

# Seize the day EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

**Connaught School for Girls** 

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Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA

4th April 2025

#### Dear Parents/Carers.

I hope this letter finds you well, I have a Friday update as always and this week it is for the end of the Spring Term. It has been an eventful term with so many things happening across the school, and this final week was a fantastic way to finish the term. Today we also do our end of term 'celebration assemblies', giving out prizes, credit totals and attendance awards as well as the reward vouchers for Westfield shopping Centre for students receiving postcards. For our Yr11 cohort, this is their final 'end of term' assembly, with the dawning reality of their limited time in school, and they were suitably excited about what the future will have in store for them.

This week we were rehearsing in school and building up to the annual drama show performance. Yet again, the students and Ms Jemal (and a team of staff) put on an incredible performance. We had 68 primary school students attend during the day on Thursday to come in and see the final rehearsal performance, and to meet the cast and crew. They asked some questions to the students and staff about the drama show and about life in secondary school, before taking some great photos mixing with the cast and crew.



The show was a sell-out and we had to add extra seats to meet the high demand. We have confirmed that next year the drama show will do performances over more nights to accommodate the demand and I for one am already looking forward to the next show!

Please see later in the letter for more details about the production, and we will upload the pictures and videos to the school website as well.



# **Introducing Teddy**

I have attached a separate document to this letter to introduce 'Teddy'. He will be the school support/ assistance/ therapy dog as he grows up, and currently he is an 11 weeks old puppy.

Teddy will be spending time in the school during the summer term to familiarise himself within the school from a young age to help him settle fully here before beginning his advanced therapy dog training in September. During the summer term, Teddy will only spend time with staff, his trainer, and a very limited number of students who will have a lead role in helping Teddy to settle and get used to the school environment. The students involved will form a new club called "Teddy Team". There will be an application process and parental permission/ consent for this club when we return for the Summer Term. Please do read over the attached document introducing Teddy, and we hope you are as excited about the fantastic opportunities this opens up for our students (and staff!) as we are.



#### **Celebration Assemblies**

#### Highest number of credits this term (KS3):

Ena 7W Miske 8G Raabiah 9F

# Credit Shields (tutor groups with the highest number of credits) (KS3):

7W, 8F, 9F

# Highest number of Achievement points this term (KS4):

Aisha 10S Kayla 11C

#### **Highest attendance this term:**

Joint winners for the first time EVER: 9C and 10W

A fantastic **157 students** have met or exceeded our attendance target of 97%. A special mention must also go to the students who have significantly increased their attendance this term; they have a distinctive pink blazer lapel badge.

The fabulous cast and crew of Beyond Wonderland were rewarded with prizes.

Prizes were also awarded for:

- the Black History Month Poetry competition
- World Book day writing competition
- World Book Day dress up competition
- Headteacher prizes for exceptional contribution to school life

Postcards for exceptional achievement/effort - students were rewarded with vouchers. A special mention to Haniya 11C who received £30 of vouchers in exchange for the 60 postcards she had collected over her time at CSFG; a fantastic achievement.

A special thank you to our musicians who entertained and delighted us during the assemblies:

Alina 7C, Gabriel 7S, Aoife 7W and Ozelle 7W: They were all brilliant.

# The assembly in the first week back:

I will be delivering an assembly after the break to reset student expectations and talk to the students about the Ofsted report, which is now published and on the website. I will revisit with them the core school values and we will be working with them to continue the school improvement journey.

#### Kooth

A reminder that <u>Kooth</u> continues to provide free, confidential mental health support for young people. This online platform offers a safe space where students can access professional counselling, peer support, and helpful resources at any time. Encouraging open conversations about mental well-being is vital, and Kooth is an excellent resource to support this.

#### **Beyond Wonderland!**

We are thrilled to share the outstanding success of our recent school drama performance, "Beyond Wonderland." The event captivated audiences with its imaginative storytelling, exceptional performances, and stunning production elements. The adaptation of the classic tale took audiences on a mesmerising ng journey, offering a fresh perspective that was both thought-provoking and entertaining. Our talented students shone brightly, delivering memorable performances that showcased their dedication and hard work. Their ability to bring complex characters to life was truly commendable. The creative set designs, vibrant costumes, and innovative use of lighting and sound added an extra layer of magic to the performance, enhancing the overall experience for the audience. The performance received overwhelming support from parents, staff, and the local community, reflected in the sold-out show and enthusiastic audience feedback. The success of "Beyond Wonderland" has not only highlighted the artistic talents within our school but also fostered a sense of pride and accomplishment among students and staff. The experience has encouraged greater student participation in the arts, and we look forward to more exciting productions in the future. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making "Beyond Wonderland" a memorable and successful event - staff, students, the school PTA and our parents/carers. A huge thank you Ms. Jemal for her colossal work on this very special production.







# **Parent Volunteers in the school**

We are looking for a several parent volunteers to help us develop the garden spaces around the school, working alongside the caretakers to make the school areas nicer for students and to get them using the green spaces more. If there are any 'green-fingered' parents out there willing to help, please use <a href="https://doi.org/10.10/10.10/">THIS FORM</a> and we will contact you to see if there are times when we can arrange for parents to come in and help us. A huge 'thank you' from the school in advance to anyone who can give up any time to help us make the site more appealing for the students.

# Support available in Waltham Forest

From the 1st April many of us saw rises in our household bills. It is always worth signposting where information and advice can be sought. I have included here an extract from Cllr Grace Williams, Leader of Waltham Forest Council, bulletin to Waltham Forest residents that contains some useful information. The full bulletin can be viewed <a href="here">here</a>.

- 'We want to make sure all residents are aware of the support they might be entitled to. If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax bill, or you are in arrears, you can get in touch with us to find out what support is available.
- Water supplier Thames Water is also offering some support for people going through financial hardship. You can check to see if you are eligible for help with your water bill by filling in the online assessment form on the Thames Water website.
- You can get all the information you need about how to save money on energy bills, reduce food costs, and access free debt and financial advice on the <u>cost-of-living</u> information pages on our website.
- If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, Income Support or any number of other employment or tax-related benefits, <u>your child may be eligible for free school meals</u>. <u>Our website features more information about how to apply for free school meals in Waltham Forest</u>.'

# **Extra Curricular Programme**

|                  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Before<br>school | Library Club<br>7:50-8:20<br>Library ET               | Library Club<br>7:50-8:20<br>Library ET               | Library Club<br>7:50-8:20<br>Library ET               | Library Club<br>7:50-8:20<br>Library ET                                | Library Club 7:50-8:20<br>Library ET                   |
|                  | Breakfast Club<br>7:40-8:20<br>Dining hall<br>DIA/PET | Breakfast Club<br>7:40-8:20<br>Dining hall<br>DIA/PET | Breakfast Club<br>7:40-8:20<br>Dining hall<br>DIA/PET | Breakfast Club<br>7:40-8:20 Dining<br>hall DIA/PET                     | Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20<br>Dining hall DIA/PET        |
|                  |   |   |   | Year 11 Maths<br>revision 7:30-<br>8:20 Room 2<br>HUS (Week B<br>only) |  |
| Lunch<br>time    | Homework<br>Support Room<br>20 RIC                    | Homework<br>Support Room<br>20                        | Homework<br>Support Room<br>20                        | Homework<br>Support Room<br>20   | Homework Support Room 20                               |
|                  | GCSE Art and<br>Photography<br>Club Room 17           | GCSE Art and<br>Photography<br>Club Room 17           | KS3 Badminton<br>AGI (Week A<br>only)                 | Board Game<br>Club Room 42<br>ELK (Week A                              | KS3 Royal Academy<br>Young Artists Club Room<br>17 ELB |

|              | ELB   | GIL   |   | only)  |  |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|--|
|              | Citizens UK<br>Club Room 8<br>PHI                               | Year 11 Maths<br>revision Room<br>3 RGN (Week A<br>only)          | Geography<br>Video Club<br>Room 7 DES                     | Year 11 Maths<br>revision Room 3<br>RGN (Week B<br>only)         | KS3 History Film Club<br>Room 6 KLE                            |
|              | KS4 Textiles<br>Club Room H2<br>RAN                             | KS3 Multi skills<br>sports AGI<br>(Week A only)                   | KS3 Crochet<br>Club Room H2<br>RAN                        | Year 11 French<br>intervention (by<br>invitation) Room<br>41 FER | Year 11 Biology<br>Intervention (by invitation)<br>Lab 1 AMR   |
|              | Computing Club<br>Room 33 LAK                                   | KS3 Textiles<br>Club Room H2<br>RAN                               | Computing<br>Club Room 33<br>ALK                          | KS3 Dodgeball<br>AGI (Week A<br>only)                            | Year 11 Chemistry<br>Intervention (by invitation)<br>Lab 4 IQB |
|              | Year 11 Biology<br>Intervention (by<br>invitation) Lab 2<br>SIQ | Year 11<br>Geography<br>Drop In Club<br>Room 7 DES                | Year 11 Sociology intervention (by invitation) Room 5 KAD | Eco Club Room<br>7 DES   | Year 11 Physics<br>Intervention (by invitation)<br>Lab 3 MUJ   |
|              | Year 11 Drama<br>Club Hall JEM                                  | Year 11 History<br>intervention (by<br>invitiation)<br>Room 6 KLE | Drama<br>Rehersals Hall<br>JEM                            | KS3 Humanities<br>Homework<br>Catch Up Room<br>7 DES             | Year 11 Science Revision<br>Lab 5 ALI                          |
|              | Year 11<br>Geography<br>Revision Room<br>39 KHL                 | Year 11 Drama<br>Club Hall JEM                                    | Dog Club SIL  | Drama<br>Rehersals Hall<br>JEM                                   | Peer mentoring (by invitation) Room 5 KAD                      |
|              | Year 11 Geography Intervention (by invitation) Room 7 DES       | Year 8 and 9<br>Science<br>Cinema Club<br>Room 8 AMR              | Mentoring SAI<br>HoY8 office                              | Mindfulness<br>Club Room 10<br>GAH (Week A<br>only)              | Year 7 and 8 Maths Club<br>Room 4 SW 11C and PET               |
|              | KS3 Music Club<br>Room 28 HEA                                   | Year 11 Study<br>Space Room 32<br>WAL                             | Music Club<br>Room 28 HEA                                 | Props Club<br>Room 17 GIL  | Year 7 Connections Club<br>Library ALI                         |
|              |   | Mindfulness<br>Club Room 10<br>GAH (Week B<br>only)               |   |  | KS4 Music Club Room 28<br>HEA                                  |
|              |   | Year 10<br>Homework Club<br>Room 36 RAH                           |   |  |  |
| After school | Year 11 Maths revision 15:30-                                   | Football 15:30-<br>16:30  | Basketball Club<br>15:30-16:30                            |  | Archery 14:30-16:00  |

| 16:30 Room 1<br>AUL                     | Playground<br>Leyton<br>Orient/AGI                                | Sports Hall AGI |   |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| (by invitation)                         | Year 10 Maths<br>Action Tutoring<br>(by invitation)<br>Room 4 LAB |                 | Drama Rehersals Hall<br>JEM 14:00-15:30 |
| Boxing 15:30-<br>16:30 Main Hall<br>DIA | Year 11 Art<br>Club 15:30-<br>16:30                               |                 |   |
|   | Year 11 Maths<br>revision 15:30-<br>16:30 Room 2<br>LAB           |                 |   |

As we head into the Easter break, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday full of fun and enjoyment. Please stay safe and make the most of this well-deserved time off. A quick reminder that we return to school on Tuesday, 22nd April at the usual time.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a great holiday from school over the Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Silk

Headteacher