



Connaught
School for Girls



Newsletter



December 2021

2021-22 Issue: 38

Special points of interest:

- Enjoyable activities and experiments in the Science Fun Club!
- Year 7 present an assembly on their lockdown experiences
- Exciting Drama, Geography and MFL events and trips
- Beautiful Textiles work

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Another year is over! And what a year it has been. As we face another wave of Covid with the spread of Omicron, we have been keeping our spirits up at Connaught and remaining positive. As I've said so many times already, I am so impressed with the resilience, pride and cheerfulness of our staff and students. We've faced so many challenges this year and continue to work together in an atmosphere of calm, purposeful learning in a safe and stimulating environment.

I'd like to start by thanking all parents and carers for their support over the years in helping to keep us all safe and healthy. As we come to the end of term, there are the inevitable coughs and colds juxtaposed with the emergence of the new variant of Omicron. It highlights the importance of working together to ensure that we are testing regularly and making sure we wear face coverings as per the new rules around Plan B, announced by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 8th December. We will of course be keeping our risk assessments reviewed regularly and write to parents when and if there are any changes.

So, what have we been doing and learning in school? September saw the first term since lockdown where we could follow a 'normal' timetable and we've really embraced the opportunity. Clubs have restarted with gusto and you can read all about Science Club where our students have been doing a range of activities including invisible writing and experiments. Theatre Club is back up and running, as is the Art Club. We are also offering the opportunity to learn a new instrument at a subsidised rate; please take a look.

Similarly, we've relished the opportunity to take learning outside the classroom. MFL took a group of Year 8s to the French institute and had fun reading comic strips in French. In Geography, Year 7 braved the chilly weather conditions to go on local field trips to conduct surveys and practice their map skills whilst Year 11 went to the London Build Expo in

London's Olympia and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

But what about in class? Obviously our primary focus is to make up for the time lost during Covid. Staff and students have been working on our recovery curriculum to make sure that they have all the skills and knowledge they need. This includes all year groups from Years 7 through to 11. We are working hard to identify the gaps and adapting our curriculum and teaching to make sure we will cover the gaps so that no student is left behind.

But we also want to ensure that learning at Connaught is engaging and fun. The impact of Covid on the mental health of our students is palpable. They tell us about it in our student surveys or just by talking to us. Therefore, as well as the academic curriculum, we are working on building up their confidence. A good example of this is the recent Drama workshop where some of our students took part in a Comedy workshop run by Ben Salmon, Associate Director of Soho Theatre. He took an engaging and fun session to develop improvisation skills which help to boost confidence.

We've also worked hard to stay on top of current affairs and raise awareness. This includes marking Black History month, Islamophobia awareness month and even the recent Cop26 Climate Change conference where Years 7 and 8 have improved their sewing skills by making reusable 'eco' bags out of cotton.

I hope all of this illustrates not just how busy we have been but also how we're bouncing back from the ravages of the pandemic. Connaught is a vibrant learning community and we work hard, look out for one another and love to learn!

Have a lovely holiday and thank you for all the well wishes and support. Please stay safe and we will see you all again next year.

Ms Avani Higgins

Headteacher



Trip to the French Institute

Bonjour tout le monde!
¡hola a todos!

Some of our Year 8 went on a day trip to the French Institute in South Kensington on Tuesday 30th November. They had a language activity led by one of the teachers from the Institute. The theme was "French and Belgian comic books", which is an important part of French and Belgian culture. They worked in groups to complete the activity and this was linked to a French film

screening of "Boule & Bill" in the afternoon, after a lunch break at the Institute. Our students were a credit to the school and they had a wonderful time. Here are a few statements from students:

"The film was really good."

"I enjoyed it because it was interactive."

"It was fun seeing all the buildings in South Kensington."

"I enjoyed it because we got to learn new things and watch a film in a

cinema."

"The day was very productive and fun."

Thank you to Miss Noakes and Miss Adair for taking the students on the trip! We hope to be able to run many more of these trips in the future.

Until next time, we would like to wish our school community "Un Joyeux Noël" if you celebrate Christmas, or simply "de bonnes et relaxantes vacances".

"Prenez soin de vous" - be safe and take care.



Twitter: @MFLConnaught



Instagram: @MFLConnaught

Merci beaucoup!

¡ Muchas Gracias !

With Best wishes,

The MFL Department.



Learn a new instrument



Musical training can have a dramatic impact on your brain's structure, enhancing your memory, spatial reasoning and language skills.

If you would like to learn to play a musical instrument at school next term, please let Mrs Sanger know so that this can be arranged. Lessons are subsidised and cost £90 per term.

Drama events

KS3 Drama Club

Key Stage Three Drama Club grows from strength to strength with over 60 different students participating this term!

Since returning from October half term, the students have been creating 'Newspaper Puppets'. Each are slightly individual in their size, shape and nature

and it takes three students to operate each one. They will continue to explore the nature of how puppets interact and communicate story and meaning.



Shadow Puppets

Year 9 have been learning about Shadow Puppets this half term, having taken inspiration from 'The Tale of the Three Brothers' scene from Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows film, the students have constructed their own stories through storyboards, then cut out the shapes needed to create the shadows. This scheme commands excellent group work and organisation skills as the students have to work in very confined spaces when rehearsing! I can't wait to see the finished stories!



Comedy Workshop

On the 29th November 30 students took part in a Comedy Workshop run by Ben Salmon, Associate Director of Soho Theatre. The students learnt about what makes something

funny and developed their skills in improvisation through fun games and activities.

Mariam Ramjan in 10F who took part in the activity said, "The workshop was great as it

helped us to break through those barriers that often make us feel embarrassed about doing things."

(Photo on far left)

Drama events (continued)

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Theatre Club

Our brand new 'Theatre Club' saw its first outing at the start of November to watch the hit musical '& Juliet' a play about how Shakespeare's long suffering wife would have re-imagined the original Romeo & Juliet. Full of hit pop songs, humour and feminism it was a show we



recommend everyone should see! Theatre Club will be running every half term and spaces are limited. Also, look out for posters advertising our next trip in your google classrooms!

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama

"Theatre Club will be running every half term and spaces are limited."

Textiles work

Eco Bag

This term the Year 7's and 8's have been building their sewing machine skills, making a

reusable 'eco' bag out of cotton.

They then tie dyed their bags in a range of designs and produced

some stunning results.

They learnt about the origin of tie dye and where cotton comes from.



Textiles (continued)

Patchwork

The Year 10's have been creating patchwork fabric from scraps and then turning them into a selection of small cushions or bags. This has been a project where they could experiment with colour and pattern and improve their machining skills.

They looked at the history of patchwork, and the work of the quilters of Gee's Bend in America, who created quilts from scraps that are now regarded as examples of abstract modern art.



"This has been a project where they could experiment with colour and pattern and improve their machining skills."

Designers inspired by nature

At the start of term the Year 9's were looking at the work of Textiles designers who are

inspired by nature, such as William Morris and Orla Kiely. They had to produce their own repeat patterns which were printed onto fabric and made into simple

products like scrunchies and pouches with notebooks.

Here are two lovely examples of the work:-



Pencil cases

Currently Year 8 and 9 are busy finishing off their second project - pencil cases they designed

using the iterative method of design. They have learnt how to sew in a zip and how to sew decorative details using applique.

Here are some of them in progress:-

Mrs Rain & Mrs Horsely
Textiles Department



Geography Trips

Year 7 Leytonstone Mapwork

The Geography Team have spent the past few weeks leading our Year 7 classes on walks into the centre of Leytonstone. The students have been gaining some real Geography field work experience, carrying out land use surveys and practising using map symbols. Many of our local businesses have kindly placed posters in their windows for the students to find and this information will be used



back in school for the students to complete grid reference and scale work.

The walks have taken place in really chilly

conditions but the students have been overwhelmingly cheerful and positive and their behaviour has been brilliant.



Year 11 Trip to the London Build Expo

On 18th November a group of fifteen Year 11 Geography students spent the morning at the London Build Expo in London's Olympia. The visit was to reinforce the

students' work on how urban planning can help to deal with many of the issues that our cities are facing. The students represented the school brilliantly during the visit; they made intelligent mature points during the master class and asked

insightful questions during the workshop. They even coped well with the Central Line at rush hour!

The description of the visit on the next page was written by one of the attendees, Majidah Chowdhury.

Geography Trips (continued)

When we arrived we attended a masterclass in city planning which looked initially at macro scale planning which we learnt means the way a whole area is used. We took part in activities where we practised how to organise an area to include leisure, infrastructure, housing and greenspaces. Once we had planned our own suburb, we then started looking at micro (small) scale planning. We were each given the chance to design our own residential space to our own taste. Some of the ideas included balconies, skylights, movable walls and study spaces to cater for increased levels of home working.

This masterclass was part of the launch of the Design Future London Challenge which is a competition being run jointly by MOBIE and the Greater London Authority. Students in school will be able to get



involved in this competition in the new year.

After the masterclass, we were all disappointed to hear that we had to hand back the highlighters we'd been given but we got over it quickly because we then had time to visit lots of stalls linked to the design and construction industry. Many of these had some really innovative design ideas and almost all of them had a range of free gifts including rubik's cubes, pens, key rings and sweets.

Once we'd been round the stalls we then had time to visit the MOBIE stall where we took part in a construction challenge using paper folding. We all enjoyed the creativity of the challenge and were able to display the finished products on the wall before we left.

We enjoyed the trip, we all had fun and we had lots to think about on the way home.

Ms Quinn

Geography Department

"Students in school will be able to get involved in this competition in the new year."



7C's Assembly

Over the last few years, the Covid pandemic has had an inevitable influence on both the mental and physical states of everybody. The isolation of lockdown has affected people in different ways. While some of us might have felt unable to muster sufficient focus on one thing, let alone two. However, was it actually as bad as it seemed?

Based on this idea, 7C proposed their own assembly featuring the lockdown experiences of their students. As well as some Covid jokes and lockdown tips to conclude. It was nerve wracking to stand up in front of the whole of Year 7, we spent a lot of time practising the assembly, we were so relieved once it was

over. Now we can look forward to seeing what the other Year 7 forms do for their assembly.

Another subject people mentioned was online learning. For nearly a year, the amount of some people's education dropped drastically. From Zoom to Google Meets, we all found something hard in one way or another. Cameras were off and on and teachers struggled to help their own struggling students. Honestly, what could we do?

Coronavirus got worse by the day; it was as if the statistics of death empowered us and turned us into depressive zombies, running out of hope and faith.

What could we do?

Generally, our fellow pupils' experience with lockdown was monotonous but there were exceptions to this, for example, Inaaya and I - Sarina, managed to at least facetime and message each other to paint, draw or even sometimes do homework. I, for one, managed to recognise my skill for canvas painting. Inaaya found her passion for reading. In addition to the speeches from the numerous students, the whole class took part in a slide show to share what they liked or disliked in lockdown; there were also some poems.

Sarina Shaikh & Inaaya Hussain 7C

"I, for one, managed to recognise my skill for canvas painting."



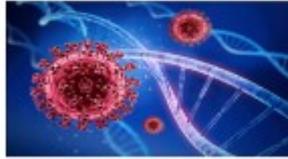
7C's Assembly (continued)

Inaaya's Lockdown Experience

During the first few days of Lockdown, I was loving the fact that we would have more screen time than usual and thought that nothing could possibly be better.



Before long, I realized that I had literally seen all the videos of my favourite Youtubers and there was NOTHING left for me to watch.



I think its safe to say that we all have had some rough times during our lockdown, especially when there s a virus spreading like wildfire,

This led me into the world of imagination, where you could read for hours on end without getting bored.



I was reading book after book non stop. As it was Ramadan during our Lockdown, I was able to stay awake until Sawn. (Sawn is where we wake up early to eat before we begin to fast). Lucky for me, during the month Of Ramadan It meant that I was able to fit in extra reading time, meaning I was filling three reading books a month.

As well as reading, I was able to do a lot more baking than I would usually do which was really great when you had so much time to spare.



For example, my mum and I once had a bake off and my dad and brother were the judges who had to decide who did the best. Obviously I won.

"Inaaya found her passion for reading."

My story of lockdown



LEILA KEENAN

When lockdown had started, I had been told that I had to go to Key Worker club. This is because my mum works in a hospital and still needs to work to earn some money and so does my dad, so they cannot take care of me. It was really fun until my grandad ended up in hospital because he was infected by the virus. Unfortunately, he was staying there for almost a month. It was not the best feeling but I was happy when he recovered and now is happy and healthy. I honestly didn't worry about the virus much.

Things I liked and disliked about lockdown

by Ella



The things I liked about about lockdown were that I could get up at a later time than I would normally do. I liked how I could go to the fridge and get any snack I wanted. I don't have to wear my school uniform. I could ask my family for help whenever I wanted.

The things I disliked about lockdown were that I was looking at the computer screen all day and I couldn't see my friends. I didn't like how it was hard to write on the maths sheet on the computer.

Science Practical Skills

The Science Department has been extremely busy this term making sure that all the students are getting every opportunity to develop their practical skills.

Here are just a few of the things that the students have done in their science lessons.

Bioviewers

Year 7 used the new bioviewers to investigate plant and animal cells and also grew some cress seeds.



Year 9

Year 9 prepared their own slides and viewed onion cells under the microscope.



They also investigated the properties of slime.



“Some of these experiments you can do at home and show your family what you have learnt.”

Year 8 Science Fun Club

The Year 8 Science Fun Club carried out a range of experiments including : Writing invisible secret messages, carrying out chromatography, making slime, weighing air and investigating acids and alkalis, just to mention a few.

This is what the students had to say!

SECRET MESSAGES INVISIBLE WRITING

I liked doing invisible writing, it was such a shame that mine didn't dry but other than that, it was such a nice experiment. I loved how the iodine made the word pop up and I hope that I can do this experiment again in the future.

Melis

I enjoy coming to this club because it gives me and other students an opportunity to try new experiments that they have never done before. Some of these experiments you can do at home and show your family what you have learnt. In this club we did invisible writing which I enjoyed because we wrote an invisible message for others to

Science Practical Skills (continued)

guess what it said and when I went home I showed it to my mum and she was impressed by my work.

Unaysah

INVESTIGATING CHROMATOGRAPHY

In the Science Club we did chromatography. It was one of the best experiments that I have ever done. First we drew a black or blue dot on the filter paper and dipped it in water, slowly the colours sprouted out into a beautiful rainbow effect.

Rozi Ibrahim

I liked the part when we did chromatography because the colours look nice when the colours rise up the filter paper.

Zoya Zeeshan

MAKING SLIME

We made slime! It was very satisfying to see how the finished product came out. We learnt how when we added the borax to the glue, the borax created links to change the properties and that's how the slime held together. I definitely don't regret joining the Science Fun Club! We do different activities and experiments which I enjoy very much.

Hanaan Halane



"I definitely don't regret joining the Science Fun Club! We do different activities and experiments which I enjoy very much."

Science Practical Skills (continued)

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WEIGHING AIR

In the Science Fun Club, we have been doing such fun experiments with Mrs Siddique such as weighing air, using a pencil and balloon.

We took a pencil and attached a string to it in the middle, so that it balanced, then we attached a balloon to each end. One of the balloons was blown up. We held the string and saw that the pencil became unbalanced.

The air in the balloon made it heavier.

The experiment in general was smartly planned by Mrs Siddique as the experiment did not fail.

The pencil was unbalanced as the balloon with the air was heavier than the other one.

To end the lesson we detached the balloons and had a lot of fun popping them.

It was so much fun!

Haniyah, Assia, Sophie & Hamnah



"To end the lesson we detached the balloons and had a lot of fun popping them."

INVESTIGATING ACID AND ALKALIS

In the Science Fun Club, we carried out an experiment in which we used acids and alkalis.

Hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide. We used universal indicators to test the acid and alkali.

We also watched the colours change slowly as we used different amounts of the acid and alkali.

Amna Ali & Tahani Malik

We have been going to Science Club for almost 3 months. There are really fun activities such as making slime, balloon weighing and two in one pictures. We really

enjoyed the two in one pictures because it gave us a chance to see two pictures as one.

Amimah & Taleen



Science Practical Skills (continued)

FERTILISATION AND GERMINATION

For the past few weeks, we have been learning about the process of fertilization and germination. Kindly, Mrs Siddique has let us grow cress seeds in her lab to see the process in action. We started this experiment by taking a petri dish and lining it with cotton wool or filter paper, sprinkling it with some cress seeds and then adding some water to it before placing it by the window sill.

One week later we observed our dishes and saw that some of the seeds had begun to sprout whilst others had not. This was because some of them didn't get



enough water or light.

By week two our cress seeds had sprouted even more! This was because we repositioned our petri dish so it received more sunlight and warmth and gave it more water.

Zainab Mahamroot & Maariyah Moreea



"By week two our cress seeds had sprouted even more!"

Thank you to everyone for all your efforts! Mrs Siddique. Science Department

BBC Young Reporters

Despite how busy the students have been with exams this term, our Young Reporters Senior Team members in Year 11 have found time to meet with myself to discuss their ideas and start planning their News

Reports for next term. This year, the students wish to research some highly interesting topics and have shared some really innovative content ideas with me already.

The English Department can't wait to see them producing their reports for a BBC News platform in the New Year.

Ms Burton

English Department

BBC YOUNG REPORTER

Updates from Year 10!

Youth Health Champions

This year, Connaught School for Girls are back working with the Youth Health Champion scheme. 8 girls in Year 10 have had 2 days learning about how to become a Youth Health Champion. The Year 10 girls meet weekly and are organising a campaign within the school

focusing on mental health awareness. The RSPH (Royal Society for Public Health) have designed a bespoke qualification for the Youth Health Champions which is accredited by Ofqual and is equivalent to a GCSE. They have had 2 days training this term at the Town Hall, which ended in the students sitting a final exam.

Please keep a lookout for the school campaign after the Christmas break.



Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge

This year, a group of 30 Year 10 girls were involved in the Jack Petchy speak out challenge.

Here's what they had to say about the day:

"The Jack Petchey program was an exhilarating, confidence boosting experience; it was an opportunity for gaining life skills in public speaking and listening. The experience started off with a small introduction

of us all and us answering a few icebreakers. Carrying on to persuasive games where our skills of persuasion were tested and where we played a few more activities like story telling in preparation for our final task. The final task included us talking about something we were passionate about and really pushing us to prepare a speech of 90 seconds with a good set of skills and using the new techniques we had learnt throughout the day. The last task was also a small

competition between our peers until 4 finalists were chosen to compete and present in assembly."

A HUGE congratulations to Ayesha 10G, Bib 10G, Safiya 10G and Mariam 10F who presented their speeches to the school during assembly. This year's finalist was Mariam in 10F. Mariam represented the school at Frederick Bremer and did a fantastic job. Well done



Duke of Edinburgh

This year, we are excited to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh award will be completed by 30 Year 10 students. The DofE is a life-changing adventure which will help students develop the skills they need for future life and work. It gives them the chance to discover just how much they're capable of. It's a great

way to meet new people, try new things, do what they love and make a difference in their community. As part of the Bronze DofE Award, the students will need to donate some of their time to volunteering, they will have to take part in regular physical activity and finally complete an Expedition where as part of a small team, the

students will plan a route to walk and then spend two days and one night away, camping. The Expedition will improve their resilience, communication, teamwork and leadership skills. The Year 10s have until Friday 17th December to submit their applications. Good luck!

Ms Noakes
HOY 10



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Artist of the Month

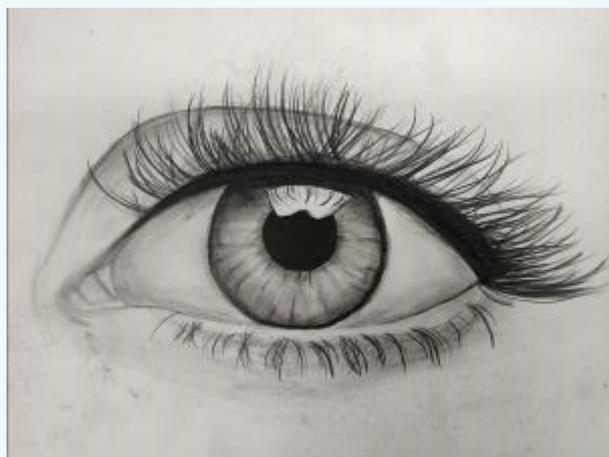
Our 'Artist of the Month' for December is Rumaysah Eslami, 8S. Rumaysah has made an exceptional start to her

Portrait project and has shown real skill within her tonal drawing. I have been impressed with her dedication to Art, along

with her enthusiastic and positive attitude. Well done Rumaysah.

Miss Gilbey

Art Department



seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS

Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Term

- Friday 17th December 2021

First Day of Term

- Tuesday 4th January 2022

Year 11 Parents' Evening

- Wednesday 19th January 2022

Year 9 Parents' Evening

- Wednesday 9th February 2022

February Half-Term Holiday

- Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022

Year 8 Parents' Evening

- Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Spring Term Break

- Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th April 2022

Staff Training Day (closed to students)

- Tuesday 19th April 2022

May Day Bank Holiday

- Monday 2nd May 2022

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

- Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Year 10 Parents' Evening

- Wednesday 4th May 2022

Year 7 Parents' Evening

- Wednesday 25th May 2022

Whitsun Half-Term Holiday

- Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Last School Day of the Year

- Wednesday 20th July 2022

Published and
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

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