



Connaught
School for Girls

Newsletter

May 2022

2021-22 Issue: 41

Special points of interest:

- Eid breakfast enjoyed by students
- Fun Science experiment
- Students join the MFL Games Club
- BBC Young Reporter Scheme
- Creative work in Art, Drama, Textiles and Product Design

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a really busy half term for everyone! Year 11, in particular, has been incredibly busy with preparation for their exams. I know that this is stressful. Our students have been working very hard with their teachers to prepare. But as I say to them in our conversations, 'this too shall pass'. Before long, they will have a wonderful long break for the summer before they start the next phase of their journey. For the next few weeks, it's time to prioritise revision and exams. It will mean that in August, they will get the grades that they deserve so that they can have the best possible chances for life after Connaught. It'll be the culmination of five years of learning and growing to equip them with the skills they need to navigate the adult world. I know that I speak for all our staff when I wish them every success. We will be there every step of the way. Good luck to them!

As the weather changes and we head towards spring, there is a lovely sense of normality around school. Omicron, whilst still here, has faded a little into the background. Our students have bounced back from the pandemic with enthusiasm and energy. It is lovely to hear the buzz of learning echoing around our classrooms and corridors. It feels as though life is returning to normal again.

We have, as ever, been really busy this half term. After the holy month of Ramadan, it was wonderful for so many of our students to come together for a special Eid breakfast. A huge thank you to all the students and staff who took part in putting on this very special event, but in particular to Ms Hussain who worked tirelessly to make this possible.

Our extra curricular activities have grown enormously under the leadership of Ms El Khandari. Her role is to coordinate these activities to make sure that all our students have access to them. Sometimes, it might mean signposting them for students who would really benefit. Our extra curricular provision really is going from strength to strength, and, if your child has not taken up any clubs, please encourage them to do so. There is so much to get involved in from the Anime Games Club to Kidzania careers fair. These clubs help to build cultural capital, help your child to make friends and practice/develop new skills that will enhance their academic learning.

As we continue with our recovery curriculum, there has been a lot going on. I was

excited to hear about the BBC Young Reporter scheme for our Year 11 students - what an exciting opportunity to really get to grips with research, writing and journalism. Year 10 completed some brilliant project work in Product Design where they made device holders. This really helped them to put planning into practice. In Year 9 for MFL, Spanish short films are being used to enhance cultural knowledge. Last (but not least) for our younger students in Years 7 & 8, an opportunity to participate in a Comedy Workshop in Drama. You can read about all of these, and much more to see how we are taking learning outside the classroom to make it engaging, fun and relevant.

I'd like to remind parents that, while life has returned to normal, Omicron is still around. Therefore, if your child does show any of the main symptoms (a high temperature, a cough or loss of taste/smell) or is generally unwell, please do keep them at home. If they have been a close contact of a case and have been contacted by the NHS, the advice is still that they should book a PCR test and follow the advice given. By following these simple steps, it helps to keep us all safe.

And before I sign off in my penultimate half term, I'd like to say a huge congratulations to our very own Mr Alex Silk, who, after a tough two day interview process, was appointed as the Deputy Headteacher. He is delighted to be appointed and will be very valuable support to the new Headteacher, Ms Lindsay Hand, when she takes up her position in September. Together, I am confident that the school will go from strength to strength.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a well deserved break. For Year 11 in particular, this break is still some weeks away, but, when it comes, will be well earned.

Stay well

Avani Higgins

Headteacher



Year 10 Textiles

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Free motion embroidery

This term the year 10's have been improving their sewing machine skills, learning how to 'draw' with the sewing machine using free motion embroidery.

Here is Jessica at the machine and some lovely examples from Jessica, Linah, Zainab, Shukria, Ayesha, Izbah and Humaira.



"I have been really impressed with their attitude towards the project so far."

Mini NEA project

The project the year 10's are working on at the moment is a group work project where each group is designing a product for real life clients - in this instance Ms Moss and Ms Sahans.

This project is preparing them for their Yr 11 Non Examined Assessment (coursework) and also getting them to work and collaborate as a team.

I have been really impressed with their attitude towards the project so far.

Mrs Rain

Textiles Department



Drama

Spoken Word Project

Last term a group of budding poets took part in a Spoken Word Project! They explored creative writing activities and performance techniques that helped them to deliver their poems to an audience of

invited guests. One poem was chosen to be printed in a poetry anthology being produced by East Side Education. We will receive a copy for our library very soon! All of the poems were very cleverly penned,

creative, emotional and thought provoking. The winning poem was by Saffa Bashir in 8C. Well done Saffa we are very proud of you!

If you write poetry at home please feel free to share your work with Ms Jemal.

And the winning poem that will be submitted to Eastside's Poetry Anthology is...

frequency

eyes red, swollen
heart trapped, stolen.

over and over
words woven.

frozen in the moment

the world's way too boring
bags of drama pouring
thoughts always roaring

in reality i'm just tired
tired of the pressure, the stress.
but I realise, this life's just a test
the truth's the truth just let my soul rest.

-Saffa Bashir 8C

EAST
SIDE

SPOKEN
WORD
POWER

"All of the poems
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SoHo Theatre Workshop

On Thursday 5th May KS3 students were lucky enough to participate in a Comedy workshop from Ben Salmon, a professional Comedian and Playwright for Soho Theatre. The students thoroughly enjoyed working on their improvisation skills and identifying what makes something funny. They were asked to consider questions such as 'Who makes you laugh and

why?' So now we are asking you, who makes you laugh and why? Laughter is fantastic, it

produces endorphins and improves our mental health!



Drama (continued)

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The show will go on!

Finally we have industry standard Theatre Lighting in the Hall. It has been a long time coming with Brexit & Covid adding to the delays, but finally we are able to use the lighting to create a more exciting environment during lessons, rehearsals and exams. It also means that next year we will be producing a whole school show. Whether you would like to perform or be involved behind

the scenes we are very excited about working with you! Look out for more information about

what our show will be in the Summer Term.



Year 10 mock exam preparation

Our Year 10 Drama students are preparing for their mock Component 2 Acting exam. This involves them choosing a play to stage a few extracts from. Process is key

when performing a script, you have to understand the context of the storyline and what you think the artistic intention of the playwright was. Quite often characters and their relationships can be interpreted in different ways so the

students experiment with voice, movement, pace and staging to help them find the interpretation that feels most authentic.

We wish them all the best with their exam!

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama

"It also means that next year we will be producing a whole school show."



Art

Clay Coral Reefs

The Year 7's have made the leap from 2D work into 3D sculptures over the past few lessons. Most classes have begun their 'Clay Coral Reefs' - taking inspiration from their coloured mixed media studies they produced last term, as

well as responding to the work of artists Lisa Sea-Urchin and Courtney Mattison. I think we have some budding Marine Biologists on our hands at Connaught! As well as some students who are already on their way to being experts at clay!

Well done Year 7s!



"I have been really impressed with the quality of work from all students!"

'Landscape' project

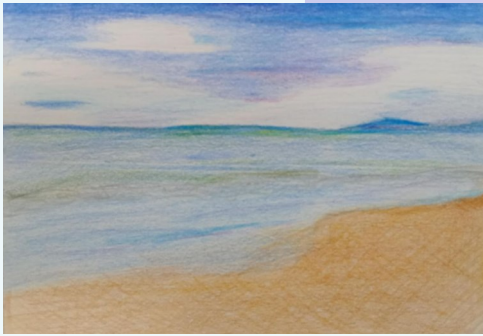
The Year 8's have made a successful start on their 'Landscape' project. Some classes have completed a beautiful range of colour pencil landscapes using a range of colouring techniques. Students have confidently worked from photographs and

have been able to vocalise the techniques that they have used and why. I have been really impressed with the quality of work from all students! This bodes really well for their watercolour studies that they will be starting after half term!



Art (continued)

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Not a 'goodbye' but a 'see you soon' to all the students at Connaught School for Girls (especially 9C), as I go on maternity leave this half term. I can't wait to see how your creative journeys continue!

Looking forward to seeing you next year!

Ms Gilbey

Art Department

Product Design

This half term Year 10 Product Design have completed their Device Holders. During this part of the project the students have learnt about timbers and polymers. They have focused on techniques used to shape and finish timber. They have learnt how to safely and accurately heat, form and finish the polymer base using the line bender. Finally they assembled the components by drilling, countersinking and screwing the product together and with fabulous results!

Ms Thompson

Product Design



*"They have
focused on
techniques
used to shape
and finish
timber."*

English

Globe Workshops

Year 10 had workshops this half term with actors/directors from the Globe Theatre and we all had a fun experience! We had two Globe Practitioners in and Ms Burton also taught workshops for the afternoon in periods 4 and 5 on 4th of May. It was fun and different as year 10 had not experienced workshops in Connaught School for Girls. Our focus for these workshops on the 4th was 'Women in Theatre' and we looked at Lady Macbeth (Macbeth) and studied scenes between Juliet and Lady Capulet (Romeo and Juliet). We discussed how women were not allowed to act in Shakespeare plays and

young men had to act the female characters out. We learned that Shakespeare played on words and the workshops encouraged us to experiment with different ways of saying lines and consider how the different performances affect meaning.

This week, we also had workshops on Power and

Conflict in Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth and looked at different extracts to help deepen our understanding of the play and this important theme. We all loved the workshops and know it will tremendously help with our English GCSEs.

Zainab Hussain 10s



"We all loved the workshops and know it will tremendously help with our English GCSEs."

BBC Young Reporter Scheme

I was contacted this week with an exciting possibility for one of our Young Reporter Teams in Year 11. A Producer at the BBC has shortlisted them for an opportunity to have a BBC News team come in and help them make their report. This would include filming and post production - and would be a fantastic chance to learn from the professionals; in addition to their news item being aired on a main BBC platform! The team had a zoom meeting with the producer to talk about

their topic; they have been researching into the rise of racist hate crime during the pandemic and are keen to raise awareness of this issue so are delighted they've been shortlisted: well done, Fatima, Lisa, Fatima and Arwa!

The Year 11 BBC Report teams are currently taking a short hiatus whilst they (rightly!) focus on their exams but have already had zoom meets with BBC staff to discuss their reports and research/writing sessions with myself earlier in the half term so have produced some fantastic

content. I can't wait for all the teams to complete filming their news reports in July so the rest of us can watch them on whichever BBC platform they make it on to - go team!

Ms Burton

English Department



Modern Foreign Languages

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Bonjour tout le monde!
¡hola a todos!

Creative revision games

Mrs El Khandari's 7F & 9W French classes have been creating revision games to revisit previous learning and consolidate grammar points taught throughout KS3 so far. Y9 have also been using this method for preparation for KS4. The girls enjoyed

these lessons and came up with some very creative games!

"In my opinion, this was a really effective way to revise French as it allows creativity and makes it more fun; this makes it easier to learn."

Khadija 9W

"I found it a really fun way to revise and I found it very beneficial. I would love to have more revision lessons like this as

I believe it benefitted us all. Thank you for a fun revision lesson and method!"

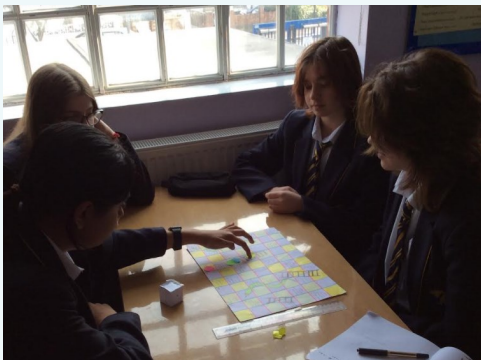
Saarah 9W

"I really enjoyed the game because it was educational and fun."

Hafsa 7F

"It was fun doing the revision games because we were still doing work but it was fun and different."

Yasmina 7F



Year 9 workshop on Spanish short films

On Wednesday 18th May, all year 9 students took part in an interactive, online workshop on Spanish short films, hosted by the British Film Institute. They

completed a series of activities on cinema, which is part of the GCSE Spanish specification, and on the short films Luminaris and Dia de Los Muertos before and during the workshop, respectively. The

workshop gave students the opportunity to experience the Spanish language differently and gain some cultural knowledge that was portrayed in the short films. ¡Buen trabajo chicas!

"In my opinion, this was a really effective way to revise French as it allows creativity and makes it more fun; this makes it easier to learn."



Modern Foreign Languages (continued)

Games Club

A group of students in 9S came up with the idea of starting a games club during lunchtime. We are very proud of the organisational and leadership skills our Y9 students have shown.

The club is well attended and enjoyed by all. Well done 9S!

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

Merci beaucoup!

¡ Muchas Gracias !

With Best wishes,

The Modern Foreign Languages department.

 Twitter:

@MFLConnaught

 Instagram:

@MFLConnaught

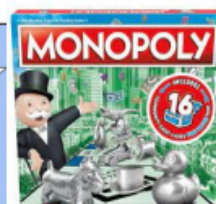


Games Club

Games Club is run at lunchtime between 1:20-1:50 pm every Wednesday in room 42 where students can attend to play games with other students and try out new games. Games Club is a judgemental-free atmosphere where students can have fun and feel comfortable as a way to escape overwhelming challenges. As most of the current clubs are more curricular we've decided to make a club mainly to relax and have fun, having an effect on students well-being. Here are some opinions of some students who attended Game Club:

"I believe that by running a club like Games Club, it can really help students mindsets along with their mental health, in the sense that by just having at least 30 minutes of freedom, away from distractions such as noise from the playground or ongoing stress from previous lessons, it can make such a difference to your well-being. With this being said, I strongly recommend coming to Games Club because of how ambient the atmosphere is; it's overall just a peaceful place where you can just switch off your mind and relax without the pressure of anything. It's also a great place to socialize with new people or to strengthen your immediate friendships." Jorja Y9

"I really like this club because my friends and I can go and have fun together and feel comfortable." Zara Y9



Year 9 Science

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Year 9 describe their Science lesson

Today we watched a science experiment, demonstrating the breakdown of Hydrogen Peroxide using liver and Manganese as a catalyst to speed up the reaction.

The experiment was mind blowing and great fun to watch.

The reaction produced Water and Oxygen.

The reaction was super fast, producing a lot of oxygen gas which made

the syringe move very quickly. It was an exothermic reaction, we know this as when we touched the flask it felt really warm.

Sorayah & Iklim



"The experiment was mind blowing and great fun to watch."

Eid celebrations at Connaught School for Girls

"The Eid breakfast was a great and successful experience... I felt inspired by the reaction of local coffee shops like Horizon's & response with food and drink... the students were amazing the way they helped organise the event in the morning." The idea of creating an Eid breakfast as celebration for our religious and racially diverse school came from Mrs Hussain herself, alongside the idea of a whole school 'Secret Eid'.



Eid celebrations at Connaught School for Girls (continued)

After multiple meetings as a form class as well as other members of year 11, the date was set, posters were created and hung all around the school, as well as daily reminders of welcomed dish donations and of course the reminder that the Eid breakfast was welcome to anyone no matter if they celebrate Eid or not. Which in my opinion, was the beauty of such an event itself, as it allowed students of all faiths and completely different ethic backgrounds to experience something completely new. As well as allowing students to show their friends new parts of their own culture through different cultural foods such as: samosas, pakoras and much more. Those of us who came in to support Mrs Hussain's vision started the school

day off as early as 6:30, by decorating the canteen with multiple golden banners, blowing up balloons with the help of Mr Hamilton and the premises team, setting up table decor and also preparing the ultimate playlist. With food donations from multiple local cafes, teachers and students: such as La Parisien, Horizon, Miss Ali, Mr Phillips and Safiya Rajab Ali (in Year 10), we began to set everything out across multiple tables as Miss Ali, Mr Phillips and Fatima Nur (Year 11) began to fry the parathas - the homemade pakoras and samosas were already fried earlier on in the morning by Mrs Hussain. We took this chance to take pictures of our long awaited dream-come-true and completed the final touches to



decorations around the canteen, as the smell of the freshly made pakoras and samosas filled the room. Mrs Rangathan helped us prepare lines and lines of drinks and the paper cutlery and plates for the long awaited guests. After around an hour of preparation we began to serve our guests drinks, ranging from guava to orange juice, homemade biscuits, chocolate chip cupcakes, bowls of fruit salad; including grapes, watermelon and

"The Eid breakfast was a great and successful experience."



Eid celebrations at Connaught School for Girls (continued)

strawberries, dates, croissants, piles of pain au chocolat, homemade bread, sandwiches ranging from cheese to chicken, meat and vegetable samosas, and piles and piles of homemade pakoras. The event itself was such a huge success that all the tables set out were filled up around 20 minutes after opening, of course this didn't stop us from serving the unexpected students and staff so more tables were opened up to accommodate everyone. Once people began to leave and start entering the playground we began to clean up; take down all the decorations, while some of us ate the remaining pieces of pastries and fruit, while others looked over notes for upcoming language speaking



exams. Overall, I think I speak for all those who participated in bringing Mrs Hussain's idea to life, it was an absolute pleasure. As a year 11 I do hope this tradition is kept up even after we leave the school, maybe even an Iftar could be done one day! Many thanks to all those involved: Hassan from Le Parisien, Ali from Horizon, Miss Ali, Mr Phillips Mr Hamilton, the premises team, Mrs Rangathan,

Mrs El-Khandari, Ms Gahakwa, Ms Humphrey Jessica Dai, Safiya Rajab Ali, Fatima Azimi, Aamirah Bhana, Fatima Nur, Zohal Shahab, Lisa Wang, Rukaiya Nadeem, Ellis Taylor, Sana Master, and of course Mrs Hussain who without none of this could have been possible. Thank you for allowing us to be part of something so special not only to you but to our school community.

Ellis Taylor 11C

"The event itself was such a huge success that all the tables set out were filled up around 20 minutes after opening."





Connaught School for Girls

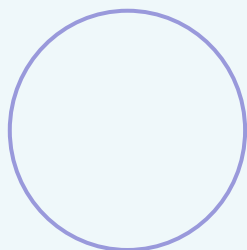
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS AVANI HIGGINS



Published and
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

Artist of the Month

Our Artist of the Month for May is Greta Gjana, 7C, for her Clay Coral Reef. Greta used a range of clay building techniques to create an exciting and detailed pinch-pot. Greta should also be commended for the good progress she has made in Year 7! I think she will make a great 3D artist in the future!

Ms Gilbey

Art Department



Uniform Donations

Any uniform donations, especially of ties and blazers, from Year 11 students will be gratefully accepted.

Also, Year 9 KS3 tie donations, we may even be able to swap your KS3 tie for a KS4 tie!

Please bring uniform items to Ms Hickes' office.

Ms Hickes

Assistant Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

Whitsun Half-Term Holiday

- Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Year 11 Leavers' Event

- Monday 27th June 2022 (4-8pm)

'Connaught Goes Out' Visits Day

- Tuesday 19th July 2022

Last Day of the School Year

- Wednesday 20th July 2022

- Years 9 & 10 depart at 12pm

- Years 7 & 8 depart at 1pm

www.connaught-school.co.uk