



Connaught
School for Girls

seize the day



From the Headteacher



Connaught School has so many strengths; Our school is a place where girls' talents and abilities are nurtured in a safe, creative space and where they can develop their ambitions, creativity, leadership and the power for self-determination. We are a warm, diverse and high-achieving school with an excellent track record for teaching girls to aim high. This has an impressive impact on achievement. The reason for our success is that our purpose is guided by a strong vision to develop independent learners in an inclusive community. Our motto, 'Seize the day' is underpinned by strong values of Excellence, Resilience and Inclusion, giving important direction to our school community.

At Connaught, we:

- Strive for excellence: igniting learning in our school community to develop our potential and achieve future success.
- Strive to be resilient: we bravely rise to challenges and empower our young women to be confident and active citizens.
- Strive to be inclusive: we value our diverse school community, celebrate our individuality and challenge inequalities.

This vision and values, developed by our whole school community, describe the vibrant atmosphere in our school. The classrooms and corridors buzz with positive attitudes towards behaviour for learning; it is a place where learning is in the very fabric of the buildings.

Pupils are polite and respectful. They care about each other. Pupils told us that one of the best things about the school is that staff are always there to help them if they have any worries; They feel safe in school. Serious incidents of poor behaviour, such as bullying, do not happen often. When they do, leaders are quick to put matters right.

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The girls are proud of their school. Every one of them is valued for their individuality and character. They feel happy, safe and supported. Each girl's learning journey is supported by regular monitoring and dialogue with parents/carers as she progresses through her school journey. A comprehensive and strong extra-curricular programme alongside the academic curriculum ensures that she experiences a holistic offer to develop her character and provide stimulating learning opportunities to enhance her cultural understanding to prepare her for life beyond school.

We are temporary custodians of this fine school, and your daughter will become part of a rich and diverse history of educating girls that dates back to 1932. We are a diverse and inclusive school community and welcome the enriching variety of backgrounds and traditions that all contribute to making Connaught School for Girls a wonderful place in which to both learn and work. Our brilliant staff work hard to ensure that we provide a safe place for your child to grow and learn and, in its 90th year and as we write the next chapter in its history, it is my privilege and honour to serve the school as Headteacher. In order to maximise your daughter's potential, I would encourage you to actively engage with the school to enhance this partnership.

As well as this website, please follow us on:

Twitter @ConnaughtSFG

Facebook ConnaughtSchoolforgirls

Instagram @Connaughtschool

There is so much for your daughter to benefit from at Connaught. I look forward to welcoming you when you visit the school.

With best wishes,

Alex Silk

Acting Headteacher



School Aims

Our ambition for every student is for them to experience engaging and challenging lessons, exceed their academic potential, gain excellent qualifications, grow their individual talents and secure the life-skills and confidence to become a successful citizen.

Connaught is a school where:

- All members of the school community feel safe
- There is mutual respect amongst all
- Self-discipline is expected
- Students are responsible for themselves and others
- Self-confidence is nurtured
- The achievements of all are celebrated
- There is a positive attitude towards everyone regardless of their personal characteristics
- Students are encouraged to achieve their very best and to become lifelong learners
- All achievements of women are promoted
- Everyone is encouraged to become active global citizens who are responsible for their environment

Our History

Our school has over one hundred years' history after being first opened in 1900.

The school became a community comprehensive school for girls aged 11-14 in the 1970s and became the school it is today for girls aged 11-16 in 1986. In February 2013 the school converted to become a state funded independent academy.



“Connaught School is an over subscribed successful multicultural school for girls aged 11 – 16 where pupils are proud of their school and it’s diversity. The school has a strong community spirit” (Ofsted)

Teaching for Learning

Effective teaching and learning are at the heart of a successful school.

Connaught School for Girls is a school where students enjoy learning and teachers enjoy teaching.

The well qualified and experienced teachers at Connaught ensure that lessons are stimulating and challenging. A variety of teaching methods are used: individual, paired and group work, depending on the subject and topic. Teachers review the teaching methods they use to ensure all students can achieve their best.

Teaching is supported by effective use of up-to-date technology. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard, projector, screen and wall-mounted speakers. There are dedicated computer rooms, and the school library, each with 30 computers running the latest software applications. There are mobile laptop suites and ipad banks that are available for use in classrooms. Each student has unlimited cloud storage with full access to all their work and documents outside of school. Students benefit from the extensive use of Google Classroom across the curriculum in Wi-Fi enabled classrooms.

Classes are taught in mixed ability groups, apart from setting in Mathematics and Science. All students are regularly assessed in their subjects. This ensures that each student's progress is reviewed regularly by staff, parents/carers and students and that the school can make any required interventions quickly and effectively.

"The teaching and assessment remains good"

"As a result, pupils make good progress"

"GCSE results are above national averages and disadvantaged pupils do very well compared with other pupils nationally" (Ofsted)



"I feel safe here and I enjoy coming to school" (Yr 8 Student)

An Inspiring Curriculum



We are committed to providing an experience that allows all our students to enjoy their learning and achieve their best through:

- **A broad, balanced curriculum** that goes beyond the National Curriculum and promotes spiritual, moral, mental, physical and cultural development
- **High expectations** which challenge our students' thinking, foster their creativity and ensure the development of essential literacy and numeracy skills
- **Preparing them** for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- **A Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education** programme throughout the school, including sex and relationships education
- **Religious Education**, studied in each Key Stage
- **A Careers** and post-16 education preparation programme
- **Specific focus events** including: public speaking workshops, exam study skills sessions, enrichment days and performances from visiting theatrical groups to promote responsible citizenship including drug awareness, Black history and community cohesion

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students study English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Religious Education, Computing, two Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), Technology (Textiles, Food Technology and Product Design), Music, Art, Drama, Physical Education, PSHE/Citizenship/Careers.

"The curriculum focuses on academic subjects at GCSE and provides opportunities for the most-able pupils to be challenged through accelerated programmes in modern foreign languages and science" (Ofsted)

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students follow a common core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (double award), at least one Modern Foreign Language, Religious Education, PSHE/Citizenship/Careers and Physical Education. Students choose additional subjects according to their personal interests from a range of subjects including creative and technical disciplines. Around 90% of students will study all the English Baccalaureate subjects; English, Maths, double award Science, a Language and either History or Geography. Around 10% of students do not follow all of those subjects and are offered a Supported Studies programme to help ensure good passes in English and Maths, or an ASDAN life-skills programme led by the Learning Support team.

Additional Opportunities

We enable many of our students to study an additional language to GCSE level through after-school examination classes in either French or Spanish. High ability science students are offered the opportunity to follow a 'triple' science pathway towards GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Library & Reading

Developing reading skills and a love of reading develops a positive self-image, improves the mind and enables high achievement.

"The learning teachers provide outside normal school hours and their expert preparation for examinations make a huge contribution to the well-above-average progress pupils make by the end of Year 11." (Ofsted)

All students in years 7, 8 and 9 participate in a three-year literacy programme to boost their reading levels. The programme, called 'Accelerated Reader', works with the following key steps:

- students taking an initial reading test to determine their personal reading level range
- students choosing a book within their reading level range from our library, bookshop or home bookshelf
- students taking a multiple choice comprehension quiz on the book they have just finished reading
- students gaining points for every successful comprehension quiz
- students taking further reading tests at the start of each term followed by school intervention if necessary

Parents/Carers can gain access to their daughter's reading progress and a database of reading books with quizzes at each reading level via the internet.

The School Library is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Our current library stock of books has thousands of titles that have matching tests on the Accelerated Reader programme. All students can gain remote access via the internet to the school library to browse and reserve books, write reviews and see what others are reading.



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Support for Learning



Students are supported in their learning according to their individual needs in a variety of ways.

Learning Support Department

A team of teachers and learning support assistants work with students that need particular help in their work. Students who have special educational needs such as learning needs or disabilities will receive the support that matches their individual needs. This support might include in classroom support, small group or one to one interventions. We work closely with all local primary schools to make sure that we have all the relevant information about the students who will be joining Connaught. Parents/carers are involved in, and informed of, their daughter's progress at all stages.

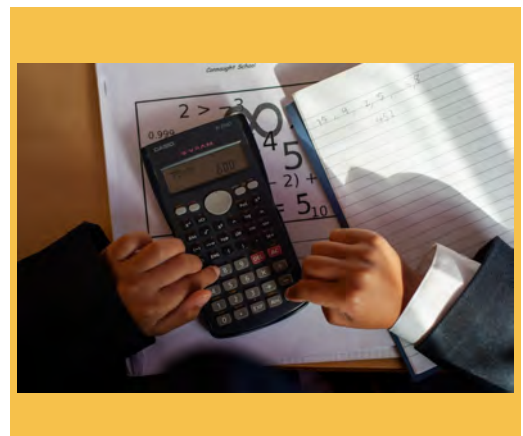
Academic Tutoring

Students who have not made expected progress in English or Mathematics at primary school receive 'catch-up' intervention sessions from school staff during the school day. Students in receipt of free school meals that need extra help to secure a good GCSE grade in English or Mathematics are offered weekly one-to-two tutoring at the end of the school day from our partner 'Action Tutoring'.

More Able Students

The school has a register of more-able students and their progress is monitored carefully. A wide range of in-class and extra-curricular extension activities are provided to extend and challenge the most able students.

The school organises a wide range of extension activities to enrich the curriculum, including taking students to university lectures and open day visits.



Homework

All students are expected to complete homework, which is set daily in accordance with the school's homework policy.

The amount and type of homework varies according to the year and subject. Students record the details of each homework task into their diary. Parents/carers are asked to check the diary to ensure that their daughter is recording and completing homework.

The regular completion of homework extends, reinforces and prepares students for what is learnt in the classroom as well as teaching important skills: self-reliance, effective organisation and the meeting of deadlines. Students have the opportunity to complete homework in supervised sessions during the lunch break and before and after school in our School Library.

Pastoral Care

We are committed to creating a caring and supportive school in which students feel safe and secure.

"The behaviour of pupils is also a strength of the school. Pupils are polite and aware of the importance of behaving well"
(Ofsted)

We benefit from being a small school where each and every student is encouraged to build positive relationships with staff and fellow pupils based on mutual respect, tolerance and consideration.

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that students are not only happy and fulfilled at school, but also working to the best of their ability. Each student is a member of a tutor group and a form tutor is responsible for the day-to-day pastoral care of that group. The tutor is a key figure in a student's school life and has a particular role to play in ensuring that behaviour is excellent, that school rules are followed and that support is given to students so they can achieve at the highest level. Overseeing this is a dedicated Head of Year who together with the form tutor works to ensure the academic progress and overall well-being of all students. The pastoral team works hard to ensure that all students are confident individuals and responsible citizens who have a strong sense of their own place in the world.

High levels of attendance and punctuality matter at Connaught School for Girls: both impact upon learning and the ability of every student to fulfil their potential. We are committed to providing education of the highest quality and in doing so offer our full support to parents and students in promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality for all.

We encourage students to take pride in all that they do and to set high standards for themselves both inside and outside the classroom. We celebrate success at every opportunity: in lessons, assemblies, at our Celebration Evening for Year 11 and through our credits and postcards rewards system.



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Student Voice & Parent Partnership



The views of our students are valued greatly.

Students are given the chance to contribute to future developments of the school through their tutor group's School Council representative. The headteacher meets with student representatives on a regular basis. School Council initiatives have included: ideas for improving school facilities, improving lunches and charity work. School Council also play a very important role in shaping school policies including our Learning, Marking and Written Feedback and Homework Policies.

Parents/carers receive reports on their daughter's academic progress each term and consultation evenings are held annually when there is an opportunity to discuss progress with individual teachers, although parents/carers are always welcome to come to school to discuss any concerns during the school year.

We hold regular 'Time4Us' workshops for parents/carers throughout the academic year. Every workshop begins with an informal opportunity to meet with school leaders followed by a session on one of a variety of themes that include 'Year 7 Ready to Learn', 'Improving Reading', 'Post-16 Pathways' 'Helping my daughter with her Maths and English', 'Helping your daughter prepare for GCSEs' and 'Online Safety'.

Communication includes a half-termly school newsletter from the headteacher, our website and letters about specific events. In addition to electronic communication through the school website, we ask parents/carers to keep in touch with us through the use of their daughter's school diary. This diary is an essential tool in the three-way communication between the student, their family and the school. It is a daily point of contact between home and school, containing information that includes details about uniform, timetable, timing of the school day, homework and expectations. Parents/carers are asked to sign it weekly and to send brief notes to the form tutor and teachers via the diary.



Extra Curricular



We offer an wide range of extra-curricular clubs at lunchtimes and after school.

Curriculum subjects arrange activities where girls might extend and develop their interests or get extra help and advice. In addition, there are clubs which allow girls to share a special interest – such as photography, rowing or film club. During every academic year Year 9 and 10 students undertake training and practical activities towards the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. In addition, a variety of sporting activities, clubs and fixtures are offered including netball, basketball and athletics.

The school has a thriving choir which regularly performs at school events and celebrations. Our steel band is also an uplifting feature of our celebrations. After-school drama clubs and musical instrument lessons have led to some excellent productions, our very enjoyable annual Christmas concert and captivating presentation evenings from the Drama and Music departments in the summer term.

Educational Visits



Each year students take part in visits to places of interest in support of the curriculum. These visits include:

- Humanities visit to St Albans, Rochester or Canterbury
- History visit to Belgian war cemeteries
- Geography field work
- Art visits to London galleries and the Olympic Park
- Visits to local colleges
- Business languages competition
- Visits to visit to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities
- Summer one-day visit to Wissant, France
- Science university lectures, museums and competitions
- Regular theatre visits

There are also residential visits organised each year. In recent years these visits have included languages visits abroad, the Duke of Edinburgh Award residential weekend and GCSE Geography field work to Swanage. We regard these visits as a very important part of a girl's development, both academic and social.

“The school balances the need for cohesion and consistency with an ability to respond to and encourage individuality” (Yr 10 Parent)



Connaught

School for Girls

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