



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*

# Newsletter

**October 2022**

**2022-23 Issue: 43**

## Special points of interest:

- Year Sevens enjoy reading their free books in the Bookbuzz programme
- A very high standard of work in the textiles department
- MFL celebrate European Day of Languages
- Budding entrepreneurs

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic start to this school year. I have absolutely loved getting to know our school community over the last six weeks and have received a very warm welcome from all the staff and students at Connaught. This half term has been jammed full of activities for our students, some of which you will find articles on in this newsletter: from National Poetry day celebrations to Geography field trips, from Manga club to Black History Month celebrations, including a fantastic student-led assembly. It was wonderful to see the first drama performance of the year; Romeo & Juliet Reimagined. The hours of rehearsals certainly paid off and the production was a resounding success.

We also welcomed a record number of families to our school open evening, as well as our open morning visits when parents had an opportunity to see what our students do in their lessons on any normal school day. Our visitors' feedback could not have been more positive, with families noting how focused our students are in lessons, how happy, polite and friendly the students are and what a warm welcoming atmosphere our school has.

Our new Year 7 cohort has settled in beautifully, quickly getting to know the routines and expectations of life at Connaught. Last week, parents and carers of Year 7 had an opportunity to meet form tutors and discuss progress made so far. We were delighted to be able to celebrate the very positive start they have made in their new school.

Year 11 had an opportunity to gain study and revision skills earlier this term in a special workshop organised for them and it was good to see the students' continued serious and mature attitude towards their upcoming exams. It is important that the Year 11s have a good rest over the coming half term but also that they take advantage of the time they have to get started on some serious revision - doing two hours of quality, intensive learning each day still leaves plenty of time for all of the other opportunities that holiday time brings and will leave the student with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that good routines are being formed and sound preparation is being put in place for the mock exams, which start on Monday 28th November. I have added some information below which may help families of Year 11 at this crucial time in supporting revision.

I'm really keen to review 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

## Message from the Headteacher (continued)

and gather your opinions as we shape the next phase of our journey.

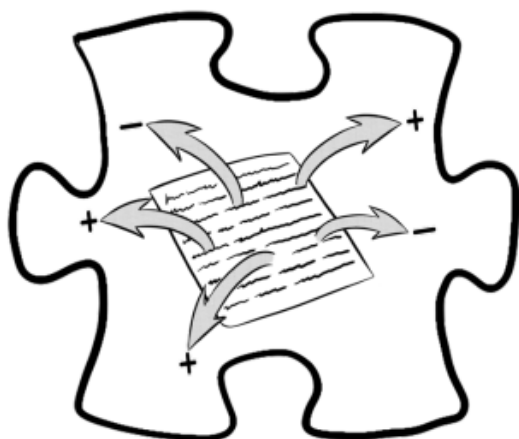
Please enjoy this edition of our newsletter and, as ever, please do get in touch if you need help or support with any aspect of your child's welfare or education.

Linsey Hand

Headteacher



## Did you know?



Remembering information is the first step for students in mastering higher level skills. For students to be able to explain, analyse, evaluate and create, they need to have a firm knowledge of the information and terms involved first.

Ebbinghaus' forgetting curve aims to show us how information can be lost from our memories over time when we don't strive to retain it. This forgetting curve suggests that we will halve our memory of new information in just days, unless we revisit learning to gradually move it into our long-term memory.

The more frequently that information is revisited and used, the more likely it is to move into longer term memories. Research shows that revisiting learning frequently is more effective than mass-revision. Unfortunately, many students report that they don't feel like it's working and they prefer larger and rarer chunks. Knowing this is useful for us, and the young people we care about, so we can talk about it and address this issue, even showing them typical forgetting curves and sharing examples of these.



## What can you do?

As early as possible, encourage your child to make notes of the key information for topics they are studying. They may highlight these in a book/on a sheet, write them down onto flash cards, create a mindmap or record them in any other way that they wish. Colour-coding these can be a helpful tool in aiding revisiting as students can identify in green what they are confident with, orange what they are unsure they would remember long term, and code in red that information they didn't know until they wrote it down or don't fully understand and may need to explore further.

Encourage revisiting of topics frequently, using a home-learning schedule. Discuss with your child the need to revisit learning as they progress through units,

move onto next ones and come to the end of a term or year. Revision shouldn't be revising all the knowledge from the entire year; we should aim to revisit learning frequently to embed it into our long-term memories and then revise the higher skills using this knowledge as we go further into the course.

Encourage your child to find ways to address 'red' areas and weaknesses. This doesn't necessarily need to be seeking a teacher's help, it might be reading about it in a textbook, online or practising a particular skill. They may wish to use some of the resources PiXL have created as part of our Independence package to help them to consider areas of weakness and different ways they can address this.



## Year 9 Wanstead Park Trip

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This half term the Year 9 students have all visited Wanstead Park to carry out fieldwork on a small meander.

Students were tasked with collecting data to identify whether our example is a 'typical meander' and they did this by surveying the river depth, measuring the stones in the river, completing field sketches to show their observations and racing



oranges to find the speed of the river in different areas.

The results were used in subsequent geography lessons to practise their data analysis skills and give the students an insight into the fieldwork expectations of the Geography GCSE.

The students were very good on all four days, they carried all the required equipment to the park with no complaint and were quick to follow instructions. A number of members of the public stopped to speak to us and were all very impressed by our students good manners and enthusiasm.

Comments from the students ...

"It's been an exhilarating afternoon."

"I loved wearing the waders."

"We've learnt a lot more about how meanders form."

Ms Quinn

Head of Geography

*"It's been an  
exhilarating  
afternoon."*



## Romeo & Juliet Reimagined

On Tuesday 27th September the Drama Club production of *Romeo & Juliet Reimagined* finally got to go ahead! After months and months of rehearsals and delays beyond our control the very talented and resilient cast wowed the audience with the comic retelling of the star-crossed lovers' story. A pastiche of a production contained references to the film *Men in Black*, *Alice in Wonderland*, a

wedding to a Drum & Bass soundtrack, a Rick Astley 'Rick Roll' and an ill-advised life coach! The production was a huge success and we all laughed a lot!

I am very grateful to the cast and the student led lighting crew for putting in so many hours of hard work! I am looking forward to the next Drama Club production in the Summer term! If you want to take part, look out for audition

posters in the new year!

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama



"The production was a huge success and we all laughed a lot!"



## Theatre Club is back!

Each term we will visit a different show! Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis. Trips will run in the evening and cost between £20-25, depending on the show. Please look out for adverts on the whole-school Google

Classroom about the next trip; if you are interested in booking a space on a particular theatre trip get a letter from Ms Jemal.





To celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday, 6th October, a number of students took up the creative challenge of writing their own poems. The theme for

2022 is The Environment. Throughout the week, students were able to read poems and take inspiration for their own creative contributions.

Well done to the following poets for their amazing poems, which

display not only a wonderful appreciation of the natural world but also a very expressive use of language.

Ms Caroto

Head of English

### **'Why should I believe?'**

Within a valley, dreary clouds curtsy,  
revealing a gem of gold glitter.  
A brighter start, with glistening eyes, sanguine hearts,  
the hummingbirds flutter.  
They race across the lonely forest with no trees.  
They soar through the lifeless, shrivelled streams.  
They ask themselves, why should I believe?  
Hoping in the facade of a 'better' tomorrow.  
I'd rather drown in tears of immense sorrow,  
Than with fake smiles stapled on me -  
like a hypocrite who doesn't bleed.

Living a deceitful life,  
like my home isn't in misery.  
I scream for help but they are too 'busy',  
fueling wars, lies, and conflict.  
The cold-hearted fire that burns, devilish destruction turns,  
turns my home into dust with many lives left to rust.  
Tell me again, why should I believe,  
When humanity itself is ignorant and too *weak*?

**Humeirah Khan 11G**

### **Nature**

As I close my eyes  
It greets me with the warmest of hugs.  
A clear blue sky  
fields full of daisies and trees

As the trees gently danced  
I ran through the field  
Running far,  
Far from reality

Feeling the winds brush through my hair  
It felt like true happiness

**Zainab Sajid 9F**

### **Environment Poem**

Flowers blooming,  
Perfuming the smell of air.  
Butterflies flying  
Like a superhero.

Creepy-crawlies coming out,  
Happy and smiles on faces, no doubt.  
The sun shining,  
People and insects reclining.

Smiles on faces,  
Going to school in a slow pace.  
Admiring the beautiful nature  
Outside.

Bees buzzing,  
Slugs crawling.  
Spiders walking,  
Wasps flying,  
Different noises heard.

Birds chirping  
With the babies  
Building nests,  
No pests allowed.

**Hajera Noori 7W**



### **The Nature around us**

The nature around us takes care of all,  
It keeps our spirits up from winter to fall,  
It makes sure all the trees are healthy and tall,

In winter we may not notice it,  
But nature does do its job bit by bit,  
But in spring we notice all the changes have hit,

The trees grow prettier by the minute,  
With all the wonderful animals paying a visit,  
If you observe carefully you can see animals dancing and celebrating around with crickets.

However the beauty does not stay for long,  
All the leaves have suddenly gone,  
But not to worry it's just fall,  
Fall can be upset and start to bawl,

But then comes summer,  
Where everything becomes even more funner,  
Some people love summer while others may suffer,

This is the Nature around us.

**Rayyan Miguil 7C**

### **The anguish of environment**

God has given us the the pure dedication of the planets  
However not one soul thinks about perishing our baleful habits.  
We were provided with the fragrant aroma of the blusterous wind  
Yet look at us now, restraining it from bind.

Our hearts are diluted in the protection of treachery,  
We never realise the pain which goes through the petchary.  
Humanity takes severe advantage of the world, with the recrudesce of our thoughts  
When we observe and persevere the swans in the lake, small fragments of residue puts their life at stake.

Many of us are in consumption with the mindset of both arrogance and pity,  
We think the world's a favour, but the stench of pollution overflows our city.  
The risk of our health, worsens as we grow older,  
Our dietary needs, becoming heavier on the shoulder

Day by day, time is falling out of our hands  
We've lost the capability to step foot in pure sands.  
Life in the sea is now becoming a detriment.  
And now our remorseful souls stay in the anguish of environment.

**Saffa Bashir 9F**

## ~Gardening Club Potato Bonanza!~

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During March, we planted some potato seeds as part of our gardening project. A few months later, we dug up the potato plants and removed the potatoes from the roots. Then, we washed the potatoes thoroughly and after that, we cut the potatoes into wedges and put them into a baking tray with olive oil. Our team cooked them in an oven for around 25 minutes and then turned them over to be cooked again. When they were



baked, we put them onto plates with salt and we made a run for the chips. The chips were very delicious and we

were a little disappointed when they were all finished.

The Gardening Club

## Connaught School for Girls budding entrepreneurs

Whilst most students were enjoying their lunch break, three students decided to give up a part of their lunch time to bake cookies and cakes for the Year 7 Parents' Evening.

Eva, Aya and Simrit, showed such enthusiasm and maturity as they got on with the task of baking. The end result was very successful and between the three of them they managed to make 12 chocolate chip cookies, 12 plain cookies, 12 chocolate cupcakes and 12 chocolate chip cupcakes.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with these students and I hope that we can move on to

making more successful products. Thanks to Ms Fitzpatrick, who undertook the responsibility of selling these food items at the parents' evening. We are delighted to report that the sale raised over £30 and all proceeds will go towards the PTA.

If any parent wishes to join the PTA, please contact Ms Debbie Fitzpatrick at the school.

Mrs Wallace

Head of Design and Technology



*"We are delighted to report that the sale raised over £30 and all proceeds will go towards the PTA."*



## Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour tout le monde!  
!hola a todos!

### Year 7

We are pleased to see how well the Year 7s are settling in and taking to their French lessons. We certainly have many budding linguists here at Connaught. Keep producing the great work, Year 7!

Drawings:-

To the right by Ariss Dar

Below by Huda Raja



"We certainly have many budding linguists here at Connaught."



### European Day of Languages

On Monday 26th September, Connaught celebrated the 21st anniversary of European Day of Languages. Students were given an opportunity to practise saying tongue twisters in different languages and had assemblies looking at polyglots, fun facts

about languages spoken, including the ancient Silbo 'whistling' language of La Gomera, Spain, which is still taught today.





# Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

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Several students also took part in a poster competition. Look out for the winning poster around the school and on social media! Well done to all who took part, and especially to our winners:

1st Place - Humeirah 11G

2nd Place - Joylyn 8W

3rd Place - Arissa 7C

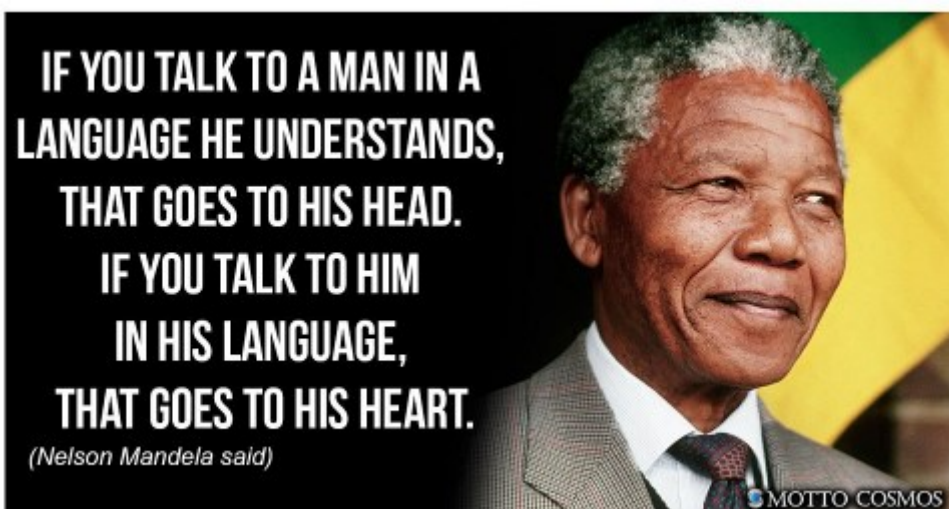
Did you know?

## How many countries are there in Europe?

- There are currently 46 countries in Europe.

## How many languages are in Europe?

- There are around 225 indigenous European languages
- Many more languages are spoken by citizens whose family originates from other continents.
- European languages make up on an estimated 6,000-7,000 languages spoken in the world - a small percentage



Remember to revise from your French and Spanish books every week in order to keep up :)

Merci beaucoup! ¡ Muchas Gracias !

The Modern Foreign Languages department.



Twitter:

@MFLConnaught



Instagram:

@MFLConnaught



# Textiles

## Year 10

This term, the Year 10s have been revisiting their machining skills by making a decorative elephant. They decorated them with a range of either African or Indian motifs and then added embroidery and sequins.

The standard of work was really high and the range of designs and colour schemes was fantastic! Some of them are also on display in the reception area.

A great start to their course; well done Year 10!



*"The standard of work was really high and the range of designs and colour schemes was fantastic!"*

## Year 8

The Year 8 classes have been making a large dice from fleece fabric. Each side of the dice uses different textiles techniques. They will be sewing the dice together after the half term but here is some of their work in progress along with their design pages. I have been really impressed with their creativity and ability to work independently on this project.

Ms Rain

Head of Textiles



# Connaught School for Girls



Our school is taking part in BookTrust's Bookbuzz programme, which aims to get children reading. Participating schools give their students in Yr 7 the opportunity to choose their own free book to keep from a list of 17 titles.

## Bookbuzz students quotations

"I chose the book 'The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody' because the name of the book made me wonder who Alex is and what happened to him."  
Aafiya Malik 7G

"I chose the book called 'House of Clouds' because the setting was a house and lakes; it looked like an adventure fantasy book."  
Faatimah Ahmed 7G

"I chose the book 'Waiting for Murder' because I really enjoy murder mystery books and the front cover looked really interesting."  
Ammaarah Mayet 7G



"I chose this book as I love mystery books! 'Waiting for Murder'; I can't wait to read it."  
Hafsa Khan 7G

"I chose the book 'Amber Undercover' because I would like to

know what it is like to be a teenage spy."  
Thashviga Thanabalasingam 7G

Ms Riaz  
Learning Resource Centre

"I chose this book as I love mystery books!"



## Bookbuzz (continued)



### This year's books



"I chose the book 'Amber Undercover' because I would like to know what it is like to be a teenage spy."





## Connaught School for Girls

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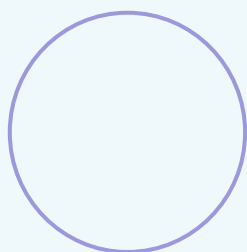
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS LINSEY HAND



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Media Resources

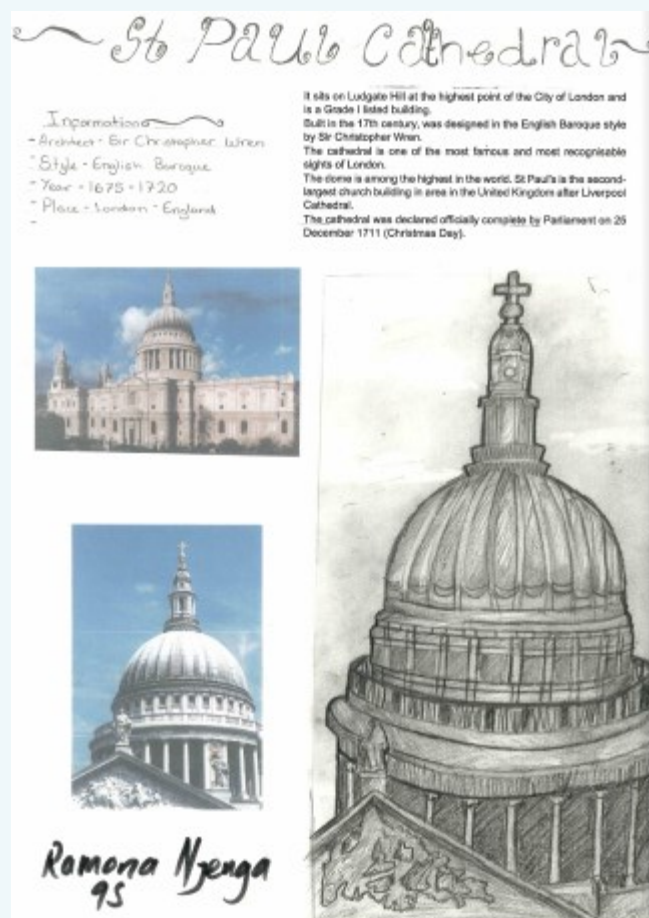
## Artist of the Month

The class looked at the history and design of the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral in London. Once facts and images were completed, learners were asked to create a presentation on the building. The presentation had to include key information, images and their own study. Ramona's pencil study is original and well executed - which is why it was chosen.

Well Done Ramona!

Mr Pauro

Art Department



## Dates for your Diary

Staff Training Day

Friday 21st October

(school closed to students)

Half term holiday

Monday 24th October

to Friday 28th October

First Teaching day back

Monday 31st October at 8.20am

Year 11 Mock GCSE exams

Monday 28th November

to Thursday 15th December

Last day of Autumn Term

Friday 16th 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)