

# News from Connaught school

December 2009

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The autumn term started with the analysis of the GCSE results in August and ends with the present Year 11 group taking mock exams in preparation for their 2010 GCSE exams. The autumn term is always a long one and as usual we have been very busy with many different activities.

This December we say goodbye to two members of staff. Mr Manzoor has been working in the Science department for a term. This is the second occasion when Mr Manzoor has worked as a supply teacher at Connaught and we thank him for his work in the school. Ms Claire Raison, Head of drama is returning to Australia. She has worked very hard to develop drama within the school and last year's wonderful musical Olivia will be an enduring memory for pupils and staff. We wish her good luck for the future.

This term we have welcomed Ms J. Gibcus who has been appointed as Acting Head of PE for Ms B. Matchett's maternity leave.

Our pupil attendance levels are high but our staff attendance levels are also high. Both teaching staff and support staff are very committed to the school and rarely take time off for sickness. However, this term, we have appointed a cover supervisor, Mr S. Greenidge, "Mr G" as he is known to the pupils, is covering known absences due to staff attending courses or meetings and sickness absences. We are pleased that we are able to have a more consistent approach to our cover lessons.

**ATTENDANCE** levels are good and are generally improving. Our school target is 96.2% and this term we have a pupil incentive that if a pupil attends every day for the whole autumn term she will have a chance to win £50 of Top shop vouchers.

**Averages for the half term**

Week 10 : 95%    Wk 11 : 95%    Wk 12 : 96%    Wk 13 : 95%    Wk 14 : 94.0%

**BEHAVIOUR** is still improving.

**"On call" incidents : these are serious incidents of poor behaviour**

Nov - Dec 2006	14 incidents
Nov - Dec 2007	7 incidents
Nov - Dec 2008	8 incidents
Nov - Dec 2009	3 incidents

**Exclusions : used for very serious incidents**

Nov - Dec 2007	4 incidents involving 4 pupils	:	totalling	7.5 days exclusion
Nov - Dec 2008	8 incidents involving 8 pupils	:	totalling	21.5 days exclusion
Nov - Dec 2009	3 incidents involving 4 pupils	:	totalling	11 days exclusion

## Impact Theatre



The Impact Theatre Company entertained year 9 (and their teachers!) on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November with their "Opt into learning" performance.

The three talented actors made everyone laugh throughout the performance, although the message was important - GCSE, diplomas and apprenticeships are all equally important pathways to learning in key stage 4. Different courses suit different pupils- depending on your preferred learning style. Year 9 also had the opportunity on 10<sup>th</sup> November to find out more about the 8 diploma courses which are being offered in Waltham Forest next year.

## Charities

During this half term we have collected for the following charities:-

Bring your bear to school day : Action Medical Research	£ 174.21
NSPCC : Breakfast club during anti-bullying week	£61.30
Breast cancer research : sale of pink ribbons	£ 105.77
Red cross Appeal for Indonesian earthquake	£ 43.44
Sabre trust : Partnership with Ghana	£ 219.00



## Rachel Gillan Year 8 pupil

Rachel is a member of Redbridge School of Gymnastics and competes regularly in competitions. She has won several medals particularly for floor exercises and the vault.



RACHEL GILLAN  
LGF COMPETITION 2009



## Celebration Lunches

What a fabulous and exciting year so far, with Eid and Black History Month celebration lunches already something of the past. This year Eid lunch was celebrated by having a special celebration in the dining hall, whilst the Year 10 dancing group as well as some of the brave year 7's got up on the stage to provide entertainment. We were treated by the kitchen staff with a menu of delicious Asian foods which included Chicken Tikka Masala and Lamb Biryani.

Black History month was celebrated with a festive meal of Jerk Chicken, plantain, rice and peas, dumplings and much more. The hall was decorated with brightly coloured tablecloths and flags from many countries representing the black culture.

We are now looking forward to Christmas lunch with lights, presents, turkey, stuffing and all the rest. The atmosphere of these lunches is always festive and exciting. Thanks to the hard work from all members of staff.

Mrs A. Neising

## CAMBRIDGE VISIT

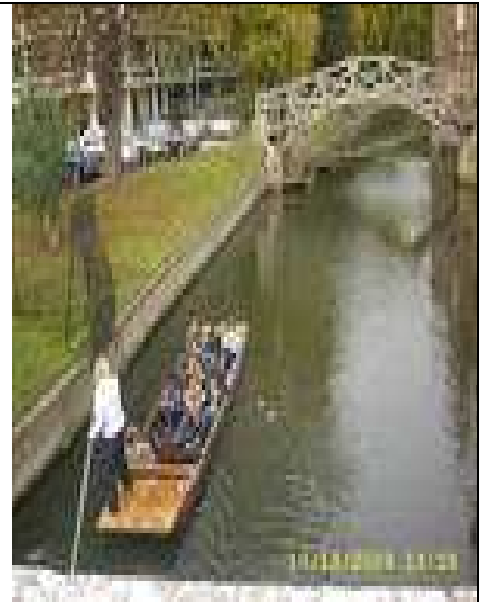
In October, nine Year 10 pupils visited Cambridge University. The event aimed to encourage students from ethnic minorities to consider applying to the university.

"It was a great experience for us as it provided an insight into higher education and what life would be like at university. There were very informative lectures and we were given the opportunity to see the campus and colleges where students lived. After lunch we returned to hear more about the university which encouraged us to apply there ourselves in the future. Overall it was a trip that inspired many of us".

Saima Undre 10F

Six pupils from Year 9 took part in an Aim Higher Science activity at Imperial College - a DNA day. Imperial College will also be hosting, early next year, a Year 9 Science Fair which will enable a larger number of students to participate

Ms S. Gooden



## 1:1 TUITION

Additional funding this year has enabled identified pupils in year 7 to have 10 hours of 1:1 tuition in English or mathematics if they had not reached the expected level at the end of KS2. Three tutors come to school to work with the girls every week on a 1:1 basis. These lessons started in November and will continue until January.

We hope that this scheme gives the girls an extra boost with their important numeracy and literacy skills.

Mrs F. Scott

## Behaviour Policy

Our revised behaviour policy has been in place for over a year now. I would very much appreciate any feedback from parents on how they feel this policy could be improved further. The policy is available to view on the homepage of the school website [www.connaught-school.co.uk](http://www.connaught-school.co.uk). If you would like to receive a paper copy please call the school on 020 8539 3029 to request one. Please e-mail any comments on the policy to me at [msjmeyer@googlemail](mailto:msjmeyer@googlemail) or by writing to the school office marked for my attention. Thank you

Ms J. Meyer



**Year 11 pupils** completed their two week Work Experience placements just before half term. The fortnight passed very smoothly with no problems at all with each pupil being visited by a supervising teacher. The girls all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to see a real employer in action and to gain an insight into the world of work. All the references we have received back from the employers so far have been extremely complimentary and have said they would employ the student tomorrow!

Ms P. Williams



## Yr 11 Recycling event

In November, 8 Year 11 Textiles students went to the International Schools Award and Eco-Schools Celebration Event at the British Council in Spring Gardens,

The pupils had been asked to model the clothes they had made in a one day workshop on recycling clothes. The project was aimed at schools in order to encourage them to recycle and re-use for sustainable development. We took the tube and arrived fairly early (giving us early access to all the food of course!).

The reactions to the free goodie bags ("Oh My Gosh. There are CAMERAS in here!") were followed by a fairly long dressing and make up session, after which the girls looked amazing! Many other schools, both primary and secondary showed the ways in which they too, had created an eco friendly part of the school, and it was after this when Connaught was given the International School Awards flag. This was followed by the girls modelling their creative dresses. It was a successful day in which the true potential and creativity of Connaught students was shown quite clearly. Well done to the following students: Chevanease Clarke, Jamilla Bruce, Muneerah Patel, Darya Kozlyk, Charlotte Cole, Louise Cox, Achira Ramjanally and Holly Cooper Walker. Muneerah Patel

**Make your mark:** All Year 10 pupils took part in the national event "Make your mark" which started global enterprise week. The pupils' behaviour and attitude were both excellent and they found the tasks both challenging and exciting. Of the 20 groups that were selected, two groups were judged to be better than the others. Congratulations to the following Year 10 pupils: - Ibe Amogbe, Simona Joniova, Zaynab Olyabek, Errha Mahmood & Rid Naveed.

Mr P. Phillips

**The Textiles department** exhibited a range of work at the Design and Technology show in November this year. The 3 day show is held annually at the NEC Birmingham and is attended by teachers from all over the country. The work we submitted was displayed on the ISub (Education) stand and consisted of GCSE coursework garments, Yr 10 packed lunch containers & Year 9 cushions all using dye sublimation printing. When I visited the show it was good to see our work being admired by many people and that we had been awarded first prize for 'Innovative use of dye sublimation printing'. Mrs A. Horsley



## About a pupil: **Camara Fearon : Yr 9**

I had always wanted to play the piano but my parents insisted that because of the lessons learnt from my older siblings starting activities and not finishing, I would have to wait until I was old enough to understand the meaning of start and finish!

However, when my voice developed, they realised that maybe it was time for me to start learning the piano with the understanding that I would practise regularly and I could only stop after reaching Grade 3. I did well getting a top mark for my piano exam after four months. I then started playing the trumpet followed by the saxophone and since then, three further instruments. I am currently on Grade 4 & 5 for all.

In the last year I have performed as a guest artist in Atlanta, Jamaica, Florida, Tobago and Ireland and hundreds of events in England. It has been a very busy but incredible year for me, Since September I have had the privilege to have one of my songs called "Nothing is impossible" printed in thousands of 2009/10 School year planners, sponsored by The Jack Petchey Foundation, after I had performed it at an awards ceremony. This honour is normally taken up by quotes from the rich and famous, such as Oprah Winfrey and Bill Gates so I was thrilled.

In October I was one of the principal singer/actresses in The J. A. Story held at the Stratford Circus. I was chosen to play the trumpet solo "Last Call" at the memorial service held on November 11<sup>th</sup> which was a very moving experience. I was also invited to sing at the House of Commons to celebrate the Achievements and Contribution of Black and Ethnic minorities and just last week, I was accepted into the London Symphony Orchestra's Next Generation project for exceptionally talented musicians.

There are many that say that people like me are gifted and talented: my answer to that is, I have worked very hard for what I have achieved & sometimes it wasn't easy but I did believe



## **TOO MUCH PUNCH FOR JUDY**

Year 11 pupils recently watched a play called Too Much Punch for Judy.

The story line was about two sisters, Judy and Joanna who went out for a drink. The night ended tragically due to drink driving with the eldest sister Joanna dying. The play was very emotional and made you realise what the effects of alcohol can do. We all thoroughly enjoyed this play because it showed us visually the effects of drink driving instead of us reading and writing about it.

Jessica Stoby 11W    Makeda Melina 11F

# MUSIC EVENTS

Last week, we had a wonderful music concert. Pupils from different year groups sang and played musical instruments and a choir of over 100 pupils sang many seasonal songs. On Monday evening this week, we were given a time slot for the Year 7 choir to sing carols in Trafalgar Square. This was a wonderful event, thanks to the pupils and the many staff that braved the cold and the rain!! We raised £302.71 for Breast Cancer Research.

Also this week a group of our pupils have been invited to be flag bearers at the Commonwealth Carol Service at St Martins in the Field church off Trafalgar Square.

Mrs A. Betts



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, four year 9 pupils, Ronnie Pask, Chloe Serungendo, Tara Collingwood and Nadia Sharif attended the joint school council meeting at Waltham Forest College. The event, the first of the year, was very successful with all girls making a positive contribution to a lively discussion and debate about several issues that young people in the community are concerned with. In particular the pupils raised some serious points about the environment and litter around their local area, and the issue of drugs and its effects on the local community. The final part of the meeting was attended by Councillor Robbins and Councillor Ali who listened to the pupils' ideas and concerns. Our pupils contributed to this part of the discussion and they were a real credit to the school.

Mr P. Phillips

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

In October, 115 out of 119, 97% of our Year 7 Parents attended their Parents' / Carers' evening. Thank you for completing the questionnaires sent to parents in October, 70% of all parents returned the surveys. We shall receive feedback from the company in January.

Attached are the

- School calendar for 2010 - 2011
- Dates for the spring and summer terms. Please note Parents/ Carers' Evening dates.

I hope you all have a good Christmas holiday & I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.  
Ann Betts, Head teacher

# Connaught School for Girls

## School Calendar     January - July 2010

<b>Spring term 2010</b>	
Staff training day (3) : School closed to pupils	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Yr 11 College road show	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 11 reports home	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 11 Parents'/ Carers' Evening	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Year 7 reports home	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January
Year 9 reports home	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Half term holiday</b>	<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> February - Fri 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Year 8 reports home	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 10 reports home	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 8 Parents'/Carers' Evening	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day of term	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
<b>Summer term 2010</b>	
First day of term	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Year 11 reports home	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>May bank holiday</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
Staff training day (4) : School closed to pupils	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Evening	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 7 reports home	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 11 leavers' tea	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May
GCSE written exams	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 7 Parents' /Carers' Evening	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Half term holiday</b>	<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>
Year 8 reports home	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 10 Interview day	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Staff training day (5) School closed to pupils	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 9 reports home	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July
Common transfer day	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 10 reports home	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
Celebration Evening	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July
Last day of term	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July



# Connaught School for Girls Term and Holiday Dates for Academic Year 2010-11



September 2010							October 2010							November 2010							December 2010						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
January 2011							February 2011							March 2011							April 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
31																											
May 2011							June 2011							July 2011							August 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
30	31																										

= Student Days     
  = Staff Training Days     
  = School Holidays/Weekends     
  = Bank Holidays

1 September - Yr 7 students *only* from 2pm  
 5 November - School closed to all students  
 4 January - School closed to all students  
 11 April - School closed to all students  
 5 May - School closed - Polling Station (provisional polling day for local elections)

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010</b>	72 days
	<i>Less 5 days Half Term 25<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> October and Eid-Ul-Fitr on 10<sup>th</sup> September (Diwali falls on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Guru Nanak falls on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November)</i>	
<b>Spring Term:</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b>	65 days
	<i>Less 5 days Half Term 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February</i>	
<b>Summer Term:</b>	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011</b>	58 days
	<i>Less 5 days Half Term May 30<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and May Bank Holiday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May Add additional forced closure day 5<sup>th</sup> May</i>	
<i>(Autumn Term 2011 commences on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - subject to a formal decision to be made by the Local Authority in 2010)</i>		195 days