



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*

# Newsletter

May 2021

2020-21 Issue: 35

## Special points of interest:

- 'Connecting with nature' photos in art and performances in drama as part of Mental Health Awareness Week
- Creative Modern Foreign Languages work
- Fantastic handsewn puppet characters and 'Under the Sea' textiles work

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a really busy half term for everyone! Year 11, in particular, have been incredibly busy with the assessments that will inform their exam grades. I know, from talking to many of them, that this has been particularly stressful. I hope, through the various assessments that have been done, that they have been able to show what they can really do, and in August will get the grades that they deserve so that they can have the best possible chances for the next stage of their lives after Connaught.

I had the pleasure of visiting some of the Year 11s who are completing their Art portfolios on the subject of 'Metamorphosis'. I was so impressed by the creative talent and abilities of the girls; a pleasure to see them able to express themselves through art, which I know was such a challenge during lockdown. Well done to them and the Art team for supporting them, and to all the teachers who have worked so hard to help Year 11s achieve their potential.

For the next few weeks until the 25th June, Year 11 will enter a period of independent study. There is a programme of learning in school for some and independent study for the girls to do at home in their own time. Please look out for further information on this from Ms Stewart on Google Classroom.

I have been so impressed with the resilience and fortitude shown by our Year 11 girls. Despite the obvious disruption and stress caused by lockdown, they have really grasped the opportunities since returning to school. We can't let them go without a proper send off and, once restrictions ease, we look forward to inviting them back to celebrate their time at Connaught and say a proper goodbye to them. Details will follow shortly.

For the other year groups, we look forward to the easing of lockdown. From this week, Year 9 & 10 will form one bubble. This means that all of our students can have a hot lunch and have access to the playground. This is in strict rotation so that we continue to keep our bubbles apart and keep ourselves covid secure. We continue to wear masks in communal areas, but are very much looking forward to announcements from the Government in late June, which will hopefully mean that we can see a clear road out of covid restrictions.

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Please note however, that we are still asking you to ensure that your daughters are testing themselves twice a week; more testing kits will be sent out this week. As there is still a variant of concern, we need to remain vigilant at all times. Please remember that if your daughter has a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell, she must immediately self isolate, not come to school and get a test. Thank you for your support with this.

You'll see from the newsletter that our girls have been busy and very active this half term. Mental health awareness week, so important to all of us right now, has been marked with some great work in both Drama and Photography where our students have been really creative to mark these important issues. Equally impressive is the BBC Club which is really working on the girls investigative and journalistic talents!

The 'Connaught calls for Peace' campaign has been a huge success. Designed by the students themselves and using their form representatives, they have worked hard to demonstrate their feelings regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. The result is a range of activities including a social media campaign, lessons in History/RE, an assembly and a non uniform day to raise awareness and funds by those affected. Well done to all for such a supportive campaign that allowed the girls to channel their very strong emotions on this issue.

The learning and catch-up continues. We are making some great progress on plugging the gaps left by the pandemic. As I write, we are making comprehensive plans for additional tutoring, a summer school (for some existing and incoming Year 7 students) and are working on dealing with the many mental health issues that are the legacy of the pandemic. For us, it is really vital that we return to a 'normal' school as soon as possible and hopefully, this will be very soon.

As ever, please keep in touch with us regarding any concerns you have about your daughter's learning, progress and mental health. Together, we can ensure that we put the pandemic behind us once and for all and get back to what we do best; a great education for our girls. I hope that all our girls have a really well deserved break.

Best wishes

Avani Higgins

Headteacher



# Being a BBC News Reporter

Being in the BBC club is very insightful as we get to produce lots of different content and get to work with different people in our year group. We recently had an interview with the BBC, which I personally found to be an amazing experience. In our interview with them, we gave them useful feedback on how they could improve their channel and how they could draw more young people, as those are their target audiences. We gave them general

feedback such as, changing the colours of the channel to attract more people and changing the sort of music they used to fit in with the topic they were talking about.

Furthermore, we also told them how we felt about the topics being talked about and how important they were to us, as the majority of them were quite personal for some of us. I think that I could say on the behalf of everyone who participated in the

interview, that it was a wonderful experience and opportunity for us to be a part of; I would definitely recommend the younger year groups to join the BBC Young Reporter Club.

In the beginning, I was quite nervous, however as more questions were being asked and the BBC were eager to answer and say their own opinions, I was able to talk much more confidently.

Fatima Nur 10C

*"I would definitely recommend the younger year groups to join the BBC Young Reporter Club."*

## Textiles

### Year 7 Puppets

7C have been looking at the history of puppets and designing their own hand puppets.

They worked really hard and produced these fantastic handsewn puppet characters.

Well done 7C!



# Textiles continued

## Year 8

Last term year 8 were learning about the fashions of the 1960s, particularly the work of the designer Mary Quant. They then created their own dress designs based on her work and the work of 1960's Pop Artists.



## Year 11

The GCSE textiles groups have been working on a practical assessment based on an 'Under the Sea' theme. They had to make a half scale paper bodice,

experiment with creating textural effects and then create a series of design ideas reflecting the theme. This was backed up by sketchbook work

cataloging the development of their designs.

Mrs Rain and Mrs Horsley  
Textiles department



## The anniversary of the death of George Floyd

The 25th of May was the anniversary of the death of George Floyd. The tragic and horrific event of a year ago has been marked this year with a number of different activities, actions and events that staff have taken part in. Across the curriculum there have been some excellent examples of challenging racial prejudice such as in PE, which have focused on appearances and sport stereotypes as part of a Dove campaign and have also included lessons on national sports from Black and Asian heritage. In

English there have been learning activities which look at literature and poems of historical injustices of racism and how it connects to the events of last year's murder.

In MFL teachers are exploring racism and anti racism in France and the impact of the BLM movement since the death of George Floyd. There have also been form tutor activities being organised which explore racism throughout history.

However the actions have not been limited to lessons. Staff have taken part in a number of local and national events online, for others it has



meant taking part in CPD events in order to develop a range of knowledge on anti racism in education. The tragedy has had a significant impact on staff and students and it is right to commemorate the anniversary and remember the tragic death in order to look to the future and how education can play its part in challenging all forms of injustice.

*"The 25th of May was the anniversary of the death of George Floyd."*

## London citizens Mayoral Assembly

On 28th of April, the school community took part in one of the biggest online assemblies to hold the London Mayoral candidates to account over the future of London. The aim of the assembly was for London Citizens to gather in order to secure commitments from the next Mayor of London on issues of justice that matter to us. For students at Connaught, youth safety was our most important priority. This has a legacy going back over the past three years and our work with Citizens UK and in

particular the development of the youth crime commission. The London citizens manifesto reflected this in the second most prioritised issue, alongside housing and homelessness, a London living wage, refugees welcome and a just transition for climate emergency.

Our students have worked tirelessly to organise and mobilise the school community and their efforts paid off. 305 of the school community attended on the night, making our institution the biggest

mobilised turnout, to see both Sadiq Khan and Shaun Bailey make commitments to meet our key asks in the manifesto. These were some of the words of our students:

"We are the youth of Connaught School for Girls. We all have a voice and that gives us power. We all have a chance to express our concerns at the mayoral assembly concerning youth safety. By showing our support as one, we bring unity and that gives us the power to finally make a difference."

"I feel like the assembly

## CCPSHE continued

was very informative and interesting, we were talking about how the mayor can help to make our society and community a better place and it was very reassuring."

Another student said the assembly was "lively and entertaining and I was able to see how I can influence those in power."

The next step is for our students to plan their work with London citizens over the next 4 years to ensure those commitments are met. A big well done to all and in particular year 11



students Inayah Akhtar, Zahra Adnan - Siddique, Isman Boukhari, Rianna Blissett and Roshana Rainford.

Mr Phillips  
Head of CCPSHE

*"We are the youth of Connaught School for Girls. We all have a voice and that gives us power."*

## Year 10 Drama

In honour of Mental Health Awareness Week/ Month Year 10 Drama students have been working on performances in preparation for their Mock Component 2 Acting exam. Students chose extracts from the play 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark to stage and perform. The play which is based on a true story centres around a young girl called Verity who is dealing with significant mental health issues. The play highlights how such issues in 1960s Britain were very misunderstood and how the ill health of one person could impact the whole family. I'd like to commend the

students for dealing with these issues in an incredibly mature and sensitive manner, and for portraying Verity's story in a beautiful way.

Ms Jemal  
Head of Drama

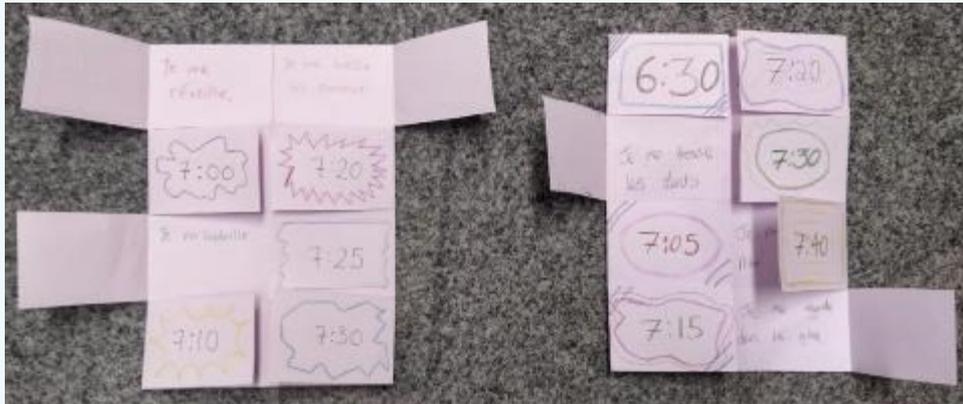
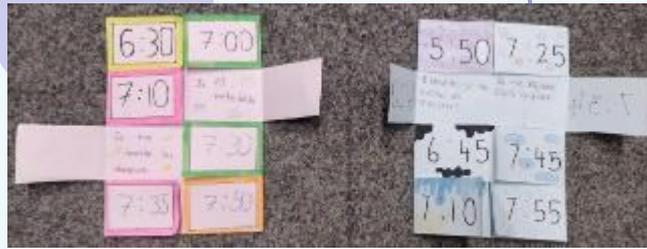




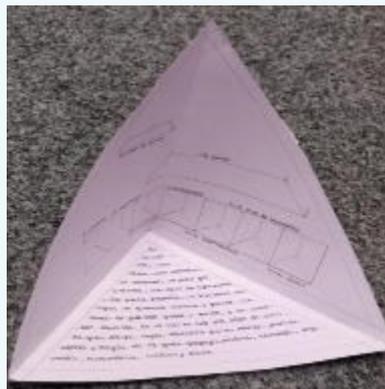
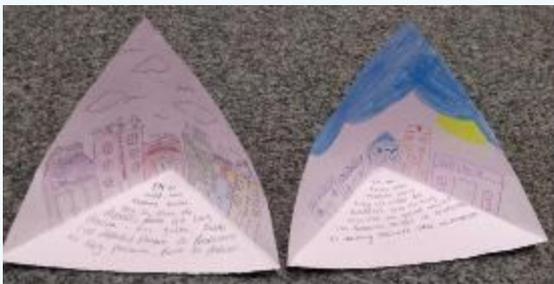
# Modern Foreign Languages continued

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Year 8 French have studied reflexive verbs to describe their morning routine and here are a few examples of some creative work they have put together on this topic:



Year 8 Spanish did some creative work on describing their school.



*“Please ensure that you revise new vocab or grammar for at least 20 minutes every week.”*

## Cultural fact:

### Fête du Travail

The first day of May is known in France as the Fête du Travail (Labor Day). It was originally named the Fête du Travail et de la Concorde Sociale (a day to celebrate work and social harmony) by Maréchal Pétain on 27th April 1941. A later measure taken by the post-WW2 liberation government in 1947 established it as a legally required paid holiday for all French employees.

Traditionally, a day on which trade unions stage

labour protests in large cities, it is also called la fête du muguet (Lily-of-the-Valley Day), when it is customary to exchange these flowers for good luck. The French government permits individuals and workers' organizations to sell them tax-free.

Finally, we would like to remind students and parents of the importance of regular revision in MFL. Please ensure that you revise new vocab or grammar for at least 20 minutes every week. In addition, before each new lesson, make sure you have

read the latest content from your exercise book at least once. It is not much but it will help you feel a bit more on top of things and more confident in the classroom :)

Remember, for extra practice, you can use the following websites:

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) <https://school.all-in.org.uk/login> (login details available on your google classroom. Contact your teacher if you are unable to log in) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zr8bmf>

Prenez soin de vous / cuidese

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

# Art

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week (10th-16th May), students and teachers were asked by the Art instagram page to take photos "connecting with nature".

Here are a few examples of the images which were shared with Miss Gilbey.

Don't forget to follow the Art & Photography department instagram page @art\_connaught



Miss Gilbey's Year 10 Art students have been making great progress in their current project, exploring 'Identity' as a theme. Students have been encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media, with recent successes using Linocut and printing. I have been really pleased with the accuracy and outcomes. Linocut is a very time consuming way to hand print, but all students have created very effective prints.

I have also been really pleased with the observational drawings and colour work which has been developed over the past few weeks, with particular reference to Hazel Aguilar Navarrete, 10S, who has created some really high quality work based on body image and mental health issues.

Keep it up Year 10!

Miss Gilbey

Art department





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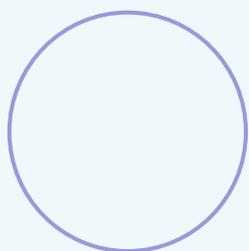
seize the day

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HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS

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Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

## Artist of the Month

Merab Hussain, 8W, is our Artist of the Month for May. Merab has made a fantastic start to a portrait using the 'grid method'. The whole class were encouraged to explore a range of drawing techniques, but Merab was the only student to challenge herself further, by using 'scumbling', a sketching technique that uses scribbles to create tone.

Well done Merab, keep up the good work!

Mr Hamilton & Miss  
Gilbey

Art department



## Dates for your Diary

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

**Year 11 Leavers' Event - Friday 25th June 2021**

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

[www.connaught-school.co.uk](http://www.connaught-school.co.uk)