

News from Connaught School

May 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the past weeks, Year 9 pupils have been taking SATs tests and Year 11 have been busy finishing coursework and doing their oral exams. Staff and Year 11 pupils enjoyed a wonderful Leavers' Tea last Friday and they have now started their written GCSE papers. We wish them luck for their exams.

Ms C. Mathurin, a Science teacher and Ms L. Phillips, Head of Geography have left Connaught. We are busy appointing staff to these posts, ready for the new academic year.

Please remember the following dates in the forthcoming half term from May-July 2009:-

School closed to pupils due to elections :

Thursday 4th June

Sports Day

Friday 5th June

Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening

Thursday 18th June

Celebration Evening

Thursday 9th July

Last day of term

Friday 17th July

A. Betts

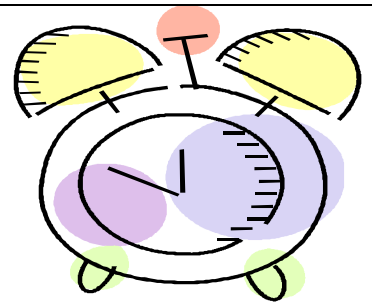
ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance is good in most years. However, some younger pupils have poor attendance which must not become a habit as it will severely affect their achievement.

Averages during the half term, Feb - March 2009

Wk 13 : 92.5 % Wk 14 : 94.8 % Wk 15 : 94.4 % Wk 16 : 94.9%

Punctuality continues to be good throughout the school.



BEHAVIOUR

"On call" incidents : serious incidents of disruptive or rude behaviour

April - May 07 : 11 incidents, April - May 08 : 11 incidents, April-May 09 : incidents

Exclusions : used for very serious incidents. Good news as the figures are still declining:-

April - May 2007 : 8 incidents : totalling 17 days exclusion

April - May 2008 : 5 incidents : totalling 11 days exclusion

April - May 2009 : 4 incidents : totalling 22 days exclusion

LONDON MLE
Powered by Fronter®



During this academic year, a number of staff and students have been trialling the latest learning technology at Connaught - the London MLE, powered by Fronter. MLE stands for Managed Learning Environment. The MLE (known widely as Fronter) is an internet based service, primarily for staff and students where they can log on and enhance their learning in 'virtual classrooms' that match the classes on their timetable. Many students in years 10 & 11 have been involved in a limited number of subject areas during the trials that are proving to be a great success. Students have; uploaded French speaking tasks, downloaded lesson resources and revision materials in science, accessed coursework resources in English, submitted coursework in Year 10 ICT, and participated in help and discussion forums.

Mr G. Cross

Gardening Club



As part of the cooking club that takes place after school on Tuesdays, the students are now also involved in growing their own vegetables and herbs. We are fortunate to have a small space available for gardening & hope to have a big harvest of spinach, potatoes, strawberries, beetroot and loads more at the end of the season.

The students had the opportunity to plant their own seedlings which we ordered from Rocket gardens. They also need to take responsibility for looking after their patch and will be harvesting their fruit and vegetables in July which they can use in their dishes at food club.

In the future we would also like to use the produce in the school kitchen. The garden club gives the girls an opportunity to learn more about types of vegetables, see them grow and learn how to use them in their cooking

If you are interested in getting a rocket garden of your own for you and your family visit their website at www.rocketgardens.co.uk. They deliver the plants to your house and you will be able to harvest your vegetables in 2-3 months. This could save you money and helps to keep your family healthy.

Mrs A. Niesing

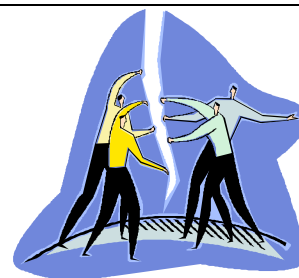


PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Waltham Forest Dance Festival took place on 28th April at the Assembly Halls. There were 36 acts and ten Secondary Schools represented on the day. The 3 acts from Connaught were

9C Christina Brown, Natalie Brown, Zahra Fontenelle, Amber Qureshi
10W Dominika Krywcun, Rakaya Baree
10F Alisha Thompson, Bardha Krasniqi, Helena Morais
Well done, girls!

Mrs B. Matchett



Science WEEK



The department held an extremely successful science week at the end of March which helped to raise the profile of the department within the school & the local community. The week included a whole school science quiz. Lower school forms competed against each other and the upper school entered an online science quiz.

The whole of year 7 went to the London zoo for the day. As well as being a very enjoyable day, it was also educational fitting into the ecology unit of our science work.

The girls looked at how animals are adapted to their environment & how feeding relationships can be affected by humans, disease and pollution. All the students were exceptionally well behaved and a lot was gained from the visit.

Two guest speakers came into the department for Science week. They brought in live owls and snakes. The girls were allowed to touch them, getting a real feel of how they have become adapted to survive in their environments. The event was primarily aimed at the year 7 girls, but many other pupils gave up their own time to see the animals.

Several primary schools were also invited in to see the animals. During the visit, they also sampled some secondary science by making a sea creature that was adapted to its environment. The primary school children worked in groups with Connaught Yr 7 students & showed excellent team skills.

Mr O. Goulding



Trip to the Holocaust Museum



After studying the topic in depth during the year and doing an assembly in front of the whole school, eight students from year 9 accompanied by staff went to have a teaching session & guided tour around the holocaust exhibition in London's Imperial War Museum. Upon arrival the students were talked through some key points on the subject and then shown around the exhibition. The materials on display there stunned most students into complete silence; it is a very sensitive subject on which to work and to understand, but it was put in a very accessible format for the girls who went around the guided exhibition. Upon reflection at the end of the day, the girls seemed to have really picked up on the main message of the day; -

We must never forget what happened, we must oppose all forms of prejudice and discrimination, and do all we can to stop this ever happening again.

Mr A. Silk

Year 10 : Events & Activities

Year 10 Parents' /Carers' Evening was on Thursday 30th April. It was an excellent evening with 90.5% attending, giving the parents and the staff the opportunity to discuss the progress of the pupils and how they are coping with the demands of their GCSE courses. Year 10 continue to work hard and participate in many of the extra-curricular activities on offer. They are due to sit their Year 10 examinations and I wish them the very best of luck with these.

During the half term holiday, some Yr 10 pupils are going to the Gower Peninsula in South Wales to complete their bronze award for Duke of Edinburgh. This will be a challenging and rewarding time. The girls will be camping, walking many miles canoeing, kayaking and completing an assault course.

The year 10 pupils who are on the creative arts and media diploma have had the privilege of interviewing Jon Snow, news reader and Krishnan Guru-Murphy journalist They have been involved in a short documentary for Teachers' Television about functional skills and participated in the IMuslim project, about the media perception of young Muslims. The girls are really enjoying this course and like the way that different skills are taught. Working with other pupils from local schools has developed their confidence. I hope year 10 maintain their positive attitude towards learning and make the most of all the opportunities that are given to them.

Ms S. Diamond