

**23rd May 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well; a Friday update for you as always. A long letter this week as there has been so much going on! It has been a warm and sunny week, the sunshine has certainly brought a positive energy across the school. It has been another full and busy week – particularly for our Year 11 students who are deep into their GCSE exam season now. We are very proud of how they are conducting themselves with real maturity, focus and resilience.

**Year 9 Sleepover – A Night to Remember!**

What an amazing event! Friday 19th May marked a historic moment in our school calendar – the very **first ever in the history of the school** Year 9 ‘sleepover’, and what a night it was. At 6:40pm, the playground gates opened, and our excited Year 9 students began to arrive, arms full with duvets, pillows, sleeping mats – and of course, enough snacks to last the night. Laughter and chatter filled the air as the evening began.

The activities on offer were nothing short of spectacular. From roller skating and Just Dance to movie marathons, sports games, marshmallow toasting, and classic board games and cards – there was something for everyone. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces and enthusiastic participation throughout the night.

As midnight struck, the hall erupted into a spontaneous and heart-warming chorus of "Happy Birthday" for one of the students – a truly memorable moment. Midnight feasts followed, and believe it or not, roller skating was still going strong at 3:30am – with some equally energetic staff joining in too!

By 5:00am, some students were already up again, and by 5:30am, sports were back in full swing. Although there were many sleepy faces by morning, the energy and excitement never waned.

Our Year 9 students were an absolute credit to themselves. Their behaviour, respect for each other, and positive attitude throughout the entire event were exemplary and as their Head of Year, I could not be more proud of each and every one of them.

A huge thank you must go to the staff who gave up their Friday night (and most of their sleep!) to make this event such a success. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment made the night truly special and ensured the students had a safe and memorable experience. We

simply couldn't have done it without them. To Jasmine Khan 9W who came up with the idea and used her Jack Petchey Achievement Award prize money to buy pizzas for everyone. To Mr Silk for enabling students to have a new experience of "Toasting Marshmallows" around the fire pit. It was a fantastic event that brought students together in such a fun and meaningful way. Many went home a little bleary-eyed but full of happy memories – and no doubt ready for a well-deserved nap!

*"I've never laughed so much in one night. It was the best school event ever!"*

*"Toasting marshmallows with my friends was such a highlight "*

*"I didn't sleep a minute, but it was totally worth it. I'll remember this night forever."*

*"Skating with my friends and teachers at 3.30am was something I never thought I'd do. It was brilliant!"*



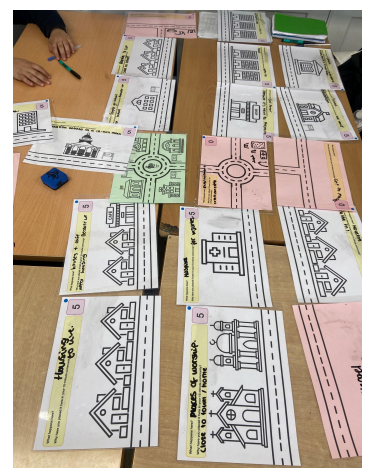
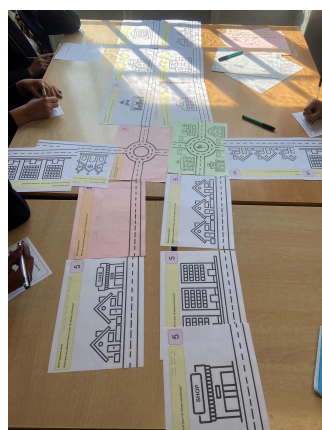




### Year 8 Geography trip follow up

After the fieldtrip around Leytonstone, students worked in groups to design their own 15-minute communities using road-layout cards that showed different buildings and services. They had to think carefully about where to place things and explain their choices. Cards were arranged to total 15 minutes of travel in each direction, meaning students had to be very selective!

We were really impressed with their ideas. Their designs showed creativity and problem-solving. Some included shared gardens, bike paths, and community centres to bring people together. This project helped students learn about geography, planning, and how we might consider others' needs. It was great to see them working like town planners and how their ideas were shaped by their lived experience.



## Year 9 Intergenerational Film Project Begins

On Thursday 15th May, a small group of our Year 9 students took part in the first session of an exciting new initiative—the Intergenerational Film Project in partnership with Mulberry School for Girls and Magic Me.

This innovative project brings together young people and older women from the community to explore identity, inspiration, and shared values through the lens of film. In this opening session, our students met with their peers from Mulberry School for Girls to begin building connections and laying the foundations for the collaborative work ahead.

During the session, students shared who inspires them and why, what matters most to them, and how they feel about being part of the project moving forward. It was a thoughtful and engaging conversation that highlighted the curiosity, empathy, and open-mindedness of our students. The session was a great success, with students getting along exceptionally well and showing real enthusiasm for what's to come. We're proud of the way they represented our school and are excited for the next stage of the project.

On Monday 19th May, students travelled to Mulberry School for Girls to meet the older women from the community who will also be contributing to the film project. We look forward to seeing the intergenerational connections grow and the creativity that emerges as the project continues. We started with getting into small groups talking about if you could be an animal what would you be?



This introductory game allowed us to get a feel of everyone's personalities. Then, we were told to bring something that represents our inspirational woman/girl. We began storytelling about our objects and after 5 minutes we swapped objects ready to tell another story about someone else's object which tested our memory. Finally, we began sharing our stories to the rest of the group which allowed us to know each other in more detail! Surprisingly, we managed to have time to start recording some of these stories which was really exciting to be in front of a camera.





## Eid

A reminder that any students who will be requesting authorised absence for religious observance for Eid on Friday 6th June, need to contact the school office in advance. Please let us know as soon as possible if your child will not be in school on Friday, 6th June. Students missing school will need to catch up any work missed. We wish all our families and local community celebrating Eid al-Adha a happy day with friends and family. Eid al-Adha Mubarak in advance to all our families and the local community celebrating.

## The assembly next week:

As we return from the half-term break, our first key stage assemblies will be themed around Earth Day 2025, with the global focus this year being "Restore Our Earth – Together." This will be an opportunity for the students to reflect on the importance of caring for our planet and to consider the small changes we can all make to live more sustainably. The assembly will include student contributions, a short video, and the introduction of some eco-friendly initiatives we'll be running this term within Green Ambassadors.

## Attendance:

Congratulations to 9W, who have 98.1% attendance! This is incredible and well above national figures. A special mention to 7C, 8C and 7S who are very close behind.

## Extra Curricular clubs timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET
	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET
				Year 11 Maths revision 7:30-8:20 Room 2 HUS (Week B only)	
Lunch time	Homework Support Room 20 RIC	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20
	GCSE Art and Photography Club Room 17 ELB	Year 11 Maths revision Room 3 RGN (Week A only)	KS3 Badminton AGI (Week A only)	Board Game Club Room 42 ELK (Week A only)	KS3 Royal Academy Young Artists Club Room 17 ELB
	Citizens UK	KS3 Multi skills	KS3 Crochet	Year 11 Maths	KS3 History Film Club

	Club Room 8 PHI	sports AGI (Week A only)	Club Room H2 RAN	revision Room 3 RGN (Week B only)	Room 6 KLE
	KS4 Textiles Club Room H2 RAN	KS3 Textiles Club Room H2 RAN	Computing Club Room 33 ALK	Year 11 French intervention (by invitation) Room 41 FER	Year 11 Biology Intervention (by invitation) Lab 1 AMR
	Computing Club Room 33 LAK	Year 11 Geography Drop In Club Room 7 DES	Year 11 Maths Revision Mobile PET (Week A)	KS3 Dodgeball AGI (Week A only)	Year 11 Chemistry Intervention (by invitation) Lab 4 IQB
	Year 11 Biology Intervention (by invitation) Lab 2 SIQ	Year 11 History intervention (by invitation) Room 6 KLE	Year 11 Sociology intervention (by invitation) Room 5 KAD	Eco Club Room 7 DES	Year 11 Physics Intervention (by invitation) Lab 3 MUJ
	Year 11 Geography Revision Room 39 KHL	Year 8 and 9 Science Cinema Club Room 8 AMR	Mentoring SAI HoY8 office	KS3 Humanities Homework Catch Up Room 7 DES	Year 11 Science Revision Lab 5 ALI
	Year 11 Geography Intervention (by invitation) Room 7 DES	Year 11 Study Space Room 32 WAL	Music Club Room 28 HEA	Mindfulness Club Room 10 GAH (Week A only)	Peer mentoring (by invitation) Room 5 KAD
	KS3 Music Club Room 28 HEA	Mindfulness Club Room 10 GAH (Week B only)		Year 7 Film Club Room 8 IZO	Year 7 and 8 Maths Club Room 4 SW 11C and PET
		Year 10 Homework Club Room 36 RAH			Year 7 Connections Club Library ALI
<b>After school</b>	Year 11 Maths revision 15:30-16:30 Room 1 AUL	Football 15:30-16:30 Playground Leyton Orient/AGI	Basketball Club 15:30-16:30 Sports Hall AGI	Year 11 Maths revision 15:30-16:30 Room 4 LAB	KS4 Music Club Room 28 HEA
	Year 7 English Action Tutoring (by invitation) Room 4 CAR	Year 10 Maths Action Tutoring (by invitation) Room 4 LAB			
	GCSE Art and Photography Club 15:20-16:30 Room 17 ELB	GCSE Art and Photography Club 15:20-16:30 Room 17 ELB			



## Careers Section

### Connaught Girls Shine at Goals4Girls 'Euros Warm-Up' Tournament

Last Friday, Connaught School had the exciting opportunity to take part in a football tournament hosted by *Goals4Girls*. Held at a local school and attended by over six other schools, the event was themed around wellbeing and healing — a brilliant way to connect sport with positive mental health. For many of our girls, this was their first taste of competitive football, and while nerves were high at the start, they quickly rose to the challenge. With back-to-back matches testing their stamina and determination, the team dug deep and never stopped running or supporting one another.

#### Standout Performances

- Aliza (8W) was undoubtedly the star of the tournament, showing relentless energy and motivating her teammates throughout.
- Aisha (8F) stepped up when it mattered most, taking on the goalkeeper role mid-tournament and making a number of incredible saves.
- A special thank you goes to Jasmine and Imaan in Year 9, who provided excellent coaching and leadership on the day. As active participants in external *Goals4Girls* events, it was a proud moment to see them give back and guide our younger players.

Although the team didn't take home the trophy, they secured a memorable win against School 21, clinched after a dramatic late VAR decision — a thrilling end to a fantastic day!

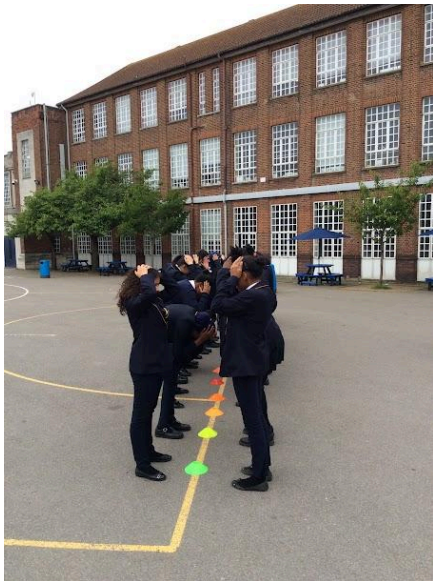


#### Congratulations to our squad:

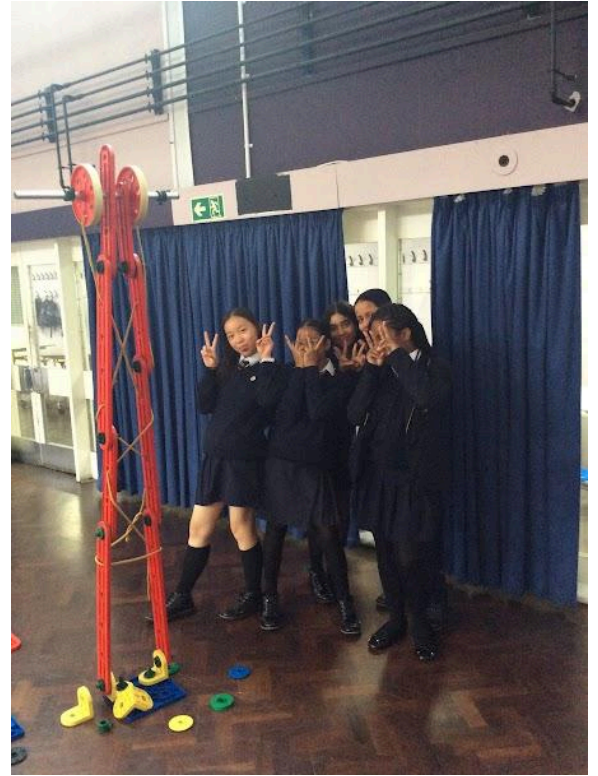
- Aisha (8F)
- Rheia (7S)
- Aliza (8W)
- Dixie (8C)
- Zuzanna (8F)
- Sirine (8C)
- Aoife (7W)
- Zara (7S)

## Royal Visiting visit to Connaught School!

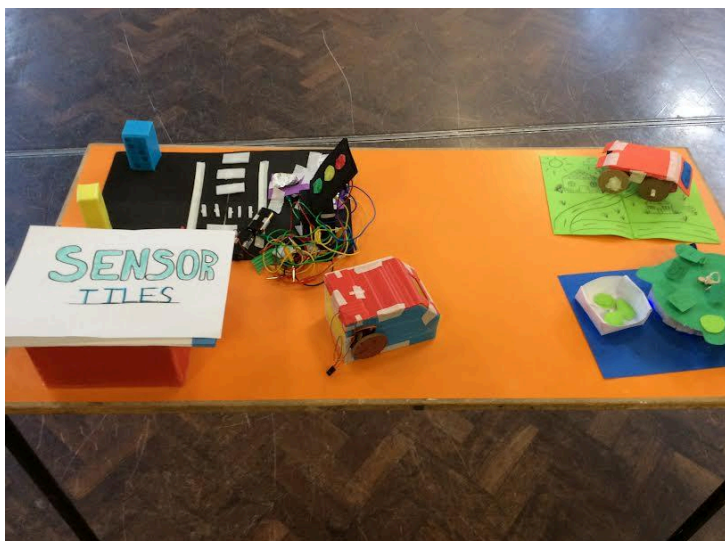
Last Thursday, we were incredibly privileged to receive a visit from the Royal Navy, where they shared their experiences working in the service. Their stories were fascinating and gave us a real insight into life in the Navy.



After the assembly, a group of students had the opportunity to take part in a workshop led by the Navy team. We did a range of engaging activities, including playing "riverbank," building a structure six feet tall, and testing our survival skills through various games. Overall, it was an incredible experience that left a lasting impression on many students. In fact, several of them were so inspired that they signed up for cadets afterwards! It was such a fun and motivating day.



## Year 8 Faraday Challenge



*On Monday, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) visited our school to run a workshop. The aim of the session was to design and create either an educational toy, a tool to support athletes, or a device to assist people with disabilities. My group chose to create an educational toy.*



*We designed a toy car that comes with a playmat and features different coloured headlights. The purpose of the coloured lights was to help young children learn to identify colours in an engaging way. We chose a car design because we wanted to support the development of hand-eye coordination in early childhood, making the toy both fun and educational. - Aliza*



*On Thursday, I had the opportunity to participate in an engineering workshop, and it was an incredibly fun and educational experience. The workshop began with a planning session where we discussed what we were going to build, how we would build it, and what materials we would need. We also created a sketch of our design, which helped us visualize our final product.*

*One of the most exciting parts of the day was the mock “shop” set up at the back of the hall. We were each given 120 “fardays” to spend on materials, and it was our responsibility to budget and purchase what we needed. This not only made the experience feel more realistic but also taught us valuable lessons about budgeting, the cost of materials, and how inflation affects prices—it was eye-opening to see how expensive things could be!*



*Once we had our materials, we moved on to the construction phase. There was a designated cutting station where we could prepare our materials, and from there we began building. My group decided to create an educational toy for children aged 2 to 7. Our design was a turtle with numbered buttons on its shell to help young kids learn to count while being entertained. It was a great blend of fun and functionality, and we were proud of the result. - Rania*

### **Milk Honey Bees - Session Two!**

The girls attended their second session with Milk Honey Bees, where they explored themes of friendship and relationships—discussing both the positive and negative aspects, as well as healthy and unhealthy behaviors. As a thoughtful gesture, they each received a box of natural hair products, generously gifted by TreasureTress.



## Peer Mentoring Club x Apps For Good

We are thrilled to share the fantastic footage from the Apps For Good advertisement that took place in February. Despite it being their first time in front of the camera, they were complete naturals and worked really well to answer the questions posed by the camera crew. The completed footage is now a part of their promotional material and marketing, which is incredibly inspiring! As a result of their hard work, they were gifted TWO Amazon Giftcards that they will be using to support their fundraising events over the next few months.

Please click on the QR Code below if you wish to watch the videos!

## Spotlight on Spanish

Year 9 have been learning the topic of food; 'La Comida'

We have researched typical Spanish foods, as well as foods eaten around the Spanish speaking world. This week, students have tried the following traditional Spanish foods:

- tortilla española (spanish omelette)
- chorizo (turkey, halal)
- queso manchego (Spanish cheese)
- las aceitunas verdes (green olives)

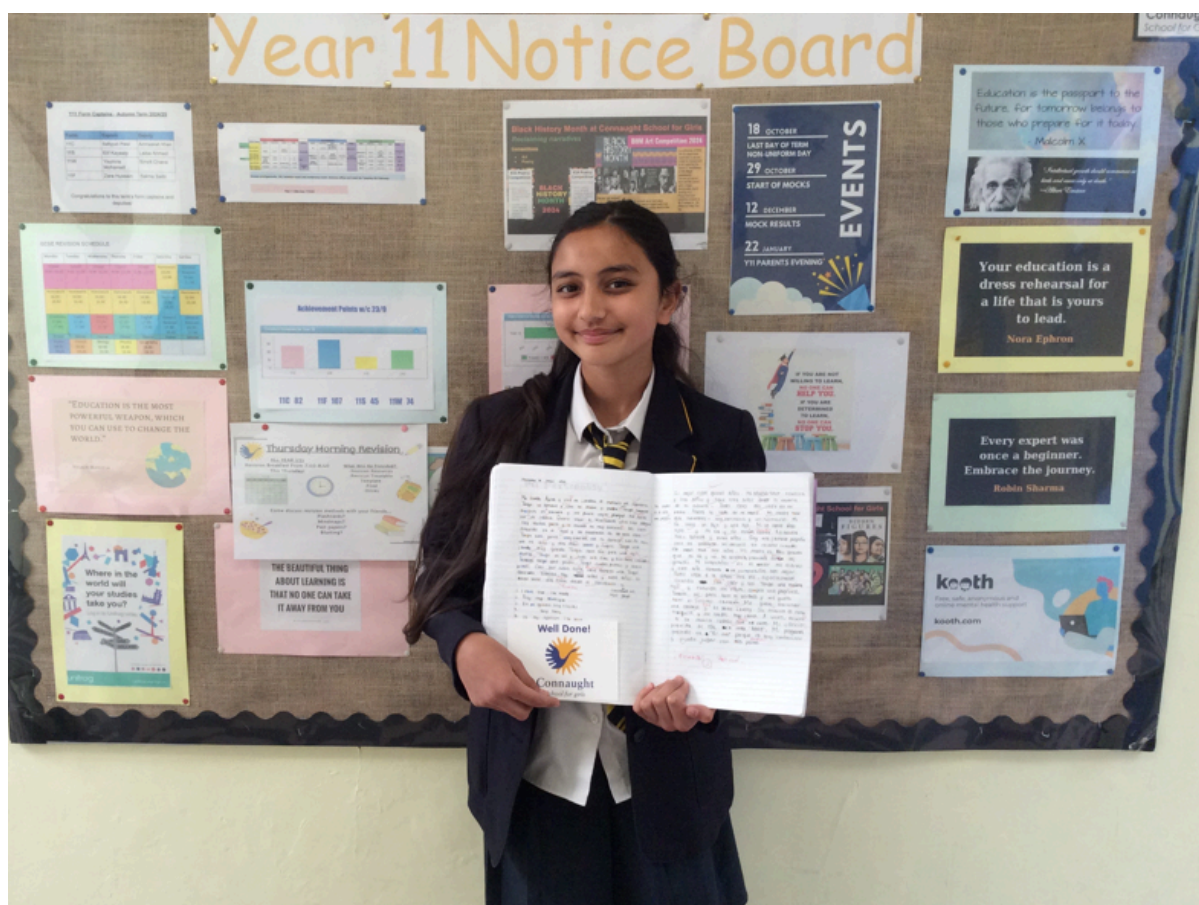
The students had fun trying out the different flavours, as well as discussing and writing about them in Spanish



*"I've always loved learning languages, especially Spanish. There's something about the way it sounds and the culture behind it that really interests me. I've been learning it for a few years now, and as I've gotten better, I've become a lot more confident speaking it. I noticed*



*my progress through my understanding in class and being able to speak with native speakers.” Ayzah 8S*



## **Safeguarding**

### **Alert on ‘Whatsapp’**

We have been alerted to a national concern involving a WhatsApp group called ‘add everyone’ circulating among young people which contains inappropriate, harmful and in some cases illegal content. Although not specific to Kelmscott, it’s important that all families remain vigilant.

What can you do?

- Regularly check your child’s phone and online activity
- Talk to your child about who they are communicating with
- Remind them never to join or stay in unknown groups or share personal information
- Encourage open conversations – let them know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable
- Take time away from screens
- Make time to talk to someone you trust
- Try to get plenty of sleep and stay active

- Keep things in perspective – it's okay not to be okay

As ever, safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have concerns or need further support.

Have a fantastic half-term break and enjoy I want to say thank you for your continued support, as always.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Silk  
Headteacher