



Connaught
School for Girls

Newsletter

October 2023

2023-24 Issue: 49

Special points of interest:

- Year 10 students develop self confidence and resilience in public speaking skills
- commitment and sportsmanship displayed in a fantastic sports day
- Year 11 Geography GCSE students visit Walton-on-the-Naze
- Year 6 Open Evening

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to open by telling you how much the students at Connaught School for Girls have impressed me this term by their determination, their resilience, their drive and their focus. Despite some challenges, our students have shown real commitment to their studies and as I walk around school, I am filled with admiration for the mature and ambitious approach to their studies our students demonstrate. Students across Year 11 in particular, have made a fantastic start to this year, they are already attending additional revision and support sessions and are very much focussed on achieving the best in their final year at Connaught. Well done year 11 and keep this up!

Meanwhile, outside of the classroom, our students have also demonstrated resilience and determination in the sporting arena, with many students excelling and beating school records in our Autumn sports day. Our Winter concert is currently in preparation and it is a delight to hear the musicality of the talented performers as the sound of rehearsals spills out of the music room and preparation for this year's drama performance, "Mehndi Night" are well underway with many students attending auditions to be part of this very special performance.

October is Black History Month and this was marked with a special student-led assembly, amongst other events. The students who delivered this demonstrated excellent public speaking skills. It is no easy feat to address over 300 young people but the students participating delivered their message with impressive confidence.

We had a very successful Open Evening this half term, our guides were Year 8 and Year 10 students and we were so impressed by the fabulous tours they delivered to Year 6 students and their families throughout the evening. We received so many compliments about the tours and I could not have been prouder of our polite, confident young people.

In Governor News, I wanted to let you know that we will shortly be recruiting for additional parent governors. The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body. If you have any questions about the role and would like to come and discuss this with the Chair of Governors or I, please do get in touch. I also wanted to say a big thankyou to

Message from the Headteacher (continued)

Alan Douglas, Vice Chair of Governors who ended his term of office this year. He was a great asset to the Governing Body over his 4 year term.

You will have seen an email from the chair of "Friends of Connaught School for Girls"

(previously Connaught PTA) who are organising a Curry and Quiz night as the first event of the year. This will take place on Friday 24th November at 6.15pm so save the date! If you would be interested in helping, please email connaughtschoolpta@gmail.com

We have recently been approached by a number of local residents raising concerns about traffic on Grove Green Road at pick up and drop off times. As you are aware, the schoolstreets programme aims to reduce vehicles on the school run to reduce traffic and make it easier for pupils, parents, carers and staff to walk or cycle to school. It also aims to improve air quality near school by reducing waiting vehicles. Following on from the concerns raised by local residents, I have been advised that additional parking civil enforcement officers will be deployed in the area and I would urge all families to use alternative transport methods, wherever possible to avoid further congestion in our locality.

I also wanted to use this opportunity to reiterate my recent message to you at this difficult time as we witness the escalating crisis and humanitarian disaster in the Middle East. We will be continuing to collect for the charity chosen by our students, "Save the Children" and we will be providing further opportunities for students to discuss this both in humanities lessons and in some lunchtime drop ins after the half term break. We want to encourage students to do something constructive to show how they, and the school desire peace. Students who wish to can also complete a self - referral to our school counsellor should they wish to discuss any worries which they might have and our staff and especially tutors will continue to proactively look for ways to support our students..

I wrote to you earlier this term to let you know the outcome of our Stakeholder Engagement to join Star Multi Academy Trust. Star are still carrying out their due diligence and I will update you as soon as I have any further information.

I wanted to thank you for your patience whilst we navigate the current industrial action surrounding the proposal.

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

Ms Linsey Hand

Headteacher





HEY, FAMILIES OF WALTHAM FOREST!

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can join in with our
groups
in Waltham
Forest! Includes
cooking lessons &
physical activity.



BeeZee Academy

Get free access
to our online
library to learn
about healthy
habits and
routines in your
own time.



SCAN ME WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA!



*to be eligible for this awesome free service, your family must live/go to school/be registered with a GP in Waltham Forest and include one child age 5-15 who is above their ideal healthy weight.



03308 186308 www.beezeebodies.com/families



BeeZee Families



Drama

Theatre Club

Helloooo Everyone, Theatre Club is returning in January with our first visit to Mrs Doubtfire the Musical.

We can't wait!!

Look out for advertisements for the next trip. Remember tickets are reserved on a first come first served basis.



School Production

Rehearsals are well underway for our school production 'Mehndi Night' by Finn Kennedy. The play was originally written for the students at Mulberry Girls School, Tower Hamlets. For a long time the representation of women and specifically women from ethnic minority backgrounds

has been lagging behind in the Arts which is why plays like 'Mehndi Night' are so important. I chose the play because I know so many of our students will identify with the characters and the cultural aspects in the play and there is nothing better than feeling 'seen'.

We welcome you to our Mehndi Night early in the New Year.

It will be a night of festivities with food, drink, henna and a wonderful performance! Ticket details will be released in the next newsletter in December.

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama

"It will be a night of festivities with food, drink, henna and a wonderful performance!"

Science

The science department has made a great start to the new academic year with all hands on deck and full speed ahead in making sure that all our students get full support and that their individual needs are being met.

Lunchtime Clubs

Lunchtime clubs are now up and running for the Year 11 students for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All theory lessons are well supported with practical activities .

Thank you to our lovely science technician who always goes that extra mile to meet our last minute requests.

Year 10

The Year 10 students are shown, delighted with carrying out the required GCSE practical for testing the different food groups and getting the positive

results for carbohydrates, sugars, proteins and lipids.



Science (continued)

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Year 6 Open Evening

The Year 6 students did not want to leave the science department as they became so engaged in the practical activities. Making slime, carrying out chromatography, testing acids and alkalis, testing different foods, making electrical circuits as well as looking at a wide range of specimens and models. All in all it was a very positive experience for all concerned.

The volunteers in the science department were amazing.

Thank You

AMNA BAIG, ASMA

MILZAMAN, ZANNAT AL-RAHMAN, MASHAAL MANIAR, EIMAN MAHMOOD, MALVIKA PILLIA, AMINA WAHEED, MUNA, HIBA MAHMOOD & ELIF KAALP.

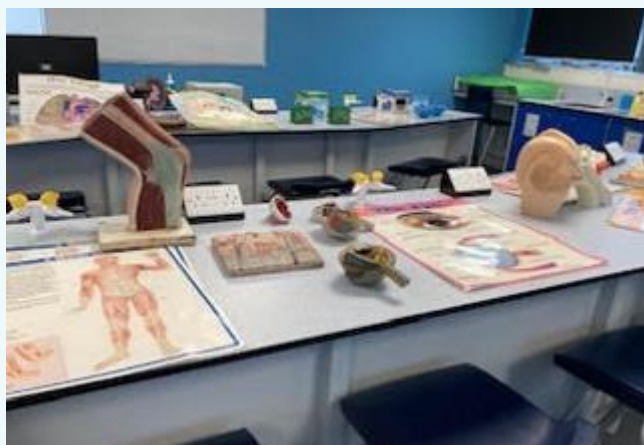
I know that they learnt a lot and had a great time explaining and demonstrating all the

different practicals to the students and the parents on tour.

A massive Thank you to them all and everyone in science for all their hard work.

Mrs Siddique

Science department



"The volunteers in the science department were amazing."

Geography

Year 11 Walton-on-the-Naze fieldwork

As a part of the Geography GCSE, the students carried out fieldwork at Walton-on-the-Naze.

The students have studied coastal erosion in the classroom and this was an opportunity for them to see a range of methods for protecting the coast and get an understanding of what factors influence how to defend certain areas. Their focus for the fieldwork was to look at change over time and mitigating risk which tied in really nicely with the location. We began the day by climbing the steps of the Naze Tower to get a panoramic view of the area. This gave the students an opportunity to see how erosion rates are rapidly cutting away at the cliffs north of the town and compare this to heavily defended sections to the south of the tower. During the day the students walked from the Naze tower towards



the town collecting data, stopping off to have lunch on the sea wall. After this, the students conducted surveys in the local community to understand the impacts of coastal erosion on residents, businesses and the environment and how the residents have been impacted over time. The students also had the opportunity to look at the process of longshore drift in action and how the defences work to try and prevent sediment from moving down the beach. This was carried out by measuring the distance and time it took for oranges to move along

the coasts. Back at school the students are to use the data collected during the trip and analyse the information creating a poster to present to their peers but also members of SLT to show off their coastal knowledge. I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone and well done as during the day the students were excellent at taking data and listening even if the wind was blowing which made it harder to hear, but also well done for speaking to members of the public and being very polite while doing so.

Mr Desborough

Head of Geography

"We began the day by climbing the steps of the Naze Tower to get a panoramic view of the area."





Year 9 River Models

Geography is proud to celebrate the MIND-BLOWING work created by the Year 9s at our school. Students were asked to create a model of a river to consolidate their learning within the classroom as part of their home learning project. A winner is due to be announced by Mr Silk who will be personally rewarding the students for their incredible work and efforts. We are super impressed with all of the students who have participated, well done and keep up the good work!

Ms Khaliq & Mr Desborough

Geography department



"Students were asked to create a model of a river to consolidate their learning within the classroom as part of their home learning project."

Geography (continued)



"A winner is due to be announced by Mr Silk who will be personally rewarding the students for their incredible work and efforts."



A Fantastic Sports Day

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The Sports Day on the 22nd of September at the Track and Field Center was a truly remarkable event. The girls demonstrated their passion for sports, competing with heart and soul in various disciplines, from sprinting to long jump, and everything in between. The atmosphere was electric as students, teachers and spectators gathered to support our athletes. This event was a testament to the teamwork, sportsmanship and determination that define the spirit of our school.

We witnessed incredible displays of speed, strength and agility, with every participant giving their absolute best. The level of commitment and sportsmanship displayed by our girls was truly inspiring. Whether they

secured first place or simply crossed the finish line with a smile, every student's effort was celebrated. The joy of participation and the thrill of competition were palpable throughout the day.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and carers who came to witness the amazing efforts of our girls at the Sports Day. Your presence, cheers, and encouragement played an instrumental role in motivating our young athletes. Your unwavering support makes a significant difference, and it was heartwarming to see you all come together to celebrate the achievements of our students.

A big thank you goes out to our dedicated staff members who worked

very hard in order to manage this successful event. Their commitment to the physical education and well-being of our students is commendable. Their efforts, guidance and enthusiasm not only contributed to the smooth running of the Sports Day but also nurtured a positive and inclusive sporting environment for our girls.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates from the PE Department and our future sporting events. We encourage everyone to keep supporting our girls on their journey towards excellence.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant Connaught School for Girls community!

Ms Agilara
PE department

"The atmosphere was electric as students, teachers and spectators gathered to support our athletes."



A Fantastic Sports Day (continued)

OVERALL SPORTS DAY RESULTS

YEAR 8

POSITION	POINTS	CLASS
3rd	62	8S
2nd	63	8W
1st	66	8G

4th 59 points 8C

5th 54 points 8F

YEAR 9

POSITION	POINTS	CLASS
3rd	61	9S
2nd	65	9C
1st	72	9W

4th 59 points 9F

5th 47 points 9G

YEAR 10

POSITION	POINTS	CLASS
3rd	48	10S
2nd	51	10W
1st	59	10C

4th 44 points 10F

This event was a testament to the teamwork, sportsmanship and determination that define the spirit of our school.

A Fantastic Sports Day (continued)

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YEAR 11

POSITION	POINTS	CLASS
3rd	41	11S
2nd	51	11W
1st	53	11C

4th 31 points 11F



"Whether they secured first place or simply crossed the finish line with a smile, every student's effort was celebrated."

Jack Petchey

Jack Petchey visited the school to share their well-known 'Speak Out' Challenge. 29 Year 10 students were chosen to take part. From the very beginning of the session, students were ready to engage. The aim of the session was to help students build their confidence in public speaking.

The theme of the workshop was courage and confidence. Students

were tasked with a range of activities that highlighted the importance of allowing one's self to be courageous and then taking action.

Some activities got the students to do things they've never done before - pretend to be amoebas, play 'rock-paper-scissors' as chickens, and pretend to be

politicians using only the words "abba dabba". It was a joy to witness!

Thank you to Jack Petchey for this wonderful opportunity.

Ms Khanom
LRC Manager



"My brain hurts!"

Students have been busy all week thinking hard and working collaboratively.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Year 10 students got to grips with financial matters in a series of Financial Literacy workshops, learning all about bank accounts and income tax. Year 10 students have also been working with the Jack Petchey Foundation preparing for the Speak Out Challenge. They have developed self confidence and resilience in public speaking skills. We can't wait to hear our Speak Out finalists present their speeches during assemblies.

Year 7 and 8 have been working collaboratively, and competitively,

applying their maths learning to a series of fiendishly difficult challenges with the Happy Puzzle Company.

Maryam, in Year 8, said "Perseverance allowed us as a team to overcome challenges, no matter the situation, and to move on and achieve our goals" and Amara thought the workshop was full of "engaging activities that sharpen your mind, and is fun for all!

Next, Year 11 students will be honing their study skills in a series of exam preparation workshops.

"In the activity we were given many different puzzles. We had to work together to work them out. Once we finished we had to show them to

a staff member and then get the next one. The first couple of puzzles were quite easy but later on it got harder but we did not give up and we completed it. In my opinion, the activity was fun and enjoyable!"

Nadia 7W

"Today during the activity we had so much fun. Although it was quite confusing and difficult at the start, we still really enjoyed ourselves. Personally, I really enjoyed the puzzle where we had to make the penguins balance on the ice cube!"

Zeynep 7W

Ms Hickes

Assistant Headteacher

"Personally, I really enjoyed the puzzle where we had to make the penguins balance on the ice cube!"



EARLY HELP COMMUNITY DROP IN

Our early help community drop-in is here

It's a place where everyone can come to get friendly support and information from local volunteers, community organisations and Waltham Forest Early Help teams in an informal space.

We can help you with information about **local services**, **support for parents**, **community activities**, and **help to use online services** and more.

WALTHAM FOREST

FAMILY HUBS

ACCESS, RELATIONSHIPS, CONNECTION

CAN YOU HELP?

**You can find
out how to
volunteer here:**



DROP IN FROM 9.45-11.15AM

FREE DROP IN SESSION, NO NEED TO BOOK

TUESDAY

**LEYTON
FAMILY HUB**
215 QUEENS ROAD
E17 8PJ

WEDNESDAY

**CHINGFORD
FAMILY HUB**
5 OAKS GROVE
E4 6EY

THURSDAY

**WALTHAMSTOW
FAMILY HUB**
313 BILLET ROAD
E17 5PX

FRIDAY

**LEYTONSTONE
FAMILY HUB**
2-8 CATHALL ROAD
E11 4LF



Waltham Forest

St Andrews Church, Colworth Road, E11

Soul Food Community offers a monthly, free, three-course meal on Mondays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm through the summer and weekly during the winter months, between November and March.

Every 3rd Monday

Cannhall Masjid Friday 5-7pm

Transition community fridge

Methodist Church

Currently every Friday and Saturday from 12-1, and alternate Sundays from 11-12.

St Margaret with St Columba

15 Woodhouse Road, Leytonstone E11 3NG

A very generous bag of groceries for £3

Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo

4 Holloway Road,

Leytonstone,

London

E11 4LD

Food share Tuesdays 11-12 no referral £2

Elim Pentecostal Church

Hainault Rd, Leytonstone, London, E11 1EL

Foodbank is open between 10am – 12 noon on a Wednesday and Thursday.

PL84U Al-Suffa

1. Email pl84u@gmail.com

No referral needed

Rukhsana Khan Foundation rukhsanafoundation@outlook.com

The Hornbeam centre [020 8558 6880](tel:02085586880) <https://www.hornbeam.org.uk/>

Thursday: **Leftovers Club workshop** - 11am-2pm.

Friday: 11am - 3pm

Saturday: 11am - 3pm

Lunch (Brunch on Saturdays) served from 12pm - 2:45pm

Pay what you feel/can

<https://bagsoftaste.org>

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Connaught School for Girls

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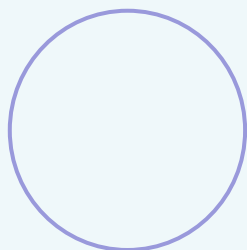
tel: 020 8539 3029
fax: 020 8558 3827

Email:
school@connaught.
waltham.sch.uk

seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS LINSEY HAND



Published and
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

Student quote

"The Open Evening gave us an opportunity to meet prospective parents and students. We were able to share our love and passion for science by displaying a variety of experiments. This allowed them to spectate, and interact with an assortment of chemicals and specialised equipment so they could perceive science in action!

From catching a glimpse of a cell through a microscope, to testing for starch...

There was something for everyone to enjoy!

This evening was a pleasure, allowing us to share our knowledge, by showcasing it to others."

Heba Mahmood 10S

Dates for your Diary

Half Term Holiday	- Monday 23rd to <u>Monday 30th</u> October 2023
First day back after Half Term	- Tuesday 31st October 2023
Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams	- Friday 1st to Thursday 21st December 2023
Last Day of Autumn Term	- Thursday 21st December 2023
Start of Spring Term for all	- Monday 8th January 2024
Half Term Holiday	- Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024
Staff Training Day 3	- Thursday 14th March 2024
Last Day of Spring Term	- Thursday 28th March 2024
First Day of Summer Term (all)	- Monday 15th April 2024
May Bank Holiday	- Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term Holiday	- Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024
Last Day of Summer Term	- Friday 19th July 2024

www.connaught-school.co.uk