

# News from Connaught school

October 2011

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This half term has been a very good start to the new school year. Pupils returned from the summer holiday focussed and ready to work. Year 7 pupils have settled into Connaught life very well and Years 10 & 11 pupils are working hard on their GCSE courses. A. Betts

**ATTENDANCE** levels are very good and over the past weeks we have reached our target of 96.2%

**Averages for the half term**

**Week1 : 91 % Wk 2 : 97 % Wk 3 : 97 % Wk 4 : 97% Wk 5 : 97 % Wk 6: 97%**

**PUNCTUALITY** total numbers of late sessions for the whole school, per week are as follows:-

**Week1 : 25 Wk 2 : 62 Wk 3 : 41 Wk 4 : 58 Wk 5 : 61 Wk 6: 71**

**BEHAVIOUR** has generally been very good over the half term. However we had one incident of aggressive behaviour and rudeness to staff that has meant a very long exclusion for one pupil. This exclusion also includes the time taken to acquire support from different agencies to support this pupil.

**"On call" incidents : Sept - Oct 2010 2 incidents Sept - Oct 2011 4 incidents**

**Exclusions : used for very serious incidents such as fighting or extreme rudeness**

Sept - Oct 2010 3 incidents involving 5 pupils : totalling 7 days exclusion

Sept - Oct 2011 3 incidents involving 6 pupils : totalling 25.5 days exclusion



## LATVIAN VISITORS

With an international flavour, on 4<sup>th</sup> October Connaught welcomed six visitors from Latvia. They included students competing at the World Skills Competition at London's Excel.

Year 8 prepared for their visit by learning Latvian greetings in their Languages lessons. They were enthusiastic and welcoming in their special year assembly. The visitors gave an impressive presentation about Latvia and its capital Riga, before observing some science experiments with the Year 10 BTEC group. Many thanks to Lote Puske 11C for her work as interpreter. A. Ball

# GCSE Results

**We are delighted with our latest GCSE results.**

## **5 A\* - C grades**

73% of the Year 11 cohort achieved 5 A\* - C grades this is 86 pupils

## **5 A\* - C grades including English & Maths**

Best ever for the seventh consecutive year

67% of the Year 11 cohort, 78 pupils, this is important for entry to college

## **GCSE results in languages in Year 10** were excellent

23 Year 10 students took the exam after a one year course.

100% of the group achieved A\* - C grades. This included 5 A\* and 6 A grades

## **Some individual results included**

Racha Sobratee 12 A\* grades

Saima Undre 10A\* & 2 A grades

Saima Hussain 8A\* & 4 A grades

Khadija Mamsa 8A\* & 2A



# Black History Month

We have had a number of activities to celebrate Black History month including art workshops to make African masks, carnival dance classes, competitions and a special lunch. Several lessons have also focused upon the achievements and recognition of black people and their role in human history. CCPSHE lessons in Key Stage 3 have included the issue of black people and social change. This has included about how the slave uprising in Haiti in 1791 was linked to the French revolution and ultimately brought about the end of slavery.

Other lessons have looked at some of the lesser known contributors to black history and the fantastic contributions made. In Key Stage 4, lessons have focussed on the role of Black and Asian MPs in British politics. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, girls from year 9 will be taking part in a black history quiz which has been organised by the local authority. There have also been assemblies that have focused on the Olympics and black history looking at the story of Mohammed Ali in the 1960 Rome Olympics and the black power salute from Tommie Smith and John Carlos in the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

P. Phillips G. Cross

# CHARITIES

There have been a number of events and different activities. We have a new school council and have been fundraising for a number of different charities.

In September, we had "Bring your bear to school day" and raised £120 for medical research for young children.

Four Year 8 pupils, Riya Givane, Gizem Kilinc, Saba Janjua and Dana Reid had an idea about raising money for the intensive baby care unit at Whipps Cross hospital. They organised a raffle selling tickets for an Ipod touch. Congratulations to these pupils as they raised £240 and will be taking the cheque to the hospital.

We are now busy with a number of events to raise money to buy an electric wheel chair for a Year 9 pupil who suffers from cerebral palsy. As she gets older it is becoming increasingly difficult for her to walk and to take part in different activities.

The London sponsored walk in aid of ' Hannah's wheelchair fund" was on a wonderful sunny day on Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>. We walked from Bank, via St Pauls, the Globe theatre, the South bank, Covent Garden to Trafalgar Square. All the Year 7 8 & 9 pupils who took part were marvellous and are now busy collecting their sponsor money. Thanks to the 14 staff who took part, without whom the walk could not have taken place.

We are planning a gigantic cake sale on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October and a no uniform day on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>. The pupils have been keen to take part and we are hopeful that we will reach our total. Thank you for sponsoring and supporting your daughters for these various events

A. Betts



**The Year 10 NVQ French group** got a taste of the international nature of the world of work and saw the wide range of careers on offer when they visited World Skills at Excel. They mingled with competitors from all over the world in the packed conference centre in Docklands . In the "Have A Go" areas they tried out their skills in Beauty Therapy, Pottery, Floristry and Fashion design.

A. Ball

# GCSE VISITS TO THE BATTLEFIELDS AROUND YPRES, BELGIUM

In June and September, the year 11 and year 10 history classes went to Ypres in Belgium, to help with our learning on World War One. We had seen videos, pictures, read articles about the war and thought we knew what was coming. Truth be told, when we arrived there, we realised that we had seen nothing. What we had seen printed on worksheets in History lessons was hardly a fraction compared to everything we saw in Ypres - the place seemed to bring it all to life.

Seeing the war graves, the makeshift museums and the cathedral proved to us that it wasn't just a story that we had been studying - it was all true. Tens of thousands of soldiers had indeed laid down their lives fighting for their countries, each name etched onto marble memorials telling a unique tragic story.

**Shenaz Allyjaun 11C**



**Ropita 11W** Before Belgium, World Wars were pictures and documentaries. On that day I felt the humanity that was lost and won.

**Sarah 11C** The whole day was an eye opening experience that taught me how lucky I am to be alive and that I have the chance to live my life to the fullest, unlike all the men that were killed.

**Mimi 11W** The places we visited all got to me. They really sparked an emotion in me that made me understand how people must have felt then. It was one of the most inspirational trips I have ever been on.

**Tiri 11C** Belgium was a heart-rending experience. You can really feel what they went through and it makes you think deeply about the past. You can imagine every single detail as you stand in these trenches. It is a memory I will never forget.

**Juliet 11C** The Belgium trip really changed how I felt about what I had been learning about the wars. I viewed it very differently. I felt like I was part of it myself and could understand, instead of just knowing what the soldiers must have felt

**Kayla 10F** For me, it was going to the graveyards that was a big experience. It wasn't a nice thing to see but it made me realise how much the war affected people. Seeing that many graves shocked me.

**Nadia 10C** It was a day full of mixed emotions. Excitement at the trenches, sorrow at the cemeteries and happiness in the town. Breath taking!

**Arub 10W** You realize how horrific the war was, how many people died and how the German soldiers were forced to join the war. It was so emotional.

**Libby 10F** The trip was amazing. I didn't realise you could learn so much in one day by just visiting places.

**Sarah 11C** The thing that stood out for me during the trip was how young the soldiers who died were and it was upsetting that they were only a few years older than us.

As always, our students presented themselves with respect and sensitivity throughout the visit and on both days, people approached us in the town to comment on their maturity and appropriateness. Well done girls! P. Williams J. Donovan : History Department

## **G&T Visit to Cambridge : Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October**



On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, a group of 15 Year 11 students accompanied by Mr Phillips and Ms Gooden visited Cambridge University to attend an advice session on 'A Level subject choices and on how to maximise chances of gaining a place at the more select universities. We arrived in Cambridge at midday and were welcomed by the liaison officer Jenny O'Hare and two undergraduate students. We were also treated to lunch in the Gonville and Caius College Campus dining room before attending a session led by three Cambridge admissions tutors. The question and answer session was also very relevant to Year 11 students.

"The Cambridge University trip was extremely inspiring. The city and the university buildings were beautiful. The lecture was very informative and has made my decisions about college and university easier. I am taking my work more seriously now because I can really see how important it is." Mimi Dickinson 11W

"We arrived at the station and walked for 30 minutes to get to Cambridge University and we saw at least 2000 bikes! After lunch in the food hall at Gonville and Caius College we had a short tour and took a 5 minute walk to the lecture hall. I've always had a solid idea that I would like a career in Science. I plan on taking the IB (International Baccalaureat) which means my options will be left open." Tori Burnett 11W

It was one of the most memorable trips. I found it all very motivational, as the whole experience and career prospects are worth all the effort. The actual town is stunning and filled with so much history. It was very informative and I now know precisely which A-Levels I want to do and what course I want to take at university. Ropita Rammya 11W

# OPEN EVENING

About 300 people from many primary schools attended our Open Evening on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. The prospective parents were very positive about the evening and said that the tour guides and the pupils in the rooms were confident and knowledgeable about the school. There were many different activities all around the school. All the pupils who helped at the Open Evening were a great credit to the school.

## PE and Sports News

PE clubs have started and we have had lots of pupils come to lots of different activities - from Karate to Badminton to Netball to Indoor Rowing. It is great to see so many enthusiastic pupils but it would be great to see even more!

### Indoor Rowing



This club takes place every Friday at lunchtime and so far this term we have had over 50 girls attend. Some girls will be working towards their DAS soon which is the Distance Award Scheme. For this pupils record the metres they have rowed at each club and work towards accumulating as many metres as possible. For example 10,000m = a certificate, a white pin badge and a London Youth Rowing wristband. 500,000m = a blue pin badge, £10 worth of i-tunes vouchers and a silver medal and 1,000,000m = a certificate, a black t-shirt, £50 worth of i-tunes vouchers and a cup.

On Friday 4 November we will be holding a fundraising event to raise money for a new monitor for one of the rowing machines. Pupils will get sponsors and row continuously as a team for a whole lunchtime.

Adina Suleman in Y10 has been doing rowing since Y9 and will soon join the Lea Rowing Club to travel to different competitions. So far she is one of the youngest members of the club as most of the members are adults. Adina says "rowing club is exciting in many ways. It can be a good laugh. With the help of staff and the encouragement from some of my peers I have achieved a lot and have had the courage to attend rowing outside of school. Something I would not usually have done."

### Cross Country

Lina and Laviai Nielsen represented Connaught at the recent Waltham Forest Borough Cross Country Championships. The girls did very well with Laviai finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Lina finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The girls will now go to the Essex Championships and we wish the girls good luck.

*It would be great to have more pupils at clubs so your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go to at least one club before Christmas. I'd like to be able to say that every pupil at Connaught has attended a club! Come on girls, you can do it!*

R. Tairi

Please email me any comments about this newsletter

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