

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

17th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the close of the penultimate week of term, I have a Friday update for you as always. This week, I had the pleasure of welcoming prospective parents on a tour of our school. It was a genuine delight to see our students so deeply engaged in their learning, from lively science experiments and creative food practicals to impressive art projects and energetic PE lessons. Our teachers, too, were exceptional, sharing their expertise and enthusiasm with passion and purpose. Moments like these capture the spirit of Connaught School perfectly; a vibrant, purposeful, and inspiring community of learners that makes me immensely proud to be Headteacher.

Law careers opportunity

A careers opportunity to highlight; students interested in a career in law are invited to attend a free virtual work experience event, hosted by leading law firm Browne Jacobson on Tuesday, 28th October from 9:00am - 4:15pm. The day is open to all school, college, and university students who want to explore opportunities in the legal profession. Attendees will also hear about the new Barrister Apprenticeship Programme, an exciting new route into law. Browne Jacobson will be among the first UK firms to offer this pathway, with applications launching at the event. For more information please see [here](#).

London Learning Day 24th October 2025

We are eagerly anticipating our London Learning Day on Friday, 24th October.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be visiting London venues to support their classroom learning:

- Year 7 - The Tower of London
- Year 8 - the Natural History Museum
- Year 9 - London Zoo

Please ensure you have paid for the visit and confirmed your consent on your ARBOR app. If you have any further queries, please contact the school office.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and would like to discuss support for the cost of your daughter's visit please contact Ms Hickes (rachel.hickes@connaught.waltham.sch.uk) in confidence.

Year 10 and 11 will have drop down days in school focused on Relationship, Sex and Education (RSE) and Health Education, and Sixth Form and College applications respectively.

Cooking for fun with Mrs Wallace

Over the past two weeks, our Year 7 students have been engaging in an exciting cooking program **“Cooking for fun”** with Mrs. Wallace. It has been a wonderful opportunity for them to develop valuable culinary skills while enjoying the creative process outside the traditional classroom setting.

The enthusiasm and pride shown by the students have been truly inspiring. The photos below capture the joy and sense of accomplishment that came from their hard work and teamwork in the Food Technology room

We are proud of our Year 7 students for embracing this hands-on learning experience with such positivity and dedication. It has been so much fun for the students and their teacher and we certainly have some future chefs in this group of students!



Congratulations to **Tasneen P 8F** with the highest number of APs (14!) this week in KS3!

Congratulations to **Amrin R 10W** with the highest number of APs(14!)this week in KS4!

Leaderboard Autumn term 1-Tutor groups		
12.09.25	8W	171
19.09.25	8C	328
26.10.25	8C	514
03.10.25	8C	657
10.10.25	8C	830
17.10.25	8C	936
24.10.25		

Achievement Points

8C seem unstoppable - one more week of the half term for another tutor group to overtake them!

Attendance Matters

Fantastic attendance this week. Congratulations to Year 10 who are smashing our school target.

Next week's assemblies

Next week's assemblies will be celebrating World Food Day. The theme this year is 'Hand in hand for better foods and a better future'.



Attendance this week



Black History Month Events

There will be several events over the month to recognise Black History Month

Non uniform day: **Thursday 23rd October** *All proceeds raised will go to the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'*

Black History Month breakfast: **Thursday 23rd October**. This will take place between 7.30am - 8.20am. This celebration offers a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and honour the rich contributions of Black people to history, culture, and society.

Black History Month Film viewing: **15th and 22nd October**. Students wanting to see the film still have the chance to sign up.

Bake sale - **Thursday 23rd October- breaktime**. There will be a bake sale on the non-uniform day and proceeds from the sale will go to the same charity. We ask for students/parents to please donate cakes, but remember that we are a nut-free school -so please: **NO NUTS**.

Spotlight on...Year 7 Transition

This week, year 7 students have continued their transition programme by taking part in their second virtual Kooth assembly. The focus for the assembly this week was 'Body Image and Self-Esteem'.



International Day of the Girl – Global Girl Leading Summit - Friday 10th October

As many of you know, Connaught continues to work in partnership with Mulberry School for Girls on a number of exciting projects that have carried into this academic year. Among these are the *Applied Stories Project: For Our Mothers Poetry Competition* and *Magic Me Film Project*, based on working with older women in the community to create an Intergenerational Film. Both of these events have provided incredible opportunities for our students to engage

creatively and reflectively beyond the classroom.

As a result of these inspiring extracurricular programmes, both groups were invited to attend the **Global Girl Leading Conference on Friday 10th October 2025**. This annual event, hosted at Mulberry School for Girls, was first established in 2016 following a visit from Michelle Obama. Together, Mulberry and Mrs. Obama's foundation created a leadership programme "for girls, by girls," with the aim of empowering young women across the globe to become confident, compassionate leaders.

The conference was streamed live around the world, and we were thrilled to share the experience with schools from India, the United States, Australia, Kenya, Mexico and many more, to name just a few. Throughout the day, delegates heard from a range of inspirational speakers, including **Tina Tchen**—a Chinese-American Lawyer and former White House staff member who was first lady to Michelle Obama—and the remarkable **Dr Edna Adan Ismail**, aged 88, a nurse, midwife, activist, and the first female Foreign Minister of Somaliland. Dr Ismail's story, from surviving FGM to building a hospital and leading international campaigns against the practice, moved and motivated everyone present. Her lifelong dedication to justice and women's health was a powerful reminder of the impact one determined individual can have.

In addition to the keynote sessions, attendees took part in leadership workshops that encouraged public speaking, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas across cultures and communities.

We were especially proud of how **Connaught** was represented at the summit.

- **Zahraa Patel (Year 10)** performed her beautiful poem as a finalist in the *For Our Mothers* poetry competition. Her poem, along with other finalists' work, has been

published in an anthology now available to the public

- **Penelope Benito (Year 10)** also took to the stage to present the group's short film created through *Magic Me*. A heartfelt ten-minute piece that celebrated intergenerational connection and the sharing of stories across generations.

The **Global Girl Leading Conference** was far more than a day of talks and workshops. It was truly a **celebration of girlhood**. Taking place on the “*International Day of the Girl*,” The event reminded us of the power of shared voices and the strength found in unity. Sitting among passionate, ambitious young women from around the world was a humbling and uplifting experience.

As one speaker, Tina Tchen, reflected: “*I think I was a little bit audacious when I was younger.*” It is that very audacity - the courage to dream boldly and act with purpose - that drives change.

As we continue our partnership with Mulberry, we carry forward these stories, experiences, and connections. They remind us that leadership is not only about being in charge, but about lifting each other up, sharing our truths, and creating spaces “where every girl can lead”.



Careers

Milk Honey Bees School Conference

Last Friday, 10 of our Connaught girls attended a very prestigious and vibrant event in celebration of Black History Month & International Day of the Girl. This event had over 45 Black & Biracial girls who took part in personal development & wellbeing workshops, a dance party and selfies at the photobooth!



Lunch was provided by Wingstop and refreshments were constantly refilled!

Finally, as a thank you for simply turning up, they received an incredible Goody Bag featuring gifts such as battery pack, haircare products, STARFACE pimple patches, S'ABLE moisturiser, Topicals and a £20 Primark Gift Card!

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity and the wonderful memories created! We cannot wait for next year & further collaborative projects with Milk Honey Bees!

The Milk Honey Bees school conference was an absolute highlight! I went in expecting the usual talks, but it turned out to be so much more. The speakers were incredibly engaging, and they shared personal stories that really hit home.

What I enjoyed most was the focus on real-life skills. There were workshops on everything from managing stress to building better relationships. I came away with practical tools that I can actually use in my day-to-day life.

Honestly, I learned so many valuable life lessons. It wasn't just about academics; it was about becoming a well-rounded person. I left feeling inspired and ready to tackle whatever comes next. - Sienna A (Y8)

MHB Playground!

On Saturday, MHB delivered a day full of fun for the girls in attendance which ranged from hair braiding and edge styling (with a free complimentary haircare box), tooth gems, nails, flower-making station, 3D creative station and a wellbeing/check-in section. Refreshments were supplied along with

While it was a sold-out event, several Connaught girls made their way down and took part in the activities on offer - all leaving with a Goody Bag! They were very thankful for the experience and look forward to more events similar to this in the future!



Y10 Sociology Visit to JP Morgan

Today we had a trip to JP Morgan and took part in a workshop about law. In the workshop we learned about what laws are , how laws are made and who makes them , how they have an impact on society and how they can become changed. I think that it was very beneficial for everyone , especially people who want to do something with law in the future. We got to speak with actual lawyers and hear how it is from their perspective and what they do in their job, so we could know a bit more on what it would be like if we were to be in their position.

We spoke about how there are many laws that we follow and take part in within the day without even realizing and how those laws come to being made. We saw how certain things that people do can have an impact on the laws that are already in place and how the actions of people can cause them to change mainly for the better, but can be debated or not.

We also got a tour of the building and got to see where people work and different types of work that is done within the building and how there are many branches of work within the same building. It was a very interesting trip where we learnt new things. - **Amira A (Y10)**

Extra-Curricular Provision

Please find the ECP schedule for the Autumn term. There are more and more clubs being added each week. The schedule so far is below:

	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 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
Lunch time	Year 8-11 Ted Team SIL HT Office	Year 8-11 Ted Team SIL HT Office	Year 8-11 Ted Team SIL HT Office	Year 8-11 Ted Team SIL HT Office	Year 8-11 Ted Team SIL HT Office
	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Drama Studio	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Drama Studio	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Drama Studio	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Drama Studio	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Drama Studio
	LEGO Club CJ/DF Room 20	Homework Club NA Room 20	Homework Club DL Room 20	Homework Club RIC Room 20	Year 11 Biology and Chemistry Intervention AMR Mobile
	Key Stage 4 Art and Photography Club ELB Room 9	Key Stage 3 Reading Club RAH Room 36	Key Stage 4 Art Club HCO Room 17	Key Stage 3 Computing and Coding Club ALK Room 33	11x/Ma6 Maths Intervention RGN Room 3
	Year 11 General Revision PET Room 10	Year 7 Cooking Club WAL Room H1	Board Games Club ELK Room 42	11x/Ma3 Maths Intervention PET Room 10	Rollerskating Club DIA/GAG Gym
		Year 11 Geography Intervention DES Room 7	Year 11 Sociology Intervention KAD Room 5	Badminton Club GAG Gym Week B	Crochet Club HUS
		Key Stage 4 English 19th Century Fiction Club CAR Room 34	Textiles Club RAN Room H2	Year 9 Poetry Club BUR Room 35	Year 8 Connections Club ALI Room 38
		Year 11 History Intervention KLE Room 6	Green Ambassadors DES Room 7 Week A Only	Year 11 French Intervention FER Room 41	
		Year 8 Attend Club ALI Room 38	Duke Of Edinburgh Support DES Room 7 Week B Only		

			History Film Club KLE Room 6		
			11x/Ma2 Maths Intervention ADO Room 4 Week B Only		
			Year 11 Spanish Intervention Room 40 MAV		
			Dodgeball Club GAG Gym Week B		
			Year 7-10 Let's Celebrate KHL Room 39		
			Year 9 Teen Tech Awards KHN Library		
After school	11x/Ma4 Maths Intervention AUL Room 1	Year 10 Maths Action Tutoring ADO Room 4	11x/Ma5 Maths Tuition LAB Library	Year 11 Textiles coursework Club RAN Room H2	Year 11 Physics and Chemistry Intervention MUJ Lab 3
	11x/Ma5 Maths Tuition LAB Library	Year 9 and 10 Debate Club KHN Library	Year 10 English Action Tutoring CAR Room 4		11x/Sc3 Science Intervention Lab 4 IQB Week B
	Key Stage 4 Art and Photography Club ELB Room 9	Leyton Orient Football Club GAG Gym			

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Have a great weekend,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher