

**2nd May 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well, I have a Friday update as always. It was lovely to have some sunshine over the week; it finally feels like summer!

It has been a different week from how we would want it, the staff in school have worked so hard to maintain our high standards and support our children. I have been in awe of the dedication shown in school to support the girls in school this week, and the students have shown such depth of character and resilience. I am very, very proud of them. Year 11 have their first full written exams next week and we wish them every success.

A separate letter is going to be coming out to Year 11 parents/ carers with the abundance of additional support, additional in-school revision classes and masterclass breakfasts which we are putting on throughout the exam period. Please look out for this early next week.

As we look forward to warmer weather with potential highs of 25+ degrees forecast over the coming weeks, a timely reminder about uniform. In hot weather, there is a more relaxed approach to our school uniform to support the well-being of the students. The first items of uniform to be removed should be the optional items:

1. Coat/jacket
2. School jumper

After this, the blazer can be removed, but this should be carried in the student's hand to ensure it does not get creased. We ask students to have blazers with them and in the mornings many choose to wear the blazer as it is cooler in the morning time.

Shirts should remain done up properly and ties worn, please, although we do relax these rules, if temperatures rise yet further. This will be decided on a day-by-day basis. Students are expected to remain properly attired on their journey to and from home as well, as they still represent our school in the community. We would be grateful if you could check your child's uniform before they leave home for school.

With the warmer weather, it is essential that students bring a bottle of water to school, which they can refill during break and lunchtime. We also kindly remind students to apply sunscreen before arriving at school to help stay protected throughout the day. In the hottest weather, we do open up the school hall, and students can stay in the cooler indoor spaces if they choose. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in these matters.

### The assembly next week:

The assembly next week will be on VE day. VE day stands for Victory in Europe day and marks 8th May 1945 as the day when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe ceased at the end of World War II. This year is the 80th anniversary of this momentous occasion.



### Student Poetry from the assembly

To celebrate World Poetry Day this year, a few Year 8 students read their poems in assembly. While studying a poetry unit with Ms Rahman, with the theme of women (poems by women and about women), students were asked to take inspiration and write a poem centred on women and their experiences. This coincided with International Women's Day. The students were able to write in the role of a character or imagine the experience of different women or girls. Ms Rahman was so impressed with the quality and creativity shown in their poems that she shared them with the rest of the English department. We too were impressed and felt these poems needed to be shared and celebrated with the rest of the school. Miske, Sana, Darcey, Fatima and Zunaira volunteered to present their poems to both KS3 and KS4. As you read the poems, I am sure you will recognise how powerful and insightful they are. We would encourage all students to have a go at writing poems - it is the most freeing and expressive form of writing.

#### **Women being judged based on dress sense:**

Dressing freely is only a dream  
In a world full of feminism  
We fight for rights to be heard and seen  
But still our choices feel unseen

In our clothes, we search for more  
But rules and judgments we can't ignore  
We want to be strong and stand our ground  
Yet in our dress, we're still held down

We dream of freedom to wear what's right  
And feel the power of choosing in sight  
One day we hope, we'll dress with ease  
And no one will judge, no one will tease.

**SANA 8G**

### **A DAILY LIFE STREAM**

She comes from work to a lonely draft.  
Chores to the fridge,  
Ready to start.  
She takes off her shoes, slippers on feet,  
Gets on with her work and later fetches her seat.  
She makes herself tea and slurps on it for some good time.

Soon rushes on his floor to see the time, Grabs her coat and rushes outside.  
Runs to the school to pick up the kids,  
Walks back home quater to six.

She comes back home to see his shoes.  
She sends the kids up and makes some food,  
Se drives them to mosque after they eat.  
Rushes back home to serve him food.

Making herself food isn't ease,  
Cheese stuck to the pan and roles up her sleeves.  
She collects their plates and She washes the dishes.  
Before she knows, the day starts all again.

## **My dear child,**

This will be the last thing I have to say,  
In my belly, there is a small baby.  
With little hope left in me, I will tell  
An object is me, I am not as strong  
I'll find a way to fight my wrongs  
I'm not even sure of his name  
Don't be berriden by your fathers flame  
Maternity, a job which ties you to ropes  
Say bye to your body, you can only mope  
This burden will only last for eternity  
I bought a bottle of wine  
I'll drink till my liver,  
Explode I'll be given a bunch of fines

After all this, I hope I will die. Im sorry my child  
May God carry your name to the heavens  
Months I could only last seven  
I birth another, they call me mother.

Miske 8G

## **Trip to Imperial College London**



This trip to Imperial College was very useful, as it gave us the opportunity to gain insight into what attending the university would be like. When we first arrived, we were introduced to one of the students who gave us a mini tour around the campus. We visited the science, technology, and engineering blocks, and we were also shown the large library.

We learned about the wide range of food options available on campus, including food from around the world, and the use of food stamps.

After the tour, we entered a lecture room where we were introduced to several displays presented by different groups. The first group included graduate students from LEA and current students at Imperial College. They gave us a short overview of what studying economics is like and engaged us with interactive activities where they asked for our opinions and responses. This was followed by a Q&A session, where students had the chance to ask questions such as what inspired them to study economics at university. Finally, there was another Q&A session featuring professionals working in banking, allowing us to learn more about careers in the finance sector.

## **THE PAINTED MASK**

They say she wears her makeup bright,  
With lips so red and teeth so white.  
Her golden hair in perfect curls,  
A flawless doll among the world.

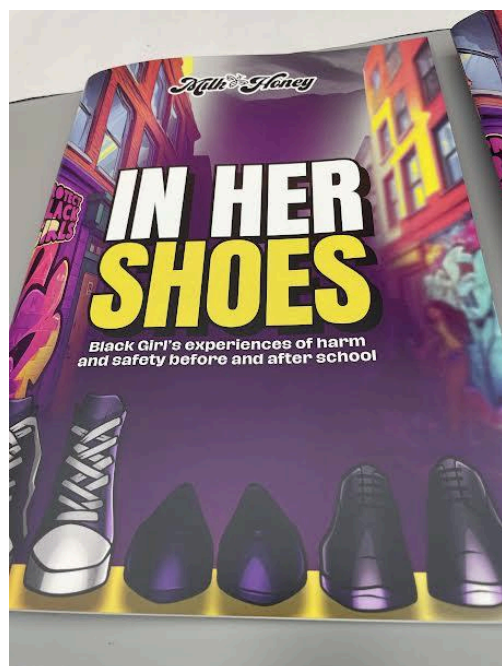
They dress her up in frills and lace,  
Expect a smile to grace her face.  
Soft and fragile, meek and sweet,  
A pretty thing, so pure and petite.

But chains of silk still bind her tight,  
A picture drawn in black and white.  
No space for scars or strength to show,  
Just what the world thinks they should know.

Yet past the gloss and hollow praise,  
Her fire burns, her soul won't fade.  
For beauty's more than just a disguise—  
It's power seen through knowing eyes.



## Milk Honey Bees: Project Launch



Our Schools Career Lead was invited down to a recent report launch for Milk Honey Bees, held in City Hall earlier this week. Milk Honey Bees is a community-centred organisation that focuses on, and serves to enhance the lived experiences of Black & Mixed Girls within the community - focusing on Healing, Empowerment & Resilience

Their recent (unreleased as of yet) report titled “In Her Shoes” explores the lived realities of Black Girls’ journeys before and after school, and their experiences of harm & violence that may occur. We took part in several peer-to-peer discussions with fellow researchers, academics and community activists.

We are very excited for the long-awaited project launch of MHB’s Wellbeing Programme at Connaught next week, to selected students in Years 7/8 & Y10. The students will be key contributors to their upcoming research projects & events moving forward.

P.S if you have some free time on Sunday, be sure to check out the Tottenham Women’s football game on BBC & iPlayer! You just may spot a few familiar faces! 😊

## Maths Challenge

On Thursday, selected year 7 and 8 Maths students sat the UK Maths Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge. The challenge is aimed at students in year 8 or below and lasts for 60 minutes, and consists of 25 multiple-choice questions. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. Here are some previous questions from the 2024 UKMT Junior Maths Challenge:

We look forward to sharing the participating students’ results with you once we receive them from UKMT.

1. When the five expressions below are simplified, how many different values are obtained?

$2 + 2$	$2 \times 2$	$2 - 2$	$2 \div 2$	$2^2$
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- A 1                      B 2                      C 3                      D 4                      E 5

2. Which of the following could have a capacity of 10 litres?

- A An aeroplane    B A bucket            C A cup                D A dustpan           E An egg

3. Gill is 36 this year. In which year will her age next be a square?

- A 2025                B 2037                C 2047                D 2052                E 2060

4. A drink is made by mixing one part of cordial with four parts of water. What percentage of the drink is cordial?

- A 20                    B 25                    C 40                    D 75                    E 80

5. What is the value of  $1 + 2 - 3 \times 4 \div 5$ ?

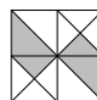
- A 0.2                    B 0.3                    C 0.4                    D 0.5                    E 0.6

6. Which of the following has the same remainder when divided by 3 as it does when divided by 4?

- A 7                      B 11                      C 17                      D 19                      E 25

7. The diagram shows a large square which has been divided into four smaller squares. It also shows both diagonals of the large square and two diagonals of smaller squares. What fraction of the area of the large square has been shaded?

- A  $\frac{3}{16}$                     B  $\frac{1}{4}$                     C  $\frac{5}{16}$                     D  $\frac{3}{8}$                     E  $\frac{7}{16}$





## **'Team Teddy' application and parental consent forms for the school dog**

As Teddy is now 15 weeks old (on Saturday), he is **officially** old enough to begin formalised puppy training; his vaccination is now completed, and he will be doing this each Wednesday evening. Many of the commands he will need to learn have already been taught, and Teddy is progressing very well in school.

I have attached a Google Form below for all parents/ carers to complete. It is a form about the school dog and consent for any student to be around the school dog. We are asking that all parents complete the form to give informed consent if they are happy for their child to interact with the school dog or not, and to alert the school if they have any particular allergies to animals that the school is not already aware of.

- [Google Form for permission to see the school dog](#)
- If the link doesn't work you can type this shortened URL: [tinyurl.com/4p7uahx4](https://tinyurl.com/4p7uahx4)

There will be a separate Google Form which will go out to students in year 7-10 into Google Classroom for those wishing to apply to be involved in the club we are calling **'Team Teddy'**. This group of students will play a pivotal role in working with Teddy, helping with looking after the school dog, caring for him, helping with upkeep, grooming and general support with the school dog when Teddy is not in therapy sessions or training sessions. The students in 'Team Teddy' will develop a bond as they will work closely with him. It will initially be a small group of students who will see him in their own time, and they will not miss lesson time to see the dog. We may expand the number of students in the club as time progresses and we see how things go.

The club is about making sure that the dog is well looked after, cared for and comfortable. Therefore, the students will need to be calm, dedicated, well-behaved, mature and able to show a willingness and capacity for caring for others as well as working well in a team. These are all characteristics I see all day, every day in school, and we anticipate a lot of applications.

Anyone not selected to be part of 'Team Teddy' will still have plenty of opportunities to see Teddy in time, as he settles into being part of school life here at Connaught School for Girls.

### **Finally...**

I want to say thank you for your continued support, as always.

Wishing you a great weekend and hoping the weather lasts into the Bank Holiday Weekend. We are back on Tuesday, and as things stand there is still union strike action planned for next week, so please see my letter regarding which year groups are in school and which groups will be at home. If this changes, I will contact all parents/ carers immediately to inform them, and I will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Silk  
Headteacher