

News from Connaught school

October 2007

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have been very busy and the school has had a good half term. Here is our latest news :-

Results

Our KS3 results were very good with percentages of pupils achieving above level 5, 86% for English and 80% for Maths and Science.

Our GCSE results were the best ever with 67% gaining 5 A* - C grades and 57% gaining 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths.

GCSE results in languages in Year 10 were excellent. Indiana Richards scored one of the top five marks nationally in her French GCSE as there were 100,997 candidates for this exam this is exceptional. Congratulations to Indiana.



LANGUAGES

An assembly to celebrate the diversity of world languages included greetings in 21 European languages. Pupils then shared with us their native tongues of Portuguese, Burmese, Cantonese, Russian, Polish and Bulgarian.

We also had a European quiz and enjoyed a special European breakfast club where crepes, waffles, croissants and baguettes were made & served by staff of the Languages department. Also on Wednesday 26th September, pupils were encouraged to answer the registers in as many different languages as possible.

ATTENDANCE has been very good over the first half of the autumn term. The national average is 92.5% so you can see that we are above this every week!

Averages for the half term

Week1 : 96.4% Wk 2 : 97% Wk 3 : 97% Wk 4 : 96% Wk 5 : 96% Wk 6 : 95%

BEHAVIOUR has been very good over the half term with very little exclusion.

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

Sept -Oct 2005 9 incidents involving 9 pupils

Sept -Oct 2006 7 incidents involving 12 pupils

Sept - Oct 2007 10 incidents involving 9 pupils

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

Sept -Oct 2005 9 incidents involving 11 pupils : totalling 30 days exclusion

Sept -Oct 2006 6 incidents involving 8 pupils : totalling 13 days exclusion

Sept - Oct 2007 3 incidents involving 4 pupils : totalling 8 days exclusion

VISITS & PROJECTS

Year 11 pupils in France



Mrs Parker & Ms Meyer went with a group of Year 11 pupils to the South of France and the Ardèche for an activity week in late July. Highlights of the week were; the pancake evening, the three day descent of the Ardèche and Connaught girls beating the boys from Farmers school in Gloucester at basketball!!! The canoeing was arduous and very wet. Some capsized many times but everyone finished tired but happy with their achievements.

Yr 10 in Belgium

At the end of September, 42 Year 10 History students, Mrs Donovan, Mrs Cowhig and Ms Williams gave up a Saturday to visit the town of Ypres in Belgium and the surrounding World War One battlefields.

The highlight of the trip was when about 20 girls in wellies and with torches explored the muddy underground tunnels, linking original WW1 trenches in Sanctuary Wood

The day was really successful and the girls showed both sensitivity and respect in the special places of remembrance. They were a credit to the school.



PE

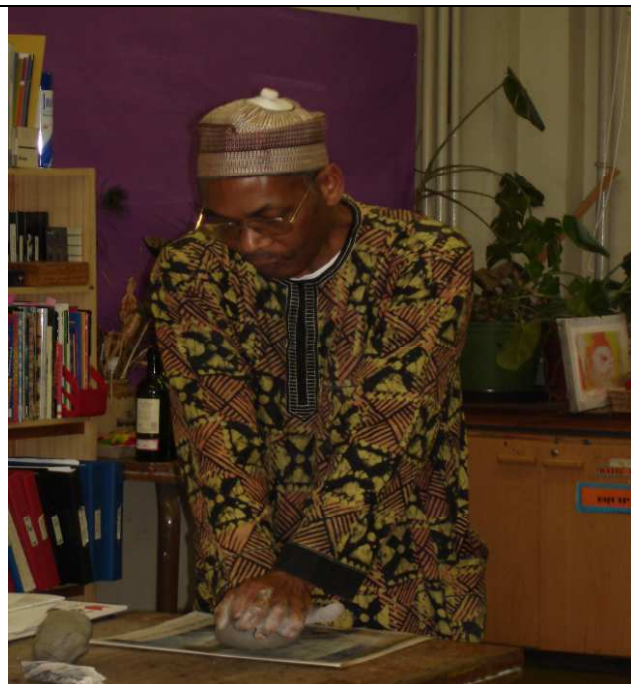
Year 11 have the opportunity to go to Redbridge sports centre for their PE lesson on Wednesday afternoon. This is proving very successful with girls being able to enjoy squash, badminton, aerobics and the use of the fitness centre.

Building Schools for the Future

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Public meeting on September 10th. We had an audience of over 200 people and we are still awaiting the results of the consultation which ended in early October.

West African tales

Year 7 found Tony Ogogo's storytelling session very enjoyable. They were gripped by the contents of his stories as well as the manner in which he conveyed them. We shall use some of the items discussed in future lessons to develop the pupils' communication skills



African Clay workshops

We were lucky to host some African Art Clay workshops run by Tony Ogogo as part of our Black History month celebrations.

Tony worked with pupils from Year 8 & Year 11 making masks and busts in the Benin style. The pupils all made a completed piece in this session and thoroughly enjoyed his visit.

Black History Month

African Dance

Pupils in Years 7 & 10 took part in the African workshops. The tutor, Marie Louise Coffi, encouraged the pupils to reflect on the achievements of black people in African culture. Pupils were engaged and energised by the dance and music. They gave of their best and really enjoyed the day.



African Drama

Pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 spent an hour watching and participating in a drama performance. The story followed a young school girl who is asked to research the achievements of a black man or woman for Black History Month. Throughout the performance the pupils were asked for their opinions and what action might they take to solve problems. The pupils' ideas were then incorporated into the rest of the play, Underlying this interactive performance were many valuable thoughts regarding heroism and achievement.

Ifitari

Thanks to Aysha Gati, Summaiya Undre, other Year 11 pupils and Ms Rauf who organised this event on Wednesday 10th October. The girls gave a presentation about the meaning of Ramadan and the festival of Eid. We had a wonderful sit down meal with excellent food and everyone enjoyed themselves.

OPEN EVENING

About 400 people attended our Open Evening on Tuesday 16th October and the prospective parents were very complimentary about many aspects of the school, the tour guides, the pupils in the rooms and the standard of work on display. The school was very busy and did give a taste of "Connaught" life.

MANAGING YOUR DAUGHTER'S BEHAVIOUR

Parent Partnerships are organising a session to explore problems and a workshop to solve them. There will be an opportunity for discussion and time to listen to other people's ideas. This session for secondary age will be on

TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

9.45am - 12.30pm

at the Epicentre,

41 West St. Leytonstone

This event is FREE to residents of Waltham Forest. If you would like more details or reserve a place please contact Parent Partnership on Freephone

0800 587 2521

Parent Partnership is an impartial information and support service for parents/carers.

CHARITIES

We all enjoyed the "Bring your bear" to school day on Friday 28th September. A total of £257.70 was raised for medical research for very young children.

This month we are selling pink ribbons in aid of Breast Cancer awareness. So far Year 9 pupils have raised £242

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPS

7C Ruth Gardener

7S Lemo Khakhane

7W Toni Burnett

7F Camara Fearon
& Hasina Begum

8C Natalie Brown

8S Bilkis Abdullah

8W Sue Agyei-Mante

8F Alex Dugic

9C Shivani Patel

9S Jamilla Bruce

9W Rakaya Bruce

9F Debbie Donatus

10C Nicole Brown

10S Hajra Patel

10W Sehyr Khairdin

10F Keziah Kissi

11C Aminah Ibrahim

11S Poppy Lee

11W Aisha Patel

11F Amrit Mathroo

Following medical advice, even with parental permission, we will no longer be dispensing paracetamol tablets to pupils that have headaches or other pains.

THE GOVERNORS' PROFILE

This is available on our web site but if you would like a printed copy please phone the school office 0208 539 3029

Ann Betts