

News from Connaught school

December 2006

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Seven weeks have rushed past since the last newsletter. It has been a long term and we are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays. For the coming spring term, pupils return to school on Thursday 4th January 2007 at 8.20 ready for an 8.30am start.

Please remember if you are buying items of uniform they must be bought from National Schoolwear, Leytonstone High Road which are the only stockist for our skirts & trousers.

STAFFING

After having a very successful term, Ms Jan Donovan has been appointed as Head of Year 9
Dr Mortuza has resigned as joint Second in Science, she is hoping to be a science consultant
Mr Robert Hood has resigned as he is joining the family business
Ms Sahira Iqbal has been appointed as Science technician
Ms Patricia Masella has been appointed as Learning mentor & Gifted and talented co-ordinator.
She will work with a number of pupils starting in January 2007

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be very good. The national average is 92.5% so you can see that the attendance at Connaught is very good!

Averages for the half term, October - Dec 2006

Wk 7 : 95.6% Wk 8 : 94.9% Wk 9 : 96.2%

Wk 10 : 96.6% Wk 11 : 94.6%

Punctuality is not as good. We have a number of pupils who are regularly late to school.

This is a bad habit and one that needs correcting before work experience and college. Punctuality is always recorded on a reference and good punctuality is highly regarded both by employers and on college application forms.



BEHAVIOUR Behaviour continues to be good. "On call" referrals are often for disrupting the class and preventing other pupils from learning

Figures with comparison for similar times in the year :-

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

Sept -Oct 2004 : 37 incidents Sept -Oct 2005 : 18 incidents Sept -Oct 2006 : 21 incidents

Exclusions : used for very serious incidents such as extreme rudeness to teachers

Sept -Oct 2005 16 incidents : totalling 38 days exclusion

Sept -Oct 2006 16 incidents : totalling 24 days exclusion

PROJECTS

School Council

The school council comprises of two school council leaders from Year 11 and a representative from each tutor group. There are school council meetings every Thursday lunchtime. There is excellent attendance at these meetings and the various committees have the following plans:-

Healthy eating : Launch of breakfast club in January 2007

Charities : Our Christmas charity is raising money for homeless children.

Premises : The pupils want the staff to be more minimalist and tidy their rooms

Whole school council. A whole school photograph is to be taken in April / May 2007.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Fifteen teaching & non-teaching staff, were interviewed by the assessor. At the end of the two days, we heard that our status has been renewed as we meet the revised standard. The feedback was very positive :-

- o The staff share a shared vision and ethos
- o Our approach to staff training has improved since the last review
- o We have created a friendly supportive environment
- o Staff feel motivated & feel that their contributions are valued
- o Staff respect the leadership and support that they are given



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

PREFECTS

40 Year 10 pupils have been selected as prefects.

There were many stages in the selection process. The pupils were asked to complete nomination sheets with reasons why they wanted to be a prefect followed by voting by pupils and by staff. The prefects are important to the running of the school, helping in tutor rooms, monitoring punctuality and helping with supervision at break & lunch times

Congratulations to the following pupils :-

10C	10S	10W	10F
Kesoon Chance Jaccaida Hypolite-Dyer Aysha Matak Eleanor McLean Sally Mieu Cece Mulholland Sara Patel Anoushka Seewoogoolam Taybaah Tahir Maryam Zaman	Oluwatosin Adegoroye Rhiannon Barlett Amy Boakes Pashka Buniak Maryam Choudhry Aysha Gati Hajra Jogyat Poppy Lee Susan Mieu Laura Murton Corina Reeves Shemsa Suleman Saira Valli	Naeema Abhram Fatima Ahmed Fariha Alauddin Isabelle Burgess Sabiha Chohan Rebbie Morgan Aisha Patel Bethany Patterson Maria Payaneeandee Safiya Rehman Farah Sayed Emma Tye Summaiya Undre Sarah West	Uchenna George-Ugboaja Amrit Matharoo Lucy Verdon

Events

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

This was a different type of parents evening from the progress evenings as it was for the tutors to meet the parents and to discuss the transition from primary school. The attendance was the highest we have ever achieved, 93% of parents attended this evening. Thank you to all Year 7 parents who attended this evening and to Year 7 tutors and Ms Hordyk.

VISIT TO DEUTSCHE BANK

As a high achieving Specialist school a group of our pupils were invited to take part in discussions about campaigning and assertiveness. Ms Hordyk accompanied the group of Year 9 pupils to the bank in London Wall.

CHARITIES

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS : Breakthrough

From our sale of pink ribbons & our no uniform day, we raised £868.25.

McMILLAN NURSES

On Friday 10th November we had our traditional enormous cake stall. The pupils and their families were marvellous sending in a mountain of cakes and biscuits. We are still selling them! Two Year 7 pupils made special sponge cakes, one iced with the name Macmillan and the second with the school name and logo. At present we have collected £453 for this charity.

BRITISH LEGION

In November, Year 10 pupils did a presentation in assembly about their visit to the Belgian war graves . They also sold poppies in aid of the British Legion

RUMANIA FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

We have collected boxes for this appeal to be sent to families for Christmas

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In November, Year 8 pupils sold white ribbons. This was for charities against domestic violence and they raised £115.

WORLD AIDS DAY : DECEMBER 1ST

At present, Year 10 pupils are selling red ribbons in aid of an Aids charity

HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Christmas charity is to remember children who are homeless. Money raised will buy starter packs which covers the cost of a night's accommodation and washing things. Each fresh pack costs £15 and our target is to buy 10 packs from the money raised in the last two weeks of the term.

CELEBRATION LUNCHES

In November we had a very successful Eid lunch.

All staff and pupils were invited and we had a good time sitting in our year and tutor groups. On Wednesday December 13th we had our Christmas lunch. It was very enjoyable with over 70% of the pupils staying for the cooked lunch.



PANTO MIME

On Wednesday 6th December, all Year 7 pupils had the chance to see a panto without leaving school as the theatre group came to us. The panto was Treasure Island and staff dressed as pirates!! Before the panto, the year group enjoyed a picnic, organised by Ms Hordyk and the Year 7 tutors. Thanks to Ms Fitzpatrick, our learning assistant and midday assistant for her help with the picnic

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was held on Thursday December 14th and was a very enjoyable occasion. Many thanks to Mrs Sanger and all the girls who participated.



Please email me your comments to ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a successful 2007

Ann Betts, Headteacher