



Newsletter



Connaught
School for Girls

December 2020

2020-21 Issue: 32

Message from the Headteacher

Special points of interest:

- West End Theatre comes to Connaught
- Talented student artists
- Deputy Headteacher releases album
- Exceptional Design and Technology work
- Students poems

Dear parents/carers

What a year this has been! Nobody could have foretold when we went into lockdown in March that our lives would change so much! But despite all the changes, the covid timetables, staggered starts/finishes and self isolation, we've managed to keep our spirits up and look after ourselves and each other.

I continue to be in awe of the resilience, cheerfulness and hard work of our girls. They've handled the challenges head-on and have managed to keep their energy levels up and come to school with a positive attitude. For most of the term, we've had extremely high attendance which shows that girls love coming to school. You'll see from this newsletter that, despite the difficulties that the pandemic brings, we've managed to keep up high levels of enthusiasm and quality teaching which makes Connaught School for Girls the wonderful place that it is.

Please take time to read through the articles and see the hard work that is taking place in school. From our creative subjects, you can see fabulous art and D & T work where the restrictions brought by covid have not been a barrier to learning. In our academic subjects, work has continued to keep our girls learning in a stimulating and challenging environment. The need to be fit is very important during this pandemic and PE has adapted our limited space to ensure that some outdoor activity is done regularly to ensure that the mental and physical health of the girls is looked after. Our own Deputy Headteacher, Mr Cross has been stretching his vocal cords; his band, 'Engines Made from Soup' have recorded an album! So you can see that a pandemic is no barrier to success for us!

Whilst standards remain high, I am aware of what a long and challenging term this has been and the local rise in cases must be really worrying for our students. Added to that is the strain of remaining within bubbles; really tough on our KS3 students who have had to stay in one teaching room all day. We are working hard in our pastoral teams to ensure that the mental health of our girls remains a top priority. Our form tutors and school counsellors, together with our safeguarding team, headed by Ms Hickes have been diligently dealing with anxiety issues resulting from the pandemic.

As a mother myself, I am aware of how tiring it has all been. I know my own daughter has been getting more and more tired as the term went on. I really hope that the winter break is an opportunity to have some downtime, away from school and an opportunity to recharge in a safe and socially distanced way. Having said that, for our Year 11s, this is an opportunity to revise for the mock exams in January. My advice to those students is to draw up a revision timetable with opportunities to do past papers under exam conditions. Added to that, ensure that there is adequate study time, interspersed with downtime to avoid burnout. Planning is key.

You will know from the media that there is a lot going on nationally and locally and some of this will affect us. I will keep you posted, as I have done throughout the year, via letter, our website and our social media platforms. If your daughter has been asked to self isolate, please ensure that she does to stop the spread of the virus and to protect our family and friends. Additionally, if your daughter develops symptoms (**before Wednesday 23rd December**), please notify the school on covid19@connaught-cloud.co.uk. We start back on **Monday 4th January** (Week B). However, if your daughter is unwell, especially with covid symptoms, please **do not** send her to school. Please keep her at home for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and until she has recovered. This is imperative in order to keep us all safe.

I want to end by thanking all parents and carers for bearing with us while we negotiate our way through these strange times. Thank you for all the kind messages of support; they were never more appreciated than they are now. Stay safe and have a good winter break, ready for bright and better 2021!

Avani Higgins



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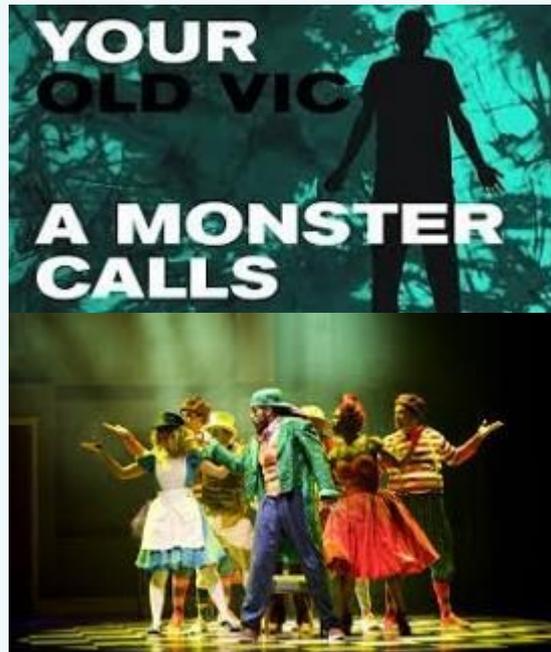
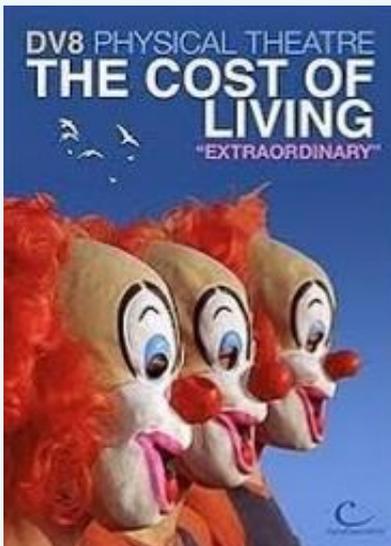
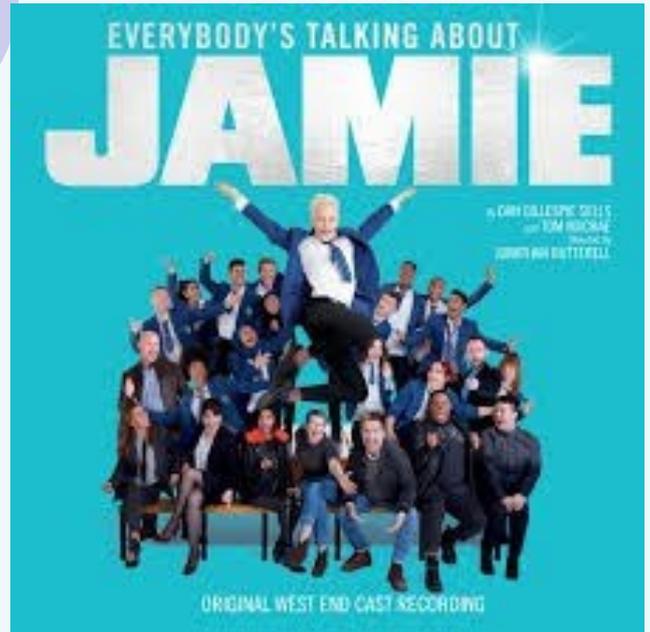
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Online theatre productions

We couldn't get to the West End this year so we brought West End Theatre to Connaught!

During the first Lockdown a variety of theatre productions were made available online and our students have been enjoying them whilst exploring their storylines, design elements and learning how to write a review.

Ms Jemal
Head of Drama



Art competitions

The Art Department has had a particularly productive Autumn Term and we are delighted with the way the girls have embraced the new topics and adapted to all tasks. Away from the classroom, students were invited to participate in the Black History Month

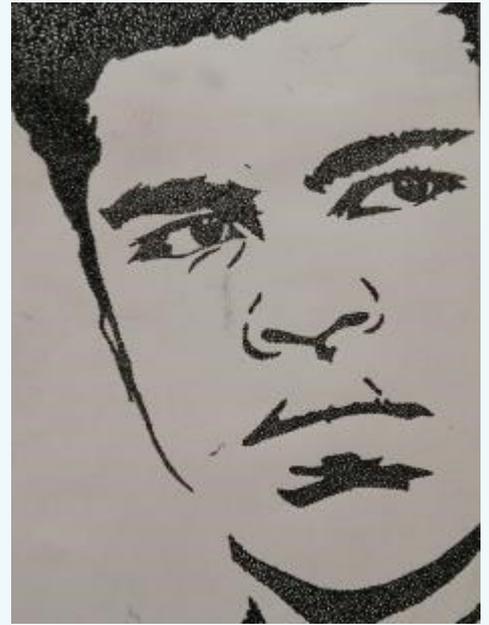
Art competition and the Islamophobia Awareness month competition. Students submitted a range of outcomes using various media and were certainly exploring their creative sides, whilst also participating in promoting equality and kindness in the school

and our wider community.

The Black History Month competition, required students to create a portrait of someone who has fought for Civil Rights. The winners were:

Rumaysah Eslami, 7S (for her portrait of Claudette Colvin)

Art competitions continued



'Again' by Engines Made from Soup



Our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Cross has produced a new pop/rock music album with his band 'Engines Made From Soup', released just last month.

Mr Cross, who is the band's lead singer said "I really thought the band had played together for the last time at the Cavern Club in Liverpool twenty years ago, before we all moved to various parts of the UK". However, national lockdown in late March 2020 presented the band with an opportunity to collaborate online. Mr Cross added, "lockdown brought us back together and although we were all working really hard from home we got together online in the evenings,

weekends and the summer holiday. It was such great fun and we have produced an album that we're very proud of and hope people will like".

The album called 'Again' has been acclaimed as "really diverse - rock to pop to soul to funk". The band have their own unique sound that shines through the entire album; vocals with stature, epic guitar hooks and brilliant keyboards and harmony vocals.

The album is available now on all music streaming sites such as Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube and has already attracted listeners across the world, just ask

Alexa or Siri to play it! The band also has a social media presence on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for fans to follow and keep up with future releases and future live events.

Let's all get behind Mr Cross' band and get him on the Graham Norton Show by listening to the album and by following their social media. Who knows, he might become top of the charts!

Editor



PE Dept

The Panathlon Challenge

The Panathlon Challenge is a national charity which provides sporting opportunities for over 20,000 young people from a range of different backgrounds. This year Connaught entered into the challenge for the first time, with 6 students across key stage 3 taking part in the Ten Pin Bowling competition. The



students thoroughly enjoyed the event and we hope to participate in many more of the

Panathlon events throughout the year. Well done to all those who took part in the event.

Fitness interform competition

Physical education provides a wealth of social, emotional and physical benefits. Since September all students have been participating in fitness training lessons to improve their aerobic endurance and prepare them for the fitness interform competition. Students were required

to run continuously for 5, 10, 20 or 30 minutes with points awarded for the time run. There were some outstanding performances across the classes and we hope that many of the students will continue to train in preparation for the annual Connaught 5km Challenge in the Spring term.

Huge congratulations to the winners 7F, 8C and 9G.

Results:

Year 7: 1st - F, 2nd - C, 3rd - S and W

Year 8: 1st - C, 2nd - W, 3rd - S

Year 9: 1st - G, 2nd - W, 3rd - S

Ms Humphrey

Head of PE

“Physical education provides a wealth of social, emotional and physical benefits.”



MFL department

Bonjour tout le monde!
!hola a todos!

The MFL department has had a busy Autumn term. We started the year catching up on key aspects of language. This is important as it ensures our students have a strong base on which to build up their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. We have now made great strides to carry on teaching the next topics:

Year 8 French have been learning to talk about their town. On the right is a wonderful piece of work from Kleio in Mr Ferreira's class.

Mr Ferreira:
"Kleio is an outstanding student in French. She produced an amazing piece of writing as part of the end-of-module assessment. Against the AQA criteria below she came very close to full marks. Bravo Kleio!"

As part of Islamophobia Awareness month, Mr Huber's year 10 students were asked to write a short presentation about one of their role-models in French (bien évidemment). On the right, we have two wonderful pieces of work by Sumayyah Eslami in 10S and Mawa Firdaus in 10W .

Well done to these students who will receive a postcard each.

Finalement, in the spirit of the festive season, see the next page for a French crossword puzzle for anyone to complete and bring back to their language teacher in January for a prize :)

Write a 90-120 words presentation about your town. Include the following information:

- Where and who you live with.
- What facilities/places there are and are not.
- What we can do in your town.
- What you do with your family/friends.
- Your opinion of your town/area.

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Superbe Kleio!

Salut! Je m'appelle Kleio. J'habite dans Londres, un grande ville avec ma famille, ma chienne et mon chat. Il y a un centre commercial, un cinéma, beaucoup de librairies, et deux supermarchés. J'habite dans un petit appartement. J'aime mon appartement parce que c'est joli. Ma chambre, c'est super, parce que c'est rose. Dans ma ville, on peut manger au restaurant. J'aime ça parce que c'est délicieux. Aussi, on peut visiter des musées mais c'est ennuyeux. On peut aller à la piscine, jouer au foot, faire une promenade en bateau si tu veux. Avec ma famille et mes amis en été, nous faisons du jogging ou du roller. Cependant, en hiver, nous ^{surfer} sur internet. J'adore ça parce que c'est intéressant. À mon avis, ma ville c'est bien mais c'est dangereux. ~~Sortir~~ le soir. D'habitude, ma ville c'est animée et touristique. Ma ville c'est assez super. Tu es d'accord?

140 words.

① Present tense ending for 'nous'

② Noun 'ville' is feminine but you're saying 'it's dangerous' in general - use masculine



Twitter:

@MFLConnaught



Instagram:

@MFLConnaught



Salut! Je m'appelle Nadiya Hussain et j'ai trente-cinq ans! Je suis orientale- Je viens du Bangladesh mais je suis née en Angleterre. Je suis musulmane et je gagne le Great British Bake Off! J'adore cuisiner- c'est ma passion! Alors, aussi, je suis boulanger et je suis auteur. J'ai écrit dix livres- livres de cuisine et livres pour enfants.

Comme je viens du Bangladesh mais maintenant j'habite à Milton Keynes je parle bengali et anglais.

J'ai les yeux marron et je pense que je suis petit. A mon avis je suis assez amusante, bavarde et drôle- j'ai même mon propre spectacle- Nadiya Bakes! Je suis très heureux d'avoir ma propre émission de cuisine!

SUMAYYAH ESLAMI
10S



HOMEWORK:

Bonjour, je m'appelle Malala. J'ai vingt-trois ans. J'habite aux Grand-Bretagne avec ma famille mais je viens du Pakistan. J'ai une mère, un père et deux frères. Par conséquent, je parle Anglais et Ourdou. Je suis activiste des droits pour l'éducation des femmes. J'ai gagné le prix Nobel de la paix à 18 ans. J'ai les cheveux longs, raides et bruns, aussi j'ai les yeux bruns. Je pense que je suis de taille moyenne. Je ne porte pas de lunettes. Mon ami dit que je peux être très intelligente et courageuse.



By Mawa Firdaus 10W

MOTS-CROISES

horizontalement

verticalement

Merci beaucoup! ; Muchas Gracias !

With Best wishes,

The Modern Foreign Languages department.

Foodbank Collection



We need:

baby food;	microwaveable puddings;	tinned meat and fish;
biscuits;	pasta sauces;	tinned puddings;
cereals;	rice;	tinned soup;
dried pasta;	shower gel;	tinned vegetables;
instant coffee;	snack bars;	toiletries;
long-life fruit juice;	tea bags;	toilet rolls;
long-life milk;	tinned fruit;	vegetarian options.

No fresh or chilled items, please. Small packets and tins are preferred!

Thank you!



Design and Technology Department

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It has been an unusual term for the department as Covid restrictions have resulted in our lower school classes being taught Design and Technology in their form rooms with limited access to practical facilities.

We have been focusing on design based projects and have been impressed with the way the girls have risen to this challenge, producing some exceptional work.

The topic for year seven has been 'Celebrations'. The girls have been able to learn some new textile techniques at their desks and have mounted them

in the form of bunting. 7C's fantastic Kente inspired weaving formed part of our Black history Month display.



Year eight have been looking at 'Structures' and have been designing storage containers for stationery items.

They have also created repeat designs influenced by the work of Antoni Gaudi and Barbara Hepworth to decorate their products. This corridor display was produced by 8S.



Year nine have taken 'Textiles and the Environment' as their theme.

After looking at designers who have used textiles to make a statement, including Vivienne Westwood and Viktor and Rolf, the girls were challenged to design their own statement T-Shirts. Many of the completed T-shirts are now creating a stunning display in the dining area.



Design and Technology Department continued

It has also been very different for year 10, although they have had access to the practical facilities, they have had to be considerate of each other and patient as they wait for equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing.

They have been working

on a skills based patchwork project and have been experimenting with a range of advanced sewing skills. We have been impressed with the standard of their work. Well done girls!

Mrs Horsley and Mrs Rain

Design and Technology department.



"We have been impressed with the standard of their work."



Food lessons have had to be different this term too. The students have been supplied with some of the ingredients and then they have been cooking at home. We have been really impressed with the effort some girls have made to try out recipes and improve their skills. We

are also really grateful for parents who have been able to support the students with this, thank you.

Mrs Horsley and Mrs Rain
Design and Technology department.



English Creative Writing

At the beginning of term, KS3 explored expressing feelings through poetry. The students composed some brilliant poems inspired by reading other poets expressing strong emotions.

'SAD'

Sunken eyes begging for comfort in an unknown ocean of misery
An awful ache in my heart spreading rapidly like a piece of paper lit by fire
Dread-filled hands drop down lifelessly as a smile was forcefully ripped off my face

by Humeirah Khan 9G

Joy

Joy.
Is a happy feeling,
Strolling through the meadows of our minds,
Filling us with warmth and strength,
Activating positive emotions we didn't know we could
Feel.

by Sofia-May Benjamin-Alexander 9G

Sadness

The frown you wear upon your face
Has been embedded into my heart
Watching you from a distance
As tears drop down my face

I feel sad
But can't do anything for you
No matter how hard I try to reach
I still seem miles away

This overwhelming sadness
Is haunting my heart
And slowly, very slowly
Killing my soul

by Bibi Nasir 9G

Sorrow and Grief

Grief is a long journey you take,
A journey to take on your own.
No one can know how you truly feel,
For it is sorrow of your own.

Don't tell someone you understand,
Don't tell them how they'll still stand,
Don't tell them how it will go,
How they truly know.

Just be there for them,
Make sure they know you care for them.
Accept them during their downfalls and rises.
Make them feel as beautiful as irises.

Grief is a thing we can't move on from,
With a snap of our fingers,
Clap of our hands,
Click in our wrists,

Grief over a loved one takes time,
Much longer than it takes to think of a rhyme.
We are filled with sorrow.
Because true happiness is not something we can borrow.

Sorrow and grief are both terrible things,
Because we can't buy happiness,
As easily as rings.
We end up in a pit full of blackness.

But we see light in the dark that guides us to
The one that care,
The ones that you know are always there,
The ones that treat you like the fairest of the fair.

by Alexa Heidfeld 8W

Scared

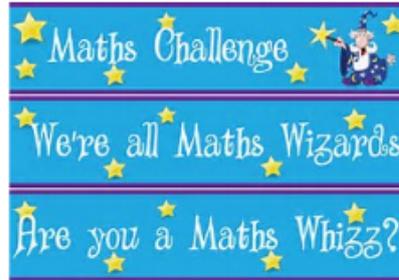
Lights out,
Masked in the cloak of an abyss,
clutching tight to your blanket,
dreading what is lurking in the shadows,

Alone,
as darkness floods the streets,
and the wind howls,

Fearful,
of what could be hidden in the dark night,
waiting to pounce,

Scared.

by Cassia Pithers 8W



Dear parents and students,

Welcome to our Maths Challenge.

Are you amazing at maths? Can you solve really tricky maths problems?

At Connaught we have been having a fortnightly Maths Challenge.

The Maths Challenge problems are easy to understand but fascinating to solve. The Challenges have been mathematical stimulation to solvers of all ages.

Our aims are simple; to help raise standards of achievement in mathematics, across all age ranges, to help motivate students generally, to show students of all abilities that maths can be fun and that there is a reason for doing it.

Each term a winner from each year group was pulled out of a draw and was awarded a gift voucher.

Congratulations for winning the Maths Challenge



KS3 Winners

7C - Amna Ali, Taleen Droubo, Tasneem Faisal, Sophie Head, Rozi Ibrahim, Amimah Imran, Haniyah Joomun, Freya Maitland, Hamnah Majid, Tahani Malik.

7W - Simrit Chana, Aya Chaves, Aicha Guettou, Meryem Hadjilah, Zainab Hussain, Mariam Jaiteh, Jessica Januario, Aliya Khan, Yahneesie Lawrence, Suna Mahmudova, Ruqayya Patel, Jasmine Saeed, Hosna Siddiquee, Mary-Jane Ugboaja Mary-Jane.

8C- Fatima Abdalla, Hadeeqah Abid, Raadiya Ahmed, Aayshya-Laraye Alick, Philiesshia Anthony, Mahnoor Ashfaq, Hafsa Asim, Marwah Baliat, Abida Chowdhury, Iman Dar, Iremsu Demir, Meerab Fatima, Walijah Gul, Zainab Ignar, Maryam Isa Titre, Amnah Khan, Habeeba Khan, Zahra Khan, Aasiyah Mumtaz, Qirat Naz, Veronika Paunova, Samaira Qaiser, Zaina Saeed, Viktoria Shabat, Aygul Yasar.

8W - Huda Ali, Jamilah Ali, Iklim Cevik, Skye Gopaul, Jumobi Kukute, Raluca Ionita Lungu, Saarah Mayet, Fauziah Molvi, Zahra Mushtaq, Sneha Parmar, Giulia Rusu, Sapphina Saleem, Sarah Tasneem.

8S - Hawa Aboo, Zara Ahmed, Danica Amankwah, Eden Arkhurst, Halima Assam, Sadiyah Ayub, Fatima Sayah Djelloul Boukraa, Ameera Hussain, Haleema Hussain, Fathima Imran, Hadia Irfan, Imaan Kamil, Fatima Khan, Ramissa Miah, Alishba Naveed, Saffiyah Osei, Tianna Palmer - Alexander, Isabella Roberts, Huda Sheikh, Ieva Tara Seviciute, Aiman Waheed, Aureja Zvirblyte.

9F - Safia Chrif, Fatima Maulvi, Suhira Sana

9W- Maryam Ahmed, Nadia Ali, Liya Hussain, Edith Parker, Humaira Tahir, Shukria Mohammad Taj.

9G - Yi Chen, Amirah Hasan, Ayesha Patel, Aliza Rehman, Amani Riswandi.

KS4 Winners

10W - Izma Ahmed, Serena Dallara, Gauri Oudit.

11G- Zalayka Azam, Ameerah Issuf, Aamaenah Maulvi, Aisha Naeem, Aliya Nahim, Macy Ntim, Bianca Pascal, Jumainah Rahman, Halima Shafique.

The following winners were pulled out of a draw and awarded with a gift voucher: Rozi Ibrahim 7C, Meerub Fatima 8C, Fatima Maulvi 9F, Serena Dallara 10W, Jumainah Rahman 11G.

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

Mrs Ranganathan

Maths Department

Christmas Jumper Day

It may not be feeling like the 'the most wonderful time of the year' for us these days but that hasn't stopped us getting festive. On Friday 11th December, we had our annual Christmas Jumper Day, raising funds for the Whipps Cross Hospital Covid Appeal. As always, our wonderful catering team and support staff pulled off a fantastic Christmas lunch for us all. It certainly got us all in the festive mood and ready for a nice break over the holidays!

Well done to the winners for the most imaginative Christmas jumpers:

Shona 7W

Hawa 8S

Maya 9F

Aaliyah 10C

Inayah 11F

Staff - Ms Gilbey





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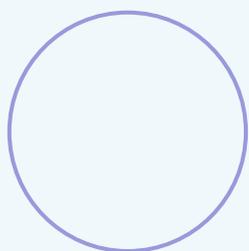
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS



Published and
edited by

Mr L Simpson

Media Resources

Artist of the Month

Congratulations to Haniyah Joomun, 7C for winning 'Artist of the Month' for December. Haniyah has not only worked extremely hard during her lesson time, she has also spent lots of time at home creating mini 3D sculptures in response to the current year 7 project. I have been so impressed with her enthusiasm! Well done Haniyah and keep up the great work. What a fantastic start to Year 7 Art!



Ms Gilbey

Art department



Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Term	-Thursday 17th December 2020
First Day of Term for Students	- Monday 4th January 2021
Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams	- Monday 4th January 2021
Year 11 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 10th February 2021
Year 9 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 24th February 2021
February Half-Term Holiday	- Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021
Staff Training Day (closed to students)	- Wednesday 17th March 2021
Year 8 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 24th March 2021
Spring Term Break	- Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021
Year 10 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 21st April 2021
May Day Bank Holiday	- Monday 3rd May 2021
Whitsun Half-Term Holiday	- Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021
Year 7 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 12th May 2021
Last School Day of the Year	- Wednesday 21st July 2021

www.connaught-school.co.uk