

# News from Connaught school

December 2007

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been a long term and we are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

Some parents wished to have a full list of all the clubs on offer so please find this enclosed as a separate sheet to the newsletter.

For the coming spring term, pupils return to school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 8.20 ready for a 8.30am start.

## STAFFING

Congratulations to Ms S.Maniar who has been appointed as a permanent Head of Year. She has made an excellent start as our Year 7 pupils have settled in extremely well.

In the maths department, Mr Bates is leaving Connaught after 18 years service. We wish him all the best for the future.

In January, Mr John Dalton will join the Maths department for two terms and then we shall advertise for the Second in Maths post to start in September 2007.

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be very good

It was rated as outstanding in our recent Ofsted inspection. .

**Averages for the half term, Oct - Dec 2007**

**Wk 9 : 95% Wk 10 : 95% Wk 11: 94% Wk 12 : 94% Wk 13 : 94%**

Punctuality has improved this term and fewer pupils are having to stay for lateness detentions.



**BEHAVIOUR** Behaviour continues to be good.

"On call" referrals are often for silly immature behaviour that disrupts the class

Figures with comparison for similar times in the year :-

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

Oct - Dec 2005 : 20 incidents Oct- Dec 2006 : 24 incidents Oct - Dec 2007 : 10 incidents

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

Oct - Dec 2005 : 14 incidents : totalling 27 days exclusion

Oct - Dec 2006 : 14 incidents : totalling 20 days exclusion

Oct - Dec 2007 : 7 incidents : totalling 19 days exclusion

# PROJECTS

## LUNCHES

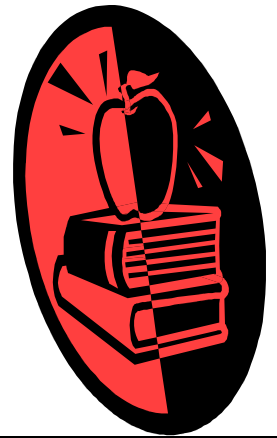
We continue to encourage pupils to have school lunch especially as it is now winter. Celebration lunches are held every few weeks, just before the half term we enjoyed Eid lunch, in late October we had a Caribbean lunch and this coming week we are having Christmas lunch. At these lunches, over 400 pupils and staff have school lunch and enjoy the special atmosphere of the whole school celebrating.

## THEATRE COMPANY

The Mopa theatre company paid us a visit on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Year 11 pupils found that their understanding of the GCSE Literature text "Of Mice and Men" was significantly enhanced and they thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The company will be visiting Connaught again to help Year 9 prepare for their SATs in May

## COMMENIUS PROJECT

The aim of this project is to foster closer understanding and co-operation with a range of European partners in the context of a project based on food, lifestyle and sport for health. In October, Ms Ball and Ms Gooden visited our link school in Spain. It was a very interesting trip and some fascinating cultural differences emerged. French children in the Vosges, eat no takeaway food at all, Portuguese children thought they were healthy drinking milk for breakfast but then this was found to be loaded with extra sugar. Following on from this visit, the language department are setting up links with the Spanish school such as exchanging of letters and video conferencing in lessons.



## PREFECTS

40 Year 10 pupils have been selected as prefects.

There were many stages in the selection process. 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
Elizabeth Pilling Alphe Turner Kinsa Vellantham	Lydia Amartey Sasha Beecher Shanice Bowes Tasnia Choudhury Sadaf Jan Keisha Johnson Meliqua Jones Stephanie Matthews Amina Mohamed Hajra Patel Tanya Rahman Murrium Razak	Gulistan Aksahin Asiya Ali Heena Battiwala Bianca Busumbru Hajra Choudhry Kelly De Freitas Aysha Ingar Aasiyah Kara Sehyr Khairdin Reqaiyah Khwaja Abena Kwapong Fahima Molvi Audrey Nkonde Lee Anna Olonade Markida Roberts-Wright	Hannah Akhtar Nooreen Akhtar Chrystal Allen Nabihah Khaliq Keziah Kissi Norah Nkonde Amira Patel Tehreem Tahir Olima Ugwu-Rolfe Holly Warner-James

# Events

## OFSTED INSPECTION : NOVEMBER 2007

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we had a number of Ofsted inspectors visit school. The regulations for Ofsted inspections have changed and now schools have shorter inspections of two days with only 48 hour warning. The inspection covered all aspects of school life. The inspectors visited a range of lessons and spoke with groups of pupils from all year groups.

The inspectors were especially impressed with the care and support given to pupils and the extra curricular activities. Our excellent language and science college work was recognised. The Ofsted inspectors also praised our achievements of the significant rise last year in our GCSE figures not only for the % 5 A\* - C grades but also for 5 A\*-C grades including Maths and English. The full Ofsted report is on our web site but if you have difficulty accessing this please ask your daughter to collect a copy from the school office.

## CHARITIES

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS** : in aid of the charity of "Breakthrough"  
From our sale of pink ribbons, we raised a total Of £242

### MACMILLAN NURSES

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November we had our traditional enormous cake stall. Thanks to Mrs W.Martin, an ex member of staff and her helpers who come into school and help with the sale of cakes. Thanks to parents as the response from the pupils was wonderful as we had hundreds of cakes and raised £503.56

### NO UNIFORM DAY

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November we had a no uniform day in aid of a Youth centre in Peckham. This was because one of our Year 10 pupils, Shakeyra Richards is a member of a church which is helping fight to keep the youth centre open. We raised a total of £560

### BRITISH LEGION

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

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In November, Year 9 pupils sold white ribbons. This was for charities against domestic violence and they raised £140.

### WORLD AIDS DAY : DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Year 10 pupils sold red ribbons and raised £115 in aid of an Aids charity

## **MAKE YOUR MARK CHALLENGE**

Year 10 pupils took part in this National enterprise competition on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November. This competition aims to stimulate young people's ability to come up with money making ideas. The winning team proposed a waterproof lap top computer that had a white screen which could be written on with a pen. Mrs F.Scott organised the day and the pupils enjoyed and learnt a lot from the event.

## **STAFF VACANCY**

We are looking for a midday supervisor to work in a team to supervise our pupils during the lunch break. If you are interested in working for the school please contact Paula Williams in our school office on 020 8539 3029 for an application form. Deadline for completion of the application form is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

## **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 of EX – PUPIL**

We were pleased to welcome back Amara Sharif, an ex pupil who is now working in the ICT department of the Deutsche Bank. After Connaught, Amara gave an inspiring talk to both Year 9 and 10 pupils. Her message was that if you work hard and aim high you can achieve.

## **Christmas Concert**

This concert is to be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are available from the school office. Please come and hear a seasonal selection of music from all year groups

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

As you are aware the National Schools wear shop closed in the High Rd. I apologise for not warning you about this happening but I only had 24 hours warning just before the half term holiday. It appears that the new shop will not be able to do our full range of uniform. Therefore, I have contacted and made arrangements for Henry Taylor in Walthamstow to be our new school uniform shop.

## **SAFETY**

When you drop off your daughters outside the school before school and when you collect them in Connaught Road, please go to the "hammer end" at the end of the road to turn around. **Doing a three point turn in the road sometimes using the pavement or our gateway is dangerous as pupils are walking along the pavement and we could have an accident**

I would be pleased to receive your comments on this newsletter, please email me:-  
[ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk](mailto:ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk)

**Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a successful 2008**

Ann Betts      Head teacher