

News from Connaught school

July 2011

Dear Parents & Carers,

This has been a very successful year for the school. In September, we celebrated our best ever GCSE results and this term, following an inspection in May, we received a very good Ofsted report where we achieved "outstanding" for achievement, behaviour and attendance.

There are some changes in staffing for September as we say goodbye to :-

Mrs Anees, our Urdu teacher retires after being at Connaught for 14 years. She has successfully taught many pupils in her GCSE classes and AS groups. We thank her for her work in the school and wish her a happy retirement.

Ms Chrisp, joined the school in January as maternity cover for the Head of PE. She has fitted in extremely well and has worked hard to give PE a high profile in the school. She has encouraged the pupils to take part in many different activities whether rowing, white water rafting, borough athletics or organising the whole school to take part in an active week. She is returning to New Zealand and we wish her good luck for the future.

The Autumn term starts for pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 at 2.30pm on Friday 2nd September. This allows the pupils to spend time with their tutors, obtain their diaries and timetables and to be fully organised for the next school week. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a very good summer holiday.

Ann Betts

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be very good.

Averages during the half term, May - July 2011

Wk 7 : 95.6 % Wk 8 : 95.3% Wk 9 : 95.2% Wk 10 : 95.2%



BEHAVIOUR

We continue to have few incidents of disruptive behaviour reported in lessons.

The number of "On call" incidents, serious incidents of disruptive behaviour this half term:
May - July 09 : 13 incidents, **May - July 10** : 3 incidents, **May - July 11** : 3 incidents

Exclusions : used for very serious incidents. The figures are still declining:-

May - July 2009	:	11	incidents	:	totalling	18	days exclusion
May - July 2010	:	3	incidents	:	totalling	3	days exclusion
May - July 2011	:	1	incident	;	totalling	1	day exclusion

Humanities Trip to Rochester

The time had come again for the new group of fresh faced year 7 students to make the journey to Rochester on the humanities field trip. After little to no rain for a number of weeks it just so happened that on the day of the trip... it rained for most of the day! The weather didn't affect the girls at all as we all made our way in to town to visit the castle, the cathedral, and go around the town to do a variety of tasks in addition to their humanities curriculum work. The girls' behaviour and work on the trip were excellent. Shop keepers and members of the public came over to congratulate them. We all had an enjoyable day and learned a lot from the visit and were able to come back to school and apply what we had learnt

Mr A. Silk, Head of Humanities



Thank you for all the vouchers!

We collected a marvellous total of over 12,000 Tesco vouchers. These have been sent off in exchange for a large number of resources from the "voucher" catalogue. 8S won the competition for the tutor groups who collected the most vouchers. They enjoyed a no-uniform day just for their form. Thanks to our pupils, parents, staff and governors for collecting the vouchers.



TARGET MEDICINE

A UCL Medical School outreach scheme

Target Medicine Summer School (previously known as the Dick Whittington Summer School) is a non-residential, week-long programme for Year 11 students from London-based, non-selective state schools. There are 40 places available, and the event takes place from 4th-8th July at UCL's Whittington campus.

During the week **Saima Hussain** will be mentored by two medical students and will get the opportunity to meet real patients and doctors, visit the Whittington Hospital and learn emergency response skills in a purpose-built clinical skills centre. The summer school helps students find out what life is like as a medical student and doctor and aims to be both inspirational and give students the confidence to pursue medicine as a career.

Earlier on in the year **Humaira Mayet** attended a special lecture on Biochemistry at UCL. This lecture was for young people with interests in the subject of cutting edge medicine.

Mr N. Patterson

Woodworking produces lots of dust that can contain hazardous particles and is a major health problem, which we put up with every time we sand off any timber or any other type of surface in Resistant Materials.

In Resistant Materials working with Year 9CS we have found a clever solution to the problem, "**Abranet**" a sanding net with thousands of holes, provides phenomenal dust extraction. Since the abrasive net maintains its aggressive properties over the entire surface, sanding becomes much more efficient. The other great advantage is the Abranet sheets or discs have a much longer life span compared to traditional abrasives, up to six times longer and even longer where softer materials are sanded, therefore saving money in the long term as well as a cleaner working environment. The disposal and the manufacture of regular sanding paper and the impact on the environment are also reduced by us using this new product.

Ms T. Graydon

Dust Free Sanding

Visit of Newport choir

On Monday 20th June, 30 pupils from Years 4 5 & 6 in Newport primary school visited Connaught. They came to lunch, played in the playground at lunchtime and then sang beautifully in assembly. In the afternoon they took part drama and food technology workshops. It was good to have younger pupils on site and we look forward to more joint projects next academic year.

Mrs A. Betts

BTEC Preparation trip to London Zoo



On June 24th, 12 Year 9 students visited London Zoo as part of their BTEC preparation course. The students were studying the habitats, diets and adaptations of various animals as part of their coursework.

We saw many animals that we had studied and some we had never seen before! We looked at the adaptations of camels and giraffes and the features they have for survival.

Can you spot the camel in the picture behind the pupils? We learnt about how a parrot is adapted to its environment and watched them show off their skills in a show. They were able to hang upside down using only their beaks! We saw the adaptations of the giraffe and watched them eating. We had a fun, educational day!

Miss McLauchlan



Local community debate

This year a citizenship club has been organised by Year 8 girls. Their first event was to organise a 'question time' style debate for girls at the school and local people. The event took place on the 25th of June at Leytonstone library. There were four main speakers including John Cryer, MP and Jenny Gray local Labour councillor.

The build up to the event saw the girls making and selling cakes in order to raise funds for the event. The standard of debate and questions were of a very high level and showed the girls' interest in politics and local matters. The girls raised issues about a number of different topics such as the cuts to public funding, tuition fees and how young people are stereotyped in the media. All of the panel of speakers debated with the pupils in a thoughtful way and pointed out that the girls themselves and the event showed how interested young people are in political issues. The event was very successful and the girls look forward to putting on a similar event next year. Well done to all the girls involved!

Mr P. Phillips



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

During the May half term, a group of 23 girls in year 10 took part in their Duke of Edinburgh expedition taking place over a week in Wales. The award consists of taking part in a sport or physical activity, a skill such as a musical instrument or learning a language and also a period of volunteer work to give back to the community. The duration of these parts were 3, 3 and 6 months long but the toughest part of the Duke of Edinburgh takes place within this week's expedition..

All 23 girls underwent training in sessions after school. This resulted in being able to take part in a hiking expedition with a night camping out in Wales. The walk itself was well over 10km but was made all the more tiring by heavy rucksacks containing food, clothes, tents and all the other survival equipment that was needed. The terrain ranged from pleasant fields to precarious hills round the Gower peninsula. This route caused a great deal of frustration and many pains in the leg muscles. However, eventually everyone completed the two day hike. This was done in good spirits because there is 'no feeling like seeing the end of the journey just ahead' according to many of the girls.

For the rest of the week, there were many activities planned to keep the already bruised and aching girls active. The youth hostel was not far from the coast where everyone, instructors included, went for a day of coast-steering. This unusual sport refers to making your way over the rocks and seaweed and through the caves on the coast, almost always submerged in the sea. The reality is much more exhausting and exciting than it may seem. Especially when swimming through ice-cold water in echoing caves and being told to climb 5m above the sea... then jump back in! Some of the girls found that they were much more adventurous than they'd previously thought, and others discovered they definitely did not have a head for heights. No matter how much they enjoyed it, these jumps were a very memorable experience for everyone. It was made all the better by a trip to the beach in the evening and a meal of fish and chips.

On another day, the group went river swimming. This activity is fairly self explanatory as it involves swimming through a river. The morning was spent learning the techniques involved in safely swimming through the currents and eddies of the river and also how to do belly flops. In the afternoon, time was spent in canoes and kayaks on the lake nearby and then down the river once everyone was more proficient. The idea of the afternoon was to learn to move 'in' kayaks and canoes, but this was abandoned because many of the girls frequently found themselves shoulder deep 'n' murky lake water.

Overall the expedition was a fantastic experience and the D of E girls loved every minute of it.

Stephanie Casey, Year 10

“Connaught goes out”

This year we decided to all go out on the same day, Thursday 30th June. Coaches were booked back in October and tickets purchased before Christmas. All teaching staff and support staff were invited on one of four trips. However, this day was also chosen by two unions as the day for industrial action which meant that the plans were modified. The workshops and London walk planned for pupils not going on the trips had to be cancelled as there was not sufficient staff to do all activities but the four trips for Years 7, 8 9 & 10 were able to go ahead.

Year 7 went to France

They visited two towns in the north of France, Marquise & Wissant. They travelled on the Euro shuttle and were able to go on the beach. The pupils also enjoyed using their French in the local shops. Fortunately, although immigration was also on strike the coaches were not delayed coming home



Year 8 visited Colchester zoo

After travelling by three coaches to Colchester, the pupils spent the day walking around the zoo and seeing many, many animals. Some pupils fed the elephants others really liked the lions or the penguins. As the zoo is situated on a hilly site, walking all day was also very good exercise!

Year 9 visited Chessington

The pupils and staff enjoyed being together and going on the many rides. Unfortunately due to accidents on the M25 one coach was very delayed getting back to Leytonstone.

Year 10 visited Thorpe Park

They also enjoyed a day in the sunshine and going on the many exciting rides



Thank you to all the staff who took part in these visits.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed their day out

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It has been very exciting in the Music Department this term, with many more students becoming involved in extra-curricular activities.

- Our new Gospel Choir meets on Tuesdays 1.15 - 2.10pm and has been enjoyed by over 70 students from all year groups
- Our African drumming ensemble, from Years 7 and 8, practice for an hour after school on Thursdays and have hugely enjoyed the experience
- The wonderful steel band, which practises three times a week, has grown in size after the purchase of some new pans. We now have 14 members from Years 8, 9 and 10.
- Many students from all year groups learn a variety of instruments at school, including violin, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, and trumpet. They practise each day at home and attend weekly one-to-one lessons in school.

Mrs R. Sanger, Head of Music

Buying school uniform

At Connaught School for Girls, we believe that high standards of uniform contribute to a positive learning ethos which in turn supports pupils' progress and achievement. We therefore ask parents to purchase school uniform from our supplier, Henry Taylor, details of which are on the reverse of this page.

We realise that, in the past few months in particular, many parents or carers will have faced financial challenges because of the national financial climate at this time. If you are not able to afford your daughter's school uniform, please make contact with me either by sending a note in an envelope addressed to me (Ms Meyer) or by e-mailing me at joy.meyer@connaught.waltham.sch.uk as we may be able to help you. Your request will be dealt with confidentially.

It has been the case in the past couple of years that parents or carers who have left buying uniform until late in the summer holiday have not been able to buy the specific items they needed. We, therefore, advise you to place your order with Henry Taylor as early as possible. I trust you will find this information useful.

Ms Joy Meyer, Assistant Headteacher

Connaught School for Girls : Uniform 2011

Please may we remind you that all uniform items must be bought from our supplier:
 Henry Taylor Ltd, 119 - 121 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 4RX
 Tel: 0208 521 2413 e-mail: henrytaylorltd@btconnect.com

V-neck pullover with logo

Years 7, 8 & 9 Navy blue
 Years 10 & 11 Royal blue

30	32/34	36/38	40/42	44/46
£14.95	£17.95	£18.95	£21.95	£24.50

Blouses

White button or reverse collar (twin pack)			
	28 - 32	34 - 36	38 - 46
Long sleeve	£13.50	£14.50	£15.50
Short sleeve	£11.95	£12.95	£13.95
Summer fitted blouse	£7.50	£9.50	£10.25

Special offer on long-sleeved blouses: buy two packs and save £5.00

Tie (optional) - £3.95

Trousers

Navy stitched pleat

9/10 yrs - 13/14 yrs	15/16 yrs	Ladies 12 - 18
£14.25	£15.25	£17.50

Navy banner style

Size 22 - 26	Size 28 - 36
£16.95	£18.95

Skirts

Navy kilt style, budget quality

9/10 yrs - 13 yrs	14/15 yrs
£9.50	£11.25

Navy kilt with buckle and strap

From £16.95

Navy blue polyester Shalwar Kameez fabric - £2.95 per metre

Celebration Evening 14th July 2011

This wonderful evening was to recognise the achievements of our pupils. During the afternoon and early evening, there were exhibitions of GCSE Art and D&T work. In the evening, there were performances from Year 10/ 11 Drama, Yr 10 Dance group, 2 Yr 9 Dance groups, gospel choir, the karate club and Genevieve Mahbeer, a Yr 8 pupil, sang the solo that won her the competition "Connaught has talent" .

Prizes awarded for achievement & effort in:

English : Nabilla Doma

Maths : Saima Hussain

Science : Rida Naveed

Drama, Woodroff cup : Sarah Fox

Effort in Maths : Mariam Khawaja

Effort in Science : Sofia Patel

Languages : Saima Undre

Effort in Languages : Christianah Adeniji

ICT : Carolina Gomes

Food : Sumaiyyah Patel

SEN : Deborah Ashaolu

Citizenship : Elida Veseli

RE : Rahma Mohammed

Geography : Sahani Halwathara

History : Racha Sobratee

Art : Annie Tariq, Regina Marjanovics

PE : Elysia Lewis

D & T : Anna Reily

Effort in SEN : Naing Su Myat

Prizes awarded for Outstanding effort & Achievement

School Council : Ruby Sanford-Smith, Zahra Fontenelle, Florence Tsui

Grocott cup for outstanding effort over the year : Amy- Elle Murphy

Dr Witt cup for overall achievement : Anna Reily

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

2.30pm on Friday 2nd September

On the reverse of this page, there is an updated school calendar for 2011/2012

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a very good summer holiday.

Ann Betts, Headteacher

ann.betts@connaught.waltham.sch.uk



Connaught School for Girls Term and Holiday Dates for Academic Year 2011-12



September 2011							October 2011							November 2011							December 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
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							31																				
January 2012							February 2012							March 2012							April 2012						
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
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31																				30						
May 2012							June 2012							July 2012							August 2012						
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
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
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- = Student Days
 - = Staff Training Days
 - = Sch Holidays/Weekends
 - = Bank Holidays
- 1 Sep - School closed to all students
 8 Nov - School closed to all students
 3 Jan - School closed to all students
 3 May - School closed to all students
 29 June - School closed to all students

Autumn Term:	Thursday 1st September 2011 – Friday 16th December 2011 <i>Less 5 days Half Term 24th- 28th October and Eid al-Adha on 7th November (Diwali falls on 26th October. Guru Nanak falls on Thursday 10th November)</i>	71 days
Spring Term:	Tuesday 3rd January 2012 – Friday 30th March 2012 <i>Less 5 days Half Term 13th - 17th February</i>	59 days
Summer Term:	Monday 16th April 2012 – Thursday 19th July 2012 <i>Less 5 days Half Term 4th – 8th June, and May Bank Holiday, 7th May Add additional forced closure day on 3rd May (polling station) Add day in lieu of extra bank holiday on 5th June (HM Queen Diamond Jubilee)</i>	65 days
<i>(Autumn Term 2012 commences on Monday 3rd September 2012 - subject to a formal decision to be made by the Local Authority in 2011)</i>		195 days

Connaught School for Girls
 Connaught Road
 Leytonstone
 London E11 4AB

Tel: 020 8539 3029

Web: www.connaught-school.co.uk
 email: school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk