



**Connaught**  
*School for Girls*



# Newsletter



**December 2023**

**2023-24 Issue: 50**

## Special points of interest:

- Creative Textiles work
- Year 9 poems based on the theme of Refuge
- Students learn new skills in Product Design and produce outstanding work
- Year 9 Drama students learn the art of puppetry

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear families,

I wanted to write by opening with my huge congratulations to the performers who took part in our recent Winter concert last night. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and all that attended were delighted by the variety and quality of the songs which were performed. It would be impossible to pick out one



favourite but particular highlights for me included "Do You Wanna Build A Snowman" and a Year 11 performance which involved a vocalist, an instrumentalist and a tap dancer! A brilliant evening and every single performer has my greatest admiration for their poise and confidence during the performances. Huge thanks too to Ms. Sangar who rehearsed with the students for many weeks leading up to the event.

I also wanted to praise our Year 11 cohort for their conduct and focus during their recent mock examinations. They have really applied themselves to their revision and worked well during the examinations. I hope they have some rest over the Christmas season alongside continued study as they prepare themselves for the final GCSE examinations. Following results in January, the school will begin a programme of intervention and support for those students who need this and will also work with the students to ensure they have the right mindset as they near this important period.

At the end of this term, I will be leaving Connaught to move onto new challenges. Alex Silk will be taking up the post of Acting Headteacher and I have every confidence that he will carry out this role extremely well. He is an exceptional leader who has worked at Connaught since 2008 and who is passionate about the school, its history and its future. I know the school will go from strength to strength under his headship. I have loved working here and getting to know so many families and I look forward to hearing about Connaught's continued successes in the future.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays

Linsey Hand

Headteacher



## Christmas Concert 2023



Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent,

**Re: Book your child for their free winter holiday club**

I am pleased to be writing to invite you to book your child onto the free Waltham Forest's Holiday Activity and Food Programme for Winter 2023.

These free holiday opportunities are funded through the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which enables us to provide a holiday programme across the borough for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December you will be able to visit the website below where you will be able to book your child onto range of sessions from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, at no cost to you. The sessions will include a variety of fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

- To find out more and the places available to book, please visit [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays)
- To book a place you must enter your unique code: **CSFGHAF23** for your child when asked for the 'FSM Code' at checkout.
- If you have any queries regarding the holiday activity programme, please email [wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk) or call 0208 496 3000.

In addition to this free programme, families who are eligible for Universal Credit may be able to claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit> to find out more.

Yours faithfully,



**Lindsay Jackson**  
**Assistant Director Post 16 & School Operations**

## Waltham Forest Holiday Activity and Food Programme Referral Eligibility Criteria

### What is HAF?

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is a national programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE). It is provided for those in receipt of **benefits-related** Free School Meals and those that the borough has assessed as being in need, at risk or vulnerable.

Local authorities have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision.

In this document we detail:

- How we prioritise places
- How to refer a child
- When we accept referrals
- When you will be notified whether a child has been accepted onto HAF
- More information on HAF
- Other opportunities for children

### How we prioritise places:

Unfortunately, due to the high demand of referred places we are unable to guarantee each referred child a place and we prioritise each child who is referred on the following basis:

1. Children who are under the care of a Local Authority
2. Children with a Children in Need Plan and / or Child Protection Plan
3. Children assessed by a social worker, family support officer or schools DSL as being at risk
4. Children who are young carers
5. Children who have no recourse to public funds
6. Children assessed by a school or other professional as having a vulnerability

Places will be allocated to children in priority category 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 immediately. If a child meets priority 6 they will be placed on a waiting list. Should there be places available and we are able to allocate remaining referrals, we will inform referrers by 5 working days prior to the start of the HAF programme.

Should places be limited and there are multiple children of equal priority, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, according to the date and time of the referral submission.

### If my child previously attended HAF will they automatically receive a place?

Previous referrals to HAF does not guarantee a place on the current programme. Referrals will need to be made for every period of programme delivery, and allocations will be made according to the prioritisation process set out above, and with respect to available spaces.



### **How to refer a child:**

We have a Waltham Forest Holiday Fun (HAF) Referral Form that we ask professionals to complete on a child's behalf. **Referral forms will only be accepted from professionals with Local Authority services or local schools.**

Professionals must gain consent from parents/carers/guardians before they submit the referral. Professionals are requested that to inform parents/carers/guardians on the following:

- We will use the information provided to check data held by the London Borough of Waltham Forest in relation to FSM eligibility, EHCP, LAC
- We may contact the child's school for further information, including additional information that the HAF Provider may require (such as Health Care Protocols)
- If allocated a place, we will share all information provided with the HAF Provider including any Health care Protocols and other information required to support the child

Professionals will need to:

- Complete one form per child - <https://forms.office.com/e/JjQTS3ebzr>
- Provide as much information as possible
- The link to the referral form can be found at [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays)

### **When we accept referrals:**

The referral request form will be opened alongside the benefits-related FSM places. Referrals will close one week before delivery has started. If referral forms are not returned in this time frame a place can not be guaranteed.

### **When will parents be notified whether a child has been accepted onto HAF:**

For children who meet the prioritised criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 we will inform referrers of the place immediately, where available.

Where a child meets criteria 6, we will place the child on a waiting list. Places will be allocated to these children, where available, 5 working days prior to the start of the HAF programme and we will inform all referrers of the outcome.

Places are not confirmed until parents receive confirmation of allocation by email from the provider.

### **Other opportunities for children in addition to HAF**

- Looked after children may be able to access some support and/or activities in the holidays. Email [virtualschool@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@walthamforest.gov.uk) for details
- Children with SEND/EHCP may be able to access the Short Breaks offer. Visit <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/local-offer-special-educational-needs-and-disability-send> for more information
- Children may be able to access free provision offered through our Family Hubs : <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/families-young-people-and-children/family-hubs>
- Young people may be able to access free provision offered by our Space4All programme: <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/stories/space4all-opens-local-hubs-young-people-waltham-forest>
- Parents / carers interested in holiday clubs or leisure activities can visit <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/families-young-people-and-children/youth-services-directory>

### **More information on HAF**

- Any queries, please contact us at [wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk)
- Further information and our policies can be found at [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays)

## Attendance and Punctuality

### Punctuality

A gentle reminder please that pupils are required to be at school and be sat in form rooms by **8.30am** when the register is taken. I would suggest, therefore, that pupils should aim to arrive to walk through the playground gate (Dyers Hall Road) at 8.20am or by 8am (Connaught Road gate) if wishing to attend breakfast club and/or the library.

Punctuality has improved since last academic year and pupils have responded well to our encouragement and explanations of why good punctuality is so important. Some students, however, are persistently arriving after 8.30am. Students in Year 10 and 11 are expected to attend a 15 minute after school detention the same day, if they are late. Students in years 7 - 9 complete a lunchtime detention with their Head of Year on that day. Please also note that students arriving and entering at the Connaught Road at or just before 8.30am will also be registered as late to school.

Students who arrive after 9.10am (after the registers have closed) and without an authorised reason from parents are marked with a U code. This counts as

an unauthorised attendance for the am session. Please note that 10 unauthorised U code lates in six consecutive school weeks will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

### Attendance

As you may have heard on the news, there is a national concern about school attendance. The Children's Commissioner has made this a key focus of her work and attention. Through their research, it has been identified that children and young people are struggling to attend school at the same levels as they did pre-pandemic. Last academic year, the national school absence rate was 7.5% compared to 4.7% pre-pandemic. We set our students at Connaught School for Girls the goal of 96% attendance, but we realise this may be difficult for young people with chronic health needs and mental health difficulties. We are committed to working with and supporting our students who may fall into these categories and we would urge any parent/carers with concerns to please either contact Ms Hickes (Assistant Headteacher) or your child's Head of Year to discuss any

concerns or barriers to good attendance.

Please ensure that you contact the school by 8am, if your child is unable to attend school. If you do not inform the school you will receive an absence alert text; please respond promptly.

If you need to request any time off school for planned or exceptional leave of absence, you must complete the following form well in advance of the request. If the request is not authorised by the Headteacher and your child does not attend school you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

Please see our Attendance and Punctuality Policy on the school website for further information.

### Uniform

Please remember that the school **blazer and tie** are required parts of our school uniform. Blazers and ties must be worn at all times within the school buildings. While a plain navy blue v-neck jumper is an optional part of the uniform, this is not a substitute for the school blazer. Please mark your child's blazer with their name.

Students must also wear **school shoes** (as described in the School

"Please remember that the school blazer and tie are required parts of our school uniform."

# Attendance and Punctuality (continued)

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Uniform Policy). Trainers or boots must not be worn. Students must wear either **socks or tights (navy blue or black)** and not both together. Trousers or leggings under skirts must not be worn.

**Hoodies** must also not be worn on the school premises. Please ensure your child has a suitable

school coat, particularly as the weather becomes colder.

Please contact your daughter's Head of Year or myself, if you would like to discuss how the school may be able to help with the provision of uniform items. We have funds available for students in receipt of free school meals and have a

supply of pre-loved items for loan.

Please see our Uniform Policy on the school website for further information.

Ms Hickes

Assistant Headteacher

## Drama

### Shadow Puppet Projects

Year 9 have started working on their Shadow Puppet projects in Drama. The project incorporates the skills of exploring shadow puppets, developing ideas, performing and evaluating their work. Puppetry can be a very freeing art form, performers are hidden behind a shadow screen, they incorporate their puppets, voices, and music to help tell their stories. The element of being hidden often helps the quieter performers to come out of their comfort zone!



*"The element of being hidden often helps the quieter performers to come out of their comfort zone!"*

### 'Mehndi Night'

Rehearsals for our school play 'Mehndi Night' are well underway. The show will be an immersive experience with our 'guests' attending the Mehndi festivities early in the new year. We look forward to welcoming you!





## Drama (continued)

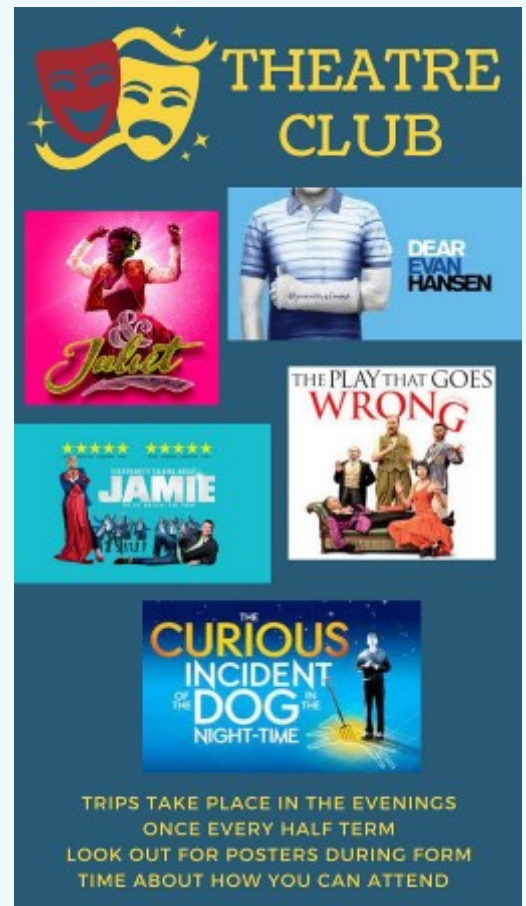
### Theatre Club

Our next Theatre Club trip will be to watch the award winning musical 'Six' - the musical is performed as a fictional singing competition where each of Henry VIII's infamous wives are not only competing to be crowned the ultimate musical sensation, but also competing for recognition as to who was treated the worst by Henry!

It is an empowering mix of musical, comedy and drama based on the semi-historical accounts.

Ms Jemal

Head of Drama



"The key focus was on technical skill and character building, especially creativity, curiosity and determination."

## Product Design

An impressive outcome from the Year 7, 8 and 9 Product Design groups. This term, the new Steady-Hand Game, Automata and Home Furniture projects for Y7, 8 and 9 respectively have seen the students developing their research, designing and making skills. The outcomes are eye-catching and creative.

The key focus was on technical skill and character building, especially creativity, curiosity and determination. Well done to all the groups.

Mr Frazer

Product Design

### Year 7: Steady Hand Game Project







We started product design in September. Throughout this project, I have learnt many skills. The steady-hand game project was a complete success. I learnt different drawing techniques, how to carry out simple research, designing, making my model and practical skills.

I found the perspective drawing really fun and it is also a new skill that I have learnt. I sometimes use this technique to draw in my own time.

We used our imagination and creativity to design the background and the base of our steady-hand game. It was our choice,

if we wanted a background or not. Designing played a great role in this project. We had to make our designs for the game look neat and presentable. We utilised all these design skills and model making before actually making the toy in the workshop.

We implemented a lot of research in this project! We researched about the different materials and tools we need to make the project, including some electronics components.

When it was time to start the practical, we learnt how to use the hand tools and machines in

the workshop. For me, these were also new skills and again it was also a serious, but fun exercise.

After we made our boxes and glued our backgrounds, Mr Frazer took us through the electronics part of the project and showed us how each component should be connected.

When everything was finished, I wished we could do this whole project all over again because it was so much fun. I learnt so many new skills whilst doing this project and can't wait for the next one.

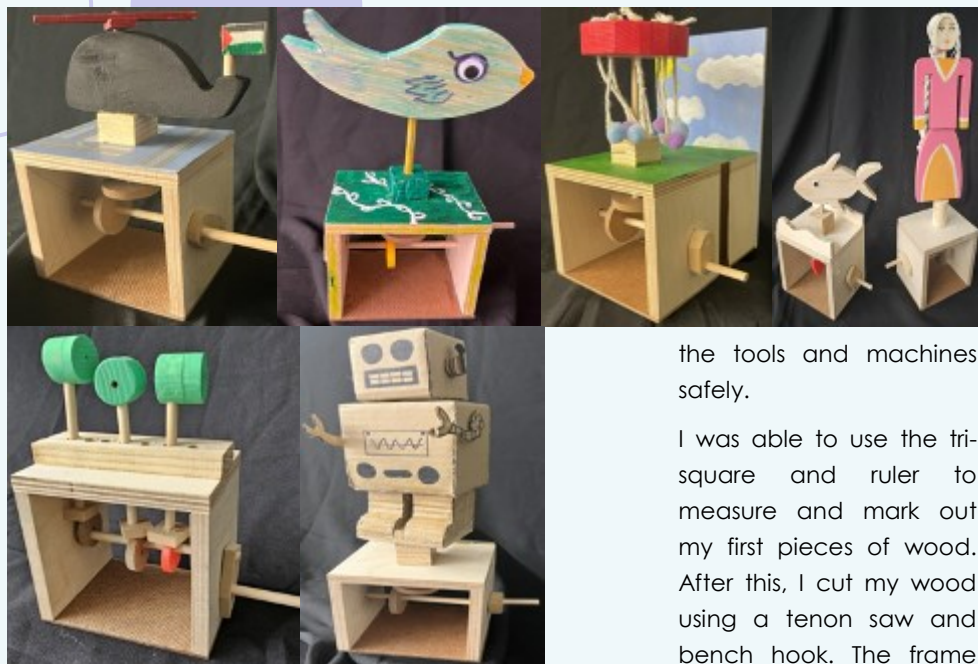
Aaliya Ateeq-Ur Rehman  
7S

*"I found the perspective drawing really fun and it is also a new skill that I have learnt."*

### Year 8: Automata/ Mechanical Toy Project



## Product Design (continued)



the tools and machines safely.

I was able to use the tri-square and ruler to measure and mark out my first pieces of wood. After this, I cut my wood using a tenon saw and bench hook. The frame pieces of my cupboard were then glued together and sanded down. I then added hardboard to the back of my cupboard and used the belt sander to sand down the sides. I then used the same process to add the shelves and dividers to my cupboard. Finally, I added a door with hinges.

Overall, I really enjoyed this project and have learnt how I am going to improve in the future.

Ishab Amir 9C

### Year 9: Home Furniture Project

In this project, I made a small storage unit. The project started in September and we learnt different drawing skills and used that knowledge to design our furniture. Some of the drawing techniques included: free-hand sketching, single and two points perspective and isometric drawing techniques.

We followed the design process and in generating

ideas for our furniture, we used mood boards for inspiration. This helped me to understand of the importance of this design strategy.

We also learnt how to make models out of card before we made our final product in the workshop. This helped me develop my original design idea.

Finally, right after the October half-term, we started making our products in the workshop. We're trained how to use

*"We followed the design process and in generating ideas for our furniture, we used mood boards for inspiration."*



# Year 9 Poetry

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As part of their poetry scheme of work in which they have been introduced to a diverse range of writers and exploring experimenting with a variety of techniques, Year 9 have produced poems based on the theme of Refuge, which was the theme of National Poetry Day this year.

We thought it would be lovely to honour the writer Benjamin Zephaniah who sadly passed away last week by creating a collection of our poetry. Zephaniah's poetry has inspired countless people and his thought-provoking novel 'Refugee Boy' is one we study in Year 9.

Here are just a couple of examples of work that the group has produced:

Ms Burton English department



## Refuge

They need a room  
A peaceful escape  
A comfortable mind  
And  
When they suffer  
From surrounding world  
Open the doors  
Welcome them  
To your inner place  
With a smile  
On your face  
By Saumi M



## REFUGE - MY ROOM, MY HOME

*My refuge is my room, my home  
The four walls and door,  
Keeping me secure.  
My mind is at peace.  
This is a time to think things through,  
To breathe in deep  
A quiet place  
A calming place  
This is a time to dream  
A time to find inspiration  
My refuge in my room, my home.  
A place for me to be alone,  
A quiet, calming and peaceful place  
My refuge is my home  
Halimah Z*





**Refuge**

**My God. I feel safe with him.**  
**His light flows through my soul.**  
**As I move through this life, he guides me.**  
**Keeping me on my path, no matter how hard the challenge.**  
**Church bells ring.**  
**The choir sings.**  
**The holy spirit watches over me.**  
**My God. He picks me up when I fall.**  
**I get on my knees and pray.**  
**Slowly washing all my sins away.**  
**Church bells ring.**  
**The choir sings.**  
**The priest reads scriptures with passion.**  
**My God. He blessed me with a soft-hearted mother.**  
**She comforts me when I'm down.**  
**My God.**  
**My refuge.**

**Carissa T****My refuge :**

**My refuge, my bed**  
**A place i find solemn embrace**  
**A sanctuary where worries are shed**  
**No walls confine, no limits to see**  
**Where chaos dissolves and all is free**  
**An endless ocean, a calming sea**  
**In this sanctuary, i lay my head**  
**Seeking refuge from the world's dread**  
**A place where worries are gently lead**  
**Peace, my refuge, my bed**  
**A sanctuary where my soul is fed**  
**A respite from the chaos that lies ahead . . .**

**Sara M**

### Refuge

My refuge, my room  
The darkness when i'm asleep  
The light to wake me

My bed to hug me,  
As these evil thoughts control me

My reading corner,  
Quiet and calm  
My comfort  
To read out of reality

My refuge, my novels,  
The millions of words  
The smell of support

My refuge, My books  
I love my refuge lots and lots

- Inaaya A 9-1 9w



### Refuge

My refuge, where I'm safe,  
My number 1 place.  
'Finally, I'm home' I say with a sigh of relief  
Calm and peace, my refuge

My refuge, my home  
The only place I can be alone  
A feeling of tranquil,  
A place of idyll

My refuge, my room  
I don't feel gloom  
An amazing, admirable haven.  
Wouldn't want to be anywhere else

My refuge, I love  
With my beloved family.

- Ariba A



## Year 9 Poetry (continued)

### My refuge poem

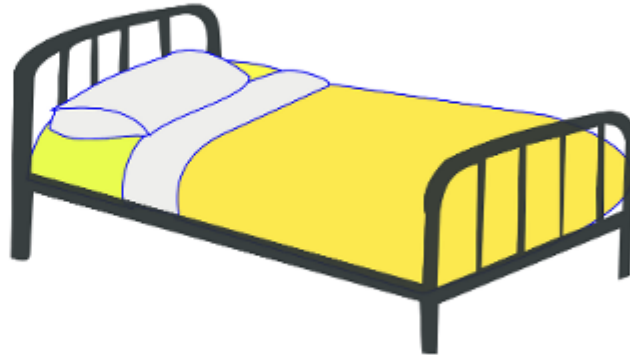
My refuge is my bed.  
My refuge is sleep.  
My refuge is closing my eyes,  
And drifting away.

My bed is big and cosy,  
Sleep helps me escape reality.  
Closing my eyes shuts out  
All of the bad thoughts.

When i have a rough day,  
I hop into bed,  
And under the warm duvet  
Engulfing me in slumber.

My refuge is sleep.  
My refuge is my bed.  
My refuge is closing my eyes,  
And drifting away...

Naimo M



### Refuge

Sitting at home on a thick layer of silk  
Drowning in thought  
Turning the crisp pages of a book  
Leave me with a shock to look  
I took a sip and i dropped the book  
Home is where i create a story  
My brain turning whilst i think about  
That book what happened to my  
Broken book  
My refuge is me  
Feeling safe and awake  
Reading a book to calm my fear  
My refuge is me

Aisha Y



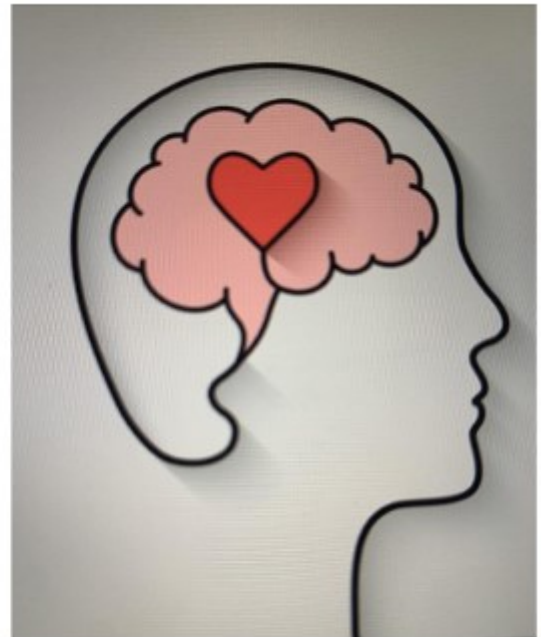


### My refuge:

My refuge is my safe space  
My free place  
Where I'm free  
And in where I'm seen  
To always be loved  
And for love to be shared  
Where I'm feeling myself all the time  
To always have a happy mind  
That's where I'd like to be  
In my own world, you see  
Counting the stars, shining bright  
Where my heart is glowing alight  
And that's when I smile  
From the happiness of a child  
Taking me back  
Further back into my own time

I always feel distracted  
With my current life  
Wishing why can't I go back  
Those times were the best

Zainab Ali



### Refuge

And when I settle down,  
Relax and look around,  
I reach for my book,  
To open it and to take a look,  
And to read about a princess being saved by a knight,  
Or two people falling in love at first sight.

Finding comfort in a place that isn't mine,  
Well maybe one day I could try,  
To save the world from an evil queen from a far away  
fantasyland,  
Or to find myself sinking in wet sand,  
Or maybe a murder mystery i could solve,  
Or I could go swimming in an underwater cove.

But for now I will stay,  
and watch the characters save the day.  
And I will lay,  
Dreaming the night away,  
About someone I wish to be someday .

Maariyah Moreea



POSITION FOR READING.

## Textiles

### Year 9 Repeat Patterns

The second project the Year 9's worked on this term was based on repeat patterns. They started by looking at the work of iconic textile designers who were influenced by natural forms and nature, like William Morris and Orla Kiely. They then worked on creating their own repeat pattern by drawing a single motif, which was cut into quarters, a second motif drawn and the whole thing copied and repeated.

The prints were then dye sublimation printed onto felt, which the students quilted on the machines, and made into simple pouches. They chose

whether to add a button and tassels and matching book.

I have been really impressed with their creativity and quality of the design work.

I hope they have enjoyed their three years of Textiles lessons.

Mrs Rain

Textiles department



"I have been really impressed with their creativity and quality of the design work."



## Connaught School for Girls

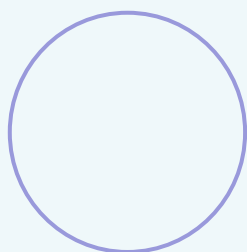
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seize the day

HEADTEACHER

MS LINSEY HAND



Published and  
edited by

Mr L. Simpson

Media Resources

## Artist of the Month

Congratulations to Lucy Long, 9C, for being our artist of the month! Lucy has produced a creative and personalized final piece for the current Year 9 project- 'Past, Present, Future'. Lucy has challenged herself by using a variety of skillful media-watercolours, oil pastels and paint. We are really proud of her outcome! Keep up the great work, Lucy!

Ms Gilbey & Mr Hamilton

Art department



### WALTHAM FOREST HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2-5 JANUARY 2024

Are you aged between 5-16  
and in receipt of benefit  
related free school meals?

Funded by the Department for  
Education, this winter we have  
the opportunity for you to try a  
wide range of free activities, have  
fun, make friends and enjoy a free  
meal every day across the borough.

**BOOKING  
IS ESSENTIAL**  
on all activities so  
book early to avoid  
disappointment

To book your place and find  
out more scan here or visit  
**WALTHAMFOREST.GOV.UK/HOLIDAYS**

Waltham Forest

## Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Autumn Term	- Thursday 21st December 2023
Start of Spring Term for all	- Monday 8th January 2024 (all students start at 9:30am)
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](http://www.connaught-school.co.uk)