



**Connaught**  
School for Girls

# Newsletter

March 2023

2022-23 Issue: 46

## Special points of interest:

- students join the 'Big Climate Conversation' group
- interesting visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
- annual 'Onatti' plays in French and Spanish
- World Book Day 2023
- Theatre Club trip

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely time of year! The trees are filled with blossom, the days are lighter and brighter and our students are a continued source of inspiration and pride! Last night we held our Iftar event and two of our students, Khadija Kousar and Meerub Fatima, gave speeches about Ramadan and the importance of inclusion at Connaught. They were absolutely brilliant and I could not have been more proud of our incredible students. It was a great event organised by Ms. Maniar and a number of our parent body and I wanted to say a special thankyou to Zeenat for all her time and energy and Riz at Eidparty for the fantastic decorations.

I also wanted to thank all the parents who baked for or attended our charity coffee morning for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal. Samim and Debbie from our PTA did a brilliant job organising this event. It was lovely to meet so many of you and we have now raised over £1,000 for this charity. Much of this has been from student donations and I have been so impressed by the generosity and compassion demonstrated by Connaught Students.

This time of year also brings with it increased determination and focus from our year 11 students who are now on the countdown to their final GCSE examinations. The students are working incredibly hard and I know they will ensure their time is used wisely over the break. Whilst it is important to have some rest, it is also absolutely crucial at this time of year that year 11 have a clear revision timetable and are tackling their areas of weakness and asking for the help they need. There are a number of revision sessions taking place over the Easter break for year 11 as well as a study space available in the first week of the holiday which students can book into if they feel more able to focus on their revision at school. Year 10 will also be approaching their first set of formal mock examinations. The timetable for this has been published and I would strongly encourage you to go through this with your child and support them in allocating time to revise over the break.

I also wanted to update parents about the proposal to join a multi academy trust. I had previously written to parents to outline that the school was consulting on a proposal to form a MAT with Norlington, the Exceptional Educational Trust.

## Message from the Headteacher (continued)

Further to extensive consultation and discussions, it has now been decided that this merger will not take place, although Connaught will continue, as we always have, to work closely with Norlington School. There are a number of other opportunities which we are considering in terms of partnerships and I will update you as soon as I have more information about this.

Alan Douglas, our Chair of Governors is stepping down at the end of this term. I wanted to thank him for all the incredible support he has given the school. Liz Jackson, our vice chair will be stepping into this post. As a retired Headteacher and a governor at Gwyn Jones Primary School, I know she will bring a huge amount of valuable experience to the role. We are also delighted to have two new parent governors join us, Zak Sayed and Khurram Sair who both bring considerable expertise in their respective fields and will be an absolute asset as members of the governing body.

So, enjoy the break and the brighter days, I wish you a lovely Easter and to those fasting during this holy month I wish you Ramadan Kareem. I look forward to seeing you refreshed at the start of the Summer term.

Linsey Hand

Headteacher



## Celebrating International Women’s Day at Connaught!

During February and March, students have been preparing for International women's day through a range of different means. Students have been:

- preparing speeches for the Soapbox heroine event organised by Ms Jemal
- creating statistics display based on women at work to highlight the levels of inequality
- identifying media and social media's portrayal of women through body images and the impact it has upon young women's identity
- researching inspirational women and the impact they had on society
- online harassment and gender exploitation

As well as this students in year 7 and 8 in particular have been working with educators in other lessons in order to have issues that are specific to women at the forefront of the curriculum. These have included the following:

In Drama-

Soapbox heroines where students have been performing in front of the whole school audience in the playground.

In English-

Learning about women authors and women poets and the impact they have had on the world of literature.

In Art-

Where researching women artists and feminism in art led to students creating pieces of Art which are based on women's campaigns.

In Geography-

Students have learned



about global education and the impact it has on women's lives both socially and economically.

In ICT-

Students have carried out research and presented on the first woman computer programmer.

In Form Time-

Students have watched short films and used inspirational quotes from women to generate discussions about the role of women in society.

It has been inspiring to see so many students being prepared to organise themselves and their learning with educators this month.

Mr Phillips

CCPSHE

*“Scream so that one day a hundred years from now another sister will not have to dry her tears wondering where in history she lost her voice”.*



This year we got to bring back our Soapbox Heroines project to commemorate International Women's

Day! Poet Jasmin Kaur famously said "Scream so that one day a hundred years from now another sister will not have to dry her tears wondering where in history she lost her voice".

Soapboxes were the traditional social media platforms where people could share their stories, and raise awareness of

issues and injustices.

The written word is important, but the Spoken Word carries even more emotion and power. Across a 2 week period students from Years 7-9 stood on our very own soapbox in the middle of a bustling playground at breaktimes and delivered speeches on everything

## Celebrating International Women's Day at Connaught! (continued)

from women's rights to climate change and finding joy in your everyday life. These brave students did what many adults find difficult to do, speaking with such passion and eloquence they inspired the crowds! Watching these students I feel safe in the knowledge that women's voices will not be lost in history!

Ms Jemal  
Head of Drama



## World Poetry Day 21st March

*"The winning poet will now have their poem published in the 'Spoken Word Power 2023' poetry anthology published by East Side."*

The power of the spoken word - don't underestimate it!

Once again we have been invited to take part in the East Side Spoken Word Power competition in celebration of World Poetry Day. This year our budding poets performed their poems based on the theme 'The places I'll go' in assembly.

The winning poet will now have their poem published in the 'Spoken Word Power 2023' poetry anthology published by East Side. This year the honour goes to Mariam Ramjan in 11F.

Congratulations to all the participants, and the finalists, as the real prize was the gift of you giving your words power and sharing them with us. We are so very grateful.

Here is a selection of just some of the entries including the winning poem and the two Finalists.  
Ms Jemal

### ***The Places I'll Go***

There's a beautiful place that is hidden,  
only two people know of its existence.  
As you turn left and stray from the path,  
you come across a canopy of trees that  
slouch like the hunchback of Notre Dame.

Behind the canopy of trees, a single bench,  
lit up by the heavens themselves,  
sits in the middle of the petal covered floor,  
waiting for you to visit with them once more.

This time however, you have come alone.  
The birds stop singing their romantic song.  
The wind sighs and the trees shake their heads.  
The flowers have wilted away in their beds.

The place that you went to when you felt so blessed,  
is now a place that you go to,  
when you miss the presence of,  
them.

Agne Purnalyte 11S FINALIST

## My Imagination

The place I'll go is my imagination  
I long for harmony...tranquility

Every morning birds chirping, owls hooting  
A gentle breeze  
Sky cloudless, sun shimmering  
Lush green trees, colorful blooming flowers everywhere

The place I'll go is my imagination  
I yearn to see poverty and starvation eradicated  
To hear healthy children scream in excitement  
No wars, brawls, or any other crimes  
I can only dream of a world so perfect

The horrors of this world wiped from existence  
Everyone has enough food, water, and basic human rights  
The place I'll go is my imagination  
I can only imagine a world so perfect

Halima Assam 10S

## Home

This is to the place I once called home  
The place I still reside  
The same walls and carpets  
But there is something missing inside

I want to go back to the place I once called home  
The place when everyone forgets their pride  
Letting go of our egos  
So we can all coincide

Back to the good old days where we would smile  
No worries about the future  
Where we would stand together and overcome any trial  
I want to bring back what's missing

Iqra Akbar 9S

## Bell rings

Bell rings.

I heave myself up,  
strangled with dull, "sturdy" polyester  
gripping my confined corpse,  
clutching the neglected piece of homework -  
pale, lethargic eyes scanning my great escape.

A swarm of ants, unleashed at eleven,  
like elephants fleeing a cramped menagerie:  
smiling, screeching, sprinting,  
grasping and stuffing themselves with flamboyant packets loaded with  
buckets of artificiality.

Half- malfunctioned, drunk eyes now fully die,  
a charcoal black scene invading them  
as my frosty face hits the damp, oak surface.  
I saunter along the Seine, strolling in utter suavity,  
draped in Chanel like a monument dressed in velvet.

No bell.

Gold glitter-like gleam shining through pearly eyes,  
the wind rhythmically dancing along maze-like streets,  
a light heart, smiling and singing to idleness and croissants -  
no shaky hands, no bundles of booklets, no irregular palpitations, no stutter-infused  
speech, no hypercritically-analysing eyes itching for me to fail. No heaviness.

That's where I'll go:  
somewhere kind, calm and uplifting.

No bell.

Somewhere I can actually breathe.

Humeira Khan 11G FINALIST



## The Places We'll Go, Together

When I grow up I'll get a job,  
A good one.  
One that will make me rich  
And the first thing I'll do is take you home with me.

I've only been there once, but it was your homeland.  
It was your childhood.  
You can show me the sights and all your family.  
They're mine too, but they won't really remember me.

We'll take the long plane ride and change in Morocco.  
Another long flight all the way to your home.  
You can show me the beaches that surround the island,  
The tropical trees and the foods and the drinks.  
We'll rest on the beach for hours on end,  
With all of our family and friends.

It will take a long time to get there,  
I'm only a child now.  
But wait for me please,  
This is my dream,  
Don't leave me when I so desperately want you to stay.  
Stay and watch my dream, our dream come true.  
Your old limb bones can still get you there,  
I'll help you, I promise just wait a little longer.  
They'll cure you, have faith.  
Don't leave me yet.

Because we'll go to Mauritius and stay there  
We will stay there until you have to go and you can't help it anymore.  
Because you're too old and too limp,  
And you'll have to go and you can't help it anymore.  
Because 10 years into the future who knows if you'll still be here,  
But let me believe that you'll try, try to stay alive  
And live our dream,  
I don't know what I'll do when you leave.  
I'm scared ...  
I'm scared of the place you'll go, without me.

Mariam Ramjan 11F WINNER

## Theatre Club

Our Theatre Club trip this half term was to '& Juliet' which closes at the end of March.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the play which is based on Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway's feelings about the play and how she would have written it differently. Set to a mix of modern day pop songs, it was an excellent show!

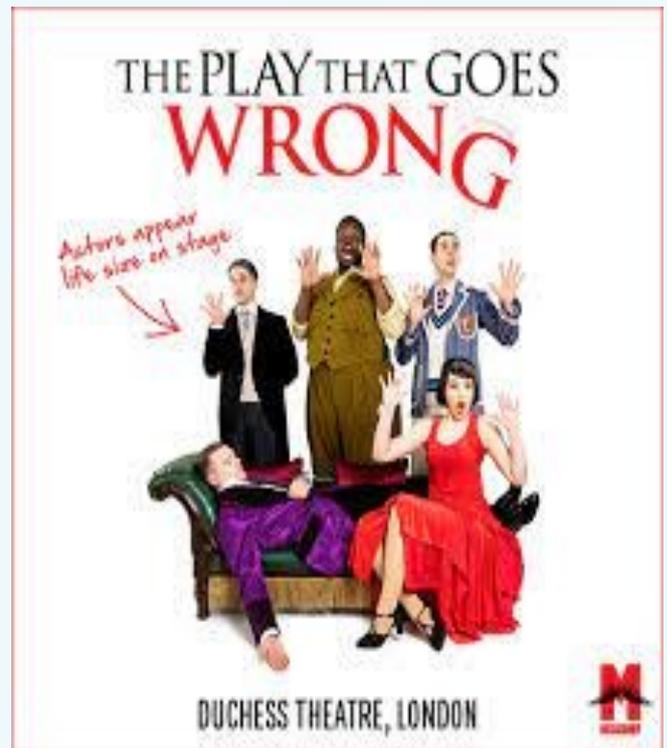


*"Set to a mix of modern day pop songs, it was an excellent show!"*

Our next Theatre Club trip is to watch 'Frozen The Musical' on May 11th. This trip is now full, but there is still an opportunity to attend the final trip of the year on the 6th June which is to the comedy 'The Play that Goes Wrong'. A very British Farce where everything that can go wrong does go wrong for a cast of actors who are putting on a play! Letters for this trip will be available soon!

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama



## World Book Day

Connaught School for Girls has hosted three World Book Day 2023 quizzes in March to celebrate reading. Year 7, 8 and 9 have all taken part in internal class book quiz competitions to both expand and explore their

general knowledge about literature. The English department then selected each team to represent their class in the year group play off. Please see our school website for information and pictures. See our

website: <https://www.connaught-school.co.uk>

Students have had to work in their teams to answer questions about: 19th century literature, Shakespeare, Harry Potter, Roald Dahl, Of

# World Book Day (continued)

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Mice and Men and some Marvel films. We would like to congratulate all students and their teams on their impressive efforts and enthusiasm. Students' detailed knowledge, especially about 'Harry Potter', was astounding. Well done to all!

## The teams:

7C - Zahraa , Amina, Rayyan, Alina, Arissa

7S - Tasnia, Tenisha, Hajrah, Hannah, Imaan

7W - Zafrin, Jasmine, Lily, Hafsa, Jannah

7F - Ifrah, Annaya, Khadija, Saffiyah S. and Saffiyah N.

7G - The brownies- Sara,

Hafsa, Ammara, Fatima, Ebony

8S - Mashaal, Rameesa. Inayah, Asma and Gilda.

8C - Sarina, Ella, Inaaya, Lucy, Leila

8W - Khalisa, Rija, Fatima, Zainab, Maria

8F - Yasmina, Melisa, Sumayyah, Mayeda, Eimaan

8G - Aliza, Maryam, Amna, Irum, Matilda

9/1 - Sophie, Anisa, Zainab, Anastasia, Salma

9/2 - Lamiya, Haleema, Meryem, Naimah and Zunairah

9/3 - Vanya, Zeba, Ruqayya, Elif, Freya

9/4 - Aya, Zoya,

Malavika, Aliyah M. and Zahra A.

## The winning teams:

- Year 9 - English Group 2
- Year 8 - 8F
- Year 7 - 7W

Also, a special thank you to our English Year 10 prefects: Meerub, Khadija K. and Aasiyah for helping with all the preparations of the quizzes. Please support us by continuing to encourage reading at home and all year.

Rumour has it, the Elder Wand will be back next year.....

Ms Maniar

English department

*"We would like to congratulate all students and their teams on their impressive efforts and enthusiasm."*



## Bookswap

Back, and as popular as ever, the library hosted a bookswap event. Students were asked to bring in books from home that they wish to share with others in their school community. A big

box was quickly filled and by the end of the week students were able to swap their books and refresh their home libraries. We also had asked students to design bookmarks to sell, to raise money for more

books to be added to our library.

Students were also given a quiz during registration to answer questions specific to reading in the school. Would you be able to take a crack at some of the questions?

## World Book Day (continued)

What is the most searched thing on Accessit web app?

- A. Throne of Glass
- B. Marie Lu
- C. Murder
- D. Crime

(Answer - C)

What is the most popular book for Year 10s?

- A. Win Lose Kill Die by Cynthia Murphy
- B. Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
- C. Girl in Pieces by Kathleen Glasgow

(Answer - B)



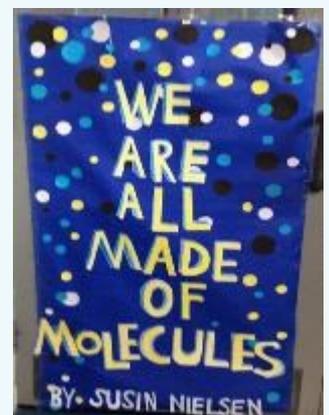
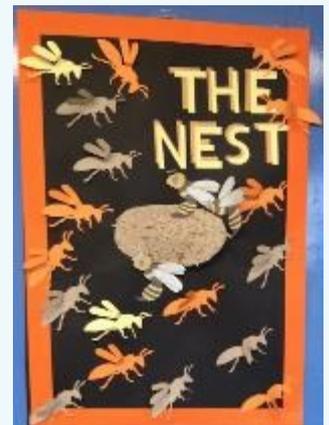
### Door decorating competition

Last but not least, the whole school battled it out in a door-decorating competition. Each form competed in turning their form class doors into book covers. The corridors became bright and bookish! After much deliberation, 11F took home the prize with their take on the book 'Bubble Boy' by Phil Earl.

Winning door below, left.

More of our brilliantly beautified doors below.

*"Each form competed in turning their form class doors into book covers."*



Finally, the library has asked all students in the school to fill in a Library feedback form. This will let us know how to provide a service to our students that is relatable and applicable to them. Please ensure that you have filled out the form, which you can find on the all school Google Classroom.

### Whole school & Year Assemblies : Summer Term 2023

Mondays : Years 7, 8 & 9

Tuesdays : Years 10 & 11

Week 1	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Earth day 22/04 - Making pledges (HAN/ QUI)
	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10
Week 2	<b>No assembly Monday</b> Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	May day, capitalism and workers rights (KS3) - (HIC)
	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 7
Week 3	<b>No assembly Monday</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	May day, capitalism and workers rights (KS4) - (HIC)
	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 8
Week 4	<b>No assembly Monday</b> Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation of the King (SIL)
	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr11 Final assembly
Week 5	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	International day of the family 15/5 (MAN)
	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 9
Week 6	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Sunscreen Day 27 <sup>th</sup> May- (looking after your health) (HAN)
	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>		
Week 7	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	World environment Day 5 <sup>th</sup> June - review pledges (HAN/QUI)
	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7
Week 8	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Design and iteration - Paper Airplane Day / challenge (SIL)
	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 8
Week 9	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June world refugee day (HIC)
	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 9
Week 10	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Freedom and liberty (MAN)
	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10
Week 10	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports and wellbeing- preparing for sports day (ELK)
	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Common Transfer Day</b>
Week 13	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Making the most of the summer break (HAN)
	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 8
Week 13	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term no assembly
	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Final year assembly

# Onatti

KS3 have been improving their language skills by watching the annual Onatti plays in French and Spanish. Students enjoyed the shows and again gave positive feedback. The plays are spoken entirely in the target language, by native speakers who deliver the language clearly and slowly. Students were further supported in their understanding by the delivery of pre-play lessons in their languages classes.



Zahra 9S also impressed the actresses with her French when she spoke to them after the play. Well done, girls!

"The play was fun and funny; it made me laugh so much." Greta 8C

"The play was absolutely amazing. The vocabulary was easy to pick up on." Zahra 9S

"I think the play is very fun and it made my day." Audrey 9S

"It was really fun to watch" Rumaysah 9S

"It was an overall amazingly and astonishing good play. I loved every minute of it!" Safiyah 7F

"It was a really fun play to watch and I would watch it again and recommend it to others." Khadija 7F

Ms El-Khandari  
Assoc. Assistant Headteacher

*"The play was absolutely amazing. The vocabulary was easy to pick up on."*

## The Globe Trip

I think that the Year 9 trips to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre were very interesting, informative and involving.

We travelled by tube and the transportation to the Globe was quick and not too busy. We then got the opportunity to walk across the river and see the views of The Globe and the other fascinating buildings before arriving at our destination.

The actors and the team behind the scenes made it so that it wasn't too modern or too old but

engaging and delivered in a way everyone could understand.

I personally enjoyed seeing the performance played as Shakespeare intended and the experience of being in

the famous open topped theatre. It was an excellent performance and I liked how the actors would stay in character perfectly - even if it rained!

Aisha Bilal



## Year 11 clubs / interventions for GCSEs 2023

Day	Time	Subject	Teacher	Location	
Monday	1.25-1.55	Science: Chem: SET 2 AND 3	Dr Ariyo	Room 5	Week A and B
	1 - 1:30pm	Food	Ms Wallace	Food room	Week A and B
	1.30-2.00	Homework club	SEN Team	Room 20	
Tuesday	3.30-4.30	Science: Chem: SET 1	Dr Ariyo	Annex	Week A and B
	1.30-2.00	History	Ms Saddique	Room 6	Week A and B
	1:20-2:00	Drama rehearsals	Ms Jemal	Hall	Week A and B
	1.25-1.55	Science: Chem SET 1	Dr Ariyo	Room 5	Week A and B
	3.30-4.30	History	Ms Saddique	Room 6	Week A and B
	1.30-2.00	Homework club	SEN Team	Room 20	
Wednesday	1.20-2.00	Geography	Ms Quinn	Room 7	Week A and B
	1:10-1:50	Spanish Higher	Ms Noakes	Room 40	Week A and B
	1.30-2.00	Homework club	SEN Team	Room 20	
Thursday	1:10-1:50	Spanish Foundation	Ms Noakes	Room 40	Week A and B
	1.25-1.55pm	Science: Chem: SET 2 AND 3	Dr Ariyo	Room 5	Week A and B
	1:20-2:00	Drama rehearsals	Ms Jemal	Hall	Week A and B
Friday	1.30-2.00	Homework club	SEN Team	Room 20	
	1-2:00	English GCSE drop in revision for all	Ms Caroto	Room 34	Week A and B
	3:15-4:15	Textiles	Ms Rain	Textiles	Week A and B



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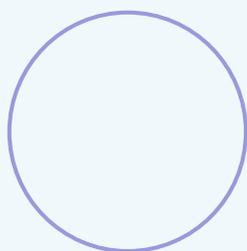
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS LINSEY HAND



Published and  
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

## Big Climate Conversation

We have teamed up with the Big Climate Conservation group during the past few months. KS3 and KS4 have explored the different type of climate changes and the impact that has happened within our environment in Waltham Forest. Our first trip was to Leyton Sixth Form College and we were listening to them about what they could change in their college.

There were other schools from Waltham Forest and we have all teamed up for the better of our Borough. Since then, two members of The Big Climate Conservation, Poppy and Emily have been doing workshops with us and we have talked about what we could change in our school. We have enjoyed the workshops that we have been doing for the past months and love

learning the different impacts that happens in the area we live in and around the world. We will be doing an event for our school to raise money and make it a green free space.

Mia Bondzi, Haleemah Abdulrehman, Zara Hussain, Safiyyah Patel, Freya Maitland, Lamiya Chabou and Jasmine Saeed



**Please note that from 17/4/23 student meals will be charged at £2.56 and not £2.60**

## Dates for your Diary

Last day of term	- Friday 31st March 2023
Spring Term Holiday	- Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023
First day back after Spring Term Holiday	- Monday 17th April 2023
GCSE exams start	- Monday 24th April 2023
May Day Bank Holiday	- Monday 1st May 2023
King's Coronation Bank Holiday	- Monday 8th May 2023
Year 7 Parents' Evening	- Wednesday 17th May 2023
Whitsun Half-Term Holiday	- Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023
Staff Training Day (closed to students)	- Wednesday 14th June 2023
Last School Day of the Year	- Wednesday 19th July 2023

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