

News from Connaught school

July 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

The year has gone very quickly. Year 11 pupils have completed their exams and we have enjoyed having our new pupils for September in school for the day. There are some changes in staffing for September as some staff have new jobs and others are retiring. We are fully staffed for September. We say goodbye to the following staff:-

Ms A.Hordyk is our PSHE co-ordinator. She has been at Connaught for 19 years and has been responsible for our very successful careers programme establishing many links with the local colleges and businesses. She is retiring to the south coast so we wish her a happy new life living by the sea,

Mrs J.McMinn is an art, textiles & geography teacher, During her 18 years, at Connaught; she has also worked in the Learning Support department. Ms McMinn is staying in the borough but she is looking forward to retirement and enjoying more time with her family.

Ms R.Francis has been a dance teacher at Connaught for 15 years. She is a trained counsellor and she has decided to move into this area of work in the future.

Ms E.Cousins, science teacher has been at Connaught for 7 years. She has been involved in the Science college work and helped many Year 11 pupils with their coursework. She has a new job teaching in Dulwich College in Beijing, China. We wish her good luck for her new life on the other side of the globe.

Ms S.Serret is a teaching assistant in our Learning Support Department. She has been at Connaught for 3yrs and has recently successfully taken a degree and now looks forward to starting her training to become a teacher.

Mr O.Goulding has been Head of Science for the past two years. He has been responsible for leading a group of five science staff and with them has maintained a high standard of science achievement both at KS3 and KS4. He has been appointed Head of Biology at the Dulwich College in Beijing and goes with our good wishes for a happy new life in China.

Mr J Dalton has been 2nd in the Maths department for the past year. He has been a great asset to the department but he has decided to return to South Africa.

Ms V. Nsiah has been a Science technician for the past year, she leaves to start a Masters degree course.

Ms M.Orcel starts maternity leave; we wish her good luck with her new baby.

All these members of staff have been dedicated and committed teachers, giving of their time willingly and helping the pupils to achieve in so many ways. I wish them good luck for the future and hope that they keep in contact with the school.

Ann Betts

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

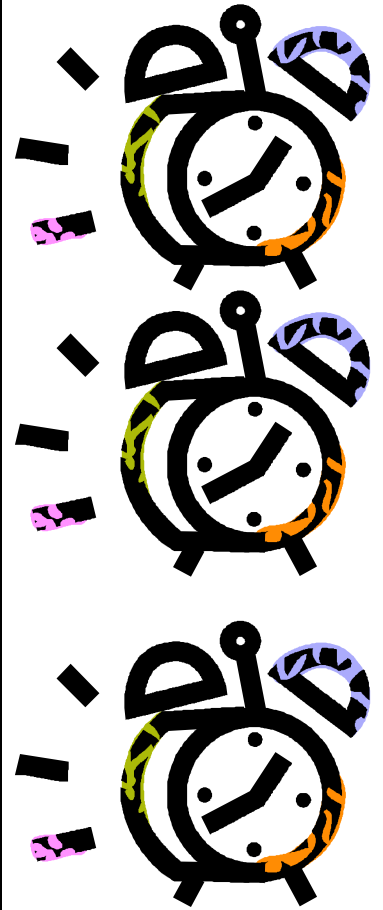
Attendance is still above the national average of 92.5% but figures for this term have been affected by pupils who have taken occasional days' absences and also parents who have taken their daughters on holiday in term time. Although I understand that air fares are cheaper during term time, catching up the work missed is never the same as being in class when the topic is taught. Just two weeks holiday absence can affect progress and achievement.

Averages during the half term, May - July 2009

Wk 7 : 95.3 % Wk 8 : 96.4% Wk 9 : 93% Wk 10 : 94.7 %

During the recent tube strikes in June, some pupils did exceptionally well travelling some distance to school. Well done to Chevanease Clarke 10S who comes from Hainault, Fatima Khalil 10F who travels from Chelsea and Hafiza Oomerjee 10F who managed to get to school from Romford.

Punctuality is generally good. However there are a few pupils in each Year group who are regularly late. Although they have lateness detentions we would rather they learn that being late is a form of negative behaviour and poor attitude towards school.



BEHAVIOUR

Over the past year, we have had few incidents of disruptive behaviour reported in lessons. Staff are being more consistent in using the behaviour policy and pupils are aware of the consequences of their actions. Next year we are going to continue our work on behaviour tackling low level disruption in lessons such as talking or not having the right equipment as this also affects learning and therefore achievement.

The number of "On call" incidents, serious incidents of disruptive behaviour this half term:
May - July 07 : 14 incidents, May - July 08 : 11 incidents, May - July 09 : 9 incidents

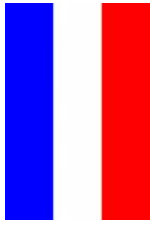
Exclusions: used for very serious incidents. Good news as the figures are still declining:-

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|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| May - July 2007 | : 13 incidents | : totalling 20 days exclusion |
| May - July 2008 | : 13 incidents | : totalling 25 days exclusion |
| May - July 2009 | : 11 incidents | : totalling 18 days exclusion |

Thank you for all the vouchers!

We have a staggering total of 21,230 Tesco vouchers. These have been sent off in exchange for a large number of resources from the "voucher" catalogue. These include art supplies, netball posts, resources for healthy eating and playground games. 7S won the competition for the tutor group who collected the most vouchers a total of 3865. They enjoyed a no-uniform day just for their form. Thanks to our pupils, parents and staff for collecting the vouchers.





COMENI



In May, sixteen girls in Yrs 8 & 9 visited our French Comenius partners in Remiremont. The girls were accompanied by Mrs Patterson, Ms Ball and Mrs Niesing.

For many the highlight was the Comenius day in Collège Saint-Joseph when the whole school took part in activities on the theme of Healthy Living. Girls loved learning to play the French national game of boules and made many French friends in the process!

As well as visiting an organic farm, a clog maker and a sweet factory we ate a typical meal, (featuring the very smelly Munster cheese!) in the highest restaurant in the Vosges mountains.

To mark the culmination of the two year,

European project, the French school put on a fantastic barbecue for their visitors from Britain, Spain and Portugal. Connaught Girls were able to repay them the following day, with help from Food teacher Mrs Niesing, by preparing an impressive array of healthy and tasty salads.

Ms A. Ball

PHYSICAL EDUCATION : JAM FREE DANCE

15 students from Connaught were involved in a Dance project with Walthamstow School for girls. This project was organised by the Southern School Sport Partnership in relationship with East London Dance. The project started January 2009 and the students had 10 weeks to prepare for the main event at Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells Theatre on 2nd April 2009. Their performance were outstanding, they made us proud.

Mrs B.Matchett



ASDAN

On Wednesday, 20th May, the Year 10 ASDAN group went to Chingford Foundation School to participate in a Drama workshop. In the evening we went to see the musical 'Billy Elliot' at the Victoria Theatre. The pupils were accompanied by Mrs Slack, Mrs Pinnell and Ms Corner, from Worth Unlimited.

We all had a great time. Here are a few comments from the girls:

'We had a great time and we all had fun, people were nice to us & we made friends'
'Everyone had a lovely time..' *'Did lots of practical work in groups.'*

'The play was outstandingly fantastic', 'Billy Elliot was funny, amazing ...a wonderful show.' *'Go and watch if you have the opportunity.'*

As always, the Connaught pupils were great, both during the workshop at Chingford Foundation School and in the evening. Our thanks to Ms Corner, who organised the events.

Mrs Pinnell, Mrs Slack

Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition

Account written by Bethan Bartlett 10C

On Monday 25th May, the latest 'troop' of Connaught girls left London for the Gower Peninsula on the sunny coast of South Wales, for the Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition. When we arrived, it took the group of eighteen adolescent girls, exactly 58 seconds to start moaning!! From complaints such as, "Eww, there's a spider in the crack of the bathroom door!" to questions like, "Do you think they use Euros in Wales?"

The first day was spent hiking up the 100 metres-high hills of Rhossili, just an hour away from where we were staying. As soon as we stepped off the mini-vans, we had to put on the dreaded rucksacks, which were more than half of our weight. In our teams of fives and sixes, we pushed ourselves harder than we had ever done before. After an excruciatingly long, painful walk and countless times of getting lost, all groups arrived safely at the campsite: our home for the night.

Finally the long-awaited morning came, and we had barely recovered from frost-bite and near death by pneumonia, when we were summoned to make breakfast in the rain and put away our tents for the equally long day ahead. It was our second and last day of the hike, and we had already developed a sense of hatred for Wales and its horrific weather- our feet were covered in blisters and our hair had become...CURLY! After an hour of desperation to take down the tents in the gale-force wind and rain, the bad news (or good, for some) was broken that the rest of the hike would be cancelled, due to the dangerous weather conditions. We drove back to Paddlers in complete silence. When we returned, we fought for the only two showers in the centre. That night, we had fun at the park, strolled through the deserted village, watched a film and had a well-earned good night's sleep.

Thursday was the most jam-packed day of all. Shortly after breakfast, we were split up into two groups: one who was going to be doing kayaking down the river first, and the other group were to do rock-climbing and abseiling first. We then swapped over activities. After getting changed out of our sticky wetsuits and into some more damp clothes, we were told we had all passed the award,

To conclude, I think that it is fair to say that we had an amazing and fun-filled five days. We had very few arguments and we were also able to see alternative sides to people- ones which are not presented inside school. On behalf of everyone, I believe it is fair to say that we certainly had a trip to remember and it is memories such as the tacky home-made horror videos and late night conversations that will never be forgotten.

A big thank you to the staff at the centre and of course, to Ms Diamond for coming with us

RE CASHLESS CATERING

It is pupils' and parents' responsibility to ensure that there is enough money on the cashless catering system for payment of school lunches.

Paying online is the quickest way - it is done immediately.

If the user name or password are lost or forgotten, pupils should come and see Mrs Connolly so that the problem can be resolved.

Paying with a pay point card takes up to 4 days to go through the system.

If a pupil wants to check their account they should come and see Mrs Connolly before school or at break.

YR 8 THE YOUNG

30 Year 8 pupils were chosen to participate in a 'Young Lawyers' workshop. Two visitors came to the school, Jesse and Jo. Throughout the day they gave us an insight into the average work of a lawyer, and the basics of what happens in a courtroom. This was leading up to the main event of the day, which was a dramatization of a courtroom, all of us being presented with a good excuse to argue!

We were later given the case to act out, and we were split into Prosecution, Defence, Witnesses and Jury, with Jesse acting as our judge. In the end, the jury found the defendant not guilty, and despite protests from the prosecution, we all thoroughly enjoyed the day. We'd like to thank Ms Maniar, who organised the day and we also want to thank Jesse and Jo. We all enjoyed working together and everyone made a real effort. Ropita Rammya 8W Ruth Gardener 8C

Year 7 news

There was a great turn out for the Year 7 Parents' Carers' Evening in June. 93% attended, thank you for attending to listen to your daughters' teachers.

A group of Yr 7 pupils also attended a PGL Adventure Weekend to Windmill Hill Sussex. The weather was excellent and everyone had a good time participating in the many activities - canoeing, giant swing, abseiling, challenge course, raft building etc. Girls met their challenges of heights and water and took part with great enthusiasm in the evening programme of fun and games.

This month, Year 7 pupils have also enjoyed Humanities trips to Canterbury. They were able to study all three subjects of History, Geography and RE, visiting the cathedral & different areas of the city

In the last week of trip, Year 7 pupils have the chance to go to France for the day. I am sure that they will have a wonderful day.



Celebration Evening 9th July 2009

This evening was to recognise the achievements of our pupils. There were performances of drama, dance and music. It was a very enjoyable evening, based on a review of the school year. Thanks to all the staff who worked very hard to make this wonderful evening possible.



Prizes awarded for achievement in

English : Sidra Bibi
Maths : Keziah Kissi
Drama, Woodroff cup
: Lydia Amartey
Expressive Arts : Felicia Davies

Effort in Maths : Rabia Kyi



Prizes awarded for achievement in:-

Languages :Heena Battiwala
ICT : Maryann Osei
Art : Sidra Bibi
Effort in Languages :
Ezgi Turk

RE : Keziah Kissi
Geography : Holly Warner
James

History : Tasmia Choudhary
Tasnia Choudhary



Prizes awarded for achievement in

Food : Aysha Ingar
D&T : Ashleigh Williams
SEN : Amy Head
Science : Aysha Ingar
Dance : Zahra Fontenelle
PE : Sachan Popo Williams

Effort in Science : Lee Anna Olonade

Effort in SEN : Christianah Adeniji

Prizes awarded for **Outstanding effort**

Grocott cup for outstanding effort over the year : Maryann Osei

Dr Witt cup for achievement against odds : Asiya Ali

On 20th May, Mr Goulding took 4 year 7 students, Zoby Khan, Aishag Akhtar, Kobi Bennett and Saima Rasool to Barclay primary school. Here the students demonstrated practical science skills which they had learnt to 3 Year 6 classes. The year 6 pupils were also able to carry out some practical work looking at acids and alkalis. Our students were fantastic, showing some excellent teaching skills!

Mr O.Goulding

NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT WEEK: THE LAUNCH

On 29th June, 28 Year 8 students attended the National School sport Week Launch at SCORE. Six Secondary Schools in the Borough were involved in this exiting event. Connaught and Norlington Boys school had a combined team that competed against the other secondary schools.

The sports that we took part in were: Softball, football, tag rugby, hockey, cricket, handball and basketball. Our girls were outstanding! Well Done!

BOROUGH ATHLETICS:

The year 7 & 8 Athletics team attended two meetings at Walthamstow Pool and Track. The results were:

80metres Hurdles: Laviai Nielsen (Borough Champion) Tuwang Fung (4th)

1500m: Lena Nielsen (Borough Champion)

Discus: Chioma Onyeche (Borough Champion)

High Jump: Charlee Stanislas (Borough Champion)
Coleena Hendry-Mitchell (3rd)



Connaught's Yr 7 Team are so far 3rd in the League, and the Yr 8 team are top of the league, above Forest School
Group pictured at the Borough Athletics Championships, on the 3rd July at Lea Valley, Picketts Lock Athletics Centre

Mrs B.Matchett

NEXT SCHOOL YEAR :

Please remember to get school uniform from Henry Taylor in Walthamstow

The autumn term starts for Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 pupils at

2pm on Wednesday 2nd September

Thank you for your support over the past academic year

I wish you all a very good summer holiday.

Ann Betts, Head teacher

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