



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*

# Newsletter

**February 2022**

**2021-22 Issue: 39**

## Special points of interest:

- Outstanding work in Modern Foreign Languages
- Many enjoyable experiments in the Science Fun Club
- Stunning work produced by the Year 10 Product Design Students
- A look into our brilliant Learning Resource Centre

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another half term at Connaught School for Girls, there is much to celebrate. Despite the ongoing challenges, we continue to thrive and grow as you'll see from the articles in this newsletter. The students have really shown their resilience this term. There has been some illness, but, on the whole, the school is buzzing with activity and learning.

There is still some covid related anxiety in the school. We have employed counsellors in the school, as well as a good pastoral programme to help to deal with the worries that some of our students still have. We continue to plan our recovery, with your child's health and safety front and centre of our work. If your child needs support of any kind, please continue to talk to them and encourage them to share any worries with either their form tutors or one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads in the school (Ms Hickes, Ms Stewart, Mr Silk, Ms Masella or myself).

Thank you to all the parents who attended the virtual Year 11 Parents' evening on the 26th of January. The girls, who received their mock exams results earlier this term, are now focusing on preparing for their final exams. As you will be aware, exams are going ahead this year, which I'm sure you'll agree is the best way forward. The staff and students are working very hard to prepare for these. We are acutely aware of the impact of the pandemic on our students, so have already worked on a 'Plan B' if, for any reason, your child needs to fall back on assessment done in school.

In preparation for the exams, there will be details of half term and Easter revision sessions coming out very soon. Please encourage your child to take part in these, in order to help them prepare for the finals. As a parent myself, I understand how stressful this time is. Please support your child by encouraging them to make a revision timetable and carefully plan how to organise their time between now and the finals. The staff at school will help with this; it's really important to start slowly now, and then build up to the final exams themselves.

Staying with enrichment and extracurricular activities, our clubs and activities have been relaunched. There is a growing range of activities at lunchtime and after school that your child can take part in. I really believe that it is important for our students to attend these. Our job, as educators, is to educate the whole child; exams results are important but so too are the skills and experiences that can be had when involved in these types of activities. Please encourage your child to take part.

As we learn to live with the pandemic, we will be relaxing some of our covid restrictions. After half term, it will no longer be compulsory to wear masks in the

classrooms. We will also be reintroducing assemblies; it is a really important part of school life to meet collectively so that important messages and themes can be shared and explored together.

We've been listening to our students too! Following requests and suggestions from the students themselves, we are installing ablution facilities for our Muslim students so that they can prepare properly for prayers in a new prayer room, which will hopefully meet the demand. We will keep this under review.

I want to thank you all for your continuing support of the school. I hope that you have a peaceful, safe and relaxing half term break.

Ms Avani Higgins  
Headteacher



SPEAK YOUR TRUTH

# SPOKEN WORD POETRY PROJECT

WORLD POETRY DAY MARCH 21ST

Write, refine and perform  
your own poem.  
Win the chance  
to have your poem published .

**SEE MS JEMAL FOR MORE DETAILS**

# Art

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The Art department has had a busy and creative first half term of the year! Ms Gilbey's Year 7s have been busy with their 'Under the sea' project, where they are beginning to experiment with lots of media and colour. They will be developing these into clay outcomes next term! Year 8s have responded brilliantly to the 'Clay Pot' project. Most students have created a range of designs and have begun

creating their coil pots. They have been working really well with the new media. Mr Hamilton and I can't wait to see them completed next term!

Year 9s have been working diligently on creating a final piece for their GCSE style project. Students have been working independently and getting a real feel for what Art is like at GCSE.

Some Year 11s have

opted to challenge themselves by learning a new skill - Etching! Etching is a form of printmaking, where lines are scratched into an acrylic surface. The outcomes have shown real skill by the students.

Overall, a really successful half term in the Art department! Thank you for all your hard work.

Ms Gilbey & Mr Hamilton  
Art Department



*"Students have been working independently and getting a real feel for what Art is like at GCSE."*



## Learning Resource Centre

### What's new in the Learning Resource Centre?

The LRC has been very busy since September. We have refreshed the fiction section in the library with over 100 new books and removed old and outdated non-fiction books. Since doing so, our students have been taking out more books than ever before! The LRC is always full and it is evident that students have missed it while we were closed.

Any time a new book is put into the library, magical lights are turned on to alert students.



*"Any time a new book is put into the library, magical lights are turned on to alert students."*



Things are shifting in the LRC. Textbooks can now be found in subject specific areas in the non-fiction section. Students have said this is better as they now borrow

textbooks that they wouldn't have noticed before.

We also have an Accelerated Top Picks spinner, where Library

Ambassadors recommend books to KS3 that are also on the AR reading scheme.



# Learning Resource Centre (continued)

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## What's coming up?

A new mental health space: Library Ambassadors suggested a cosy reading space for students to use, in line with the LRC being a safe space to use. This area will also include fidget toys, mental health books and affirmation cards so that anyone requiring a

quiet place to gather their thoughts has the opportunity to do so.

World Book Day: Thursday 3rd March marks the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. In preparation, we ask any ex-Connaught student to email us about how books affect/ed your life.

We'd love to make your experiences into posters that can be put up on social media and around the school. Email us at: [library@connaught-cloud.co.uk](mailto:library@connaught-cloud.co.uk)

We also have a lot of fun activities and competitions lined up for World Book Day.

## Competitions:

Winners of the #bookstagram competition are:



1st place - Joylyn 7W with this wonderful set-up.



2nd place - Aliye Asenova 11G

*"World Book  
Day: Thursday  
3rd March  
marks the 25th  
anniversary of  
World Book  
Day."*

They both won a selection of books from the library.

Winner of the book review raffle is: Mary-Jane 8W, who is able to take home the Kindle for 3 weeks, and decides which books she'd like to read! This review was picked:

"This book is about five different tales that happened in the

magical world which was translated by Hermione Granger from Ancient Runes and has a few notes written by Albus Dumbledore. These stories are really interesting because it describes what happened during the magical world, it also tells us what one of the greatest wizards in magical history thought about the story and also

it teaches us a moral. For one of the stories, the moral is that you should never go beyond things that you can't do the basics of doing.

I would recommend this to age 10 upwards because it shows the differences and similarities between the real world and the magical world."

## Learning Resource Centre (continued)

### U p c o m i n g competitions:

Extreme reading: Parents, students and staff can take part in this! Take a picture of yourself reading in an unusual place. Google 'extreme reading' for some ideas. Competition is open! Deadline for this is: 25th February. Email [library@connaught-cloud.co.uk](mailto:library@connaught-cloud.co.uk) with the subject heading 'extreme reading'

6 word story competition:

Write a story in 6 words. Email: [library@connaught-cloud.co.uk](mailto:library@connaught-cloud.co.uk). Or create a colourful poster! Competition opens: Monday 9th February. Deadline: Thursday 3rd March.

Best shelfie:

Take a picture of your bookshelf. The most aesthetically pleasing shelfie wins! Email: [library@connaught-cloud.co.uk](mailto:library@connaught-cloud.co.uk) with the subject heading 'shelfie'. Competition

opens: Monday 21st February. Deadline: Monday 28th February.

Door decorating competition:

Form classes decorate their door to look like book covers! Competition opens Monday 28th February. Deadline: Friday 4th March.

We all look forward to seeing your entries!

Good luck.

Mrs Khanom

LRC Manager

"Form classes decorate their door to look like book covers!"

## 'Cinderella Reloaded'

Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did! Well unfortunately no, we didn't! Our staff panto 'Cinderella Reloaded' did not get to take place at Christmas due to covid restrictions so we

recorded a behind the scenes mockumentary instead! Who knows maybe at some point we will be able to bring it back and perform it live for the whole school. I wanted to say a really big thank you

to all the staff involved who gave up their time to be involved in the production.

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama





# Year 10 Product Design

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Year 10 Product Design have designed and made a clock based on research on a culture of their choice. They used formal hand drawing techniques to produce the images and then transferred the graphics to a plywood base with fabulous results!



Liya



Zia



Rafa



Syeda



Isha



Amani



Ohemaa

In this project the students made a Tealight holder. They learnt about the process of lamination using the correct adhesives for the different materials, using a forstner bit to drill out the holders, lots and lots of filing and sanding and then finishing with the polishing machine to smooth and shine the surfaces.

"I enjoyed laminating the materials together and sanding my tealight many different times with the different grades of sandpaper. I also enjoyed waxing the

wood and seeing the end result." Humna Taj

Ms Thompson

Product Design



"I enjoyed laminating the materials together and sanding my tealight many different times with the different grades of sandpaper."

## Year 7 Science Fun Club

When we first entered the lab we were excited to see all the equipment for our experiment laid out on the desk. We impatiently waited for Miss Siddique to explain what we had to do in the club. We were confused to see match boxes, magnets, toothpicks and some cards.

When we saw there were cars, everyone went crazy with excitement. We started to cut out the wheels.

We were laughing and giggling whilst assembling our cars. We loved the creativity of Miss being able to turn matchboxes,

toothpicks and card into toy cars. The magnets were the best bit as we played with them a lot. We learnt about how to move the cars by attracting and repelling with another magnet.

Altogether we were grateful of the opportunity and joyful of the whole thing. We are especially grateful to Miss Siddique for this.

7G Maira, Manayal, Sara, Arwa and Maryam



*"It was a lot of fun and I loved it because it made me happy."*

This amazing year 7 science fun club was the first of many more to come. We discovered the force of magnets by making a magnetic car. We took a magnet and placed it inside a matchbox. Then we decorated it and took another magnet and used it to drive the car. The experiment was amazing and I can't wait for the next one.

7W Safiyyah Badat & Zainab Mahamroot

I never thought that science would be fun, but Mrs Siddique has changed our minds with these experiments like the magnetic car.

This proved science is fun.

We worked in pairs to make a magnetic car. We really enjoyed the lesson and are looking forward to the upcoming club days.

7W Khalisa and Minal

It was really fun to make the magnetic cars and then use a magnet to move them.

It was a lot of fun and I loved it because it made me happy.

7W Aamna Iqbal, Inaaya Akhtar





## Year 8 Science Fun Club

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### Fishing with magnets

Fishing with magnets was so much fun and I would want to try this experiment again, but this time I would want to try it with family and friends. I loved playing with the magnets and paper clips.

It was calming, crazy and amazing.

Melis & Tahani



### Learning about pressure

The balloon experiment was useful because at the time we learnt that the more air you blow into the balloon the more pressure builds up inside the balloon. It was a great experiment.

Hanaan



*"It was calming,  
crazy and  
amazing."*

## Updates from Year 10



The Youth Health Champions have been busy preparing for different activities for the students to be joining. They have organised a variety of events to take place and have asked all forms in the school

from years 7-10 what they would be interested in doing during their lunchtimes. There was an overwhelming response from the school that the students would really like to take part in a 'Self Defence' club. The Youth Health Champions are continuing to meet on a weekly basis to finalise proceedings. Keep an eye out for information after half term!



There was an overwhelming response to the Duke of Edinburgh application process. The students have now submitted their applications for this process and the year 10 team have come together to analyse the applications in full. The

## Updates from Year 10 (continued)

year 10s will find out who has been allocated a space onto the scheme on Friday 11th February. The notice will be placed into the year 10 google classroom. Unfortunately, we have been unable to accept all applications; however, don't forget that many colleges offer the DoE scheme so look out for it there!

### Oxford University

This term, Connaught School for Girls were delighted to have been able to take a group of students on a day visit to Oxford University, St Peter's College. The students were given a tour around the college, engaged in a Q+A session with some first year students and finally tasted a short lecture on sustainability. Here's what some students had to say about the visit.

"In my view, the trip was definitely beneficial. At the start, one professor had explained the basics which included debunking myths about

uni and making us comfortable with the area. Then, three undergraduate students gave us a tour of the campus, specifically the library and common rooms. They also spoke about their individual experiences, which was something I was most looking forward to because we were similar in age. This meant they were going through University life, so we could ask questions about how they coped with studies/interviews, etc. Later on, another student gave us a "taster" of what a tutorial/lecture would look like - a presentation on Civil engineering and sustainability. This was most informative but also helped create a better image of the "real thing" in the future. Overall, I do appreciate this opportunity as it gave me an insight into uni life and makes me feel that little bit more confident about continuing my studies."

Zaynab Munir-Zubair 10F

"The Oxford University trip was such a brilliant experience. We had an introduction to Oxford University and were then told about the application process and were given advice on what to include in our personal statement; this was very helpful. After the introduction we had the opportunity to talk to current undergraduates, and heard their experience with the interviews and in some cases the entrance exam. It made me feel slightly more at ease about applying to university. Their experience and advice reminded me that I didn't need to have the most incredible grades or be a perfect person, it was very grounding and reassured me. Overall it was absolutely incredible to go and I have definitely gained more confidence in myself."

Safiya Rajab-Ali 10G

Ms Noakes HOY 10

*"In my view, the trip was definitely beneficial."*



# Modern Foreign Languages

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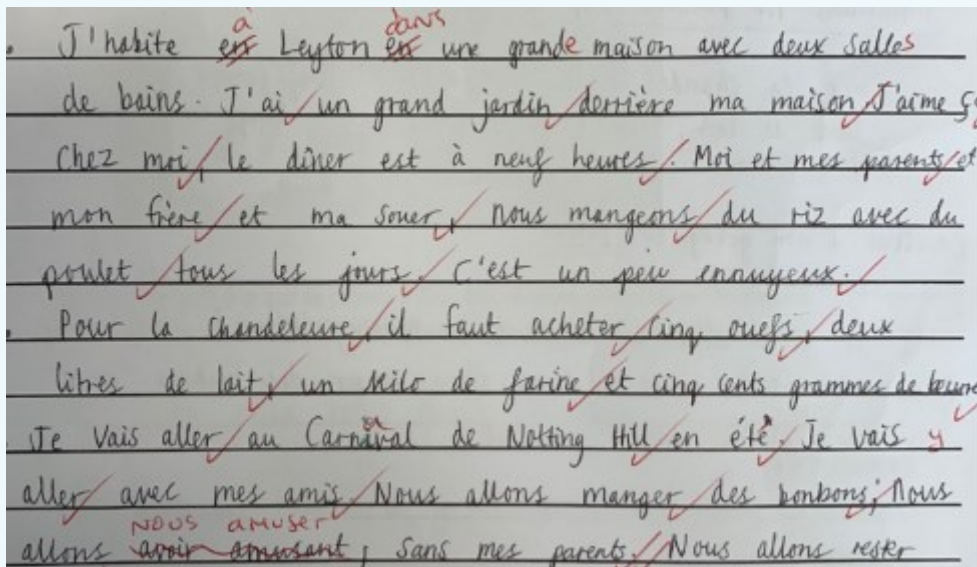
Bonjour tout le monde!  
¡hola a todos!

## Outstanding example of written work in Year 9 French

Year 9 French have recently completed a module assessment and Mr Huber would like to share an outstanding piece of writing, completed without support and in

test conditions, by Haleema Hussain 9S. Bien joué, Haleema!

Haleema will receive a postcard for her hard work and effort.



## Book covers and knowledge organisers

The MFL department is in the process of creating book covers for French

and Spanish, to further support student learning, resilience and independent thinking. Knowledge organisers have been completed

and handed out to year 7. Let your teacher know how you are using them!

The book covers will look like this:



CONNAUGHT School for Girls		Excellence, Resilience, Inclusion.		CONNAUGHT School for Girls	
<b>TIME PHRASES - PRESENT</b> Tous les jours - everyday Aujourd'hui - today Le matin - in the morning L'après-midi - in the afternoon Le soir - in the evening Une fois par semaine - once a week Cinq fois par mois - 5 times/month Les lundis - on Mondays Les weekends - at the weekends Toujours - always Normalement - normally Tôt - early Tard - late Toutes les semaines - every week Tous les mois - every month Souvent - often De nos jours - nowadays Beaucoup de fois - many times De temps en temps - from time to time Maintenant - now Dès que possible - as soon as possible		<b>TIME PHRASES - PAST</b> Hier - yesterday La semaine dernière - last week Le mois dernier - last month L'année dernière - last year En (2015) - in (2015) Le week-end dernier - last weekend Il y a une semaine - a week ago Il y a deux ans - 2 years ago Avant/d'avant - before/in the past Avant-hier - the day before yesterday Imperfect tense Quand j'étais petite - when I was little Perfect tense Encore (negative) - yet Déjà - already		<b>KS4 FRENCH - Book cover</b> Je m'appelle _____ Mon prof: _____ Ma classe principale: _____ 	
<b>TIME PHRASES - FUTURE</b> Demain - tomorrow La semaine prochaine - next week Le mois prochain - next month L'année prochaine - next year À l'avenir - in the future Dans le futur - in the future Dans une semaine - in a week Dans six mois - in six months Dans un an - in one year Un jour - one day Après-demain - the day after tomorrow		<b>OPINIONS</b> J'aime - I like J'adore - I love Je n'aime pas - I don't like Je déteste - I hate Je préfère - I prefer Je suis fascinée par - I am fascinated by Je suis impressionnée par - I am impressed by Je ne supporte pas - I can't stand Je hais - I hate <b>OPINIONS PHRASES</b> Je crois que - I believe that Je pense que - I think that Je trouve que - I find that À mon avis - in my opinion Il me semble que - it seems to me that Je dirais que - I would say that Mon point de vue est que - my viewpoint is that J'ai l'impression que - I am under the impression that Je réalise que - I realise that J'ai surtout réalisé que - above all, I realised that		<b>POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS</b> Mon / ma / mes - my Ton / ta / tes - your Son / sa / ses - his/her Notre / nos - our	
<b>TIME PHRASES FOR ANY TENSE</b> En hiver - in the winter Au printemps - in the spring En été - in the summer En automne - in autumn Ce matin - this morning Cet après-midi - this afternoon Ce soir - tonight / this evening Cette semaine - this week Après - after(wards) Cette année - this year De... à... - from... to... À la fin - at the end		<b>FREQUENCY WORDS / adverbs of time &amp; frequency</b> Toujours - always Parfois / quelquefois - sometimes Souvent - often		<b>CONNECTIVES / LINKING WORDS</b> Et - and Ou - or Mais - but Avec - with Sans - without	



## Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

### Languages film club - Tuesday lunchtime

Mr Huber has been running a film club on Tuesday at lunchtime with year 7 French. Below is what they have been watching :

There is one more screening session left, which will be followed by a discussion and a few activities centered around the film, where we will look at French

words, picked up by our students whilst watching the film.

Film club will then focus on Spanish, for a different year group.



### Reminder:

MFL lunch clubs are Wednesday for KS3 and Thursday for KS4.

Please see your teacher if you would like to attend. This can be for anything, from extra support, going over something you didn't

understand and practice. Equally, your teacher will speak to you if this is something you would benefit from attending.

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

Twitter : @MFLConnaught

Instagram : @MFLConnaught

Merci beaucoup!

¡ Muchas Gracias !

With Best wishes,

The MFL Department.

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

## Mobile phones and School

Please remember that while we allow students to have mobile phones with them for use on their way to and from school, we do not allow any use of mobile phones on the school premises. Mobile phones must be switched off throughout the school day.

As you will be aware situations can easily escalate via social media and disputes can spill over into school, disrupting learning and social time.

Please do not allow your child to contact you via their mobile during the school day; if there is a problem the school will contact you. Parents/carers can contact the school office if a message needs to be passed on to your child.

There is a wealth of information to help support parents to support their children in the digital world. These sites are very useful:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/social-media/>



## Connaught School for Girls

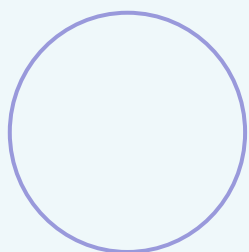
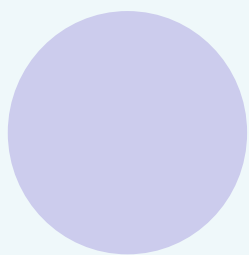
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS



Published and  
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

## Artist of the Month

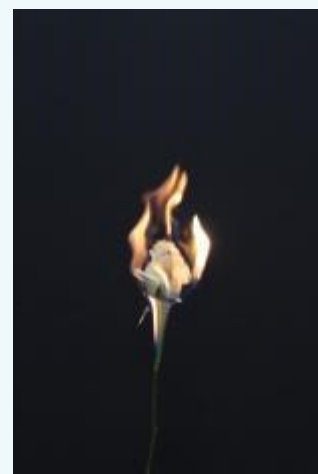
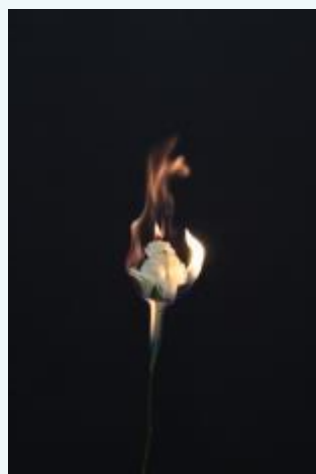
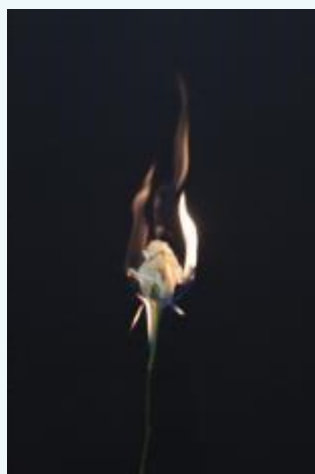
Raadiya Ahmed, 9C, is our Artist of the month for January! Raadiya has created a series of experimental photographs based on the artist, Mat Collishaw. As part of her Year 9 project, she

has photographed a flower burning slowly. Raadiya felt that this process was very symbolic as the act of burning the flower was destroying its natural beauty. Mr Hamilton has been really

pleased with Raadiya's commitment to her Art lessons and we both look forward to how her work will develop over the course of the year.

Ms Gilbey

Art Department



## Dates for your Diary

Spring Half-Term Holiday	- Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022
First Day back after Half-Term	- Monday 21st February 2022
Year 8 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 23rd March 2022
Spring Term Holiday	- Monday 4th April to Monday 18th April 2022
Staff Training Day	- Tuesday 19th April 2022 (closed to students)
May Day Bank Holiday	- Monday 2nd May 2022
Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday	- Tuesday 3rd May 2022
Year 10 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 4th May 2022
GCSE written exams start	- Monday 16th 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

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