

# The Science of Swimming the English Channel

In July 2018, Anna Ploszajski waded into the sea at Dover and attempted to swim to France. This is the nail-biting story and surprising science behind that swim.

In this one-hour show, award-winning materials scientist and engineer Anna Ploszajski will recount what it takes to swim the 21 miles across the English Channel, and the science around it. There will be demonstrations of wave physics, buoyancy effects, and the materials science of the very best swimming snacks. We'll dive into the history of the swimming costume, marvel at biology-defying jellyfish, and ask what psychology drives a person to such extreme feats of endurance. Ever wondered about the goose fat? Isn't it cold? What about sharks? All will be answered.



Following on from her previous show *Smart Materials*, Anna is offering the video version of *The Science of Swimming the English Channel* to schools up until Spring 2021. Expect an hour of cutting-edge science, side-splitting stand-up comedy, and high-energy demonstrations from one of the UK's best young science communicators. She is also available to speak with students in a live follow-up Q&A session on request.

If you'd like a copy of the show for your school, please get in touch:

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# Dr Anna Ploszajski

Materials scientist, engineer  
and communicator

Dr Anna Ploszajski is an award-winning materials scientist, engineer and communicator, and in 2017 was named Young Engineer of the Year by the Royal Academy of Engineering. She regularly performs stand-up comedy about materials and engineering at venues from the local pub to the Edinburgh Fringe, and was a UK finalist of FameLab 2017, the world's biggest science communication competition.



Her public science demos are notorious for their scale and flare, and she has demonstrated experiments such as her hand-built Rubens' Tube (below) to adult and family audiences at venues like The Royal Institution and the Bloomsbury Theatre. Science festival performances in 2018 included the Cheltenham Science Festival, Blue Dot Festival, and Einstein's Garden at Green Man Festival.

*"Anna is a true original, an impressive talent. She is a fantastic performer who brings a fresh approach to materials science. Entertaining and enlightening in equal measure."*

– Professor Mark Miodownik

*"Anna is almost unique in the UK; a young woman in engineering who's accomplished and intelligent but also hilarious, brave and willing to challenge orthodoxies in amazing ways. Oh, and she can do it all on stage too." – Dr Steve Cross*

Anna has discussed materials engineering on numerous national radio and TV programs, including BBC Radio 3, and produces her own podcast about materials called *Handmade*. Her debut book *Handmade: One Scientist's Search for Meaning Through Making* will be published by Bloomsbury in Spring 2021. In her spare time, Anna plays the trumpet in a funk and soul covers band, and goes on adventures in Alan, her camper van.

Find out more at [www.annaploszajski.com](http://www.annaploszajski.com).

