



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*

# Newsletter

**January 2023**

**2022-23 Issue: 45**

## Special points of interest:

- Incredible achievement by our National Poetry Day Competition winner
- Textiles help the environment
- Year 11 enjoy their visit to East Village
- Many activities to celebrate World Book Day
- MFL creative work

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear all

As I reach the end of another half term at Connaught School for Girls, and the halfway point of my first year here, there is much to celebrate. Secondary league tables are not being published in the same way this year, due to the impact of the pandemic but final school performance data has been published and I am delighted to tell you Connaught remains one of the top performing schools in the borough for progress, keeping us 'well above average' and maintaining our place in the top 20% of schools nationally. I'm very proud of the students and the staff, who have worked tirelessly to achieve this. Well done to everyone on maintaining the high standards that we expect and admire at our school.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 9 Parents' evening this week. Students in year 9 will shortly be embarking upon their choices for Key Stage 4 and they had their first assembly about this this week. We will be inviting you into a Subject Selection Information evening next half term to help prepare for these important choices and I look forward to discussing this further with you then. Year 11 Parents' evening in January was also very well attended. Year 11, who received their mock exams results earlier this term, are now focusing on preparing for their final exams. February half term is a great time to write a revision timetable, organise notes and start practising questions. This is a good way to prepare at a steady pace. If it's left for the Easter holidays to start, the pressure for some students can be daunting. There are some more tips for preparing for success later in the newsletter - please do have a look.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank parents who have responded to the consultation to formalise a partnership with Norlington under the Exceptional Educational Trust. One of the questions that has been raised during the consultation period has been around if boys would be on site at Connaught and I wanted to take this opportunity to assure all families that the schools will not become mixed. The trust is completely committed to Connaught remaining a girls school. The proposal will ensure we are able to remain a local school with our own identity and will mean we will work together to share ideas and best practice.

This week we have been collecting for the Disaster Emergency Committee which is helping earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria and our year 10 students have done a fantastic job, collecting £925.96 from our generous and compassionate student body. Our thoughts and condolences are with those families with loved ones affected.

Thank you, once again, for continuing to support the school. I hope that you have a peaceful, safe, and relaxing half term break.

Ms Linsey Hand  
Headteacher



## Drama

### The Three Principles of Puppetry

This term in Drama, Year 7 have been learning about the Three Principles of Puppetry; Breath, Focus and Weight. Using these ideas they have brought inanimate objects to life and created large human like characters out of newspapers. Watching

Puppetry is the ultimate suspension of disbelief, however, the students have made it so easy, having worked so hard to create such realistic characters that silently interact with each other.



### Year 11 GCSE Acting Exam

Year 11 are preparing for their GCSE Acting exam. Students have chosen to perform extracts from established plays such as 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark as well as gritty new Plays like 'Three Little Birds' by Janice Okoh and 'Cuttin It' by Charlene James. With themes ranging from misdiagnosed mental

health, neglect, death, grief and FGM the students have certainly risen to the challenge and I couldn't be more proud of them. They have been an absolute pleasure to teach over the last 18 months.



### The Woman In Black

A few years after it first opened, I remember watching the show as a school student myself and being absolutely mesmerized by how only two performers could maintain my focus and how the combination of excellent storytelling, lighting and sound could leave me terrified! Thirty-three years after it first opened 'The Woman In Black' is sadly closing so the GCSE Year 11 class will review it as part of

the GCSE Drama written exam. They were very fortunate enough to experience a private Q & A with the Actors after the show to gain some inside information! The show is running until the

3rd March 2023, so get in there quick to watch this Gothic Horror Masterpiece!

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama



*"They have been an absolute pleasure to teach over the last 18 months."*

## Fancy Yourself As A Bit of a Poet?

I Bet You're a Poet & You Don't Even Know It!

This year's International Poetry Day theme is;

### THE PLACES I'LL GO

The Places I'll Go is an exploration of where we are now and where we hope to be in the future. These 'places' could be geographical, emotional, social, environmental or political spaces, but they are always visions of the future. Where am I now, and how has this affected the person I am growing up to be? How do I connect with the people around me, and where do I want us all to go together? What are my hopes for the places I will go in the future? What are my fears?

EAST  
SIDE

SPOKEN  
WORD  
POWER

### Join in the fun!

1. Write a poem on the theme of 'The Places I'll Go.'
2. Attend one lunchtime workshop in the hall where we will hear your poems and you will learn how to edit them if they need it. You will also learn some performance skills to turn your poem into a Spoken Word Performance.
3. A select few performances will then go into a final round to perform in assembly the week beginning 20th March.
4. One poem will be chosen to be submitted to the Eastside Poetry Anthology and turned into an actual book, the winner will receive a copy!

Look out for lunchtime club dates once we get back from February Half Term, but you can start writing your poem now.

So long as your poem fits the theme it does not have to rhyme or be of a particular length (last years winner was only 8 lines long!)

Any questions just ask Ms Jemal



## Soapbox Heroines & Heroes

**Historical definition:** A **soapbox** is a raised platform on which one stands to make an impromptu speech, often about a political subject. The term originates from the days when speakers would elevate themselves by standing on a wooden crate originally used for shipment of soap or other dry goods.



In celebration of International Women's Day (March 8th) we are holding a *Soapbox Festival!*

With the opportunity to perform their speech at pop up 'soapbox events' in and around school at break times during the first 2 weeks of March!

"One poem will be  
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## Drama (continued)



### What you need to do to take part...

Write a speech about a topic or **issue** that you feel is **important** and deserves more attention.

Your speech must be **engaging** and **encourage** people to reflect on your topic in a sensitive and thoughtful way and **empower** them to want to act upon the issue.

It should not be discriminatory or contain language that is inappropriate for a school setting.

It should be approx 250 words.

Please submit your speech to Ms Jemal or Mr Phillips no later than Tuesday 28th February.

## Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour tout le monde!  
!hola a todos!

### Food and Drink

7F have been studying some fantastic menus the topic of food and drink this half-term. The students have produced and dialogues for ordering in a French café. Well done 7F!

Twitter:

@MFLConnaught

Instagram:

@MFLConnaught

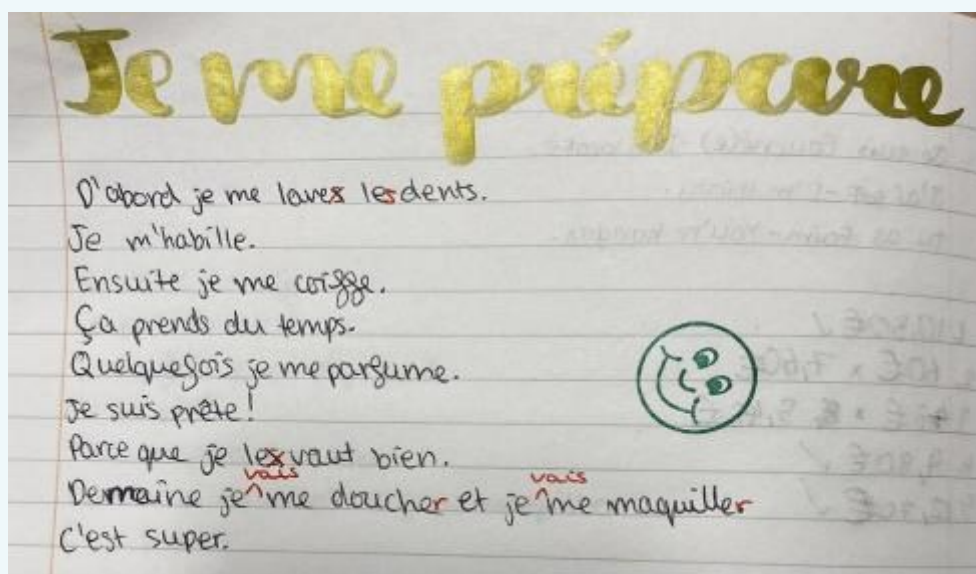
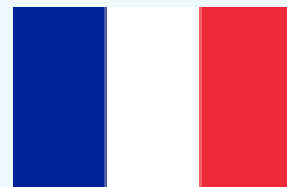
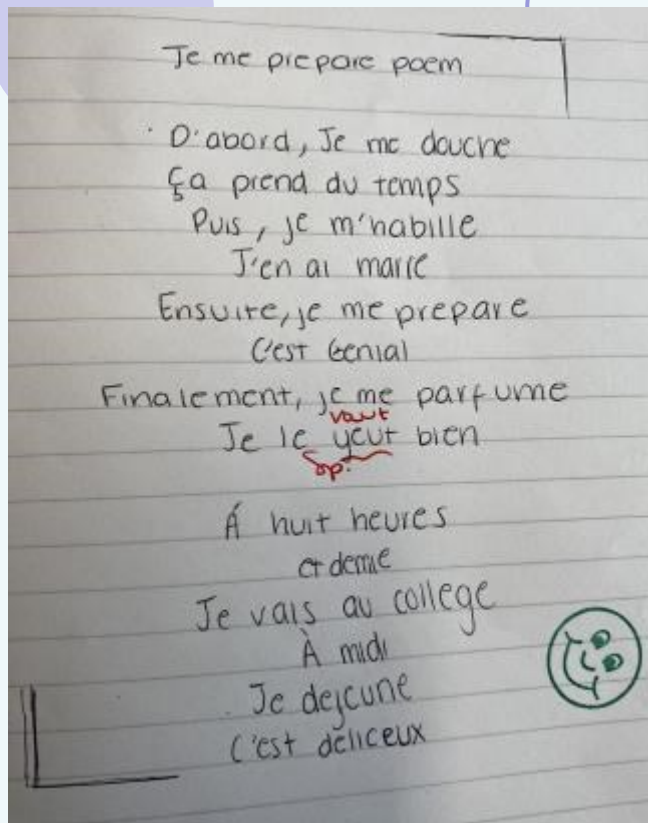


## Second Languages (continued)

Students in Ms Adanir's 8W French class produced some creative writing, writing poems and raps through several drafts, about their daily routine (getting ready to go out). They, then, performed their poems and raps to the rest of the class. Excellent travail les filles!

¡Muchas Gracias!

The Modern Foreign Languages department.



## Girls Netball Rally

On the 6th of February both Y7 and Y8 girls took part in the Girls Netball Rally. The two teams have been training hard for the past two weeks and they did very well in their first competition. The students were thoroughly

excited for the day and were able to put the skills they have been learning in school into practice. Both teams showed determination and, on the day, Y8 made an amazing effort in their last game where they won 6-

O! Both teams gave it their all and are looking forward to the next competitions later in the year. Well done netball teams!

Ms Agilara

Head of Physical Education

## World Book Day Activities

Connaught School for Girls is planning to run a number of inter year group books quizzes to celebrate World Book day 2023. The theme at Connaught this year is to: 'Read and rise to the challenge'. Students have been asked to re-read their favourite books over half term, such as the: 'Harry Potter' series, 'Of Mice and Men', general knowledge about Shakespeare and read new books, for example: 'Windrush Child'. Comic books will also feature in the

quizzes, so take some time to find and read 'Ms Marvel' or 'Black Panther'.

There will be a number of quizzes and reading taking place the week beginning Monday 20th February and Monday 27th February. All activities and preparations will take place in English lessons and finish with internal year group quizzes on the following dates:

- Year 7 - Tues. 28th Feb. period 1 (week B)

- Year 8 - Fri. 3rd March period 4 (week B)
- Year 9 - Wed. 1st March period 2 (week B)
- Year 10 and Year 11 - lunchtime quiz (Date to be confirmed soon)

Articles by:  
Ms Maniar and Ms Burton  
English department

Ms Riaz  
Learning Resource  
Centre

"The theme at Connaught this year is to: 'Read and rise to the challenge'."

### Time to test you knowledge about books!



### Quiz question examples:

1. Who wrote 'Oliver twist'?
2. Name three characters from: 'Refugee Boy'.
3. Name four stories set in: India or Pakistan or Bangladesh or Afghanistan.
4. Where was Shakespeare born?
5. Name 5 stories written by the Brothers Grimm.
6. Who is Toni Morrison?
7. Panem, The capitol, District 12, tributes: name the series....
8. Name the villains from 5 Roald Dahl books:
9. In which story, a village boy works for a professor in Lagos when a horrific war engulfs them. *The Kite Runner*, *War and Peace*, *Half of Yellow Sun*
10. Name three books with characters who are spiders:





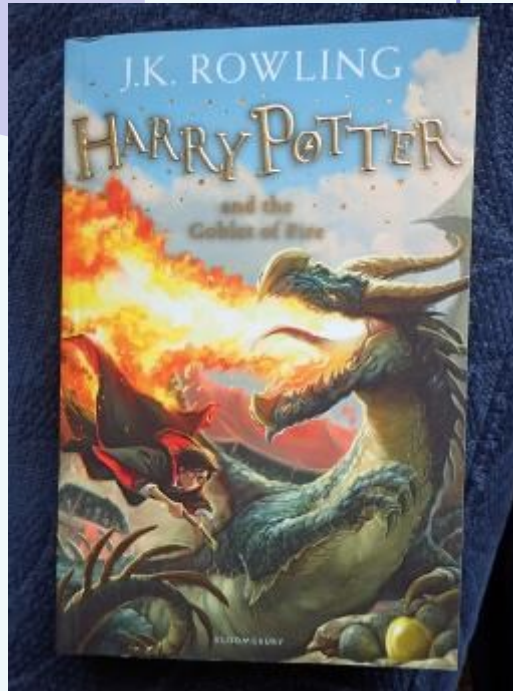
## World Book Day Activities (continued)

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### Books We Love

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:  
My favourite book is *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire*. I particularly like this book because of the description especially towards the end. I also enjoy the mix of fantasy, adventure, competition and romance all in one. I think people should read this book because it's entertaining and for all ages.

Zahraa Year 7



Divergent:

My favourite book is *Divergent* since it is a story about suspense, mystery, and action! I think that people should read this book since it gives you lots of feelings and it's very interesting. The book is about a world separated into five factions which is a unique idea.

Sumaiyah Year 7

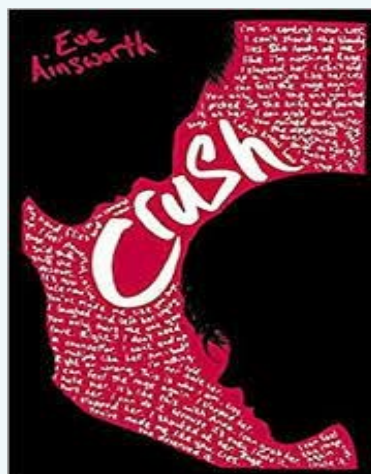


"My favourite  
book is  
*Divergent* since  
it is a story  
about suspense,  
mystery, and  
action!"

Crush:

I like this book because it is really creative. It shows the reader how to love correctly and how to have a safe relationship; it is interesting to read and it can affect the reader in the way that things are presented in this book.

Mahrukh Year 11



# Swap Shop



DATES: 27TH FEBRUARY - 3RD MARCH

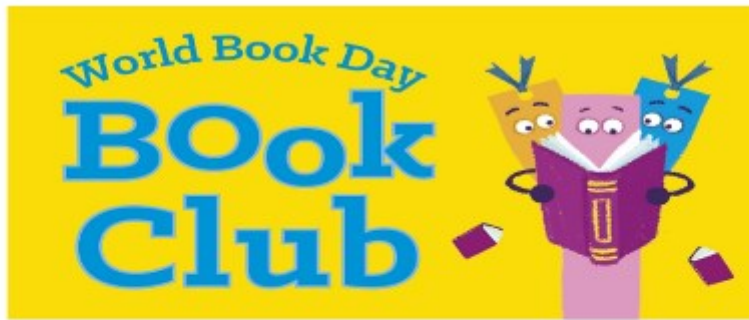
BRING UNWANTED ALMOST NEW BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY AND  
GET A BOOKMARK PER BOOK. ON WORLD BOOK DAY YOU CAN  
EXCHANGE THE BOOKMARKS FOR BOOKS.

THE MORE BOOKS YOU BRING THE BETTER!



## World Book Day Activities (continued)

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CONNAUGHT STUDENTS, WE ARE HAVING AN AFTER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH. DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS AND ALSO BOOK YOUR PLACE, AS THERE ARE LIMITED SPACES.

## Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,  
I'm Alan Douglass - Chair of Governors since last September.

The Governors are keen to communicate some of the work that the board has been doing over the last term and a half.

Parents will be aware of the pressure on schools to manage budgets at a time of rising costs. Recruitment and retention of staff is also a growing concern.

We are extremely proud of our recent appointment of the new head for Connaught School and very keen to support her in ensuring a secure future for Connaught within our community. As such, you will know that we are consulting on moving into a local Multi Academy Trust with Norlington School. The Governing Board has discussed other options

and Ms. Hand has outlined discussions she has had with other Academy Heads. As a result, we all agree that the current consultation offers us the best way forward for our school at the current time.

Alongside this important piece of work, we are not losing our focus on the needs of our current students and regularly review the plan the school has for improvement. As a new head, I know Ms. Hand is keen to get input from you, our parent/guardian group, and will be taking feedback at surveys carried out at each parents evening. The result of this, and a pupil survey will also help us frame our future plans.

The Governing Board has a need to recruit some additional parent governors and would urge you to consider putting yourself forward

for one of these roles. We are keen to reflect our community on the Governing Board. Our committees cover Finance and Resources, Curriculum, Pay and Personnel. If you have skills that you feel would support the effectiveness of any of these committees we urge you to consider putting yourself forward. The commitment is a full Governing Board meeting each half term and is similar for each committee. The expectation is that each governor will join one committee. There are also roles for Link Governors where each of us has a more focused involvement with an area of school life or curriculum area of the school.

If you have any particular questions please contact me via the school.

*"The Governing Board has a need to recruit some additional parent governors and would urge you to consider putting yourself forward for one of these roles."*

# Geography

## Year 11 Visit to East Village

The Year 11 Geographers have just completed their final piece of fieldwork investigating the variations between the Olympic Village and its surroundings. We travelled to Hackney Wick on the Overground. For many of the students this was their first time in the area and they were all intrigued by the amount and quality of the graffiti in the area as well as the use of old buildings for new modern flats. They quickly picked up on the youthful and dynamic character of the area and were surprised by how quickly the feel changed as we walked towards the Olympic Park itself.

Within East Village the students quickly noticed how creating the area from an empty site had made it possible to include design features to improve the area for

users, making it safer, cleaner and more pleasant to spend time in.

As we walked over the Drapers Fields the students started to feel more at home and were keen to play in the park before finishing their final surveys.

Throughout the day the Year 11 students displayed exemplary behaviour, they were polite and inquisitive and really engaged with the tasks. They have done some excellent groundwork for their final fieldwork exam and should be very proud of themselves.



*"Throughout the day the Year 11 students displayed exemplary behaviour, they were polite and inquisitive and really engaged with the tasks."*

## Sustainable Cities and Buildings.

The Year 10 geography students have been carrying out their own research into sustainable cities and buildings. Creative freedom was given to the students to design these how they wished. Using their theory knowledge collected within the lessons over

the Christmas holiday they created their models working in groups.

One of the focuses this year within Geography is to incorporate technology into lessons; the project lends itself very well to this. Some students used this in their designs with some students creating their

models within games such as Minecraft. In the students' groups they then pitched their ideas to the rest of their peers in the classroom. This gave the students invaluable presenting practice in addition was a chance for the students to show off their hard work. The models showed that the students took time and effort into

## Geography (continued)

creating them with thought put into their legitimate application. Many of the models can be seen in Room 7 and will be on display for parents and other students to look at.

The Year 7 groups have now just started their mapping unit, this gives the students the perfect opportunity to use geography practically within the field. It also gives the Year 7s one of the first experiences to apply their knowledge learnt in the classroom out in the field.

Ms Quinn and Mr Desborough  
Geography department



## Textiles

The Textiles department have been doing their bit for the environment - we now have a recycling bin for small scraps of fabric, these will be reused as stuffing for cushions or any other projects.



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*"Creative freedom was given to the students to design these how they wished."*



## Textiles (continued)

Some of the Year 10s have also been coming to club at lunchtime, creating patchwork pieces using scraps of fabric. Here are pieces made by Sarah Tasneem and Hafsa Asim.

Ms Rain  
Head of Textiles



*"This is an incredible achievement and we are very proud of her success and look forward to seeing her work published."*



## National Poetry Day Competition Winner

Congratulations to Humeirah Khan in 11G who is one of the winners of the National Poetry Day Competition for W a l t h a m Forest. Humeirah is the winner in the secondary age pupils category, competing against students in the same category throughout the borough. This is an incredible achievement and we are very proud of her success and look forward to seeing her work published. She has been invited to attend a prize giving ceremony and no doubt will enjoy spending the prize money.

Ms Caroto  
Head of English

Here again is her winning poem:

### **'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**



Department  
for Education



Apprenticeships

February 2023

## HELP YOUR CHILD CLIMB THE LADDER OF OPPORTUNITY WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP

Hello and welcome to National Apprenticeship Week!

I'm Robert Halfon, the Minister for Apprenticeships, and I want to tell you why they are such a great option for your child to consider after school or college.



Apprenticeships transform lives: you can earn while you learn, there's no need to pay fees or take out a loan, and at the same time your child gains brilliant hands-on experience in their chosen industry.

Apprenticeships provide the first step on the ladder of opportunity to really great prospects – enabling people to climb, rung by rung, towards greater earning potential and future prosperity. That's why this government is committed to apprenticeships – and because they provide the highly skilled workers that industries need.

All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and the government. There are hundreds of apprenticeships across loads of occupations, from agriculture to aerospace, in the largest companies or with small local employers. Apprentices' wages vary depending on the job and many employers pay well – they know the value of bringing new talent into their business. And there are apprenticeships from GCSE to university degree level – so whatever your child's final qualifications are when they leave school or college, there are opportunities waiting for them.

To search for apprenticeships in your area [click here](#).

New apprenticeships become available all the time, so keep checking online to see what comes up. I am really looking forward to hearing the stories that come out of National Apprenticeship Week – please join some of the events if you can!

Robert Halfon

Minister of State (Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education)

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National Apprenticeship Week (6-12 February 2023) brings together employers and apprentices across the country with events and activities to show how apprenticeships really are amazing!



Why not join the [BIG Assembly](#) on 7 February, a free live broadcast shown to over 100,000 people across the country, where you can hear from apprentices, employers and parents about the benefits of apprenticeships.



Or join [BBC Bitesize](#) on 8 February as they broadcast a free live careers session from the Science Museum, exploring different apprenticeship routes within science.

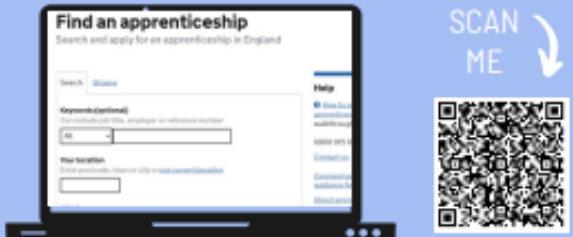




## Department for Education

### Apprenticeships are changing lives

There are thousands of apprenticeships covering a wide range of job roles in more than 170 industries, and new apprenticeships are advertised each week. You can use our website to search for apprenticeships in your local area.

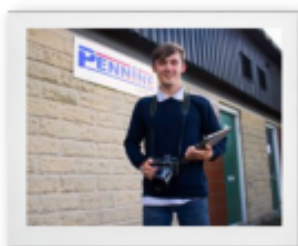


[Click here](#) to go to Find an Apprenticeship, the website to search for apprenticeships in your local area.

You can also register to receive email and text alerts about new apprenticeship vacancies that match your search criteria as soon as they are advertised.

### Meet Adam: Apprentice at Pennine Labels

Adam recently achieved a distinction for his digital marketing apprenticeship and has gone on to make a real impact with his employers. Adam was keen to build on his passion for photography and was excited to be enrolled on his digital marketing apprenticeship with Pennine Labels. Working for a small company, he has been supported by the management and given lots of responsibility.



#### Get the Jump!

Explore all your education and training choices by visiting the [Get the Jump website](#)

### Meet Sadaqat: Apprentice at Cushman & Wakefield

Sadaqat works at Cushman & Wakefield and is completing a Chartered Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship. Sadaqat has been provided with a fantastic support network through his employer, giving him the opportunity to learn from colleagues. He loves and enjoys the work he does, having a positive impact, taking ownership and making a difference to diversity in the industry.

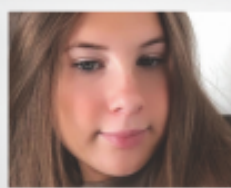


### Unsure which apprenticeship to choose?

There are lots of apprenticeships you can start straight after school. Check out our [Career Starter Apprenticeships](#) and hear from young people how an apprenticeship has launched their careers. Or you can contact our [Apprentice Ambassador Network](#) for advice.



### Meet Ellie: Technical support apprentice at Sage Group Ltd



"I chose to start an apprenticeship with Sage because I had just left school and wanted to continue my education further, while having more independence, and working in a professional environment."

### Further Information

Our [apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) website has more information about apprenticeships and how to apply.







## Connaught School for Girls

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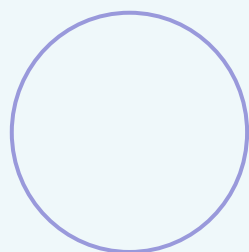
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS LINSEY HAND



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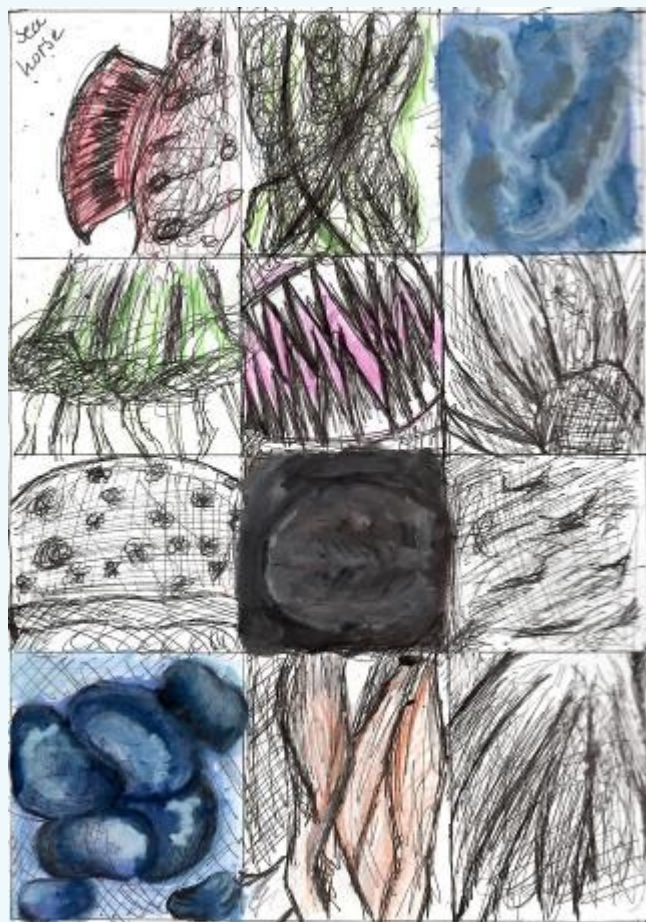
## Artist of the Month

Year 7 have been exploring texture, shape, form and colour for their 'Under the Sea' assignment in Art, Craft and Design. They have been experimenting with different types of media.

Leila has shown real confidence with some very bold work, sketching her close-up images with pen and ink. Because of this, she is the current 'Artist of the Month'. Well done Leila!

Mr Hamilton

Head of Art



## Dates for your Diary

<b>Spring Half-Term Holiday</b>	- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023
<b>First Day back after Half-Term</b>	- Monday 20th February 2023
<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b>	- Wednesday 15th March 2023
<b>Spring Term Holiday</b>	- Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023
<b>GCSE exams start</b>	- Monday 24th April 2023
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	- Monday 1st May 2023
<b>King's Coronation Bank Holiday</b>	- Monday 8th May 2023
<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening</b>	- Wednesday 17th May 2023
<b>Whitsun Half-Term Holiday</b>	- Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	- Friday 16th June 2023 (closed to students)
<b>Last School Day of the Year</b>	- Wednesday 19th July 2023

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