



Connaught
School for Girls

Dyers Hall Road
Leytonstone
London E11 4AE

Headteacher — Alexander Silk, MA

seize the day

Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. A Friday update as always. Things continue to be very positive here in school with all year groups continuing to impress as they did last week.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are pleased that we are continuing our positive start to the year - last week our whole school attendance was 95.41%, slight an increase on the previous week. Particular congratulations to Year 7 who had the highest attendance at 96.62% and 7F with 98.6% attendance.

Please see the [NHS guidance - Is my child too ill for school?](#). In most cases children with minor ailments can and should attend school.

Rewards

Year 10 and Year 11 are studying very well in lessons and are gaining Achievements Points in recognition of their excellent effort and work. It is currently a very tight race with 10C having the most achievement points so far this term with a collective 252 points! Particular congratulations to Amina (10G) who was awarded 21 Achievement Points in just the last week!

School Open Evening - Thursday 26th September 2024

The school open evening is approaching. Students selected to be tour guides (Year 10) or subject helpers (any year) will be bringing home a letter with details.

Please find included the advertisement in case you have any younger daughters or friends or family in primary schools locally that are interested in visiting the school. The event runs from 6pm to 9pm and headteacher talks will be held at 6pm and 7pm. (***open evening poster attached***).

College open Days

As our Year 11 students approach an exciting time of decision-making regarding their post-secondary education, we would like to keep you informed about some upcoming sixth form and college open days which provide a fantastic opportunity for students to explore potential colleges, learn about different courses, and get a feel for the campus environment. College Open Day dates have been posted on your child's Year 11 Google Classroom and can also be accessed directly on the College websites. Students have been using our platform 'Unifrog' to help them make these important decisions and I would recommend you explore this platform with your daughter and visit as many different colleges and sixth forms as possible.

Year 9 School visits to the Zoo - Friday 13th and Thursday 19th of September

Over the last week and this week Year 9 carried out Geography fieldwork at London Zoo, the aim of the fieldwork was for students to focus on the fascinating topic of animal adaptations. Throughout the day, students explored various habitats and observed how different species have evolved unique physical and behavioural traits to survive in their environments. From desert-dwelling reptiles to rainforest primates, they examined the relationship between animals and their ecosystems, gaining a deeper understanding of biodiversity and the challenges species face in a changing world. This enriching experience allowed students to apply their

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geographical knowledge to real-world examples, sparking curiosity and enhancing their studies on adaptation and environmental geography.



Image of Students from 9G and W



**Image of Students from 9C,S and F
Year 11 Geography fieldwork to Walton on the Naze**

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of September

Year 11 carried out geography fieldwork at Walton on the Naze, in order to link concepts for paper 3 within their GCSE content. Students explored the concepts of coastal flows and sustainability. During the trip, students conducted hands-on investigations into processes such as longshore drift, wave action, and sediment transport, gaining valuable insights into how these natural forces shape the coastline. They also examined the sustainability of various coastal management strategies in place at Walton on the Naze, analysing their effectiveness in protecting the area from coastal erosion. This fieldwork provided an excellent opportunity for students to apply classroom learning to real-world geography, enhancing their understanding as they prepare for their GCSE exams.



Image of students carrying out surveys on the effectiveness of coastal defences at the Crag Walk. students from 11B and C geography



Group photo of 11A Geography students

Archery taster session

Due to the anticipated high demand - We will be starting a rolling programme of classes. The sessions will initially be the “*have a go*” sessions from Archery GB. The sessions will be from 2.20-4.00pm and we will do a series of these so all students that are interested can try this out. A large number of students did this last term so the taster sessions will be for new Year 7 students, or those who wanted to do Archery taster sessions last term but were already in other activities.

Once we have a list of students interested we will allocate a week for them to attend the ‘taster’ session. Normally the sessions are £18.50 each but the school will subsidise the cost of all the “*have a go*” sessions so they are available for every student who wishes to do it.

If your child wants to do a taster “*have a go*” session use the sign-up sheet below, and they will be allocated a week to go.

<https://forms.gle/dSQWAPAMo4QAXQ7eA>

Once we have finished the list of students wanting to take the ‘have a go’ archery classes, there is a series of beginner courses that are 6 hours (taught over 3 weeks). I will send out more information on these later this term. These sessions are beginner classes, and throughout the course, we will work on different techniques to develop the students into competent Archers. At the end of the 3-week course, they receive Archery GB certificates.

Extra-curricular provision

The full club timetable will be available in next week’s parent newsletter and the programme will launch in earnest on Monday 30th September 2024. Last week’s newsletter contained a link for a survey for you to give your feedback about the extra-curricular provision at Connaught School for Girls and to help us improve our offer for your child. We apologise that there were some technical issues with this link and have now fixed this problem. Please share your thoughts with us using the new and improved link, we would love to hear from you:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQLXGm7i8vxGMmmoYs84ZE511U56OI4mBWKqibcKX_U4ck7q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Urdu Lessons

A second reminder that we would like to offer Urdu lessons as part of our extracurricular language offer to students in **Year 9** but we can only do this if we have a large enough group of students that want to do it.

The Urdu lessons will sit outside of the normal academic day, on Mondays 3.30-4.30pm and on Fridays from 2.20pm-3.20pm. The lessons will be taught by a qualified Urdu teacher and there will be the option to undertake a GCSE in Urdu at the end of the course. There will be a cost to be part of the taught program as it is facilitated outside of school hours, but the school will subsidise some of the cost. If payment is an issue but you still wish your child to take part please let us know; however, as this is something that takes place outside of the main school curriculum we can only facilitate the sessions if enough students are paying to make it economically viable.

To gauge interest for a place on the program, if you would like your child to participate, please complete the Google form ([HERE](#)) to register your interest or for further information.

School vacancies

We currently have vacancies for

1 Midday Assistant (6.25 hours per week) Term time only

4 Cleaners (10 hours per week) All year round

1 Finance Assistant (3 days per week) Term Time only plus 2 weeks

2 Assistant Site Services Officers (30-36 hours per week) All year round

If you are interested in these positions, please see the school website where you will find an application form and job description. Please use the personal specification to write your supporting statement.

Link: <https://www.connaught-school.co.uk/about-us/our-school/vacancies/>

Finally a reminder of upcoming important dates for the diary. We have our school open evening for the current primary school pupils to come and look around and see our wonderful school, on next **Thursday 26th September from 5.45pm-8.30pm**. It is a late evening for the staff as well as several students in the school will be here to help support as tour guides and department guides. As a result of the late evening, there will be a later start to school where students will come to school for a **9.30am start on Friday 27th September** following open evening the previous evening (1 hour later than usual) and students will register and then go directly to P.2 lessons.

As always, I wish you all a happy weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher