

11th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well; a Friday update for you, as always. This week has been an exceptionally busy one, as you will see below. The annual 'Culture Day Fun Day' was on Thursday, starting with a Staff V Staff Endzone Game, followed by a fashion show, talent show and a series of soggy teachers from the 'sponge the teacher' activity... I am still drying out! It was a pleasure to see the whole school community enjoying themselves and having fun, proudly showing their culture and everything that makes them unique and special. I was very proud of the whole school and very aware of what a privilege it is to be able to be a part of such a wonderful place. Today we are on 'Connaught Goes Out' visits to Chessington, Thorpe Park and a London Walk sightseeing tour. There will be more details and pictures from this to follow.

A reminder that on Monday, we have our **Sports Day**. This is taking place at the **Feel Good Centre, Chingford Road E17 5AA**. Your child needs to arrive at the centre at **9.30am** and will finish at **3:00pm**. If you are collecting your child, please be there 10 minutes before the end of the day. Your child can wear her tutor group team colour or PE Kit. The weather forecast looks to be hot; therefore, please ensure your child is prepared for the day (hat, sunscreen, plenty to drink). All students are expected to attend. Any absences will be unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we will be putting more information into our social media pages about school events. We also have an Instagram page for Teddy by popular request so they can see how he is growing over the summer break.

The school social media platforms are:

*Instagram - Main School***@Connaughtschool***Instagram - Teddy Team***@Connaught.Teddy***Facebook - Main School***@ConnaughtSchoolforgirls**

Hot weather/ attendance/ punctuality

In the hot weather next week, the students may leave their blazers and ties at home but **must not** substitute them with any other jumpers or jackets. Please remember that hoodies are not permitted under our uniform rules at all.

As we approach the end of term and the summer holiday period, we would like to remind all families about our attendance policy. If a student is absent due to illness before the end of term or during the summer holidays, the absence will be marked as unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided. Unauthorised absences may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, which applies per child and per parent - clearly something we would like to avoid. Similarly, if a student returns to school late after the summer holidays without supporting medical evidence, the absence will also be marked as unauthorised, potentially leading to a Fixed Penalty Notice. We want to avoid this situation and appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that any absences during term time are avoided.

Summer HAF (Holiday, Activity and Food) program

I would like to signpost parents/students to community opportunities at the [HAF Summer Programme](#) - Waltham Forest's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF). This programme offers free summer activities for children eligible for free school meals. Details are available in the HAF info link. To find out more and the places available to book, please see Ms Izobo in school or email: christine.izobo@connaught.waltham.sch.uk.

Attendance Matters

We are saving our final attendance totals for the year until our end-of-term celebration assemblies next Friday. Watch this space!

Next week's assemblies

Next week's assembly theme is all about celebration. We have our first academic awards celebration evening on Wednesday, 16th July. Invitations have been sent to our nominated students, and doors will open at 5.00pm. Please enter the building via the Connaught Road playground entrance. Our final assemblies of the year will take place next Friday, where we have prizes and awards ready and waiting.

TELCO Youth Conference

Last Friday, 11 Connaught students had the privilege of attending the TELCO Youth Conference, hosted at London Design and Engineering UTC. The event opened with a lovely performance from St Patrick's Primary School. Fortunately, I've had the privilege of attending three similar events, and I can proudly say I've learnt something new each time.

We heard voices from varying age groups—primary school children, secondary students, sixth formers, and industry professionals. We discussed topics ranging from development



and leadership to creativity and future aspirations. Each speaker brought a unique perspective, all holding power and value. It was inspiring to see how confidently young people presented their ideas, and how attentively professionals listened.

This was a one-of-a-kind event, and I implore everyone to seek out an experience like this at least once in their lifetime.

Mia 10W



Creative Sparks Fly at Mulberry School for Girls – Friday 4th July

Our final creative session before filming was another inspiring afternoon at Mulberry School for Girls. With just days to go until the cameras roll on the 7th and 8th of July, the excitement is building!

This week, we had the incredible opportunity to work with a professional voice coach. They guided us in crafting calming melodies, which will be used as the background music for both the opening and closing of our film. Although many of us felt shy at first, with encouragement and practice, our confidence grew, and soon our voices were filling the space with beautiful, soothing sounds.

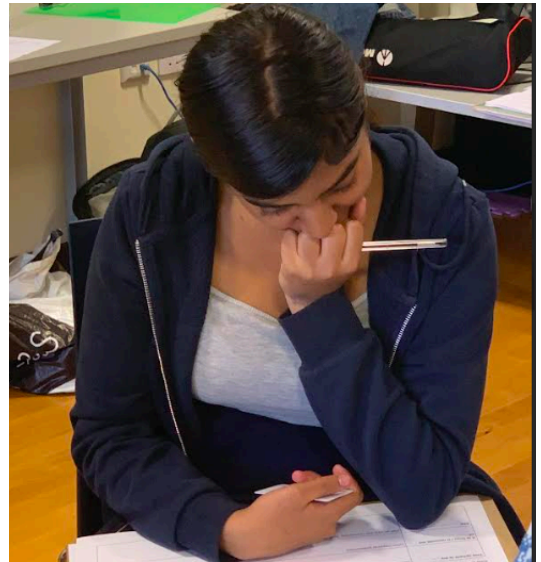
In the second part of the session, we explored the powerful theme of **“stories are and stories can.”** This thought-provoking exercise encouraged us to think creatively and imaginatively, pushing us beyond the obvious to discover deeper meanings and new perspectives.

We left the session inspired, energised, and full of anticipation. The filming days are just around the corner, and we can’t wait to bring our ideas to life on screen!





Year 8



15-minute Community Geography Fieldwork

Year 8 geographers in 8W and 8S recently took to the streets of Leytonstone to investigate whether the area fits the idea of a “15-minute community” a place where people can easily access shops, schools, parks, healthcare and transport within a 15-minute walk or cycle from home. During the fieldwork, students carried out an environmental quality survey, completed a traffic count, and took part in an emotional mapping activity to record how each location made them feel. These activities helped them evaluate how accessible, safe and pleasant different parts of Leytonstone were. They found many positives, such as a lively high street, access to Epping Forest and strong public transport links, but also noted challenges like busy roads, limited cycle routes and gaps in healthcare access. The experience gave students a better understanding of how geography applies to real-life places and allowed them to build valuable fieldwork and teamwork skills.

Year 9 and 10 Drama tip to The Devil Wears Prada

On 9th July, 20 students watched The Devil Wears Prada- the musical, at The Dominion Theatre in Tottenham Court Road. Based on the novel by Lauren Weisberger and Hollywood film. The story follows Andy Sachs, who is hired as a personal assistant to a powerful fashion magazine editor, Miranda Priestly, played by

Vanessa Williams. Despite it being a job that everyone wants, it becomes a nightmare as she struggles to keep up with her boss's gruelling schedule and demeaning demands. Behind the glitz, glamour and perfectly coiffed hair, the overarching lesson of *The Devil Wears Prada* is a pretty powerful one: no matter how hard it was to get it or how many people wish they had it, you are well within your rights to leave a job that isn't working for you. The students were in awe of the talented performers and designers who produced fantastic sets, costumes and lighting that took us on a journey from New York to Paris!

