

# News from Connaught school

March 2007

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As usual this half term has been very busy. We have had numerous activities and events, including a joint subject Ofsted inspection in early March, a wonderful week of science activities to launch our Science college status and the fun of a Comic Relief day!

## STAFFING

Mr Sasha Pater will start as Site Manager on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This will allow him to supervise and be involved in the building and decorating work planned for the Easter holiday.

We have advertised for a new Science teacher for September. We have had a large number of applicants.



## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be good .

Week 1 94% Wk 2 95% Wk 3 95% Wk 4 96%

This means that the average percentage over the four weeks is 95 %

The national average is 92%

Some pupils are regularly late, this is a habit, one that needs to be broken!

Pupils in Years 10 & 11 have late detentions on the day that they are late.

They know that if they are late in they stay late.

## BEHAVIOUR

Behaviour is very good. However, we have had problems with pupils going off site at lunchtime. We have only 12 pupils who go home for lunch and these lunches should be at home not at a local sandwich bar or sitting eating on a wall near school. All other pupils are to be on site at lunchtime and we take this responsibility of care very seriously.

**"On call" incidents : these are serious incidents of poor behaviour**

Jan - Feb 2004 49 incidents

Jan - Feb 2005 29 incidents

Jan - Feb 2006 23 incidents

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

Jan - Feb 2004 20 incidents involving 9 pupils : totalling 28 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2005 14 incidents involving 21 pupils : totalling 34 days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2006 13 incidents involving 12 pupils : totalling 26 days exclusion

# Events

To launch our Science College status, we celebrated National Science and Engineering Week in style with a wide variety of activities that gave every pupil at least one opportunity to participate.



**On the Monday and Thursday**, Year 5 pupils from Newport and Barclay schools linked up with 90 Connaught pupils to learn about snakes and owls and to conduct a scientific experiment. The pupils saw and held eight different species of owl and a variety of non-venomous snakes including a 10 foot boa constrictor. In the science experiment, Mr O.Goulding showed the pupils lab techniques for separating a mixture of substances. Every participating pupil took home a goodie bag that included a certificate, an owl quiz, colouring sheets and a template for an owl mobile.

**On the Wednesday**, all Year 7 pupils enjoyed a day at London zoo. The weather was glorious and the pupils enjoyed a quiz based on a treasure hunt taking them to all corners of the zoo.



**On Tuesday** there was an inter form quiz. This was a mixture of science and general knowledge questions. The winning tutor group from Year 11 scored an impressive 94 marks from a possible 110. This form wins 30 cinema vouchers.



Year 10 & 11 pupils also had talks from working scientists. an astronomer who gave a talk on "Our place in the universe" and a laser engineer gave a presentation of the history of the laser. It was a very busy but wonderful week and an excellent launch for our Science college status. Thanks to Mr Gareth Cross, Deputy Head teacher who organised the events and Mr Olly Goulding, Head of Science and his department for also organising & taking part in the activities.

# YEAR 7 DEBATING COMPETITION

For the second year, Year 7 pupils took part in a debating competition. The pupils prepared for this event for two months during debate club which takes place during Tuesday lunchtimes. The competition was very successful. All seven teams performed excellently and with enthusiasm. There was an interesting range of topics, from "Cars should be banned" to the winning speech "that the stereotype that blondes are dumb is wrong" the whole group were exemplary as an audience and learnt many interesting facts due to the research and hard work of the teams that took part. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all. Thanks to Ms S. Maniar and Ms C. Burton for holding the debate club every week and organising the competition

## PE TRIP TO ESSEX UNIVERSITY

Ms Parker accompanied pupils from the Year 10 & 11 PE Option groups on this trip. The pupils visited the Human Performance unit of the university where they took part in fitness training. They tested their aerobic and anaerobic threshold. They had the opportunity to talk to university students about their courses and in the afternoon played basketball in the large purpose built sports hall.

## GEOGRAPHY TRIPS

On a Saturday in late February, Ms Phillips organised a Year 10 Geography visit to Kew Gardens. The aim of the trip was to enhance studies of the eco-systems and to understand how plants adapt to extreme climates with the focus being the flora of the tropical rainforest. Last week, the Year 11 geography group attended a revision conference in central London. There were seven lectures with a great deal of audience participation and presentations of case studies such as Malham Tarn and Milton Keynes.

## OFSTED: JOINT SUBJECT INSPECTION

In early March, two HMI inspectors came to Connaught to look at two areas, English and Work Related learning. They were in school for two days, saw many lessons and enjoyed talking to the pupils. They were impressed with the school and their report is now on the Ofsted web site "The school presented a calm and orderly atmosphere where learning was valued and where individuals, adult and student, were shown respect and treated with dignity."

Work related learning is a relatively new area for inspection but some aspects of this work we have had in place for many years such as the Year 10 Professional Interview day and Work Experience in Year 11. Overall the inspector considered our provision was satisfactory with outstanding features and a strong capacity for further development.

In English, the HMI inspector looked at four areas: achievement and standards, quality of teaching & learning, quality of curriculum and leadership and management. In all four areas, the English department gained outstanding which is the highest category available at inspection.

**SKY NEWS** A production team from Sky news with June Sarpong an ex Connaught pupil met with School Council pupils from Years 9, 10 & 11. Photographs taken will be used in the new web site aimed at GCSE revision being developed by Sky News. We have also been approached by Channel 4 about a series that they are making about celebrities' inspirational teachers. June wishes her programme to be filmed at Connaught and has named Mrs Cowhig her Head of Year as her inspirational teacher.



## BULLYING WORKSHOPS

We have had a number of successful bullying workshops. A visiting journalist who has published many articles and books on this subject is leading them. The girls are finding them very useful as they help them to identify with the two positions of the bully and the bullied.

## RE TRIPS

Twelve Year 10 pupils enjoyed a rich and varied day at the London Philosophy Conference that included lectures on politics, cosmology and the abortion debate. A second group of pupils enjoyed a day at the Believing in London event which had a focus on inter faith dialogue. This event was organised in conjunction with the British Library where articles from the day's events will be on show in April.

## YEAR 9 PARENTS'/ CARERS' EVENING

This was a successful evening with 74% of parents attending to speak with the subject teachers, tutors and Head of Year. Thanks to all the parents who completed the questionnaires, these do help us review our thinking and planning.

## YR 11

Staff have organised revision and coursework sessions after school, at lunchtime and on Saturdays. Most pupils are focussed and working hard preparing for their exams. Study leave for Yr 11 starts on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May

# Charities

In February we raised a total of £404 for Haven House, a teenage hospice in Woodford. **Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> was Red Nose Day** and it was very lively day in school. Pupils took part in a "no uniform but wear something red day". Some girls wore nightwear and others took part in a sponsored silence. At lunchtime, we had a karaoke competition. Each tutor group put forward an act and in an audition, the best eight acts were selected for the lunchtime competition. There was a large supportive audience and the pupils and staff performed superbly. A Year 9 pupil, Audrey Nkonde was the winner. The total raised for Comic Relief was a **staggering £900.**

Thanks to all who took part in the different activities on Red Nose Day.

**EASTER PLAYScheme** Kiran Asian Womens' Aid children aged 5 -14yrs 020 8558 1986

Please email me your comments to [ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk](mailto:ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk)

Headteacher