

News from Connaught school

February 2012

Dear Parents & Carers,

As I write this introduction, I am watching the snow melt. I am hoping that it will continue to melt so that it does not cause major problems for school tomorrow.

Our attendance figures are still very high but there are concerns regarding the punctuality of some of our Year 10 & 11 pupils as you can see from the figures below.

Last term, we conducted a survey with parents, staff and pupils about the inclusion of a blazer in our school uniform. This exercise provoked lively debate and we received a large number of completed surveys. The final overall result was as follows :-

Question : Do you want a blazer as part of the school uniform?

Yes : 30% No 36% Not sure 8% Survey not returned 26%

Therefore, having discussed this with the governors, we shall not be including a blazer as part of the Connaught school uniform. Thank you for taking part in this consultative exercise and for all the comments made on the slips.

Thank you for supporting the school and buying the correct uniform for your daughter, the standard of our school uniform is very high. We do have only one supplier and that is Henry Taylor in Walthamstow. Remember you can order online, their website is :-

www.henrytaylorsschoolwear.com. Ann Betts

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to be very good.

Averages during the half term, Jan - Feb 2012

Wk 1 : 94.4 % Wk 2 : 95.3 % Wk 3 : 95.5% Wk 4 : 95.4%

PUNCTUALITY

For some senior pupils this needs improving,

Number of lates during this half term

Week 1 Year 10 : 22 Year 11 : 19

Week 2 Year 10 : 19 Year 11 : 21

Week 3 Year 10 : 34 Year 11 : 25

Week 4 Year 10 : 29 Year 11 : 33

Although there are detentions on the same day as the lateness occurs, some pupils have developed the bad habit of being late and unfortunately the figures will be included in their reference for college.

BEHAVIOUR

Figures with comparison for similar times in the year :-

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

Jan - Feb 2010 : 4 incidents Jan - Feb 2011 : 3 incidents Jan- Feb 2012 : 2 incidents

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

Jan - Feb 2010 : 0 incidents

Jan - Feb 2011 : 2 incidents : totalling 3 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2012 : 1 incident ; totalling 6 days exclusion

Years 10 & 11

Both Years 10 & 11 pupils are working hard either for modular exams or controlled assessments. They thoroughly enjoyed their study skills seminars with the Learning Performance Company on Wednesday 1st February. Memory techniques, using A-maps and story lines are examples of the skills taught during the sessions. Every girl was given a large manual to take away with all the notes from the lessons. Parents/carers of pupils in years 10/11 came along to school on the Wednesday evening to learn more about study skills and how to help their daughter with her studies. Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended.

Last weekend, we started the "One to one" programmes with Year 11. These classes are held over ten Saturdays in the lead up to the GCSE exams. We all know that it is important to try to achieve at least a grade C in English and mathematics GCSE so this is one of the school's support strategies to help.

Pupils are also encouraged to take advantage of the variety of lunchtime and after school clubs on offer from your subject teachers. Please make sure that you maximise your effort to be able to achieve well.

Mrs F. Scott, Deputy Headteacher

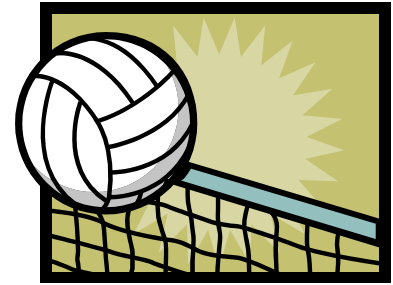
FUND RAISING



One of our Year 10 students, pictured, presents a cheque to staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital for £831. 45. It was this student's idea to raise money for this hospital, especially for the cleft palate wards as they have helped her a great deal as she has grown up. This tremendous amount was raised from a no uniform day in December and a group of staff and pupils carol singing in Trafalgar Square. Thanks to this student and her family who also did a sponsor event to raise further funds.

Mrs A. Betts

PE News



Olympic News - Young Games Makers

In October 2011, Miss Tairi applied for 10 students to be Young Games Makers at the athletics for the London 2012 Olympic Games. Young Games Makers are volunteers who will work in different venues fulfilling different roles throughout the games. From our application we were then selected to attend an interview where we had various tasks to complete, one of which was to create an advert for television.

Miss Tairi and Mrs Scott also had to attend an interview on behalf of the team. After the interview we had the nervous wait to see if we had been successful. Fortunately we were successful and Miss Tairi let us all know on Christmas Day that we had been chosen from thousands of other applications to be kit holders for the athletes at the athletics competition. This job means that we carry the athletes' kit from the changing rooms out into the stadium. We all have our fingers crossed that we get the Jamaican team and that we can carry Usain Bolt's trainers out for him! This is a fantastic, once in a lifetime opportunity and we can't wait to be part of the biggest sporting spectacle in the world. We are ecstatic!

The team members are - Ruth Gardener, Coleena Henry Mitchell, Lina Nielsen, Laviai Nielsen, Oke Obiwevbi, Lizzie Oladunni, Leah Harwood, Oumy Simos, Sally Asantewaa and Haleema Ceesay. Miss Tairi is the primary team leader and she will be supported by Mrs Scott as the secondary team leader.

By Lizzie Oladunni



Rowing News



EDF Rowing Challenge

A week ago we were given the fantastic news that we had been selected to be part of the EDF Rowing Challenge. We were selected from 80 schools and there are only 5 schools in total competing. This is an exciting project that aims to give young people in London a unique opportunity to participate in rowing with the support of an inspiring Olympic athlete and compete at an Olympic venue. A team of 8 will train for the next 3 months with a specialised coach as well as get some tips from Olympic athletes. They will not only practise on the ergometers but they will have lots of on water practice as well.

In May, all of that hard work will be put to the test where they will row at a regatta against the other 5 schools. Over the next few months their training will be based on a points system and at the final regatta all of the points will be tallied to find out who the overall winner is. That team will be awarded tickets to the Olympic Games!

As the rowing club is so popular it was very difficult for Miss Tairi to decide on a team of 8 to be part of this event but in the end it came down to those who had shown the most dedication to rowing since September and those who had rowed the most metres for the distance award scheme. The team members are Asiya Yusuf, Hasna Mahmood, Shokra Navabi, Onisa Naing, Zara Nadim, Hannah Mirza, Glenda Boye and the team captain is Adina Suleman. Congratulations girls and good luck with your training!

Rowing Club

On Friday 4th November the Rowing Club took part in a sponsored row. In teams of 5 the girls rowed for 35 minutes and rowed a total of 26, 548 metres. They also raised £387.18 which has gone towards buying a new monitor for one of the ergometers. This was a fantastic effort by all those involved but in particular Asiya Yusuf who raised over £70. Rowing club would like to thank Barb from London Youth Rowing who helped on the day and who has attended several of our sessions.

On March 23rd the biggest junior indoor rowing competition in the world will be taking place at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. Miss Tairi will be taking a team to represent Connaught at this event so make sure you attend all clubs from now until March.

School Games Coordinator

A new games coordinator has started here at Connaught. Her name is Miss Izobo and she will help run extra-curricular clubs and take teams to competitions. Please see below for the clubs timetable -

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime		Netball for years 7, 8 & 9 with Miss Tairi (Annexe)		Badminton for all yr groups with Miss Izobo (Annexe) Step Aerobics with Miss Diamond (Hall)	Rowing for all year groups with Miss Tairi and Miss Meyer (Annexe)
After School	Karate with Nasreen		Karate with Nasreen		

PE Kit and Jewellery Reminder

Please could you make sure your daughter has the correct PE kit and that it is clearly labelled? At the end of every term there is a lot of unwanted kit left behind but usually it is clothing that has not been labelled and pupils do not know if it is theirs or not. Also it is extremely important that pupils do not wear jewellery, especially earrings for PE. This is very dangerous and pupils should only be having their ears pierced during the summer holidays when they have time to heal.

If your daughter is ill or has an injury (please write a note), she will still be expected to take part in her PE lesson to some degree or she may be given exercises to do that will not damage her injury further. Pupils must still always bring PE kit to lessons and be prepared to do some form of exercise or activity.

Miss Tairi, Head of PE

Breaking News!!

Connaught has been accepted onto the *Connections* programme with the **National Theatre** for **2012!**

A little bit about Connections...

National Theatre's 'Connections' is an amazing opportunity for some of our students to: work with one of the country's best theatres, to perform at one of London's professional theatres (Artsdepot), to work with an exciting new play written especially for young people and to collaborate with playwright Andres Lustgarten in the interpretation of his play Socialism is Great.

*If we are chosen by National Theatre judges we will also have the opportunity to **perform our play at the National Theatre - imagine that!***

Open auditions for Years 9 & 10 were held in December, since then our wonderful cast has been working hard to bring to life this challenging play in a way that will capture our diverse audience -**that's you!** We are working in a very collaborative way where everyone's ideas are tried out. Currently we are exploring with Tai Chi (big thank you to Mr Stanislas), projections, live drumming, Chinese shadow puppets, physical comedy and much much more.

So, please put these dates in your diaries.....

Socialism is Great will be playing on Monday 12th March 2.15pm, Wednesday 14th March 7.30pm, Thursday 15th March 7.30pm.

Come and support us as we bring to life this great new play.

Ms Ana Brothers, Head of Drama

SCIENCE CLUB

Connaught Science Club is going from strength to strength !

The club meets in Lab 2 every Wednesday lunchtime and is open to any student .

So far this year we have packed the Lab with students from Years 7, 8 and 9. They have enjoyed a variety of experiences such as :

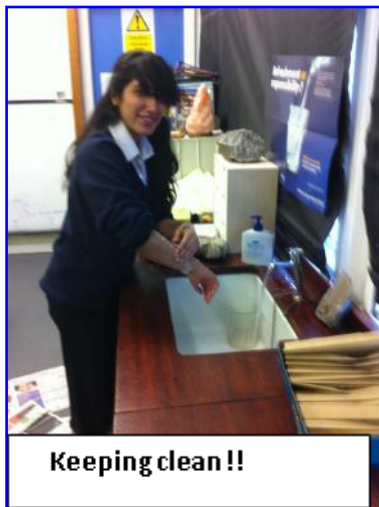


Snow from a test-tube?

- Cosmological discussion,
- Organ dissection and Microscopy,
- Neutralisation using titration,
- Making artificial snow,
- making model flying saucers,
- Examining Rocks, Minerals, Crystals and Fossils;
- Solving scientific puzzles, ICT inc. Making Power Points;
- Checking out Scientific You-Tube/BBC Science News.



Tomorrow's surgeons?



Keeping clean !!

The club is also a place where students of different ages can talk about issues with one another, and also receive help with things like homework and careers.



Snowflake or snowflakes or just "Fake" ?!

Mr N. Patterson, Head of Science

Reminder : Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening

There is a Yr 9 consultation evening on Thursday 1st March . Pupils will be asked to make appointments with their teachers for this evening which is important as they make their Year 10 curriculum choices very soon.

Please email me any comments about this newsletter:

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