** - Should inheritance tax be abolished in the UK? A comparative analysis of inheritance tax in the UK and Australia.

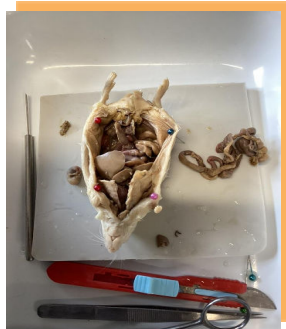
STEM News

Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Sadly there were no budding witches at our club this week, so the magical spells were performed by our two Science officers, Maya C and Lucy H instead! They did a fantastic job of coating a flask in silver (using the Tollens' reagent, which is used to test for aldehydes and which is on the A-level specification). Hopefully our young witches will be able to come along and try this next week!



Anatomy Club



This week the students did a whole body dissection of a mouse, starting with the external anatomy, looking at the teeth (big incisors, constantly growing), ears and eyes. Then they made a long incision down the length of the body to examine the thoracic cavity, containing the lungs and heart, and then the abdomen. To our great surprise, we discovered one of the mice was pregnant, so the students gained the amazing opportunity to inspect the tiny foetus. Next week we will finish by dissecting a sheep's brain.

RSC Schools' Analyst Competition

In this year's competition, our Year 12 students assumed the role of analytical chemists assisting their local Trading Standards Office to investigate some unusual products on sale at the Super Sugar Candy Store. The store sells sweets, treats, and drinks from around the world, but the Trading Standards officers suspect that some of the items contain ingredients that are restricted or are being used in the incorrect amounts.

The students were provided with some samples of items taken from the store for analysis. They had to use their skills as analytical chemists to determine if the items were safe for consumption and contain the correct ingredients as stated on the packaging. The tasks included the quantification of vitamin C in vitamin tablets, determination of the dye content in imported candy sweets and the volumetric analysis of baking soda in a cake mixture. Well done to Maya C, Catrin C, Lucy H, Sophie L, Caroline L, Tara M, Ava P, Bella P, Zoe Q, Saskia R, Charlotte S, Charlotte T and Priya T. They all worked successfully in their teams to solve the challenges and submitted their results online; fingers crossed they got close to the actual values and that we get good news later this term.



TeenTech / Crest Awards club



The pupils from the TeenTech and Crest Awards clubs visited the Natural History Museum and attended a special talk and guided tour of the Minerals Gallery. They listened to gripping stories of the female scientists whose contributions changed our understanding of space. We learnt about the first female paid scientist Caroline Herschel who discovered at least 7 comets, Ursula Marwin who worked on iron compounds in meteorites from the Sputnik satellite, and many more. Learning about the lives and research of incredible female scientists was fascinating and inspiring.

Sports News

World Cup Acrobatic Gymnastics

Sophia G in Year 10 competed for Great Britain in the FIG Acrobatic World Cup in Bulgaria last weekend. Her team were exceptional and finished in 4th place, narrowly missing a medal. It was a superb start for their first World Cup, acknowledged by the event organisers and described as beautiful! Congratulations, Sophia, on your amazing achievement!

Channing Archives

Welcome back sunshine...now, to the Tennis Courts!



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