

News from Connaught school

May 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have had an Ofsted inspection. We have been visited by four inspectors for two days. They observed lessons and spoke with pupils and staff. Thank you for completing the questionnaires for this inspection. The inspectors were impressed with our pupils and how they could discuss school items with confidence. A draft report will be printed over half term and the final report will be available soon after.

Please remember the following dates in the forthcoming half term from May-July 2011:-

Trip to Rochester 7S & 7F	Monday 6 th June
Year 10 Belgian war graves trip	Saturday 18 th June
Trip to Rochester 7C & 7W	Tuesday 21 st June
"Connaught goes out" Trips/ activities for all year groups	Thursday 30 th June
Staff training day	Friday 1 st July
Year 6 pupils visiting school : Common transfer day	Wednesday 6 th July
Celebration Evening	Thursday 14 th July
Sports Day	Monday 18 th July
Last day of term	Thursday 21 st July

A. Betts

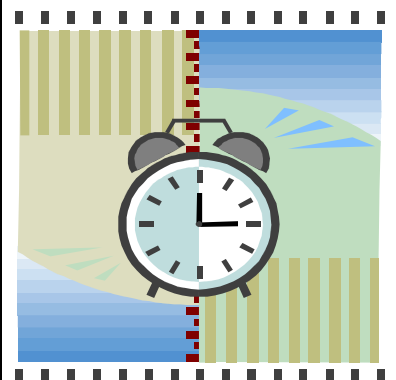
ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance is very good in most year groups..

Please remember if your daughter is absent she must bring a note to explain her absence on the day of her return to school. If she does not bring in a note, the absence is unauthorised.

Averages during the half term, April - May 2011

Wk 1 : 94.2 % Wk 2 : 96 % Wk 3 : 96 % Wk 4 : 95%



BEHAVIOUR

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

April-May 09 : 10 incidents, April - May 2010 : 5 incidents April - May 2011 : 1 incident

Exclusions : used for very serious incidents. It is important to stress that exclusions are on a pupil's school record and may affect college entry.

April - May 2009	:	4	incidents	:	totalling	22	days exclusion
April - May 2010	:	3	incidents	:	totalling	4.5	days exclusion
April - May 2011	:	0	incidents	:	totalling	0	days exclusion

Interview day : Year 10

On Friday 6th May the year 10 pupils took part in this year's mock interview day. During their citizenship lesson, the year group had been choosing the jobs in which they wished to be interviewed. The areas of occupations ranged from science to health care, from teaching to engineering. The pupils were very well prepared with excellent interview techniques.

On the day, the girls who took part in the interview day were brilliant and they had excellent punctuality, Every pupil was on time for every interview. The interviewers were very impressed by the pupils' skills. One employer commented that the girls were able to draw heavily on their personal experiences and achievements and could relate these to the job for which they were being interviewed. Overall the employers commented that the girls were a real credit to Connaught school and they were very keen to come back next year for our next mock interview day. Well done.

Mr P. Phillips

THE FRENCH SIDE OF LONDON

On Wednesday 18th May, 48 girls from year 8 waited eagerly outside Buckingham Palace to meet up with visitors from our link school in Ollainville near Paris.

Once we had met up it was time to introduce the girls to their partners for the day. Having had a chat, we set off on a walk down The Mall to Trafalgar Square and then on to Big Ben and then alongside the River Thames. It was during the picnic near the London Eye that the girls really came into their own, beginning a circle dance and managing to get some of the French boys to join in!

Ms A. Ball



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to these Year 10 pupils who have been elected as our School Council leaders 2011-2012

Haleema Ceesay 10F, Chair of School Council,
Lina Nielsen 10F, Vice Chair
Laviai Nielsen 10W who will be Secretary.

'Time to Shine' sports camp

On Monday 18th April, I went to a sports camp for three nights. It was amazing! Every year, 'Time to Shine' sports camp gather 120 children from different London boroughs to a gym called the Olympic Lodge in Buckinghamshire. There were lots of different sports activities during the four days and I have to say that my favourite sports were archery and athletics. I had a wonderful time and I hope that I can go next year not only for the sports but to meet up again with all the friends I made there.

Loren Ennis 8W

Staff Training : 5th May

On 5th May 2011, the school was closed to students as our buildings and car park were being used as a polling station for the alternative vote referendum.

School staff, however, were hard at work during their fourth training day of the 2010-2011 academic year. The theme for the day was 'Developing Classroom Practice' as the school had identified three areas for classroom staff to consider together during a day of observing in classrooms in the Spring term 2011.

The day started with a 1-hour keynote address from Sir Alan Steer giving his reflections of education in schools over recent years and the challenges for schools in the future. Alan Steer was a highly successful Head teacher in Ilford for many years and recently helped the government in a review of school behaviour. Staff found his address "excellent and thought provoking", "very entertaining" and "very motivational". Classroom staff then followed a programme of three development workshops led by members of the local authority school advisory team. The sessions focussed on:

- Learning Objectives - effective ways to describe what staff are looking for from their students during their lessons
- Classroom Dialogue - ways of questioning students effectively and developing students' responses
- Written Feedback - effective methods of writing & how students can improve their work

School staff enjoyed the opportunity for "discussion with colleagues in other departments" with many commenting on how the activities enabled a "good sense of reflection" and how they will take their work forward into the future.

Mr G. Cross, Deputy Headteacher

The Times Spelling Bee national championship heat

On Friday, 8th April, four Year 7 students took part in this national spelling competition. Evie Taylor, Rodoshi Bhuiya, Ai-sha Arif and Asiya Yusuf competed in a play-off elimination round and a quick fire round. Half way through the competition, they were in joint second place; facing some very tough competition, the girls were eventually placed third. The organisers were surprised at the high level of competition at this heat, saying that the scores of the second and third placed teams would have easily won the other heats. To give you an idea of the level of competition - the final knockout round included words such as 'hegemony' and 'bivouac'. Congratulations to the spellers for doing so well at such a challenging event.

Ms Caroto

Support for Parents and Carers

At Connaught School for Girls, we recognise that young people growing up in today's society face many challenges and that helping them through these challenges can be a daunting task for parents and carers. As well as working with parents and carers to support our pupils in their learning and academic progress, we can also offer help to parents and carers in supporting their children in other aspects of growing up and coming to terms with adolescence.

We work closely with a number of specialist agencies who offer advice on matters such as 'drugs', 'safe behaviour outside of school', 'childhood bereavement', 'sexuality', 'relationships', 'mental health, including anxiety and depression' and 'eating disorders' to name just a few.

If your daughter is experiencing difficulties of any kind or you would simply like information on an aspect of adolescent behaviour, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0208 539 3029 asking to leave a voicemail message for me or at joy.meyer@connaught.waltham.sch.uk and your enquiry will be treated completely confidentially.

Here are the contact details of a number of agencies which may be of use to you:
722 (alcohol and drugs service) Waltham Forest Community Health Council, 722 High Rd Leytonstone, E11 Tel 020 85397180

Face 2 Face (counselling) 398 Hoe Street, London E17 9AA Tel: 0208 509 1219

www.fflag.org.uk (support & advice for family and friends of young people who are lesbian or gay)

It has been a very busy year for Year 11 pupils.

They had work experience in November; where once again they proved how fantastic Connaught pupils are, followed by their mock exams in December. The Spring and Summer terms have been particularly eventful with all the fundraising for the Leavers' Tea. The girls pulled together as a year group and showed tremendous spirit and team work raising money through cakes sales, a car wash, raffles, etc. Thanks to their hard work and effort we were able to have a very successful Leavers' Tea. In the run up to their GCSE exams (which have now started) there have been revision classes and clubs during lunch times and after school. We were also able to offer a group of girls Saturday 1:1 Tuition sessions for Maths & English; the girls involved have shown great commitment in attending these sessions proving their desire to achieve the best grades possible. Connaught is very proud of the Year 11 group and we wish them all the best in their exams and the future.

Ms M .Petersen, Head of Year 11

Any comments ?

On the school web site, there is a great deal of information about school policies and procedures. Please email me comments about any aspect of school life.

ann.betts@connaught.waltham.sch.uk

Ann Betts, Head teacher