

News from Connaught school

February 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

The spring term started with snow and ice across the country. We closed for two days not because of staff problems. Although some staff live in south London or some distance from school they would have got to work. The problem was the lack of grit on the access roads and the pathway between the main building and the annexe was very dangerous. We gritted the areas by our entrances but the other areas are the council's responsibility.

Mr N. Patterson joined the school in January as Head of Science. He has settled in well to his new post and is already involved in many different projects

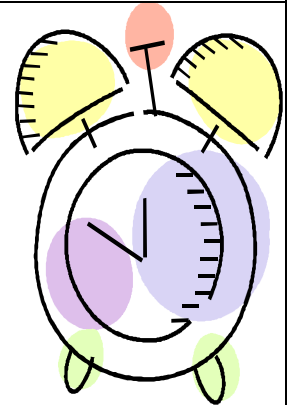
ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance is very good. Averages during the half term, Jan - Feb 2010

Wk 1 : 96.1 % Wk 2 : 95.1 % Wk 3 : 96.4 % Wk 4 : 95.4%

There are concerns about the punctuality of pupils in Years 9 & 10.

Some pupils are late on a regular basis which is not a good habit for the future. After the half term holiday, we shall be concentrating on this issue, alerting parents earlier and involving the authority and Educational Welfare Officer.



BEHAVIOUR

Figures with comparison for similar times in the year :-

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

Jan - Feb 2008 : 4 incidents Jan - Feb 2009 : 8 incidents Jan - Feb 2010 : 4 incidents

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

Jan - Feb 2007 : 5 incidents : totalling 8 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2008 : 3 incidents : totalling 5 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2009 : 8 incidents : totalling 16 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2010 : 0 incidents

We are delighted as this is the first half term that there have been no exclusions.

Ms Joy Meyer, Assistant Head teacher has led the work on ensuring that the school behaviour policy is an accepted part of school life. This has been very successful resulting in few incidents of disruptive behaviour in classrooms as pupils are aware of the consequences of their actions. However, our work on sustaining high levels of good behaviour is ongoing. We are still working on all pupils being involved and improving noise levels when pupils move between lessons. The behaviour policy is available to view on the homepage of the school website www.connaught-school.co.uk.

Please e-mail any comments on the policy to joy.meyer@connaught.waltham.sch

PUPIL'S PLAY PRESENTED AT STRATFORD

On Wednesday 3rd February afternoon, a group of year 9 students were treated to a special visit to Stratford Circus to see a performance of a play written by one of our own Yr 9 students, Liyah Malcolm.

Liyah had participated in the 'Doctor Faustus in the modern world' - Temptation and Desire; a Play Writing Project, in which over 40 other young people were involved. She had attended creative workshops with professional playwrights and actors to support the process. Liyah had written her play called 'Ghost of Nicole's future' which was one of the 7 plays and a monologue chosen to be performed by the Present Moment's company of actors. The play itself was performed professionally and demonstrated her writing talent.

It was a lovely afternoon in which we were able to see her work presented from page to stage. As a school we are extremely proud of Liyah and her achievement as an aspiring young playwright. Congratulations Liyah!

Ms T. Masella

Parents' / Carers' Evenings

Year 11 Parents' & Carers' Evening was held on Thursday 21st January. This was well attended with 89% of parents coming to discuss their daughters' progress with the teachers.

Reminder for Parents / Carers of Year 9 pupils, there is a Yr 9 consultation evening on Tuesday 2nd March. Pupils will be asked to make appointments with their teachers for this evening which is important as they make their Yr 10 curriculum choices very soon.

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**APPEARING AT
THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL,
SEPTEMBER 2010**

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walthamforest@theatretrain.co.uk

Reminder about cashless catering

More & more pupils are coming into the school office to pay for their lunches. This is not the correct procedure, payment for lunches should be made online as per previous instructions or payment can be made via the PayPoint card. Payment is made at shops displaying the PayPoint sign. **Please allow 48 hours for money to go through.** It is the pupils & parents responsibility to ensure there is enough money on the system to pay for lunches. Thank you for your help.

Mrs J. Connolly

ROTARY CHEF COMPETITION

In this recent competition, where 12 schools competed, two Year 10 pupils achieved second and third places.

One student will be going through to the District Final, to be held at the prestigious Kingsway College, Westminster on Saturday 20th February. The other competing student was third and is currently a reserve in case of a cancellation. Competitors are also judged on the healthiness of their food and its presentation. For the next stage, she needs to prepare a two course meal of a main meal and dessert in not more than one and a half hours. She also needs to provide a budget showing the cost is within £7. Well done to these girls for their hard work, commitment and excellent achievement. We are proud of you!

Mrs A. Niesing, Head of Food



COLLEGE ROAD SHOW

This took place on the 14th January and was an opportunity for Year 11 pupils to meet representatives from prospective colleges. They talked about the courses that were on offer and what future choices were available. The pupils were very inquisitive, using the time wisely and behaved impeccably. The colleges at the Road show that had attended before, commented on how successful it had been this year, with many saying that the girls were very focused and keen to find out about the different courses. For those colleges who had visited the Road show for the first time they said they are looking forward to attending next year!! Clearly the Year 11 girls had shown what a credit they are to the school. Well done.

Mr P. Phillips Head of CCPSHEE

DIPLOMA TASTER SESSION

Thirty year 9 pupils had a "taster" lesson for the Waltham Forest diploma courses on offer for September 2010. This session was held at Sir George Monoux and Waltham Forest Colleges. Girls sampled the Creative & Media Diploma by recording a pod cast and learning about marketing jobs in the creative and media industry. For the Hair & Beauty Diploma, massages and nail care were demonstrated. In the Society, Health & Development Diploma pupils learnt about law and working with people especially in the health service. These sessions will aid the girls in making an informed decision about the pathways that they wish to follow in key stage 4.

Mrs Scott, Deputy Head teacher

Haiti

The school has organised and been involved in a number of projects to raise money for the Haiti earthquake appeal fund. Some Year 7 pupils made ribbons in the colours of the Haiti flag, Year 8 have taken part in a Skip Rope, there is a book sale on Wednesday 10th February and a no uniform day on Friday 12th February. The total raised so far from the ribbons is £480 and for the Year 8 sponsored skip £450. Thanks to all the pupils and staff who have helped with this appeal. We anticipate that money will continue to be donated after the half term holiday.

Science Festival Imperial College, London

On Thursday 21st January 14 Year 9 students accompanied me to the above Festival, run by a company called "Exscitech"

This company encourages Science amongst young people. The event involved our girls working in teams with other Waltham Forest schools solving scientific problems and observing unusual demonstrations which would not necessarily be seen at secondary schools very easily. The girls were an absolute joy to be with, and displayed the type of behaviour and academic discipline which became the envy of the other schools taking part, showing pride in wearing the Connaught uniform.



I accompanied one of the groups as they made their way around the activities during the day. It opened with a Chemistry activity, where students had to make their own chemical indicator using red cabbage.

They then handled solid carbon dioxide before observing some rather pretty flowers being shattered by liquid nitrogen!

At the Biology lab, strawberry DNA was extracted, along with working out blood types. After lunch the group built a paper bridge, enforcing the

Physical concept of Forces.

The final activity was astronomical, where the girls had to make a



spectroscope, showing the difference between the observed spectrum of visible light and that given off by a mercury lamp!

The concepts learned or enforced during the

day were first class, and the demonstrations observed by the whole cohort were fascinating viz, making smoke rings, sound-shattering wine glasses and passing electricity through the whole group in one go!!!!!! We all complimented and thanked the staff and students at the college for such a great day.



Mr N. Patterson , Head of Science

ANY COMMENTS? Please email me comments about any aspect of school life

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Ann Betts, Head teacher