

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As always, I am pleased to share with you a Friday update at the close of our first week back. I am delighted to report that the return to school has been exceptionally smooth, with both students and staff settling quickly into routine. The atmosphere across the school has been one of energy and renewal, and it is heartening to see classrooms, corridors, and communal spaces once again alive with purposeful learning and vibrant interactions.

There is a palpable sense of optimism as we embark on this new term. Our students have returned refreshed and ready to engage, and colleagues have brought renewed focus and commitment to their teaching and wider responsibilities. Together, this has created an environment in which high standards, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community are already evident. I am confident that this positive start will set the tone for the term ahead, as we continue to build on recent successes and strive for further improvement.

Looking ahead, we have a busy and exciting year planned. A key priority for us as a school is to continue improving the quality of teaching and learning, as this will lead directly to stronger student outcomes, ensuring that every young person is supported to achieve their full potential. We also aim to enrich the curriculum through a wide range of opportunities that enable students to develop their skills and talents beyond the classroom. Additionally, we are committed to developing the school site to better meet the needs of our community. This year we are particularly excited about the opening of our new drama studio, which will significantly enhance the performing arts provision, and the investment in improved ICT facilities, including new photography equipment, ensuring our students have access to the high-quality digital resources they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world. These developments form part of our wider vision to equip every student not only with excellent academic results, but also with the creativity, confidence, and skills that will prepare them to flourish in the future.

There will also be a strong focus on student wellbeing, ensuring that everyone feels supported, valued, and confident in their learning journey.

We are also preparing for a number of important events across the academic year that will celebrate the achievements of our students and strengthen our community ties. These include school performances, enrichment days, parent engagement evenings, Iftar events

and of course our annual celebration event, which we restarted last academic year after a long break.

I very much look forward to working in partnership with families throughout the year, as together we ensure that Connaught School for Girls continues to thrive and provide the very best for our students.

GCSE outcomes summer 2025

At Connaught, we are committed to valuing individual strengths and building resilience over time, and this commitment is powerfully reflected in our Year 11 GCSE results this summer. The 2025 GCSE students have demonstrated determination, perseverance, and maturity in their approach, making the most of every revision opportunity and showing a willingness to learn from feedback. Their hard work and reflective mindset are clearly evident in the excellent outcomes they have achieved.

This year, no fewer than 98% of Connaught students were entered for the EBacc, with 21% securing grades in the 9–7 range (equivalent to the former A*–A). Ten students achieved straight 9–7 grades, with several securing all 8s and 9s. Among the many successes:

- 93% of students passed GCSE English (placing us in the top 5% of schools nationally), providing a strong foundation for further study or employment.
- 34% achieved grade 7+ in English Language and Literature, and 24% achieved grade 7+ in Mathematics.
- 69% of students secured passes in both English and Mathematics, with 47% at grade 5+.
- 29% achieved grade 7+ in Sociology and History, 28% in French, and 100% of entries passed in Community Languages.
- Combined Science results showed a 33% increase in standard passes compared with last year, and Mathematics saw a 23% increase.
- The proportion of students achieving five GCSEs (including English, Mathematics, and three other subjects) rose by 16% compared with last year, while EBacc average point scores improved substantially against both national and Waltham Forest benchmarks for grade 5+.

We are immensely proud of our students—not only for their personal successes, but also because their achievements stand as a clear reflection of the significant and rapid improvements taking place at Connaught School for Girls.

Open Evening

On **Wednesday 17th September**, we will be holding our annual Open Evening at Connaught School for Girls. This is a wonderful opportunity for prospective students and their families to meet our staff and current students, explore the school, and gain a real sense of the vibrant learning community we are so proud of. We would be delighted if you could help us spread the word by sharing details of the evening with friends, neighbours, or colleagues who may be considering secondary school options for their daughters. Your support in promoting our school within the community is greatly appreciated and plays an important role in helping families discover all that Connaught has to offer. I have attached a flyer to the email and this will also be on the school Website and Social Media feeds.

The school will remain open late into the evening as staff and students welcome prospective pupils and their families to Connaught School for Girls. As the school will be in use until late that evening, we will operate a **later start the following day, Thursday 18th September**. Students should arrive at **9.50am**, ready to go directly to their Period 2 lesson.

Next week's assemblies

Our assemblies will be celebrating women in art with a focus of the life and work of Frida Kahlo.

Extra-Curricular Provision Survey

Please find below a link to a survey for you to give your feedback about the extra-curricular provision at Connaught School for Girls and to help us improve our offer for your child. We will be sharing a similar survey with students next week as well, but we would love to hear from you too.




[SURVEY LINK](#)

Safeguarding

Please read the following important safeguarding information which has been shared by Waltham Forest:

Parent & Carer Alert: The "Salt & Ice Challenge"

A dangerous online trend is resurfacing where children put salt on their skin and press ice on top.

-  This causes serious cold burns (like frostbite).
-  Injuries can need hospital treatment and even skin grafts.
-  Young people may not realise the damage until it's too late.

- ✓ First Aid: Cool with lukewarm running water for 10+ minutes, cover with clean cling film, and seek medical help.
- ✗ Do NOT use ice, creams, or fluffy dressings.

Social Media

Last term, we announced that we would be putting more information on 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 getting on..

The school social media platforms are:



Instagram - Main School **@Connaughtschool**



Instagram - Teddy Team **@Connaught.Teddy**



Facebook - Main School **@ConnaughtSchoolforgirls**

As always, have a great weekend, one that is well deserved after such a positive and energetic start to the term. Thank you for your continued support; it is through our shared commitment that we are able to provide the very best for our students and celebrate their many successes together.



Mr. Silk
Headteacher