



Connaught School for Girls

Newsletter

April 2021

2020-21 Issue: 34

Message from the Headteacher

Special points of interest:

- Olympic boxer Ramla Ali visits Connaught
- Students participate in the BBC Young Reporter Club
- Maths department celebrates Pi Day
- MFL Easter puzzles
- Fantastic creative work from students in all subjects

Dear Parents/Carers

It is wonderful and joyous to welcome back our girls! The corridors and classrooms, which have been empty for so long, are now filled with the sounds of engaged students, happy to be learning again. The silence has been replaced with chatter, laughter and the buzz of excitement as we begin to return to normality.

We are not out of the woods yet and we continue with safety control measures to ensure that we are as covid secure as we can be. Our testing centre has been a huge success, ensuring that every consenting student has had three lateral flow tests. Home test kits have also been sent out and, with everyone doing their best, we are continuing school life despite the pandemic. Please ensure that your daughter continues to test herself twice a week with the LFT tests.

Our biggest challenge this term is to ensure that we recover from months of lockdown, self isolation and the impact of covid on our lives. Live lessons continued through the December to March lockdown, and we have had high levels of engagement. We worked very hard to try and get every student access to devices or remote provision, and our teachers and support staff worked very hard to keep things running smoothly.

For Year 11, this is especially challenging. Currently, staff at school are working on the assessment roadmap to make sure that when we award grades at the end of the year, these are accurate, fair and robust. This means that from now on, we will be doing different types of assessments to make sure that we know exactly how your daughters are performing. Information about this has already been sent out to you, but please keep an eye on any further communications; we'll update you as we receive it.

For other years, we are working on assessing the gaps in learning, planning and delivering education to make sure that we 'catch up' on any lost learning. We care deeply about your daughter's wellbeing, and the safeguarding and pastoral teams are working to make sure that no child is left behind and that her needs are met. We are speaking to the students to find out what issues they have, especially around mental health. We will build our pastoral curriculum around them.

That said, you can see from this newsletter how happy we all are to be back at school! Lots has already happened in school, from the BBC Young Reporter Club to Pi Day. International Women's Day, which happened on 8th March (the day we returned to school) has been marked by a month long celebration with students involved in various activities across this school. Additionally, we have been touched by the death of Sarah Everard; it's resonated with so many of our girls and we are working with them to deal with the issues and worries this raises for girls and women in our community.

So, you can see that we're all delighted to be out of lockdown and together again. Thank you to all our community for continuing to support and work with us in keeping everyone safe. Please have a lovely Easter break together and please stay safe.

Avani Higgins

Headteacher



Year 11 Drama Acting exam

Year 11 Drama students have been working hard this term to prepare for their GCSE Drama exams. They recently took their Acting exams for which they had to perform a monologue from a published play. The majority of the students chose the writings of Theresa Ikoko who has just been nominated for 3 BAFTA awards for Best Screenplay, Best Film and Best Debut by a British

Writer for the film 'Rocks.' Our students were particularly excited to hear this as Ikoko herself grew up and went to school in East London. They found her work to be incredibly thought provoking and relatable. Here in the Drama Department at Connaught we feel it is really important that our curriculum is reflective of the times and the multicultural, diverse

community we live and work in. This enables students to see themselves in the texts and issues that we explore and encourages them to be involved in the dialogue of how these issues impact them and most importantly what impact they can have on their community.

Ms Jemal
Head of Drama

"They found
her work to be
incredibly
thought
provoking and
relatable."



Remote Library

The Library is still functioning as a remote library. To borrow a book we're asking students to log into Reading Cloud. Every student's username is their school email address. If they have not yet logged in this year, their password is: Password1.

Once students have logged in, they can search for books in a number of ways. They can search for genre, author, Accelerated Reader Level and just simply writing in the

book they're looking for. The most important thing is writing in the correct key words into the search bar.

Students then pick a book by clicking on the one they wish to read and then click 'Reserve'. The Librarian will see what they have reserved and will do her best to drop the books off to the students' form room.

To return any books, please return them to the book bins, which

look like white post boxes, placed near Room 41 (at the top of the stairwell) and by Room 2 (at the bottom of the stairwell).

I recommend students view the Library page on the school website for more help. Any specific enquiries, please email: library@connaught-cloud.co.uk.

Ms Khanom
LRC Manager

Back To School



Suki and Hope (Year 11) are just two of our hundreds of pupils who are very happy to be back in school, learning and seeing their friends. Hope said: "It is so great to be back and see friends and teachers but also to have structure and a plan for my day. The school made a huge effort to make sure our classes were not disrupted during lockdown but you cannot replace learning at school with learning in front of a computer."

Suki agreed, saying, "I can't say how glad I am, being back at

school. It is such a relief to be around my friends and classmates again and to feel a bit normal." We are absolutely thrilled that we were able to support a safe return to school with our COVID-19 mass testing programme. Over 70% of our pupils took part in the testing programme between the 5th and 18th of March, with all negative results.

We have been overwhelmed by the support from our school community, with 14 local volunteers - made up of part-time teachers,

school governors, former pupils and local parents - training as test assistants and test processors for our in-school Asymptomatic Test Site.

All pupils have been given their first self-test kits for home and we hope that all families will take part in home-testing to ensure we keep the virus out of our school. Any pupils who feel unsure about self-testing should email Ms Stewart about continuing this in school.

Ms Stewart
Assistant Headteacher

2020-21 Issue: 34

"It is so great to be back and see friends and teachers but also to have structure and a plan for my day."



Year 8 imaginative writing

This term Year 8 have been looking at monologues in English and creating a character for their own dramatic monologue. **Adiba Chowdhury in 8C** wrote a powerful and empowering monologue - which fits in with our celebration of International Women's Day.

July:

Being a weightlifter is difficult. I feel lonely and they all expect me to be lifting everything all day. In their eyes, I'm just a fat girl who does "manly jobs". I can be a girl doing weightlifting just like a boy would. I hate these stereotypes. Sometimes, I want to be seen as a woman too. Being a woman, doesn't mean I have to be wearing make-up and high heels. The college doesn't provide us with enough food; the food I need to lift heavy things. I want someone to understand me, and stay by my side to tell me it's okay to not be fine. Just because I'm a weightlifter, doesn't mean I am strong. Should I quit weight lifting? I feel judged by everyone, when I am just being who I want to be. Weightlifting isn't just for men. I don't wanna be like these bratty girls who rely on men. I want to be independent. I can stick up for myself, because I need to be strong, to be the best version of myself. I just need to be loved.

International Women's Day at Connaught!

International Women's Day is traditionally celebrated on the 8th March across the world but being all about Girl Power we chose to celebrate it all month long!

Students participated in a variety of activities from Art Challenges to creating 'Insta Poems' and considering what legacy they would like to leave. The common theme to this year's celebrations was 'Choosing to Challenge'. The work students

created led to engaging discussions about how the lack of gender equality still exists in 2021. They acknowledged how far we had come on our journey and empathised with those in countries who had not made as much progress. The result of these discussions led students to understand that 'challenging' starts with our own perceptions and recognising the gender bias stereotypes that society has conditioned us to accept as the norm. Throughout the school there were many activities taking place. In CCPSHE, KS4 explored the fight for equal pay and the gender pay gap. In DT the involvement of women in STEM subjects was the focus, while the role of Leititia Wright in the film 'Black Panther'



was explored. In English the works and life of Charlotte Perkins Gillman was studied and MFL looked at French and Spanish women throughout history. Staff also took to social media to make statements about gender inequality and the murder of Sarah Everard being a sad reminder of the need for reclaiming safer streets for women.



"The common theme to this year's celebrations was 'Choosing to Challenge'."



Pictures:

Top right - Vesiana Bisarov Emilova 8W

Middle left - Alisha Ali 9F

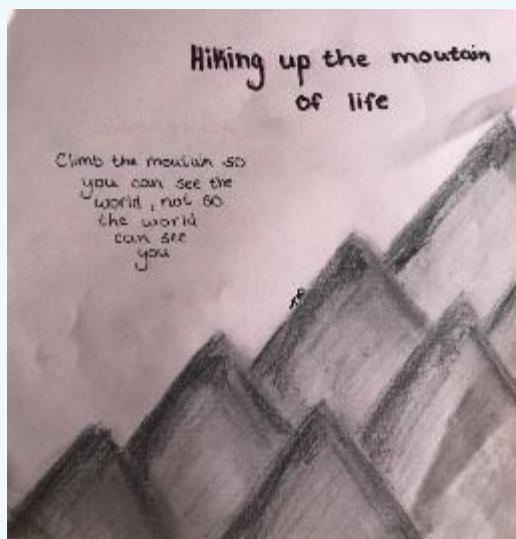
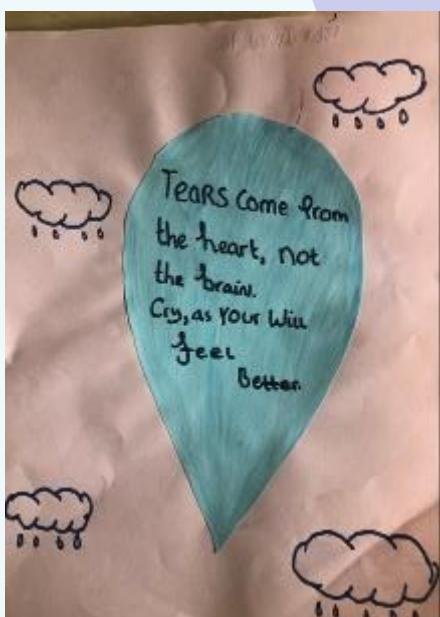
Bottom left - Mr Stephens (Head of Science)

Bottom right - Ms Gilbey (Art department)

International Women's Day at Connaught! continued

Our 'Insta Poems'

2020-21 Issue: 34



#choosetochallenge

#IWD2021

LIFE IS 10% WHAT
HAPPENS TO ME AND
90% HOW I REACT TO IT

- Nicole Cheryl-Sharon
Alexander



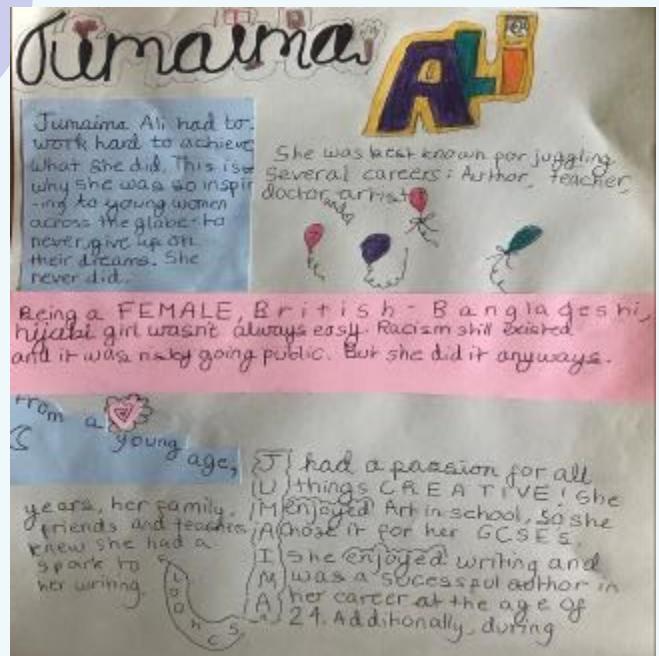
Nicole Alexander 11C - quoting her Grandmother

International Women's Day at Connaught! continued

Year 7 work

Year 7 students took inspiration from the book 'Fantastically Great Women Who Made History' by Kate Pankhurst (a distant relative of the famous Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst), creating a new chapter featuring themselves and the inspirational legacy they hope to leave behind for the next generation.

Ms Jemal
Head of Drama



"Year 7 students took inspiration from the book 'Fantastically Great Women Who Made History.'"



Giveaways and Book Fairs

The library is doing a book giveaway for Easter! Leytonstone residents, students and staff at Connaught can enter. All you have to do to enter is follow @Booksconnaught on Instagram and @ a friend in the giveaway post. The deadline is 1st of April!

Our new Scholastic Book

Club is up and running! Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/connaught-school/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online at reduced prices. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. There are books for all ages. If

you struggle to access the website, there are leaflets you can fill in which your daughter can bring home. The library can then order the books on your behalf. Books will be delivered to the school for free! Please place your orders online by May 14th, 2021.

Ms Khanom
LRC Manager

Writing Styles

9W have just completed a unit called 'Writing Styles', where they explored various styles of non-fiction and fiction writing. In their final assessment for the unit, they were asked to create a transactional writing piece on either of the following options:

Write a letter to your local council persuading them to organise a borough charity event for the needy in countries with poor living conditions.

In this letter you may include:

- What the charity event would include.
- How you think this will help.

OR

'76% of students have confirmed that online schooling has made them more stressed than ever before because they now have to complete the majority of

it on their own'

Write a magazine article about steps we could take to relieve stress during online schooling.

Some of the written pieces that they have created have been great, I am really impressed with the work produced!

Ms Rahman

English department

2020-21 Issue: 34

Waltham Forest Town Hall
Forest Rd,
London
E17 4JF

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to inform you about a charity event that I am willing to organise to save money for countries with poor living conditions, however, it will be quite difficult to organise without the councils help.

There are places in Asia and Africa who are suffering because first world countries are not helping, young children in Somalia travel miles for water, which is dirty and carries deadly diseases. There are young girls in South Asia who are forced to stay home or go work in horrible places to get money to give to their parents so that they could survive. There are children in Morocco who are suffering terrible weather conditions. Doesn't this break your heart? Imagine that was you, or even your children. These people need our help and support, they are calling for us to help them. Young children have to study on the floor because they don't have a proper classroom whereas here in the UK we take everything we have for granted. Our support will bring smiles across the world which would also make us happy knowing that we made them happy. This charity event can help because if everyone in London was to put at least £1 we could raise up to £5,000,000! Imagine how much this would help!

If this charity event took place then we could build schools for children who are hoping for a brighter future. We could help build houses for people who live in slums...or even nothing! If we save up we can build shops, hospitals, buildings and slowly change these countries to second world countries and maybe even first!

We have so much potential to help people. I have a few ideas we could try. We could organise a bake sale in a few towns, people could bake some confectionaries and sell them. We could do car boot sales and give 50% of the profit towards the charity event. We can ask mosques, churches and synagogues to put donation boxes inside. All these choices can raise large amounts of money to help the needy. So if you please consider what I am asking, it would be great. We can change the world with this organisation. Thank you.

Your sincerely, Hiba Benkacem



"I am really impressed with the work produced!"

Writing Styles continued

Online school tips

Help with the stress and focusing...



Is your school online and stressful? Well you should try these steps to help you! Firstly, wake up early and get ready for the day. Have some food before online school starts, this will help you stay focused and keep you awake during the morning. Studies show people who have breakfast in the morning are more likely to be happier and focused. Whilst in class, you should listen more rather than doing all the work at once. This will help you gain knowledge and give you less work to do all at once. I know from personal experience that you get a ridiculous amount of work and a due time. If this is the reason you are getting stressed, negotiate with a teacher, so they could expand the timeframe or give less work. Although you have to attend every lesson, try to get time in between classes to get fresh air, walk around, have a snack and give your eyes a rest. At this time, maybe finish any incomplete work or go sit with family. This will get your mind off work and allow you to spend time with family. You should also meditate, do yoga or exercise.

"If you can
physically pull
yourself together,
then you can
mentally pull
yourself
together."



Mental Health

If you have mental health problems that is becoming more severe due to the stress of school, you should contact a teacher and ask them if they could make adjustments to fit your needs. However, if you are someone who has difficulty talking about your mental health, and don't want it to cause more problems for yourself then you should cut down on the work you do but try to understand what you are doing. Online schooling can affect mental health in a ton of different ways, for example, some people with anxiety would rather stay at home in their own space but get pressured to keep up to date with their school work. Being at home and having to constantly be doing work can cause a lack of motivation to people who do suffer from mental health and kids that don't. It is said 89% of children are now having problems to stay focused and complete their work on time. Assuming you do feel this way, you should meditate to get some alone time, if this doesn't work for you, talk to a friend and keep in touch with them, do something you enjoy and drink and eat well.

Lastly, to conclude everything that has been stated, you should use these tips to help you stay focused and be less stressed whilst having to do online school. Remember to stay hydrated, eat well and take care of yourself.
-syeda zara

SCREEN STRESS

"76% of students have confirmed that online schooling has made them more stressed than ever before". Take a minute to let this sink in. Are you a part of this 76%? If so, then you're going to want to read this guide on how to relieve your unwanted stress caused by online schooling.

First of all, let's think about what aspects of online schooling are causing this to happen...

LACK OF MOTIVATION

One of the worst things to experience when expected to work hard is the lack of motivation. When you feel as if you want to do it but cannot bring yourself to do so. This can make a student criticise themselves, which makes stress even more stressful.

STRUGGLE OF BEING INDEPENDENT

We all have our own ways of learning, whilst some work amazing in groups, others work amazing on their own. Online schooling was a massive struggle for those who tend to work better in groups as they could not receive that support through a screen. This could make them struggle even more, making it more stressful.

Those are just two of the many things that have led students to stress during online schooling. So, how can students relieve themselves from this stress?

Step 1:

To relieve yourself from stress, you are going to need to know what exactly is causing this stress in the first place. It is recommended that you make a list of all the things that have been bothering you the most, so it is easier to realise the real problem(s).

Step 2:

Once you have outlined what the problem(s) are that are causing you to stress, just rant about it. Say it out loud, talk to someone about it, write it down. Just get it off your chest.

Step 3:

Hopefully, now that you have ranted about it, it should bother you much less than it did before. This means that you can slowly start to put yourself together again. Clean your room. Make a timetable. Make a daily checklist. Update yourself on what's been going on. If you can physically pull yourself together, then you can mentally pull yourself together.

Here's my story!

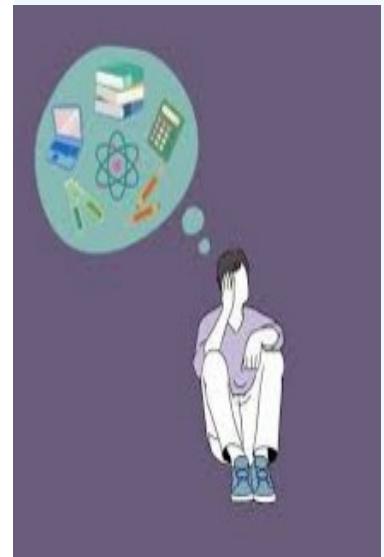
When I first started online schooling during the second lockdown, I was convinced that I would get much more work done than before, that I would follow a set routine and at least do something creative. However, within a week of online schooling everything went downhill! I started to skip going to lessons, convincing myself that I would catch-up afterwards (which never happened btw). I started caring less about the work, thinking that the teachers wouldn't realise. If I found a lesson boring, then I would simply just leave. But, I regret doing that. Why? Because when it was announced that schools would open, the stress hit me hard! Trying to catch-up with all the work I missed out on felt like torture. Constant headaches, nagging at myself to do the work and not get distracted. I gave up multiple times and each time, the stress quadrupled. Criticising myself because of the stress, became a daily routine. I wish I could've just done the work! However, I realised that I had been studying wrong. I haven't been studying in a way that I enjoy. So instead, I now take my time, put on some music, light a candle and get something to drink. Doing this, relaxes me and helps me work. Find your way of studying and shut the door on that stress!

Paula, 14



“
My online learning experience as a student has been very stressful and irritating.

- Katalinovic
Educational Week Teacher



Step 4 :

Okay, so now that you know what the problem is and you have physically pulled yourself together. Remember to constantly be ranting about what's on your mind as this will lift a massive burden that has been weighing you down. Also, if you are extremely struggling with work, then email your teachers or ask someone appropriate (an older sibling, parent or friend) about it so that they can help you out and you don't have to be struggling on your own.

Avneet Dhesi

Year 7 creating volcanoes

During the lockdown period, Year 7 have been learning about the structure of the earth, paying particular focus on volcanoes and earthquakes. Over the term, they were tasked with creating their own volcanoes to illustrate volcanic structures and how they work.

With limited resources, the students did a fantastic and accurate job of replicating a volcano. Well done to all those who participated.



Ms Humphreys
Geography department

"With limited resources, the students did a fantastic and accurate job of replicating a volcano."



Textiles

This half term Year 9 have been looking at the theme of 'Designing from Nature' and researching the work of textile designers William Morris, Lucienne Day and Orla Kiely. They have learnt how to create a repeat pattern and created their own designs, ready to be used for a hand sewn textile product.

Here they have used their prints to make a paper origami dress.

We have been really impressed with the range of designs produced and their enthusiasm for the task. Well done girls!



Textiles continued

Year 10 students have also been researching the work of iconic designers - Coco

Channel, Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood, Mary Quant and William Morris. Here

are some examples of their sketchbook work.

2020-21 Issue: 34



"We have been really impressed with the range of designs produced and their enthusiasm for the task."



Textiles continued

The Year 10 Textiles groups have also been working hard to finish their practical projects which they had been working on before Christmas. They have been making patchwork pieces using our scrap fabrics, and turning these into a range of cushions and pouches. They also made bias binding and piping to add a decorative trim to their projects.

Here are some examples of the high standard of work they have been producing.

Textiles department

Mrs Horsley and Mrs Rain



"I have been really impressed with the high level of intelligent conversation and idea development from the students."

'Past, Present, Future' in Art.

Year 9s have been working on the title 'Past, Present, Future' in Art. The project has been created in order for the Year 9 students to get a taste of what a GCSE Art course looks like. The students have explored a range of social justice issues in order to see how Art allows you to create work that has a message. Themes such as Feminism, Racism and Islamophobia awareness

have been raised by the students, as well as Mental Health, Isolation and Politics.

I have been really impressed with the high level of intelligent conversation and idea development from the students, especially over the lockdown period, where students still produced work using a variety of media and styles. A few students

who have produced impressive work include: Mia Hepburn, 9G created a range of beautiful digital drawings, Maya Hepburn, 9F, found a new skill with collage, Bibi Nasir, 9G attempted her first digital painting/animation, Aisha Mahmood, 9S, found her feminist voice through photography, Zeynep Depe, 9F further developed her tonal

Art department continued

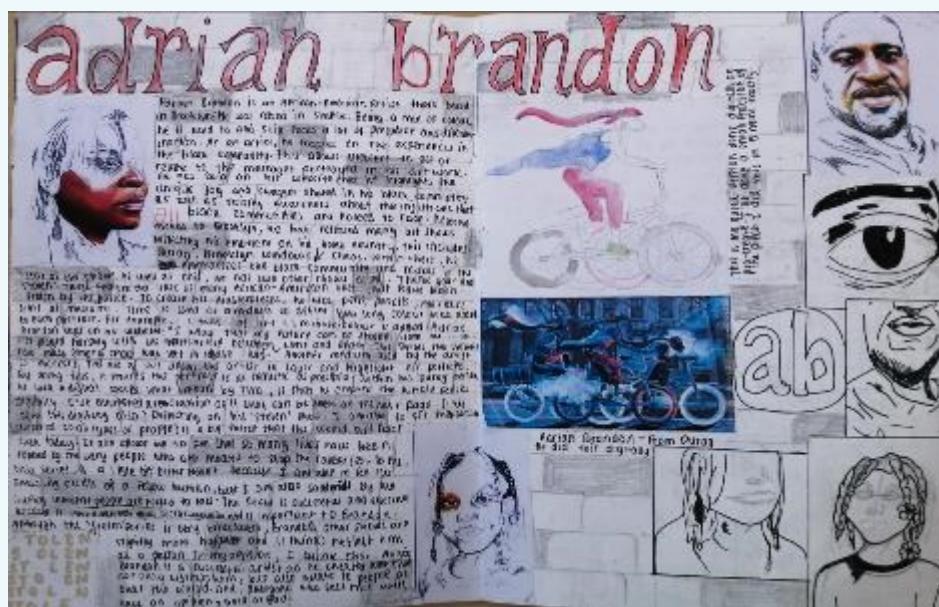
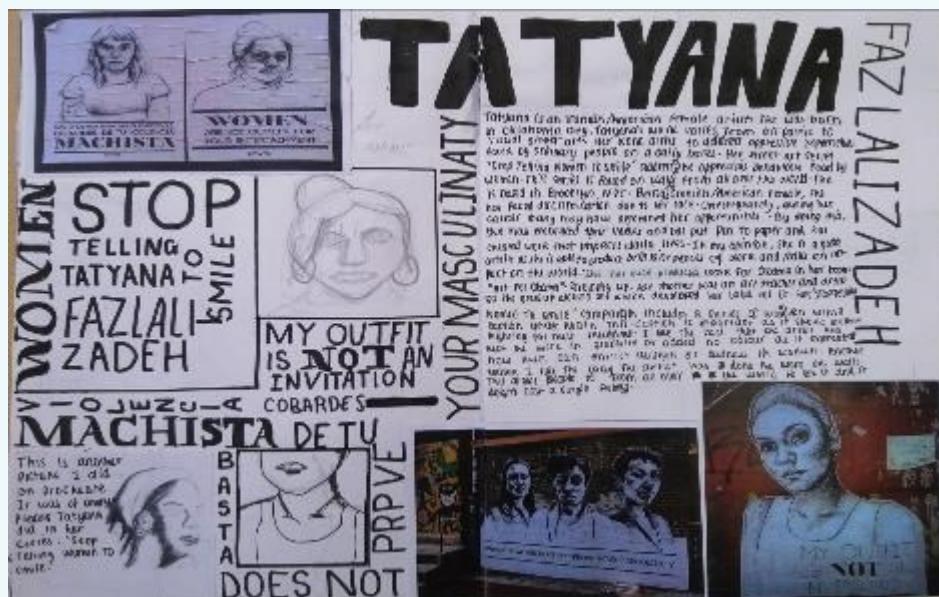
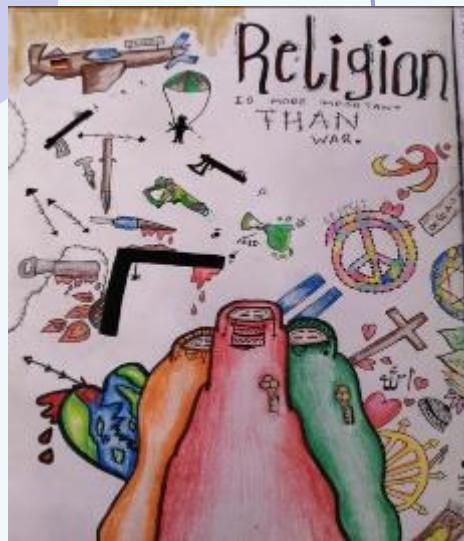
drawing skills by responding to the work of Barbara Kruger and Banksy, to name but a few.

I'd like to say well done to all the students for their fantastic work this term, I look forward to seeing how your skills develop when we start our new project.

Ms Gilbey

Art department

2020-21 Issue: 34



"I'd like to say
well done to all
the students for
their fantastic
work this term."

Art department continued

As part of the Year 9 Art assignment, Aisha, 9S, responded to the artist, Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. She asked members of the school community to pose with political placards that highlight awareness towards gender based violence, catcalling and assault; an issue that is particularly relevant today.



Film Club



Shhhhh,
Something is coming...

Look out for April 2021



Film Club continued

The English Department are excited to announce they are starting Film Club again at Connaught. Teachers are keen to get clubs up and running again after lockdown - and after April, Film Club will be making a comeback!

Current plans are to have a Year 10 club and a KS3 club, starting with Year 9 but hopefully expanding in the following months. Changes have had to be

made so the club runs within current government guidelines for gatherings during Coronavirus. We therefore will be posting films online weekly on a Friday evening and providing students with opportunities to write film reviews for prizes and join in discussions around the issues and themes raised in the films. In addition to this, we are in the process of planning monthly, socially distanced ticketed events in school. We're really looking forward to opening up more and more extra curricular events to the girls over the coming months and hope all students have a chance to join us with some of the opportunities available.

Ms Burton

English department

2020-21 Issue: 34

Modern Foreign Languages

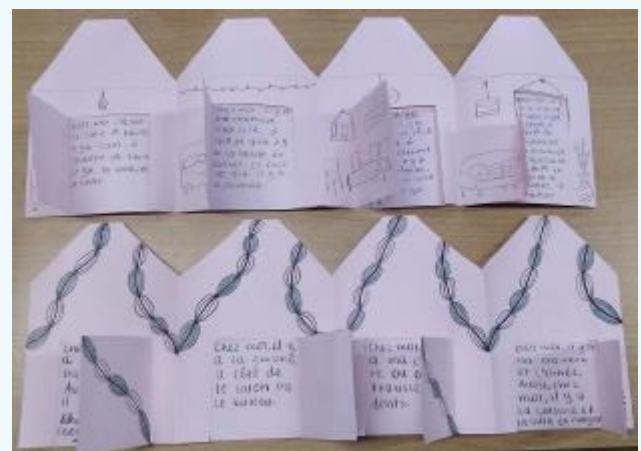
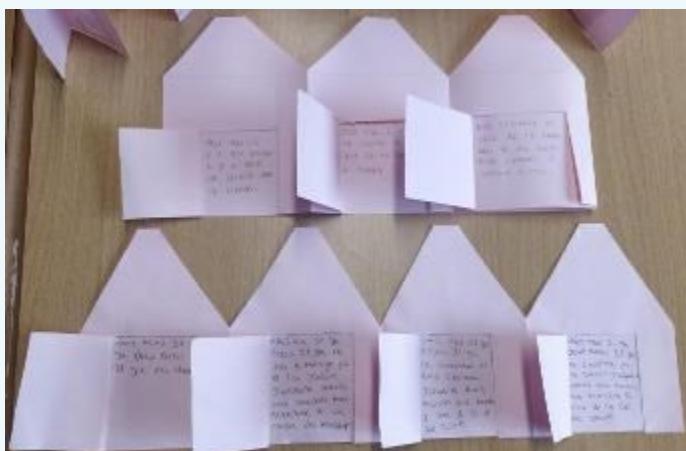
Bonjour tout le monde!
Hola a todos!

Year 9 have been looking at describing rooms in their houses, using complex descriptive vocabulary and some have completed a 'mini book' where they have described their house and what they do! Can you notice a few Harry Potter themed houses? Well done girls!

Ms Noakes.



 Twitter:
@MFLConnaught
 Instagram:
@MFLConnaught



Easter is very popular in France and Spain. Have a go at completing the following activities on the next two pages to learn some new Easter words!

i Feliz Pascua !



Label the vocabulary with the correct letter:

- 1) Pascua _____
- 2) un conejo _____
- 3) un huevo _____
- 4) una cesta _____
- 5) el chocolate _____
- 6) un pajarito _____
- 7) un nido _____
- 8) un cordero _____

p	a	u	c	s	a	p	h	c	d
c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	i
o	u	k	b	e	c	j	a	s	n
n	g	n	c	l	p	a	z	t	i
e	a	f	q	u	v	r	a	a	k
j	x	v	m	a	n	i	d	o	y
o	v	e	u	h	j	t	o	t	i
c	o	r	d	e	r	o	h	p	j

Find these words
in the grid:

- Pascua
- conejo
- huevo
- chocolate
- nido
- cesta
- pajarito
- cordero

Complete the missing vowels in these words:

- P _ sc _ _ _
h _ _ v _
p _ j _ r _ t _
c _ n _ j _
n _ d _
ch _ c _ l _ t _
c _ st _
c _ rd _ r _



Unscramble the anagrams:

*scPaua

*veuoh



It is important to relax and rest. However, if you want to keep busy during the holidays, the Languages Department would like to remind students that they can use languages websites to keep their thinking skills sharp during the Easter break:

www.linguscope.com <https://school.all-in.org.uk/login> (login details available on their google classroom) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zr8bmfr>

Year 11 students also have a wealth of resources available to them on their languages google classrooms in order to feel more prepared for future assessments.

1 Relie les images et les mots :



- A. un lapin
- B. un œuf
- C. une cloche
- D. un panier
- E. du chocolat
- F. un ruban
- G. un poussin
- H. du muguet
- I. un nid
- J. un agneau

**Joyeuse
Pâques!**

2 Cherche les mots dans la grille :



✓	CHOCOLAT
	POUSSIN
	AGNEAU
	MUGUET
	PANIER

CLOCHE
RUBAN
LAPIN
ŒUF
NID

3 Remets les lettres dans l'ordre :

dni	nid
cheacl	
spunois	
plain	
ufœ	
thaccool	
praine	
braun	
aunega	
tmguue	

4 Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

- C'est un animal blanc : _____
- C'est un animal jaune : _____
- C'est une plante : _____

Merci beaucoup! ¡ Muchas Gracias !

**With Best wishes,
The Modern Foreign Languages department.**

Olympian Ramla Ali comes to Connaught!

On Friday 26th March, Connaught students had a visitor in the form of English boxing champion, Ramla Ali, coming in to meet and motivate students. This was an enormous surprise, and happened as a result of Head of Maths, Anj Hussain, showing an inspirational video of her to her classes and discovering Ramla has relations at Connaught.

Obviously social distancing meant that for many of the girls, it was a quick hello from the front of the classroom but the students - and us staff! - were all thrilled to have an Olympian in our midst! You may know her face from a few places even if you don't follow boxing. Ali is the face (and hair!) of L'Oréal Pantene so you may well have spotted

her in the ring in their television campaign. She's also joined forces with Nike and in September 2019 was picked as one of Meghan Markle's 'Forces for Change' and featured on the cover of British Vogue. In addition, she's appeared in a host of other publications, including Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Guardian Observer.

"Students - and us staff! - were all thrilled to have an Olympian in our midst!"



Ali's achievements are indeed very impressive and highly inspirational, both in and out of the ring: she's the first ever Muslim boxer, first ever female Somali boxer to compete professionally and win an international gold medal; she's an activist for racial equality, she's set up a boxing federation in her native Somalia (in Mogadishu) for young female boxers and she's also the founder of The Sisters Club - a charitable initiative focused on

creating more spaces for black and ethnic female minorities to participate in sport in the U.K. As an amateur boxer, she made a name for herself by winning several national championships and she is the first person - male or female - to have won an African Boxing title.

Ramla's debut novel, a self help book aimed at teenagers and young women just like our students is called 'Not Without A Fight' and is based on ten of the most

Ms Hussain was delighted to meet a personal role model : "She is such an inspirational role model, someone who was bullied in school but who came out of it at the other end, who was disciplined and put her discipline in context in terms of her career, her motivational skills... just everything about her - and of course, the Pantene advert!"

important fights in her life; some as a boxer in competition - and others as a young Somali woman fighting to become a Boxing Champion. It is being released in September 2021 and currently on pre-order at Waterstones. Our school is already ordering copies for the library. BAFTA winning producer Lee Magiday and Film4 will be making a feature-length drama based on her life story and we can't wait to watch!

Olympian Ramla Ali comes to Connaught! continued

As we run the BBC Youth Reporter scheme at Connaught, we were keen to get some of our Yr 10 reporters out there, facing a tight deadline to interview Ramla. They did a fantastic job and we were all interested to hear about Ramla's path

from war refugee into Olympian. She suffered bullying in school but, through boxing, found confidence and the motivation to persevere and to reach her goals physically and mentally. Please see our reporter's article to find out more

about their journalistic experience and what they discovered about Ali's incredible journey during their press conference.

Ms Burton
English department
BBC Report Co-ordinator

2020-21 Issue: 34

112 Animal Poems

Tasfia, Anastasia, Risaki, Sydney, Ayesha Aslam & Unaishah in 7F, spent a lot of their time in lockdown allowing their creative sides to really come out. The girls worked productively outside of their school time to really focus on releasing their creative energy. One of the girls described the experience as,

"me something imaginative to do once I had done my school work." The girls collaborated with one another to create an anthology called '112 Animal Poems'. A few poems are shown below.

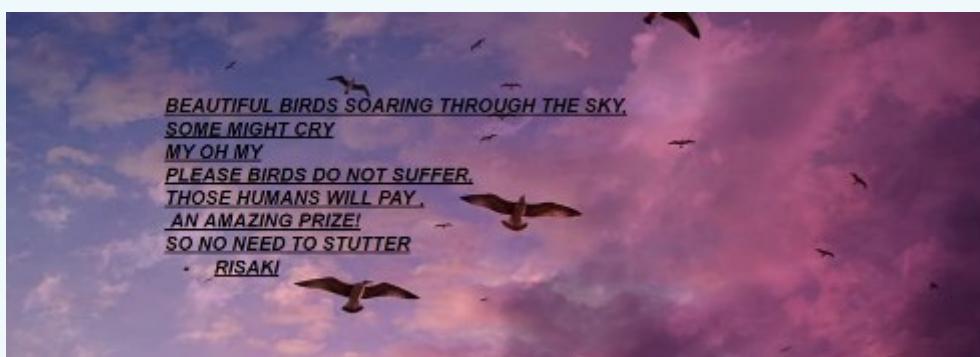
The English department really encourages students to take part in

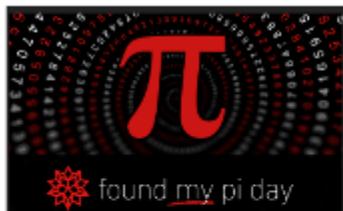
collaborative and creative activities; it would be great for us to see more things like this taking place! If you have done any other creative activities outside of school time, submit it to your English teacher so we can continue to celebrate your brilliance!

Ms Rahman
English department

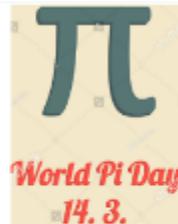
"A really fun experience that gave me something

imaginative to do once I had done my school work."





Pi Day



- Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi).
- In 2009, the United States House of Representatives officially recognised March 14, as National Pi day.
- **Pi Day is observed on March 14 (3/14 in the month/day date format) since 3, 1 and 4 are the first three significant digits of π (pi).**
- Although the official premise of the day is to honour pi, many believe it's more of a celebration of academia. For this reason, schools, universities and museums across the globe encourage festivities.
- Pi day offers a great opportunity for students to explore pi and maths-related concepts.



On Friday, March 19, we held a Pi day competition during form time. The four students who could memorise and recite the most digits of pi won a prize each!

Pi Day Competitions

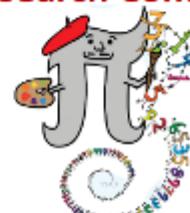


Students in the form group participated in Pi-themed Dingbats. They viewed the looping animation and tried to figure out its meaning. This was lots of fun and quite tricky.



A DELICIOUS COINCIDENCE?

Pi Research Competition



Students created an A3 poster incorporating their Pi discoveries. The four best pi posters won a prize each!

Well done to all those who participated and made the day a success.

The Pi-themed events were a great way to promote Mathematics across the school.

One of the class tasks was to measure the diameter of a circle. Then using a piece of string, they measured the circumference of some circles. They then divided the circumference by the diameter and the majority of the students had a result that was close to 3.14, no matter the size of the circle. They discussed their results and then celebrated their discovery and importance of Pi.

**Congratulations to the following students who
were winners of the Pi Memory Challenge Competition**

Tasneem Fasial Abdullah 7C

Mia Maihand 9F

Mariam Ramjan 9F

Zamara Aslam 11G

Congratulations to the following students who were winners of the Pi Research Competition

Zainab Sajid 7F

Hanaan Halane 7C

Eva Ferreira 7W

Viktoria Shabat 8C



I want to express my appreciation to all staff for their support and the students who contributed to the success of our Pi Day at Connaught.

This image shows a handwritten page from a student's notebook. The page is filled with various mathematical symbols and concepts.

Top Left: A large blue arrow pointing down, followed by the text "The first astronomer of BC was Archimedes of Syracuse around 287 BC, one of the greatest mathematicians of the ancient world. Archimedes approximated the area of a circle by using the Pythagorean Theorem. He said the ratio of base, regular polygons inscribed within circles, the circle, and the regular polygons outside the circle were approximately 3.14. The symbol π was not used at the time, but the value of π is still used today.

Top Right: A green plus sign followed by the text "A derivative represents something divided by Delta X. Example (X=1000), a derivative function is calculated by taking the slope of two points. For example, if we have two points (x₁, y₁) and (x₂, y₂), the derivative is calculated as $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ ".

Middle Left: A red minus sign followed by the text "The second derivative is the derivative of the derivative. It is also called the second derivative".

Middle Center: A green less than or equal to sign followed by the text "The symbol \leq means less than or equal to".

Middle Right: A blue greater than sign followed by the text "The symbol \geq means greater than or equal to".

Bottom Left: A red X followed by the text "The symbol \neq means not equal to".

Bottom Center: A blue square root sign followed by the text "The symbol $\sqrt{}$ means the square root of x".

Bottom Right: A red division sign followed by the text "The symbol \div means divide by".

Section Headings: "PI DISCOVERY" and "PI DAY CELEBRATION".

Text Below Section Headings: "PI DAY CELEBRATION" and "PI DAY CELEBRATION".

Text Below PI Discovery: "PI DAY CELEBRATION".

Text Below PI Day Celebration: "PI DAY CELEBRATION".

Bottom Left: A crossword puzzle grid with the following words:
Across: 1. LOST, 2. VENUS, 3. LILAC, 4. MINT, 5. CLOTHES, 6. KEEPS, 7. FOLIAGE, 8. ZYMO, 9. TRAPED, 10. TROUBLE, 11. TROUBLE, 12. LADY, 13. KANGAROO, 14. LOG, 15. KEG, 16. TROUBLE, 17. CLOTHES, 18. LOG, 19. SUY, 20. ZYK.
Down: 1. LOST, 2. VENUS, 3. LILAC, 4. MINT, 5. CLOTHES, 6. KEEPS, 7. FOLIAGE, 8. ZYMO, 9. TRAPED, 10. TROUBLE, 11. TROUBLE, 12. LADY, 13. KANGAROO, 14. LOG, 15. KEG, 16. TROUBLE, 17. CLOTHES, 18. LOG, 19. SUY, 20. ZYK.

Bottom Right: A red circle with the text "PI DAY CELEBRATION".

- The symbol for π has been in use for over 250 years. The symbol was introduced by William Jones in 1706 and popularized in 1748. The symbol was made popular by the mathematician Leonhard Euler.

The Egyptians calculated the area of a circle by a formula that gave the diameter as $\frac{8}{9}$ times the radius, but gave the circumference as $\frac{160}{9}$ times the diameter. The first calculation of π is considered by Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 BC), who used the geometric relationships of the inscribed and circumscribed polygons of a circle to calculate π to three decimal places.



In Egypt and Babylonia.



Ms Ranganathan

Maths department

BBC Young Reporter Club

'BBC Young Reporter: a BBC journalism and media project encouraging young people from age 11-18 to share stories they believe in and get their voices heard.'

After hearing this pitch, many of us in year 10 wanted to join the initiative, so, after signing up and receiving our own BBC lanyards, we all came together on a specified afternoon off timetable to produce news reports that may get shown on BBC platforms. Firstly, we got into teams and started to brainstorm ideas and issues that we think are important to talk about in the modern world -

whether it be sexism, xenophobia or even mental health.

During our two hours off our usual school timetable, each team decided what they wanted to produce a report about, what research they needed to do (and began it) and considered how they would present it - and some teams even started to film their vision for their overall project.

After consideration, many teams decided their chosen issues were too big of a topic to get recorded and sent off that day, so we are currently researching even further into the

issues that we have each chosen, adding our own views on to them, and sharing our own stories. While many of us have still not completed our projects due to restrictions in resources and covid restrictions, we're enjoying our continued research and projects are still moving forward.

We hope to submit our reports to the BBC soon so that our own ideas can be heard. Keep your ears open for more opportunities with the BBC Young Reporter scheme so you can hopefully get your ideas heard too!

Ellis Taylor 10C



The BBC Young Reporters interview Ramla Ali

Professional Boxer, model, racial equality activist, and author, Ramla Ali came to Connaught School for Girls for an interview based on her and her career. We, as BBC Young Reporters, had the opportunity to hold a last-minute 'press conference' with her about her past achievements and her future goals. Zohal was particularly excited: "As a boxer myself, talking to Ramla was motivating and I found myself relating to her and hearing her talk about her own experiences has made me believe that I

can truly achieve what I want."

Due to Ali's hectic schedule in preparation for the Tokyo Olympics, the visit and assignment were only confirmed on the Friday morning she was actually coming into school, and so -against the clock - we researched Ali and decided on the questions to which we were keen to know the answers.

We found out that Ramla isn't just an amazing boxer who will be participating in Tokyo's Olympic games later this year, but also the first-ever Somali boxer to go

pro. She also spoke to us of her very own experiences with low-esteem due to bullying and how it affected her, but then went on to tell us that boxing was something of a saviour to her: it helped her build her self-confidence back up and gave her the reassurance that she could be strong. BBC Youth Reporter Sana felt very moved hearing this: "Speaking to Ramla was such an amazing experience as I was able to hear about her personal struggles and how she overcame them. Listening to her stories made me feel as

The BBC Young Reporters interview Ramla Ali continued

2020-21 Issue: 34

though I am able to do anything I put my mind to."

We were all inspired to learn more about her forthcoming book, which she had wanted 'filled to the brim with information that she as a young girl would have wished for'; instead of waiting for one to exist, she took it into her own hands, and is expecting to release her long-awaited self-help book in September 2021. Ramla told us that this book not only talks about the fights she faced in the ring but also what she went through outside the ring

and how she hopes this book will inspire young girls. "After talking to Ramla, I feel motivated in both overcoming my own personal challenges as well as relating to her own personal experiences, which made me feel not only understood - but also motivated, that if she could achieve so much then, so could I," said Ellis, BBC Young Reporter.

Ramla Ali is a figure of strength and tenacity for young women all around the world. She has been an inspiring figure for young girls

who have tempted the idea of boxing and will continue to do so. Aamirah commented: "When talking to her, she wasn't just kind, but also eager to answer our questions. It calmed down my nerves, and by the end of it I was keenly listening to her talk."

It was an amazing experience to meet Ramla Ali and we have all taken something away from this. We know that Ramla will continue to break boundaries and inspire the young.

BBC Young Reporters
Zohal and Aamirah



Our press conference with Ramla

Questions used:

Aamirah: You attended a girls school like we do here. What was your school experience like and how did it help you in the real world?

Zohal: I have been boxing for 3 years now and many people are still surprised to hear that a teenage girl is boxing,

so what drew you to boxing?

Ellis: You are the first female Somali boxer in history to compete professionally. You have written a book, modelled and are a racial equality activist and have also set up a boxing federation in Somalia. What is next for you outside of Tokyo

and boxing?

You were born in Somali and left as a war refugee. Do you think these experiences have made you more determined?

Sana: You have spoken in interviews about stopping boxing when your mother found out. How did that feel and what made you start again?

Look out for our official video report with the full interview coming soon!

"When talking to her, she wasn't just kind, but also eager to answer our questions."



Connaught School for Girls

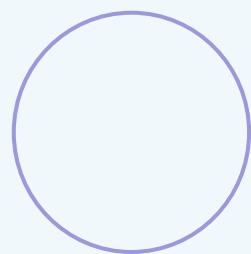
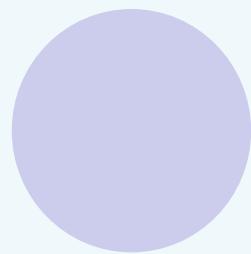
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

Ms AVANI HIGGINS

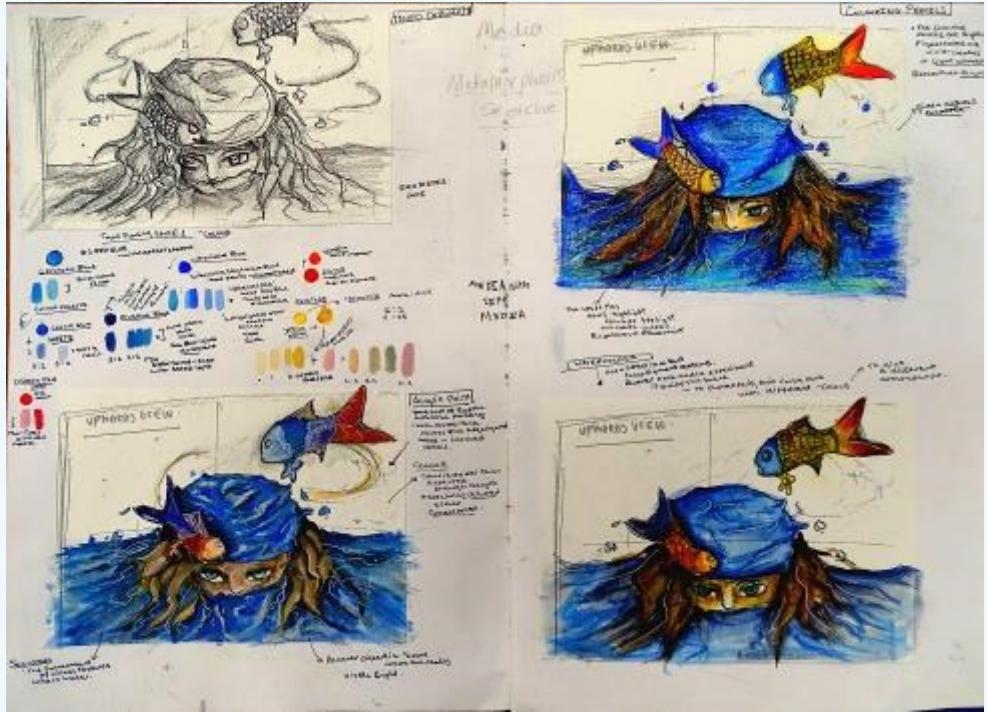


Published and
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

Artist of the Month



This month's Artist of the Month is Sameen Iqbal in 11C for some lovely, focused work during lockdown.

Mr Hamilton

Head of Art

Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Term - Friday 2nd April 2021

First Day back after Easter - Monday 19th April 2021

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 21st April 2021

Year 11 Year group Photograph - Monday 26th April 2021

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2021

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 5th May 2021

GCSE Final Written Assessment Fortnight in the Gym begins - Monday 10th May 2021

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 11th May 2021

GCSE Art Focus days x3 - Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th May 2021

Whitsun Half-Term Holiday - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

Year 10 Internal exams begin - Monday 7th June 2021

Last School Day of the Year - Wednesday 21st July 2021

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