

9th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well, I have a Friday update as always. I have been
There were several visits out of the school this week, which you can see more about below.

Thank you for your ongoing support with uniform expectations as we have been reminding students that we have high expectations on their uniform and the students have continued to look smart and ready for learning this week. A gentle reminder: trousers must be school trousers (navy blue tailored, and not black), Please also check for holes, faulty zips, or other issues to help maintain a neat appearance at all times. Headscarves should be navy blue and can be purchased from the school office if necessary. When the weather is hot next week students have been told already they should have blazers with them, but they do not need to wear them while it is very hot.

The assembly next week:

The assembly next week will be in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week (12th - 18th May). This year's theme is 'Community'.

Being part of a safe, positive community is vital for our mental health and well-being. We thrive when we have strong connections with other people and supportive communities that remind us we are not alone. Communities can provide a sense of belonging, safety, support in hard times, and give us a sense of purpose.

Attendance:

We had a first this week, not one, or two but three tutor groups had a fantastic 100% attendance! Well done 7F, 8C and 9S.

Year 11 Exam Revision Breakfast:

Year 11 has made a superb start to their formal written exams. The dining hall was full of final revision discussions this morning in preparation for GCSE Sociology, supported by the head of department. The room was buzzing with anticipation, and we wished the students success. A reminder that we are putting on revision breakfasts supported by specialist teaching staff before the exams, and we strongly recommend that students come into school for these.

This upcoming week, there will be revision breakfasts for English Literature, RE, Geography, Maths and History prior to their morning exams. In addition to this, the school will aim to timetable revision sessions during lesson 4 slots with the relevant subject teachers prior to afternoon exams; for example, on Monday, Mr Ali will be running a Computer Science revision session with students from



12pm to 1pm to ensure pupils are able to ask and have answered any last minute questions ahead of their first Computing GCSE exam.

The end of exams will be celebrated with an opportunity for students to sign shirts as they start their goodbyes. Students have asked that we change the planned date for this to **Monday 16th June**, following the final full cohort exam.

Year 11 Hoodies and Yearbook:

Orders have been pouring in for the annual year 11 leavers hoodies - details of the link to the online shop and school passcode have been emailed to year 11 parents and put on the year 11 Google Classroom. We look forward to seeing Y11 in their hoodies once they have arrived.

Year 11 will also have the chance to purchase a yearbook this year - again, details for the online shop will be sent out via email and put onto the year 11 Google Classroom.

Year 9 Students Submit First Drafts for "For Our Mothers" Poetry Project

A small but talented group of Year 9 students have reached an exciting milestone in their involvement with the *For Our Mothers* poetry competition. The students have now submitted the first drafts of their poems to Fin Kennedy, an acclaimed playwright known for his powerful and thought-provoking work.

The poems are centred around maternal figures—whether mothers, grandmothers, carers, or others—who hold a special place in the students' lives. The task was not only a creative challenge but an emotional journey, and the results are nothing short of inspiring. The students' work is heartfelt, reflective, and deeply personal, revealing the strength and significance of these women in their lives.

We are incredibly proud of the thoughtfulness and maturity shown in these early drafts. The pieces reflect a wide range of experiences and voices, and it's clear that a great deal of care and effort has gone into each one.

We are hopeful that Fin Kennedy will be able to visit the school and lead a writing workshop with the group ahead of the final submission deadline on June 2nd. His insight and expertise would be an invaluable opportunity for our budding poets to refine and develop their work even further. We look forward to seeing how these poems evolve, and we commend our students for their creativity and courage in sharing their stories.

Year 9 Study Skills Workshop – Friday 2nd May

On Friday 2nd May, our Year 9 students took part in a highly engaging and interactive Study Skills Workshop designed to support their preparation for the upcoming GCSEs. The workshop focused on equipping students with a variety of effective study methods and techniques. Key areas covered included time management and routine building, memory techniques, stress management strategies, and the use of helpful study tools such as flashcards.

What made the session particularly impactful was its hands-on approach. Rather than simply learning about different study methods, students had the opportunity to practice and explore each technique in a fun and interactive way. This allowed them to discover which methods work best for them individually, an especially valuable experience for those who find revision and studying challenging. Much of the workshop was done in teams, encouraging students to collaborate, share ideas, and strengthen their teamwork skills while learning together.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing that they found the session both enjoyable and beneficial. One student shared:

“I liked how instead of just teaching us different methods for studying, we actually practiced them in a fun way. I also liked how we tried different methods to see which one is best for us. This helped me a lot since I struggle with revision and studying.”

Overall, the Study Skills Workshop proved to be a fantastic opportunity for our Year 9S to develop essential academic and personal skills, and we're proud of the enthusiasm and effort they brought to the day. The facilitator was incredibly impressed with the year group and commented on how they had conducted themselves throughout the session. Their maturity, enthusiasm and exceptional behaviour was very impressive. Well done Year 9, a credit to yourselves.



Year 6 Transition

We are getting ready to welcome our new year 7 cohort who will officially join us in September 2026. Before September, we have a range of exciting opportunities for the current year 6 students joining our community, from common transfer day in July, where students will come and spend the day with us here at Connaught, sampling lessons and getting to know their new peers and teachers, to the Year 6 transition programme to be ran by the experience Ms Izobo over the summer holidays. Activities will include sports, outings and a trip to the cinema.

Rightful Place Conference 2025

On Wednesday 30th April Mulberry Production Arts Academy held their annual Rightful Place conference. Their aim is to inspire the next generation to become changemakers in the creative industry, advocating for equitable access to opportunities in education, training, and career advancement in the production arts sector.

A group of Year 9 and 10 students were invited along to witness and contribute to a discussion panel led by Josette Bushell-Mingo, Principal of The Royal Central School of Speech and then participate in workshops led by industry professionals. The students participated in a range of engaging workshops from set design, special effects make-up, and microphone fitting as well as learning how Audio Description (AD) and British Sign Language (BSL) is incorporated into performances.

The students left with a wealth of new knowledge, inspiration, and potential avenues for future career ideas.





Careers Section

Year 10 Sociology Visit to JP Morgan with Young Citizens UK

On Thursday, I had the amazing opportunity to visit J.P. Morgan, which I learned also operates as a law firm alongside its financial work. It began with an eye-opening workshop on social media crime, where we explored scenarios and discussed how the law deals with online offences. It was a great way to understand how the legal system applies to everyday life. After the session, we were taken on a tour of the building which had 31 floors of modern high-tech offices. Seeing the scale



and professionalism of the workplace was truly inspiring and made me start thinking about law as a possible future career.

The tour gave us a fascinating insight into the role of lawyers, met some of the legal team and even had the chance to ask questions about their careers and day-to-day responsibilities.

Overall, the experience was incredibly inspiring and opened my eyes to the different paths within the world of law. One of the biggest things I took away from the trip was how valuable communication, attention to detail, and problem-solving skills are in a legal career. It showed me that being a lawyer is not just about knowing the law, but also about working with people, thinking critically, and being confident in your decisions. - Safa 10S

Our visit to JP Morgan was a fantastic opportunity granted to us by Young Citizens UK. While it was their first time in an environment like Canary Wharf, it really showed them the range of possibilities that are available to them. The content of the workshop links to their Y11 Unit 'Crime & Deviance' which covers the Criminal Justice System, deviant behaviours and legal powers. They were brilliant ambassadors for Connaught School and we look forward to many more future opportunities. (Mr Kajue)

Peer Mentoring

Over the last few weeks, the Peer Mentoring Team has been working hard to submit their App Design for the National Showcase. The students will be competing against other schools nationally for the chance to showcase their ideas against judges in the National Final. We are excited for the feedback we will receive. Now, the group is busy planning different fundraising opportunities along with networking with other organisations to make our dream a reality! Stay tuned for more!



WSL Visit to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

On Sunday 4th May, a group of students had the incredible opportunity to visit the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to watch an exciting Women's Super League match between Tottenham and Chelsea. The game was very exciting, with lots of chances attempted & Chelsea ended up winning the game. This special trip was made possible thanks to our new School partner **Milk Honey Bees!**



Two lucky students (Sienna 7F & Michelle 7C) were selected to be **mascots for the game**, giving them a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They met the players, received footballs signed by the entire team, posed for pictures, and proudly walked onto the pitch alongside the players before kick-off! It was a really fantastic day that was fun & entertaining. - Nahla (7S)

We were really privileged to receive these tickets via Milk Honey Bees. This was as a thank you for the wonderful work the Peer Mentoring group have been doing, along with the groups of students who have begun their Wellbeing Sessions with the organisation. We are very excited to continue working with MHB, through their child-centered research and fun, external workshops! We can't wait to see what the final result will look like for the girls at Connaught - Mr Kajue

SEND Drop-in Sessions for Parents and Carers

PARENTS / CARERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (0-25) WITH Education Health and Care Plans DROP-IN SESSIONS

Waltham Forest SEND Team are offering drop-in sessions for parents / carers of Waltham Forest children and young people (0-25) with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) to discuss any concerns or issues, with a member of the SEND Team.

The aim of these sessions is to provide parents / carers with an opportunity to discuss concerns and collectively think through how to move forward with the situation.

Priority will be given to those on a first come, first served basis.

Below are the parent / carer drop-in sessions, starting from Friday 9th May 2025.

**drop in sessions will begin at 9:30am to 12:00pm in one of the venues below:*

Frequency	Location	Address
1 st and 5 th Friday of the Month	Queens Road Family Hub	215 Queens Road , Walthamstow E17 8PJ
2 nd Friday of the Month	Chingford Family Hub	5 Oaks Grove E4 6EY
3 rd Friday of the Month	The Curve Room, Leytonstone library	Church Lane, Leytonstone, London, E11 1H
4 th Friday of the Month	Walthamstow Family Hub	313 Billet Road – E17 5PX

Please kindly note, you will need to bring along with you a proof of address, proof of ID and child's ID for the SEND team to discuss your concerns.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher