



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*

# Newsletter

October 2021

2021-22 Issue: 37

## Special points of interest:

- Lina and Laviail Neilson present a Black History Month assembly
- Year 8 students enjoy the Science Fun Club
- New Year 7 make a fantastic start at Connaught!
- Year 9 visit the Globe Theatre

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

How wonderful it is to be back! Our corridors and classrooms are buzzing with the sound of happy staff and students busying themselves with learning. You can sense the excitement in coming back out of lockdown and into our vibrant school. Staff are really excited to welcome our students back into the classroom and you'll see in this bulletin just how much we've been doing as we begin to recover from the pandemic.

You'll notice some changes too! I've had some wonderful compliments about our new uniform; the students certainly look smart in their new blazers. We also have a new website which, although still under construction, is functional and being added to with all the information you will need. We've tried to make it user-friendly and accessible. Please have a look at the films we've added; from an overview of our school to Heads of Department talking about what is being studied in the various subjects.

We also have a new Chair of Governors; Hannah Wood took over from Nick Martin as Chair at the last Full Governing Body meeting. We are really excited to have her on board and looking forward to working with her. We also thank Nick Martin for all the hard work and service he gave to myself and the school during the worst of the pandemic. His presence and support made a huge difference to all of us. Good luck to him for the future. There will be a staff governor vacancy at the school, details of which will follow soon. Please look out for them and I look forward to your application if you have the skills and time to commit to such a crucial role.

Another change that has been introduced by Waltham Forest is the School Streets Programme. You'll no doubt be aware that cars are banned (unless you are a member of staff or a resident) from 7.45am to 8.30am 2.45pm to 3.30pm on Connaught and Dyers Hall Road. Since its introduction, there has been a massive improvement in our ability to keep our students safe as they come in and leave school which, I'm sure you'll agree, is a key priority for all of us. Thank you for your efforts with this and ask that you be mindful about parking in the adjacent roads to avoid congestion there.

I'm really keen to find out your views on various aspects of school life. In the next few weeks, please look out for a parent survey to help us to improve our communication and gather your opinions as we shape the next phase of our journey. An important part of our work is the relaunch of our school vision which is underpinned by our core values of Excellence, Resilience and Inclusion.

So, what have we been doing? Our main priority from this September onwards is recovery. A lot of work is going into planning both the academic and pastoral

curriculum to make sure that we cover any gaps left by the pandemic. In class, we are working on our skills and knowledge whilst in form class and pastorally we are looking at our mental health and relationships. It is vital, after so much time away from school, that we relearn how to work together as the Connaught community.

October is Black History Month and the staff and students have been busy marking this important milestone. Many activities are being organised by our students and teachers across the school to raise awareness and celebrate achievements by people of colour. A highlight was a visit from our very own alumni, Lina and Lavici Nielsen, both world class athletes who have represented Great Britain in numerous international athletics events. They are amazing ambassadors and role models for our students, who were thoroughly inspired by their assembly.

We've also started welcoming visitors to our school. We had a very successful Open Evening with our ticket-only event (due to the risk of covid and our risk assessment). Parents of prospective students were able to come into school for the first time in two years to have a look at our facilities and meet staff. It was a very successful evening and great to be able to welcome people into our lovely school.

We were also honoured by a visit from Councillor Clyde Loakes, who kicked off the 'Bulb Extravaganza' initiative; a lovely way for our horticulture experts to get involved and add some colour to our grounds when the springtime arrives. We've also restarted learning outside the classroom with our English department taking students to visit the Globe Theatre in London to give real meaning and context to their studies.

So, it's been a busy term. We are, of course, still in the grips of the pandemic so we continue to ask our students and staff to test twice weekly and not attend school if they are unwell or have covid symptoms. This has meant that we've had a relatively stable month in terms of attendance. We must remain vigilant and hopefully we will get through the winter months without too much disturbance.

Please enjoy this edition of our bulletin and, as ever, please do get in touch if you need help or support with any aspect of your child's welfare and education.

Stay well

Avani Higgins

Headteacher



## Shakespeare's The Globe: Performance and Workshops

We've been so lucky this half term: The Globe Theatre selected our school to have a series of workshops where their practitioners worked with our Year 9 students around a number of key scenes in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The workshops took place before and after seeing the performance of the play at The Globe itself.

The students enjoyed one workshop in school during their classes earlier this half term, and then built on this further during their trip to The Globe, where they partook in

a tour of The Globe Theatre itself and then another workshop using the performers' own rehearsal spaces. They then watched the performance in the theatre. For many students, this was the first time they had been to The Globe; it was a colourful production full of noise and music onstage so it served as a fantastic introduction to viewing a Shakespeare comedy live. There were a number of humorous scenes and the students enjoyed the references to *The Lion King* and seeing an actor animating a performance as a 'wall'! The practitioners



will also be coming back into school in the first week after half term to deliver their third workshop to the Year 9s. The Year 9s have loved this opportunity to see an event at The Globe and work closely with the directors and actors who have coached them in the workshops - and we, as the English department, were really impressed with how well they responded to the workshops and how confident they were to volunteer to give 'mini' performances during them. They were a credit to the school, and most importantly, themselves. We are looking forward to other year groups getting the opportunity to work with The Globe again later in the year.

Ms Burton

English department

*"The practitioners will also be coming back into school in the first week after half term to deliver their third workshop to the Year 9s."*





## Key Stage 3 History

Current Year 8 historians had a busy end to their Year 7 studies, exploring the stories of individuals and groups of people from the Ancient World and through to the end of the Early Modern period. Pupils produced some fantastic work, asked thoughtful and inquisitive questions and showed real dedication to their first year studies in KS3 History. Some of the highlights included creative homework

projects whereby pupils researched the role of significant women throughout history and presented their findings to the class. Recent topics have looked closely at the history of empires around the world including the emergence and development of the Islamic empires, the Spanish in central and South America, and the fascinating history of the Aztecs in Mexico. Well

done to all the historians for a super year at Connaught.

Ms Godfrey  
Head of History



## Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour tout le monde!  
!hola a todos!

A busy first half-term for our students, getting used to normal school routines again. We are very happy to have our students back and to see some of the hard work going on in lessons and at home.

The MFL department would like to remind

students and parents that revising new vocabulary seen in lessons WEEKLY is essential to good progress. The best method is **READ/COVER/ WRITE/CHECK.**

All students are now receiving a login for the **Active Learn website**, and they will regularly have to complete vocabulary revision and vocabulary tests online at

home. This will ensure they keep up with their learning and make good progress :)

**7C & 7F French** - have been learning greetings, numbers, days, months and birthdays through songs. Look out for a video of this on MFL social media soon!

**Ms El Khandari**

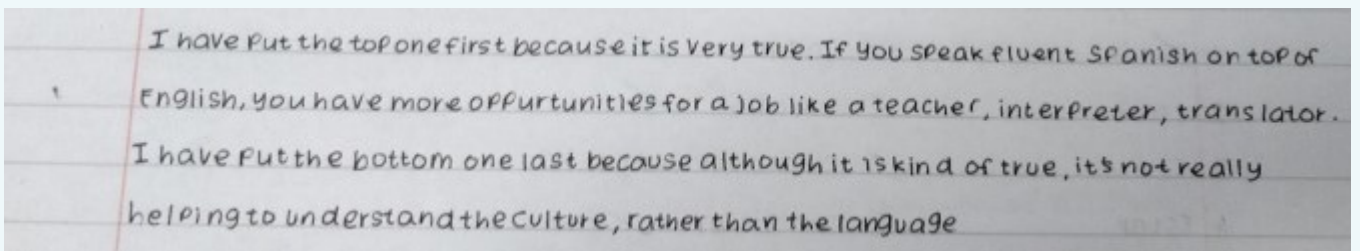
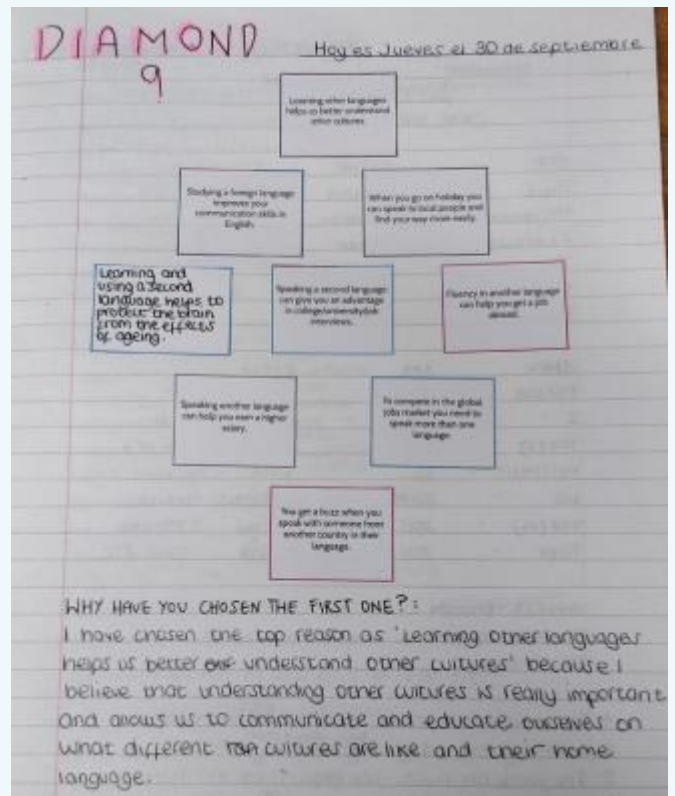
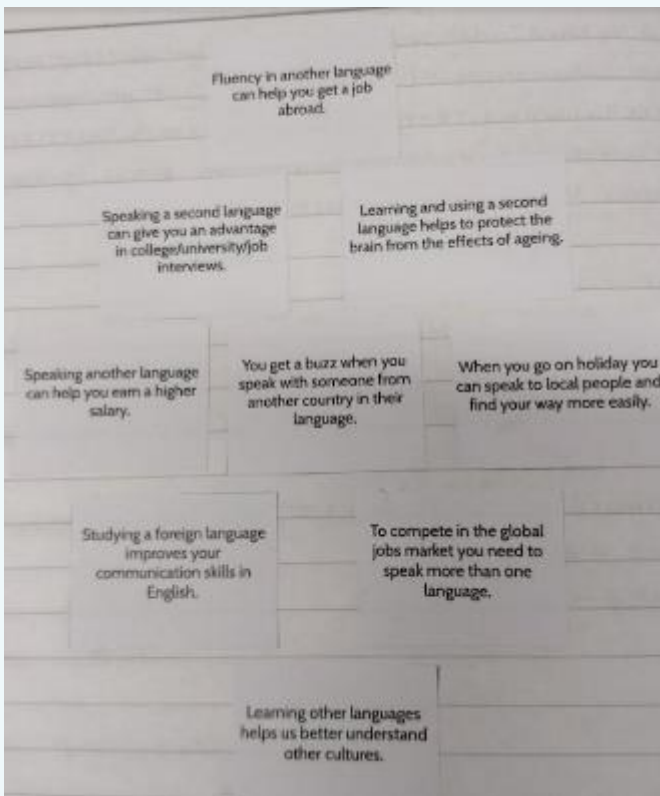
# Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

**9S Spanish** - On the 26th September each year, we celebrate European Day of Languages. This year, **Ms Noakes'** Year 9 Spanish class looked at why languages were important to them. They discussed inspirational quotes about languages. Here are a few examples:

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.'  
Nelson Mandela

'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.'  
Frank Smith

The class also spent some time looking at a Diamond 9 where they had to put their main personal reason for learning a language at the top and the least important reason at the bottom. Please, see some examples of excellent student work below:



For European Day of Languages (26th September), the MFL department asked all Connaught Staff to display a poster outside their rooms, showing which languages other than English they are able

to speak, or know a little bit of. They were also asked to write down their favourite word in a foreign language they know or speak. This led to a Word Hunt activity which year 7 completed. In order to complete this

activity successfully, Year 7 & 8 had to find Connaught' staff's favourite words displayed around the school building and complete the **Word Hunt** task sheet.

# Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

**The best 10 are:**

Best word hunt submissions :

**Sarina Shaikh 7C**

- Maria Zeghloul 7C
- Romeesa Mehar 7C
- Lucy Long 7C
- Sara Keteb 7C
- Inayya Hussain 7C
- Ria Wanti 7C

- Hibah Afzal 7C
- Aziza March 8F
- Ella Cotter 7C

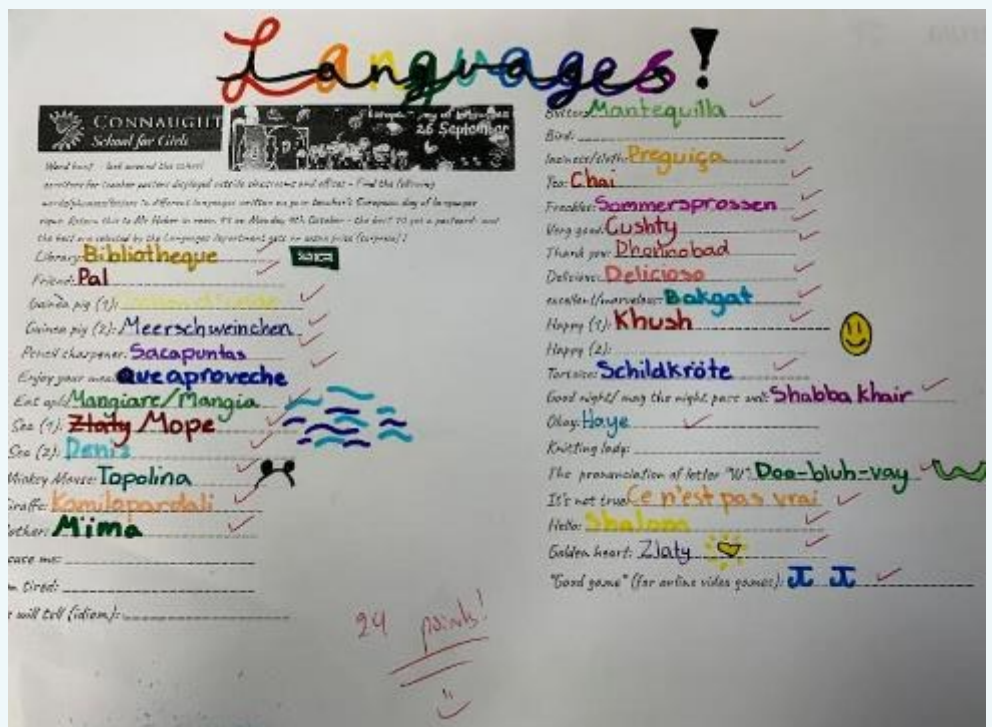
The students above will receive a postcard each. Well done for completing the task!

Sarina will also receive a surprise prize (a "surprise ?") from the MFL department :) Very well done to her!

If you have completed the task but do not see your name on the list, do not worry, Mr Huber will see you in form time for some credits!

Bien joué / bien hecho / well done :)

Monsieur Huber



Twitter: @MFLConnaught

Instagram: @MFLConnaught

## Black History Month - link with Languages

### BESSIE COLEMAN

Bessie Coleman was the first woman of Black American and Native American descent to receive a pilot license. Born to a Black American mother and Native American father, Bessie was one of thirteen children. She would eventually move to

Chicago with her brothers and become a manicurist. Intrigued with flying airplanes, Bessie was determined to become a pilot. During this time in U.S. history, no flight schools would accept white women as students, nor men of colour. As a Black and Native American woman, the odds were sadly not in her favor. She would, however, not let this reality stop her from achieving her dream.

She learned that women and people of colour could receive a pilot's license in **France**, so she began studying the French language to prepare for her trip. Jesse Binga, a Black Chicago-based bank owner and businessman, funded her travels and schooling. On November 20, 1921, Bessie sailed to Paris, where she would study at the **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale**. Upon

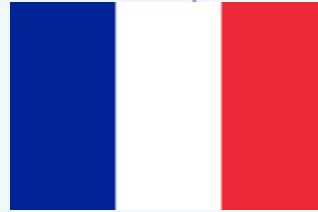


# Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

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completion of her studies, Coleman became the first Black American and Native American man or woman to earn a pilot's license from the school. Bessie returned to the U.S. to much fanfare from her community and would go on to become an exhibition pilot, drawing crowds of all races.

The MFL department would also like to thank Fatima Ismail, Shereen Ntim, Umaira Khalid and Anahu Khorshed for their help on Open Evening. You were "géniales" and "fantásticas"!



**Merci beaucoup!**

**¡ Muchas Gracias !**

**With Best wishes,**

**The Modern Foreign Languages department.**

## Inspiration all around us

Here in the Drama department, we encourage all students to be inspired by the world around them.

During a GCSE Drama lesson, a couple of students were fascinated by the beam of sunlight streaming in through the window. It led to a great conversation about the impact that light has on our work.

This then inspired another group to experiment with some shadow work in their final devised pieces.

I really can't wait to see their finished performances!

Ms Jemal  
Head of Drama



*"During a GCSE Drama lesson a couple of students were fascinated by the beam of sunlight streaming in through the window."*



## Gardening Club- Waltham Forest Bulb Extravaganza



Cllr Loakes visited our school to launch the Bulb Extravaganza initiative in Waltham Forest. We were very lucky to be given such an opportunity as part of our gardening club.

A group of students had the chance to meet Cllr Loakes and make a start in making our garden as colourful as possible for next spring. We are really looking forward to

making our garden a place to contribute to a better environment in our school.

We will be planting six different types of bulbs that have been carefully selected to provide a succession of different flowers and colours throughout the spring from February until May next year. Daffodils, crocuses and muscari will bring a blast of colour, boost

local biodiversity next year and provide habitats for bees and other pollinators to thrive.

Cllr Clyde Loakes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "I'm proud to announce another brilliant community-led project that enables everyone in Waltham Forest to do their bit for the important green spaces in our borough and help tackle the climate emergency. When spring arrives next year, everyone will be able to enjoy glorious colours as the flowers bloom and help vital pollinators thrive in their natural habitats".

The Gardening Club

*"When spring arrives next year, everyone will be able to enjoy glorious colours as the flowers bloom and help vital pollinators thrive in their natural habitats".*





# Year 7 news

## Student Voice

I put myself forward to represent my tutor group on the Student Voice panel. The role involves helping others around the school and voicing my own and others opinions. I will take ideas and reflections from my tutor group and share them with the other representatives and Ms Stewart. We have started

to make a charter to agree together our plan for the year and what our role will be in the wider school. We have also discussed how we could go about including everyone in the school community and hear people's opinions. Student Voice is really good to have in the school because it voices

everyone's ideas therefore making the school more enjoyable for students. I have really enjoyed meeting up with the other representatives and getting involved in something more in the school. I've also found it very easy to fit in at Connaught since I started in September.

Aamenah 7F

## Drama Club

I have really enjoyed the Drama club this half term, it helped me to meet and work with new people. One of my favourite games has been it's not a 'prop', it's a 'prop'! It's where you take a prop, and name it, but the aim of the game is for someone else to rename it and act out

the object that it is now called! I would really recommend other pupils to join the club.

Melisa 7F

Hello, my name is Zara and what I really enjoyed about Drama club was the stop-freeze activity. We created a scene together in the following

way: someone would say "freeze", and another person would choose a pose and then create another action from that pose. Then it would carry on lots of times. We also did a 'minute play' which was focused around one prop- it was really fun!

Zara 7F

*"I would really recommend other pupils to join the club."*

## Year 7 pupils bake!

Food lessons are really fun and what I enjoyed the most about making crumble was that I hadn't made it before and I learnt something new. I put pear into my crumble and cooked it for 25-30 minutes. I really like being at the school and I've loved learning how to bake new things.

Andreea 7F

Our food lessons are a lot of fun because we learn lots of things that help us as we get older and we have a lot of fun making

food to eat! In our last lesson, we made an apple crumble and we put in a variety of fruit like peaches, apples and pears. I'm excited to bake more things in the future and I have really enjoyed all of my lessons in this first half term.

Zainab 7F

Making fruit crumble was epic! It was nice getting back to basics and making something warm and delicious ready for winter. I made a crumble with chopped apples

and a sweet crumble topping, it was very tasty. I have a joke...

- What is sandy, sad and filled with apples?
- Apple grumble!

Eimaan 7F



## Year 7 news (continued)

### Designing our tutor group's notice board

Our big idea was to create a plant themed board for our form room. Not all of the school has plant themed rooms and we felt it would be amazing to add more greenery to Connaught! Our aim was to inspire other students and teachers to add more plants and flowers around the school. We made sure that everyone in the class

had a chance to do something for our board. Not everyone wanted to put a picture of themselves on the board so we all decided on plants, flowers and mushrooms as the background and we used them to write something about ourselves. From fairy lights to ribbons, we really tried to make sure the board was perfect

and the best part was when everyone added something to the board. The board was our first team project and we really enjoyed it. The board is proof that we were able to give the first term at Connaught our all!

Enakhe, Sofia, Hanaa and Hawa 7F



### A winning competition entry!

Last year I entered a local competition whereby I had to choose something I considered to be a world crisis and think about how humans could tackle it in the future. I decided to focus on pollution, poverty and endangered animals as I felt these were most serious at the time. I had to write a future letter to the citizens of Walthamstow, imagining that they were going to read it in 100 years. My letter won the

competition and it was selected by Cllr Grace Williams. It has been placed in a time capsule and buried underneath the steps of Walthamstow town hall for future generations to read. I was also asked to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new cultural centre at Fellowship Square.

I was recently invited to meet the Cllr again and I interviewed her about her

work and how she is helping the people of Walthamstow. In my interview I asked what inspired Cllr Williams and she said that she wanted to help the community and raise some of the issues that I had written about in my letter to the future. I really enjoyed the experience and I really hope my letter is found in the time capsule in years to come!

Aamenah Kazi 7F

# Alumni International Athletes in CSFG

Lina and Laviai Neilson were in school to start Black History Month events at Connaught. Both were students from 2007-2012 and have gone on to achieve amazing feats in international athletics, winning medals in championships and representing team GB at the Olympics! Both students came in to take part in PE lessons (and in a Geography lesson) and lead the assembly on both Monday and

Tuesday. Their assembly linked to the school values: excellence, being resilient and being inclusive. The assembly was really well received and both Lina and Laviai said it was great to be back and support the school and said that they'll be back again soon.

Mr Silk  
Assistant Head



## Textiles

This term the Textiles department has been happy to see pupils back on the sewing machines and making again.

Year 7 and 8 have been building their confidence on the sewing machines by making their eco bag. Most bags should be sewn and ready to be dyed with tie and dye

after the half term break. Year 9 have been creating their own fabric designs based on nature and are making quick simple projects on the machines to build up their skills.

Year 10 have been making a start on a patchwork project - utilising small scraps of

fabric to create their own unique designs.

Year 11 are busy making a start on their coursework for their GCSE's coming up with a wide range of innovative and creative products.

Mrs Rain and Mrs Horsley  
Textiles department

*"This term the Textiles department has been happy to see pupils back on the sewing machines, and making again."*





# Year 8 Science Fun Club

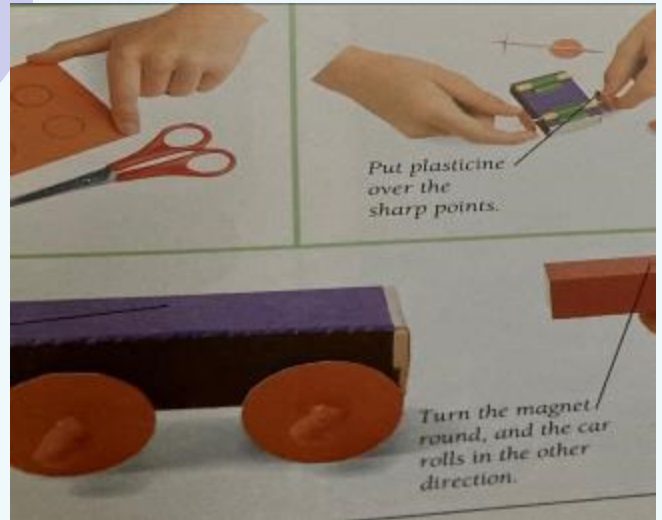
The year 8 Science Fun Club is about the students learning about science whilst having fun. Thank You to everyone who has been attending.

Mrs Siddique

In the Science Fun Club, we learn new experiments and techniques as well as having a good time. Previously in our club we did an experiment where we assembled a magnetic car and made it move around by using a magnet. During this experiment, we learnt that opposites attract and they repel from the same side. We learnt how a magnet and its different forces take place. This is how we made the car move around by using another magnet. It was a great experience to take part in, fun and educational.

Amna Ali 8C

I enjoy this club because it is fun and I love to do



different activities.

The experiment I enjoyed the most was the magnet pulling the car because we made a Ferrari and I really enjoyed it. It was a challenge to make, also we had a competition to see who could make it first.

Unaysah 8C

I enjoy the science club.

My favourite experience was making a magnet pulling car. It was challenging for everyone. It was really enjoyable and I love the way you

can take whatever you make home in the science club.

Melis 8C

I enjoy the science club because we get to do practicals together and have fun every Tuesday.

Zoya Zeeshan 8C

In the science club, we have been doing some really fun experiments with Mrs Siddique. My favourite experiment was when we made a paper car which could move with the help of magnets.

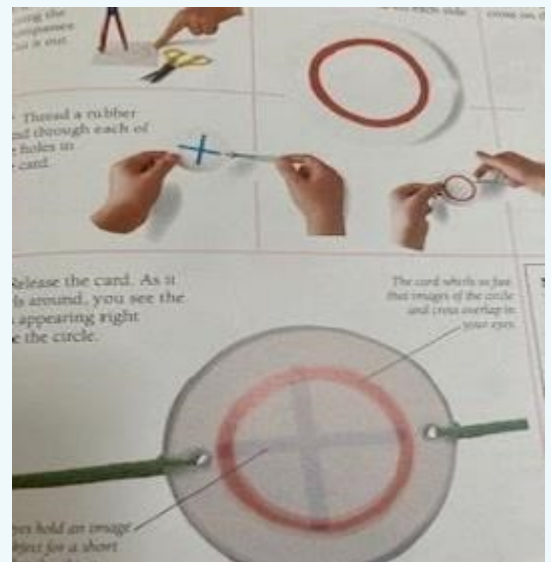
Haniyah

*"I enjoy the science club because we get to do practicals together and have fun every Tuesday."*

## Making a jet



## Seeing two images as one



## Sickle Cell Disease and BHM

We worked with the local authority at Waltham Forest and the Mayor to create a Sickle Cell Disease programme that will run within the pastoral time. The assembly was prepared by Claudine Matthews and was presented to students in assembly on Monday/

Tuesday in the final week of Black History Month. The pastoral curriculum sessions then run on Wednesday afternoons. Each year group has different activities to do, looking at various themes to do with Sickle Cell Disease, such as nutrition and equalities in the

workplace. The Mayor was in school on Wednesday to come around to different form groups to see the work being done in each year group.

Mr Silk  
Assistant Head

## Vision and Values

The school has now completed our work on the school's vision and values. The school began this work in January 2020, as we wanted to ensure that our school ethos is clearly communicated. We are really proud that it has been constructed based on expansive feedback from our stakeholder groups and it defines where we aspire to be as a school in all we do. Thank you again to all of the vision team

and everyone in our school community who at some stage have helped us get to here:

Connaught School for Girls

Our vision is to develop independent learners in an inclusive community.

Our vision is achieved through our values: Excellence, Resilience, Inclusion.

Strive for excellence: igniting learning in our school community to

develop potential and achieve future success.

Strive to be resilient: we bravely rise to challenges and empower young people to be confident and active citizens.

Strive to be inclusive: we value our diverse school community and celebrate our individuality and challenge inequalities.

Ms Maniar  
Assistant Head

*"Our vision is to develop independent learners in an inclusive community."*

**S** Our vision is to develop independent learners in an inclusive community.

**T** Our vision is achieved through our values: Excellence, Resilience, Inclusion.

**R** for **excellence**  
Igniting learning in our school community to develop potential and achieve future success.

**I** to be **resilient**  
We bravely rise to challenges and empower young people to be confident and active citizens.

**V** to be **inclusive**  
We value our diverse school community and celebrate our individuality and challenge inequalities.

**E**



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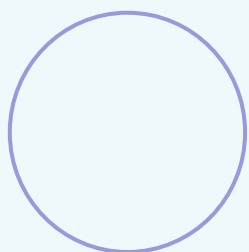
seize the day

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HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS

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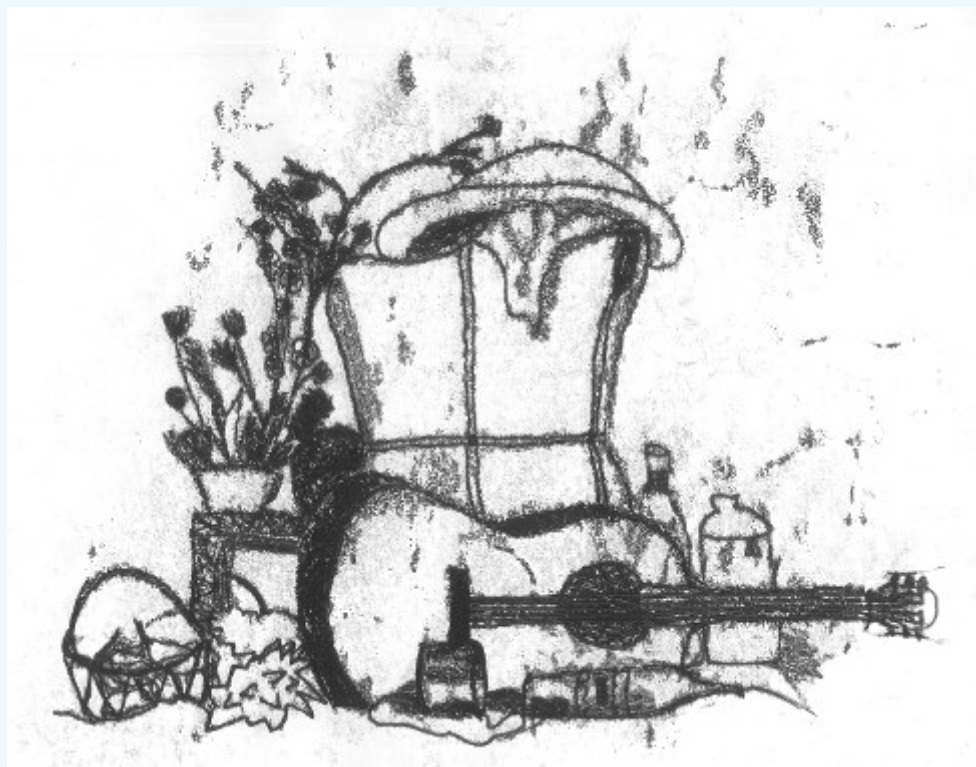


Published and  
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

## Artist of the month



Ayesha Saeed, 10S, created a beautiful monochrome for her GCSE Still Life project. Ayesha was able to use hand print techniques to create a highly detailed observational study. I have also been thrilled with the level of work that is being created for this project as a whole. Well done Ayesha!

Art department

## Dates for your Diary

**Half term holiday**

**Monday 25th October**

**to Friday 29th October**

**First Teaching day back**

**Monday 1st November**

**at 8:20am**

**GCSE Dance Performance to Parents**

**Wednesday 17th November**

**Christmas Concert**

**Wednesday 15th December**

**Year 11 Mock GCSE written exams**

**Thursday 2nd December**

**to Thursday 16th December**

**Last day of Autumn Term**

**Friday 17th December**

*Years 10 & 11 leave at 12pm*

*Years 7, 8 & 9 leave at 1pm*

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