

News from Connaught school

July 2008

As usual it has been a very busy half term. We tend to think that we may have more time as Year 11 pupils have finished their exams but we organise more activities and different visits as this newsletter will show.

Next year we are planning to introduce a cashless catering system. This means that parents and carers would pay online for school lunches. This would avoid the necessity for pupils to have cash each day. You will be able to make safe and convenient payments on line with no more searching for change. More details will be available early next term.

As written in the last newsletter, we are changing our timetable and timings of the school day from September. The timings of the school day from September 2008 will be

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday : 8.30 - 3.30 pm

Wednesday & Friday : 8.30 - 3.20 pm

Our new Year 7 pupils start the autumn term at 2pm on Monday 1st September, pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 start school at 2pm on Tuesday 2nd September.

STAFFING

Ms J. Edwards our RE teacher is leaving Connaught; we wish her luck in her new job. We also wish English teacher, Mr R. McMillan, good luck in the future. In September, Ms T. Carato will be joining Connaught as second in the English department and Mr A. Silk will be Head of RE.

Ms Hordyk is becoming part time and will therefore no longer be a Head of Year but will continue as our Head of Citizenship. Ms Hordyk has been a Head of Year for 13 years and her year groups, past and present, acknowledge the care and support that she gives to her pupils. We thank her for her commitment, dedication and for all she has done for Connaught as a Head of Year.

Ms M. Petersen has been appointed as Head of Year 9 from September

Ms B. Matchett is to be Head of PE.

Ms A. Niesing has been appointed as Healthy eating co-ordinator. She already has some excellent ideas to raise awareness around food and exercise.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance averages for the half term, May- July 2008 continue to be very high

Wk 7 95.7% Wk 8 96.4% Wk 9 96.5% Wk 10 96.6% Wk 11 95.4% Wk 12 93%

BEHAVIOUR continues to be very good

"On call" incidents: serious incidents of disruptive or rude behaviour.

May - July 06 : 23 incidents, May - July 07 : 8 incidents, May - July 08 : 18 incidents

Exclusions: used for very serious incidents:-

May - July 2006 : 26 incidents : totalling 63 days exclusion

May - July 2007 : 9 incidents : totalling 15 days exclusion

May - July 2008 : 12 incidents : totalling 23 days exclusion

THORPE PARK

Year 9 enjoyed a fun filled day, leaving us with many good memories. We left school at 8.30am and arrived at the park just in time for the attractions to be opened. The rides were fantastic, including the death defying 'Stealth' ride, which is one of the biggest roller coasters in Europe. Despite the small amount of rain, the day was perfect. It just remains to say thanks to all staff who helped to organise the trip but especially to Ms Diamond.

Maya Augustin 9C



YEAR 10 MASTER CLASSES

Some of our girls participated in three special University taster programmes: the first was at Queen Mary University of London which was over three Saturdays; the second was at the University of East London which was held on four Saturdays and the third again at UEL on a staff training day. These 'Master classes' provided an opportunity for our students to broaden their knowledge of a subject and study it in more depth. They were also able to meet and work alongside undergraduates & had a tour of the University sites. Subjects covered were English, Maths, Geography, Japanese, Political History, Physics, Psychology, Computing, Sports Science, Criminology, Dance, Fashion, Drama, Photography, Engineering, and Fine Art. Although the courses were run over non-school days the girls' attendance and dedication to the subjects were excellent. All worked really well, and the girls did us proud.

Well-done to the following girls!

Those who attended Queen Mary University of London were: Tasmia Choudhury, Sanya Ahmed, Ezgi Turk, Zoe Donaldson, Abena Kwapong, Mariam Razate, Meliqua Jones, Ayesha Ingar, Elizabeth Pilling, Hannah Akhtar)

Those who attended University of East London were: Sacha Beecher, Requaiyah Khwaja, Samara Alvis-Lee, Selina Williams, Pavanjeet Riyat, Tasnia Choudhury, Tehreem Tahir, Chrystal Allen, Olima Ugwu-Rolfe, Aneesah Kara, Zaynah Rana, Stephanie Matthews, Lydia Amarty

EXTRA LESSONS

During the Easter holidays there were KS3 booster sessions for Year 9 pupils in English and Maths which were well attended. Some Year 11 pupils attended an ICT Accelerator camp. They followed a GCSE course and by working very hard for four days, the majority of the group achieved a GCSE B grade. Well done to these girls for giving up days of their holiday to do extra work. We are sure their hard work will achieve good results.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Year 7 were involved in public speaking workshops on Wednesday 4th of June. The purpose of the day was to understand the need for good communication skills with everyone and to appreciate team work. The day was very successful, as many of Year 7 felt much more confident about speaking in front of an audience. Some comments from year 7:

"I found that talking about a topic that you are unprepared for helps because you have to improvise and use your imagination." Phoenix Hall

"I found out how to talk bravely in front of people." Vithuza Gobikrishnan

The following pupils were nominated the best speakers:

Tasneem Arif 7S Ropita Rammya 7W Weronika Babji 7F Alisha Hazelwood 7C

Well done Year 7.

S. Maniar

GERMAN

On Wednesday 11th July Year 8 German pupils received a visit from their pen friends from the Schiller Realschule Sarstedt. The German students did a presentation in lesson time about life in a German school and they enjoyed taking part in our 'Active Kids' programme in Ms Ball's Comenius Club at lunchtime. In the afternoon they attended lessons in Design Technology, Food and Textiles to sample English school life. At the end of the day the German students said they wished they could stay longer, especially the two boys in the group!

J. Patterson



VISIT TO ROCHESTER

Year 7 have recently taken part in the annual humanities visit to Rochester in Kent. Thankfully, we were blessed with two beautiful days weather-wise and the town was less crowded than in previous years, making our working day more pleasurable.

Connaught was commended, yet again, by the people in Rochester, those working in the Cathedral, the Castle and the general public, who answered students' questionnaires. They commented on how respectful our girls were and in the Cathedral their behaviour was quoted as being 'impeccable'.

Williams

P.

Year 7 Parents' / Carers Evening

This was held on Thursday 3rd July and was a very successful evening with 101 girls represented that is 84% of parents / carers attending and hearing reports from the subject teachers on their daughters' progress. These evenings are vital for home & school to keep in contact and to help our pupils.

CHARITIES : CHARITIES : CHARITIES : CHARITIES

One aspect of this school year of which we are very proud, is our work on behalf of many charities. A big thank you to all parents and members of the community who have sponsored pupils and supported the different events. Pupils have organised no uniform days, the sale of ribbons, emergency collections for the floods in Bangladesh and the cyclone relief in Burma. In total we have raised funds for 16 different charities with a massive, very impressive total raised of **£7215.41**.



In February, we had over hundred pupils skipping in "Jump Rope for Heart" in aid of Sports Relief and the British Heart Foundation. Thanks to Ms Meyer for her organisation of this event which raised a total of £2134. On May 1st, I organised a sponsored treasure hunt around London, thank you for helping us to raise £1000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital from this event. The pupils were able to hand over a cheque to a representative of the hospital in an assembly last week.

On Wednesday, 2nd July Year 6 pupils from 16 different primary schools came to Connaught for the Common Transfer Day. The girls took part in taster lessons e.g. English, Maths, Drama, Music, Science, ICT and French. They also did a 'Treasure Hunt' tour of the school. They met other girls from the other year groups. The day went smoothly due to the help of the prefects and Year 9 peer mentors who were very helpful :-

Yr 10 PREFECTS : Alphe Turner, Keisha Johnson, Keziah Kissi, Amirah Patel, Lydia Amartey Elizabeth Pilling, Dami Fisayo, Bianca Busumbru, Murrium Razak, Kelly De Freitas

YR 9 PEER MENTORS Bethan Bartlett, Holly Cooper-Walker, Muneerah Patel, Athena Panteli, Charlotte Cole, Jade Whitfield,

The Year 6 pupils went home happy and with a positive attitude towards Connaught School.

Common Transfer Day

Celebration Evening

This evening was to recognise the achievements of our pupils. There were performances of drama, dance, music and language work. It was a very enjoyable evening, based around six themes including pictures and highlights of the subjects.

Participation in lessons

Prizes awarded for achievement in

English : Christine Kavangh

Maths : Summaiya Undre

Science : Sarah Bucknell

For special effort in

Maths : Aminah Ibrahim

Science : Fatima Ahmed



Act 1 Olivia, Musical to be staged : Nov 4th & 6th

Tickets on sale : Adults £4 : Pupils £3

Healthy Living

Prizes awarded for achievement in:-

Food : Lucy Verdon

PE : Adeva Bryan

Dance : Aghogho Obiuwevbi

Languages : Lucy Verdon



Creativity

Prizes awarded for achievement in:-

Art : Jaccadi Hypolite Dyer

D&T : Meera Patel

Drama : Tosin Alabi

Textiles : Summaiya Undre

Jaccadi Hypolite-Dyer

Eleanor McLean



Yrs 7 & 8 : Urban dance group

Clubs & trips

Prizes awarded for achievement in

History : Chidi Onyeché

Geography : Rhiannon Bartlett

School Life

Prizes awarded for

Representing the school as Olympic Ambassador : Sara Patel

Service to the school : Kelly De Freitas

Outstanding effort

Special effort cup awarded to Cree Weir Gayle

Groote cup for outstanding effort over the year : Naming Su Maya & Raba Su Kyiv

Dr Witt cup for achievement against odds : Tosin Alabi

"WASTED"

This drama was presented to Year 10 on a Friday afternoon and it was really good. The actors were extremely talented and the message about the consequences of being in a car which is being driven under the influence of either drink or drugs came across very powerfully. It was a very touching and emotional drama & I would love to watch it again.

K. Kissi Yr 10 pupil

TRIP TO MUSEUM

Two Year 10 History trips took place on the 3rd and 4th June. We went to the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. The girls have recently completed a unit on Nazi Germany for their OCR GCSE course.

Our students met a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust and viewed the exhibition using audio guides. They all felt that they had gained a lot from their visit and it had helped them to understand even more what they had learnt in class. The girls were a credit to the school & were extremely mature throughout the day.

J. Donovan

Visit to Germany

At the end of May, 43 Connaught students and 5 members of staff, Mrs J Patterson, Ms A Ball, Ms S Gooden, Ms J Meyer & Mrs G Parker visited Traben-Trurbach, a picturesque town in the Moselle Valley, Germany.

We visited a medieval castle, enjoyed a boat trip on the Moselle river and completed a town trail of Cochem, after a slightly scary chair lift to see panoramic views of the river. The visit was ended by spending a day at Phantasialand, Germany's version of Disneyland.

The girls completed two work modules during their visit, including designing a German menu of desserts and shopping for ingredients in a local German supermarket. Girls were awarded certificates for their efforts after a disco on the final evening before returning home. The visit was made very enjoyable by the excellent behaviour and enthusiasm of the girls.

J. Patterson

Operation Blunt

Having discussed the issue of knife crime with our School Council, members of the Community police gave a presentation to every year group. "Operation Blunt" has been launched in response to the increasing incidents of knife crimes in London. The pupils responded well to these assemblies and continued their discussions in a School Council meeting. We are hoping to work with the "Soul project" next year.



Wishing you all a happy and restful summer holiday.

Please email me any comments :- ann.betts@sch.walthamforest.gov.uk Ann Betts Headteacher