

# News from Connaught school

February 2007

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Six weeks of the new year have past. In some respects, the time has gone very quickly but we have achieved a lot. The spring term with its dark mornings and afternoons, snow and strong winds often affects attendance but this has not been the case and pupils have struggled in, many coming on a number of buses and trains.

STAFFING

Ms C. Mathurin has been appointed as a Science teacher. She has been with us since September and we are delighted that she is able to stay as she has fitted into Connaught very well. Her expertise will be an asset as we set up our science college work.

Mr Neale Gibbons, our Assistant Sites Officer has resigned and has already left Connaught. We will advertise for an Assistant Site Manager when the Resident Site manager has been appointed

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be good .

Week 1 90.7% Wk 2 93.1% Wk 3 93.6% Wk 4 94.9%

The week after the Christmas holiday was lower than usual due to some extended holidays. Many of these were unauthorised as they were not for emergency reasons. This means that the average percentage over the four weeks is 93.0%

## BEHAVIOUR

Generally behaviour is very good. However, we have groups of pupils mainly in Years 9 & 11 who are often disruptive in lessons and are challenging to other pupils and staff.

We need to deal with this in a clear and structured way for the benefit of these pupils, their parents and the rest of the pupils. This means good communication via the diary, letters home and if disruption of lessons continues the use of a fixed term exclusion.

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

Jan - Feb 2004 incidents

Jan - Feb 2005 incidents

Jan - Feb 2006 incidents

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

Jan - Feb 2004 incidents involving pupils : totalling days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2005 incidents involving pupils : totalling days exclusion

Jan - Feb 2006 incidents involving pupils : totalling days exclusion

# PROJECTS

## School Council

The leader of the School Council, Mediha Latif is our school's ambassador for the Olympic games in 2012. She was invited to visit the Olympic site in January.

- ❖ The new kitchen company will be installing the kitchen equipment over the February half term holiday.
- ❖ The Year 10 food group are making a selection of healthy meals which will be judged by our school cook, Mrs Jewel James. The winning dish will then be made in the school kitchen.
- ❖ We have re- launched breakfast club and it is very popular. Many pupils have hot chocolate, toast, cereal or porridge before school starts. We have also installed a 42 inch wide flat screen television for pupils to watch early morning news.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 11 pupils are on two weeks work experience from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The work placements are in the borough and also in central London. Supervising teachers will keep in contact and visit pupils. For the first time this year the pupils made their choices online. Ms Hordyk has worked hard to match pupils to the placements and Mrs Kidman, HOY 11 has supported her.

## Premises

- To improve security after a very determined break-in on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January we are installing ten more CCTV cameras along the main corridors, motion activated lighting by all CCTV cameras & motion activated lighting outside the school building.
- By the end of the academic year, all pupils will have access to a locker and desks in teaching rooms will be replaced by tables which are lighter and more flexible for different seating plans.
- We have negotiated for a new mobile from the authority. This is to replace the mobile that we have been leasing for the past nineteen years.

# Events

## VISIT OF THE SCULPTOR

Funding has been available from Work Related learning to provide workshops for Year 10 pupils to be taught by a local sculptor, Lucy Smith. The girls are creating ceramic water features. We are hoping to install some of these sculptures in the grounds later this year

## CHARITIES

Over the two weeks before Christmas, we raised £195 for the young homeless. This went to buy emergency supply packs for newly homeless young people.

School council would like to develop a link between the school and the teenage hospice, Haven House at Woodford. We are planning a no-uniform day in aid of the hospice on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## CELEBRATION LUNCHES

Today we had a special lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year which is next week. At our celebration lunches, our school cooks serve over 400 meals to staff and pupils.

Pupils sit in tutor groups and there is a lovely, social atmosphere.

## CAREERS ROAD SHOW

After school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Ms A. Hordyk invited a large number of sixth form colleges to put up displays in our Hall. The road show was as usual a great success with Yr 11 pupils keen to find out about the different colleges and the courses available.

## YEAR 8 PARENTS' CAREERS' EVENING

This evening was held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. It was a very successful evening with 84% of parents attending to speak with the subject teachers, tutors and Head of Year.

## POETRY COMPETITION

English teacher, Ms C. Burton encouraged pupils to enter a poetry competition. We are delighted that a number of pupils won in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10. Every winner's poem will be printed in a poetry book which is to be published later this year.

# FOOD

On the 17<sup>th</sup> January the Year 11 Food group went to the recording of two shows of Ready Steady Cook. The trip was a reward for the group's hard work and also to stimulate the girls to be creative in their cooking. It was very interesting and the pupils enjoyed it very much.

The Rotary Chef Competition is a well established annual competition. After preliminary heats, two pupils from Year 10, Lucy Verdon and Nosheen Farooq were chosen to take part in the semi-finals to be held at Beale High School. The standard of the competition is very high and we hope to impress the judges with our smoked salmon and dill soufflé.

# SCIENCE

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, our Head of Science, Mr Goulding took fourteen Year 9 pupils to Imperial College. They took part in many activities that encouraged team work in practical science and engineering. A lot of imagination and creativity was needed to solve the problems whilst still having fun. The girls were extremely motivated and they all had a thoroughly enjoyable and exciting day.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

We would like to invite parents to join us during the morning of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, a staff training day as we are completing the school's self evaluation form and we would value your input. If you can come into school on that day from 9am - 1pm please contact Mrs Boon 020 8539 3029

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

Headteacher