

# News from Connaught school

July 2007

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This newsletter will give you a taste of all the different activities that occur at our school in just one half term! Since the Easter holiday, Year 11 pupils have taken their GCSE exams, Year 9 have had their Key Stage 3 exams and there have been many events and trips.

We have received the Year 9 SATS results for Maths and Science. The English results will not be in school until August. We are delighted with the SATs results, having maintained our high standard for the percentage of pupils gaining level 5 or above.

Maths	No of pupils	% of year group
Level 5 or above	95	80%
Level 6 or above	70	59%

Science	No of pupils	% of year group
Level 5 or above	95	80%
Level 6 or above	52	44%

Congratulations to our Year 9 pupils and also to their Maths and Science teachers

In September 2006, we agreed a standard school uniform policy of a choice of two trousers and two styles of skirt bought from the school uniform shop. We allowed pupils one year to wear existing uniform rather than buy new uniform before it was needed. **However, for this September, all school uniform must be bought from National Schools wear in Leytonstone High Road**

We still have a busy last week to look forward to! We have sports afternoon on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, the Year 7 trip to France on Wednesday and our sports presentations on Thursday.

On the last day of term, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, pupils in Years 9 & 10 finish at midday and pupils in Years 7 & 8 finish at 1pm. Our Year 11 pupils will receive their GCSE results on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

All our present pupils return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm, they need to wait in the playground for the bell.

I wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and hopefully the sun will shine.

# STAFFING

- ❖ Ms C. Raison has been appointed as our Head of Drama.
- ❖ Mrs J. Kidman has resigned as Head of Year 11. She has recently been unwell with a bad back which was affecting her mobility. Mrs Kidman has been at Connaught since 1989 & has worked hard for the school. We wish her luck for the future.
- ❖ Ms S. Maniar has been appointed as Acting Head of Year 7 for the autumn term
- ❖ As there were no resignations in May, we are fully staffed with no agency teachers for the forthcoming autumn term.



## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance has recently been excellent

Wks 1 : 95% 2 : 96% 3 : 95% 4 : 96% 5 : 96% 6 : 97% 8 : 96% 9 : 97%

This means that the average percentage over the eight weeks is 96 %

The national average is 92%

Punctuality has also improved in Years 9 & 10. There is still room for improvement with some pupils still being late in Years 7 & 8.

## BEHAVIOUR

Behaviour is very good and is improving.

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

April - June 2005 49 incidents

April - June 2006 29 incidents

April - June 2007 23 incidents

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

April - June 2005 20 incidents involving 9 pupils : totalling 28 days exclusion

April - June 2006 14 incidents involving 21 pupils : totalling 34 days exclusion

April - June 2007 13 incidents involving 12 pupils : totalling 26 days exclusion

# Gospel Choir

The gospel choir was asked to sing at a BBC reception to launch their 2007 choir competition. The guests were full of praise for the choir who sung brilliantly.



# ICT Strategy

## ❖ Internet connection

The teaching rooms and Hall have now all been linked to a broad band connection for the internet. This means that staff can use information straight from the internet in their lessons. We have also bought a e-mail server so that we can give each member of staff an email address which will update our systems of communication in school.

## ❖ Thin clients

This year we were given a government grant to provide some pupils on the C/D borderline with laptops. The borough has now negotiated a system of using thin client machines which are more suitable for this project. Thin clients are like laptops but with very little memory storage, documents are stored remotely either at a borough facility or in school. We have bought 32 of these machines and in September they will be given to the Yr 10 & 11 pupils taking the Study Plus option subject. We are also hoping to buy 4 more thin client machines for use in science lessons. These machines will help with our science college work

## ❖ Web site

We are in the process of developing our new website. This new website has been professionally designed & has an inviting and corporate feel to it. The website is hosted by an external partner but staff at Connaught are able to upload and edit information in their areas. The website will hold many key documents for users to download including letters, organisational information and news magazines. There will be areas for students, staff and parents as well and we hope to go live at the end of July 2007

## YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION



Once again this year, the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme has been successfully run by representatives from Waltham Forest Youth Service. Twenty six Year 10 pupils completed the Bronze Award expedition during the Easter holiday. The expedition demands advanced teamwork skills, exceptional planning and physical endurance as pupils walk long distance in countryside, sleep under canvas and cook outside on camp stoves. For relaxation, the girls had a morning of building and sailing their own rafts!!! All girls who took part will receive their Bronze award at a Waltham Forest award ceremony later this month.

## Breakfast club

We have re-launched breakfast club. Ms Hancke and pupils from food groups organised the club for one week in early June and now Ms Meyer and other staff have taken it over with the help of Year 9 pupils. There are specials every day such as bagels, waffles, toasted sandwiches as well as many cereals, fruit, yoghurts and smoothies. The club is now staffed by Yr 9 pupils who often set up the hatch before 7.45am!!!

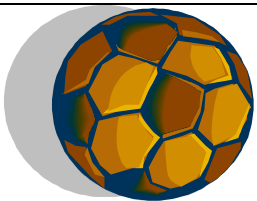


## YEAR 9 DEBATING COMPETITION

The final internal Year 9 public speaking competition took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Dami Fisayo from 9W won best speaker. Her speech was delivered beautifully. Uchenna George-Ugboaja 10F represented the school at the Jack Petchey public speaking competition she did very well and came third.

## CHILDLINE INTERNET WORKSHOPS

Childline International organised the workshops for the different year groups. The aim was to show how to use the internet safely and it was obvious that our pupils are very experienced in the different sites such as "My space" The activities were excellent and the evening workshops organised for parents were also well received.



## VISIT TO BECKHAM ACADEMY

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 14 Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils went to the Football Academy which is situated next to the millennium dome. They practised their football skills and represented England in a football tournament.

## VISITING SPEAKER ABOUT NAZI GERMANY

Year 10 History students were very fortunate to have a visit from Bea Green to talk about her journey to England in 1939 on the kindertransport. She is now 84 years old and has vivid memories of her life in Nazi Germany until she left Munich as a refugee at the age of 14. It was to be another ten years before she saw her mother and thirteen years, her father who had been a Jewish lawyer in Munich. He was victimised for complaining about the Nazis and was beaten up and forced to parade through the town with a placard around his neck. The photo of him with the placard is in many history books and videos used in school. The girls found this talk a very moving experience & Bea was touched by their interest and compassion to her family's past.

## YEAR 10 CAKE SALE

Yr 10 are organising events to raise money for their leavers' tea. In May, they cooked cakes and held a wonderful cake stall. This month they organised a car wash. The group are giving a percentage of their profits to MacMillan nurses



## AIM HIGHER

Pupils take part in this scheme with a view of taking up places at universities when the opportunity arises. Connaught girls were particularly congratulated for their attendance at the Saturday taster classes held at the University of East London.

## SPANISH TRIP

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their five day visit to Spain. The girls were fascinated by the images in the Salvador Dali museum and the lively market atmosphere of Las Rambles in Barcelona including the shopping! The group also enjoyed visiting the ancient town of Girona

## ELECTION OF SCHOOL COUNCIL LEADERS

New Year 10 school council leaders have been elected. They are Chairperson : Izzy Burgess, Vice Chair : Lucy Verdon Secretary : Aysha Gati We are encouraging all pupils to have their say about school life and events through their school council rep. Every week, there is either a full council meeting or a committee meeting

YEAR 9

## "LEARN TO EARN" DAY

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, all Year 9 pupils worked in groups and enjoyed a day of activities around economic planning and budgeting.

## Year 7 Parents' / Carers' Evening

This evening was very well attended with 106 pupils represented that is 91% of the year group. Next year, we are hoping to further encourage attendance at such Parents' / Carers' evenings as attendance at such evenings supports achievement for pupils in all year groups.

## CLUBS

We have a number of clubs either at lunchtime or after school. However, we are aware that pupils would like clubs to operate for a certain number of weeks so that they can learn a new skill. Ms Meyer has been investigating this and has surveyed the staff to see which clubs are own staff could run. In September we hope to set up a club programme involving clubs taken by staff and also visiting teachers, Ms Meyer has worked hard to gain the Quality in Study Support accreditation for Connaught. This scheme secures funding from the Jack Petchey foundation to develop our learning outside the classroom programmes.

## YEAR 7 GO TO ROCHESTER

This was a memorable event as the weather was the worst we had ever experienced. 7s & 7F endured thunder, lightning, torrential rain, hailstones and were completely drenched being out in the open- but there were no complaints! 7C & 7S fared better the next day, with only five minutes of rain. Overall, Year 7 pupils were once again a credit to the school and the visits were most enjoyable.

On Friday 6th July, we had "Shades Day". This was a no uniform day but pupils were encouraged to wear sunglasses. 9S organised the event and we raised £385 for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

SHADES DAY  
In aid of Guide Dogs  
for the Blind

## YR 10 PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW DAY

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 118 Year 10 girls arrived at school immaculately dressed and maturely poised to undertake their first professional interview with an employer. Interviews ranged from journalism to law to medicine, plus many other areas. Preparation had taken place in careers lessons and many girls had also constantly asked questions at all other times. Feedback shows that the girls gained a great deal from their interviews and that it leaves them well prepared for real job interviews in the future.

## Celebration Evening : July 12<sup>th</sup> 2007



This was a wonderful evening with many of our pupils receiving prizes, visiting staff being thanked and many items of dance, drama, music and fashion from our pupils. Over hundred pupils either took part or helped on the evening. The above photograph is of the Year 10 drama group.

Please find attached a copy of the school calendar for the academic year, Sept 2007 - July 2008  
Please email me your comments to [ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk](mailto:ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk)