



Connaught

School for Girls

Dyers Hall Road
Leytonstone
London E11 4AE

Headteacher — Ms Linsey Hand B.A.(Hons)

seize the day

Friday 03 November 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

I wanted to update you on a communication we have had from Star Academies. Following completion of its due diligence, we have been informed by Star that they do not intend to proceed with the transfer. They have considered the school's financial position and the funding available to them, and have concluded that it would not be in the best interests of Connaught School for Girls or the existing Star family of schools to proceed. As a result, Connaught School for Girls will no longer join Star Academies. I recognise that many of you will be disappointed by this news. However, I can reassure you that, despite this setback, the school will continue its improvement journey and will leave no stone unturned in its pursuit of excellence.

Like all schools, Connaught has to be financially viable. As funding to schools has been reduced in real terms over the past decade, this has put increasing pressure on the school's financial position. In recent years, the school has been running a deficit budget. We will continue to explore opportunities to achieve financial savings in a sustainable way that prioritises your daughter's education and the breadth and quality of learning opportunities available to her. We are currently considering a number of different options to achieve a balanced budget, including looking at potential changes to our timetable and staffing. No decisions have yet been agreed and any proposals will be fully consulted on.

As you will be aware, one of the reasons for the industrial action taking place by NEU members at Connaught School for Girls was the opposition by these members of staff to joining a multi academy trust. Following successful talks in school yesterday, I can now confirm that the planned industrial action has been suspended and **the strikes announced by the NEU on Tuesday 14 November 2023 - Friday 17 November 2023 will no longer go ahead.** We will continue to have discussions with NEU representatives around plans to eliminate the school deficit and make plans to ensure we are able to spend more money on learning resources and activities for our students. I will update you on these talks in due course but remain confident that we will be able to ensure that no further strikes will take place. We will now focus on ensuring all students attain challenging learning goals this year after the disruption they have experienced and providing students preparing for their GCSEs with further support and intervention in the run up to the mock examination period.

I want to apologise for the disruption families have faced and thank you for all your support,

Yours sincerely

Linsey Hand
Headteacher

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