

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH**7th November 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have a Friday update for you, as always — although this week's is something of a bumper edition, with so much happening across Connaught School for Girls.

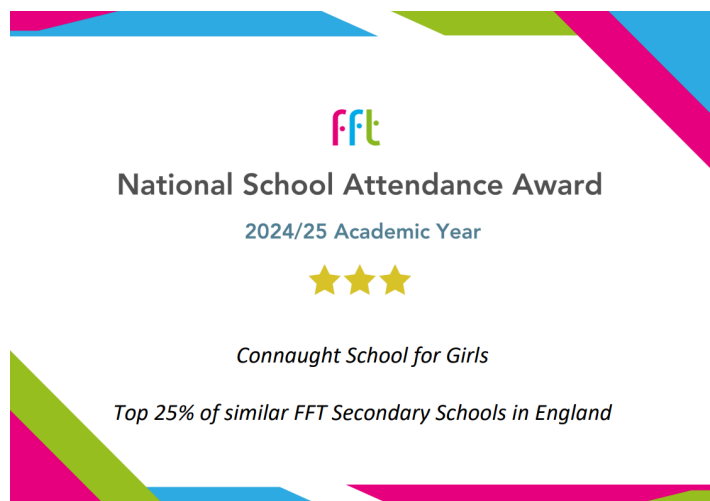
Our students returned from their well-earned half-term break feeling refreshed, focused, and ready to learn. It has been wonderful to see such a purposeful and diligent atmosphere around the school as we enter the second half of the autumn term. Classrooms have been calm and productive, corridors filled with a sense of energy and pride, and students are clearly eager to build on the progress they made during the first half of the term.

As always, I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff for the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure every student is supported and challenged. Whether through enrichment opportunities, academic support, or pastoral care, the collective effort of our staff team is what makes Connaught such a nurturing and ambitious place to learn.

Over the coming weeks, there is much to look forward to — from curriculum enrichment activities and community events to the continued preparations for mock examinations and upcoming performances. It is a busy but exciting time of year, and I am proud of how our students and staff continue to rise to every challenge with enthusiasm and commitment.

Achievement Points

A big well done to 7W who have started off the half-term by being top of the leaderboard with 119 APs! Special congratulations to Genevieve and Izel (both in 7W) who achieved the joint highest number of APs in KS3 this week and to Wissale (10C) in KS4.

Attendance Matters

Our whole school attendance is currently 94.6%, over 2% above the national average.

This is a positive step in the right direction and highlights the impact of regular attendance on student progress and wellbeing. Your support is invaluable in helping us get the best outcomes for the girls. Every day in school truly makes a difference, thank you for your continued support here.

We are also pleased to announce that we have won a national award for our attendance last academic year.

This week **11R** had the highest attendance at 98.4% with 10W right behind them with 98.3%.

Next week's assemblies

Next week's assemblies will be on the theme of Remembrance, as this Sunday marks Remembrance Sunday.



GCSE Drama Exams

A huge congratulations to the Year 11 Drama GCSE students who completed their devised drama exam on Tuesday 21st October. Working in groups, the students created original pieces of drama inspired by a given stimulus. They explored costume, lighting, and staging; learning how to 'tech' each other's performances. Throughout the process, they developed their teamwork, creativity, resilience, and acting skills - resulting in confident final performances on stage for family and peers.

KS3 London Learning Visits

The whole of KS3 had a fantastic day learning outside of the classroom. Staff and students had a great day out; the students were a credit to the school.

Year 7 visited the Tower of London where the Crown Jewels and the ravens were a big hit.



Year 8 ventured west to the Natural History Museum. Students managed to have a good look around before taking part in a Biodiversity in Action workshop. Students were able to get up close with the creepy crawlies as they learnt to classify insects using keys and

microscopes to sort real insect samples. The students had a great day in the Natural History Museum making the most of their time to get around and see the different exhibitions and immerse themselves in the experience.

Our **Year 9** Geography students enjoyed an exciting day out at London Zoo as part of their Geography fieldwork on animal adaptations and conservation. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see the topics they have been studying in class brought to life in a real-world setting. Before the trip, each student chose one animal to focus on and researched how that animal has adapted to its natural environment. During the visit, students observed their chosen animals closely, noting their unique features, behaviours and habitats. From camouflage to feeding habits, they were able to see first-hand how different species have developed ways to survive and thrive in their surroundings. The trip also gave students the chance to learn more about conservation work at the zoo and around the world. They discovered how breeding programmes, habitat protection and education projects are helping to protect endangered animals and preserve biodiversity for the future. The experience helped students deepen their understanding of key geographical ideas such as adaptation and sustainability, while also inspiring them to think about how we can all play a part in caring for our planet. We would like to say a big thank you to the staff who supported the visit and to our Year 9 students, who were a credit to the school. Their enthusiasm, thoughtful questions and positive attitude made the day both enjoyable and memorable for everyone involved.



Photo Competition - Students can submit photographs of their visit either via their Year Group Google Classroom or by emailing Ms Hickes directly - prizes for the best photographs in each year group.

Y11 Photography Trip to Autograph Gallery

Students visiting Autograph Gallery in Shoreditch to work on part 2 of their curated exhibition. They added their own work to archival images from the gallery's collection, wrote poetry and created collages!



Year 10 Endzone Interform Competition

On **Friday 24th October**, Year 10 took part in an exciting **Endzone Interform Competition**. The afternoon was packed with energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of friendly rivalry, creating a brilliant atmosphere from start to finish.

It was fantastic to see so many talented sportswomen giving their all and showing great determination and teamwork. The standard of play was excellent, and after some closely contested matches, the competition came down to a nail-biting tie between 10F and 10C. A tense rematch followed, with both teams showing superb skill and effort right to the end.

The support from classmates on the sidelines was outstanding and really helped lift the players throughout. It was great to see so much pride, teamwork, and enjoyment across the year group.

Final Results



1st Place – 10F



2nd Place – 10C



3rd Place – 10S

A huge well done to everyone who took part — you were all fantastic and a real credit to yourselves and the PE department. What a brilliant way to round off the half term!



Coachbright Peer Mentoring Programme

We are incredibly excited to share that Connaguth School has been selected for a pioneering study, working alongside the EEF Foundation and Coachbright. The programme, over the next few months, will see our Year 10 students deliver fantastic, engaging Peer Mentoring sessions in Maths to Year 7s.

The programme is fully accredited, and the Year 10s will receive an Award as of completion. See below the coaching session Year 10 engaged in today to prepare for the launch of the programme next week



Year 11 Information and Opportunities

Year 11 Drop Down Day

As part of the Careers' department's push to support the learning and education/knowledge of Post-16 options for Year 11, we put together a package of learning that would support them in crafting their Personal Statements and begin applying for Colleges/Sixth Forms.

Year 11 initially received an assembly regarding the focus of the day, followed by interactive sessions and workshops learning about the changes in the guidance for Personal Statements and what specific content to include in order to be a fantastic candidate.

A selection of students were also lucky to receive an interactive workshop, focusing on improving their Interview skills and taking part in role-play exercises. It was also really lovely to see all students interacting with each other during the whole day, sharing knowledge and ideas in order to improve their work.

We hope this Drop Down Day provided the Y11s with the impetus & confidence in finalising their applications and taking part in any upcoming Open Days/Interviews.

Please keep having conversations with your daughters about their applications and offering support where possible! More sessions, workshops and information regarding Post 16 Choices will be happening after Christmas!

Mock exam webinar support

Mock Exams are underway with written exams starting next week. Parents can join a free webinar **hosted by Harry Godfrey and Joe Clark, co-founders of *The Degree Gap*, recently featured in *Forbes* and *The Independent*, and awarded GCSE Specialists of the Year 2025.** This information should also be useful for GCSE exams

The 45-Minute Masterclass will take place on **Wednesday 20th November, 7.00–7.45pm** with a **replay available for all registered parents**. In this practical, parent-focused session, families will learn:

- How to turn exams into a source of motivation rather than stress
- The proven RAG-rate roadmap top tutors use to focus revision effectively
- Early warning signs of burnout and how to rebuild focus quickly
- Conversation frameworks for keeping motivation high and communication calm

Parents/Carers can register for the webinar [here](#).

Mulberry School for Girls Sixth Form Open day is on 13th November 4-6pm

Application link ([Mulberry School for Girls](#)) and sixth form page ([Apply Now - Mulberry School for Girls](#))



WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Friends of Connaught PTA are gearing up to host a Winter Fair on Wednesday 17th December from 3.30 - 5pm at the school. It will be a great event to end the school term.

It will be a fun filled afternoon for all to enjoy and is open to students as well as the parents.

Look out for further details in upcoming newsletters but for now we really need your help.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW?

We have a local estate agents Trading places who sponsor our event with a monetary donation and raffle prizes but only if we can have enough parents/carers to commit to have their advertising board with our event details outside your property for a few weeks before the event.

If you can help please email connaughtschoolpta@gmail.com with your details asap so we don't lose out on this opportunity. Every little helps so please pass this to any other parents you know.

Thank you

Friends of Connaught PTA



Medical Schools Council Residential Summer Schools (Years 11/12)

Applications deadline: 30th November

Decisions shared by: 23rd January

2026 Medical Schools Council Medicine Residential Summer Schools are now open. These NHS England funded programmes offer an exceptional opportunity for eligible Year 11 and 12 students in England to gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to study medicine — at no cost to them.

The programmes are designed for Year 11 and 12 students in England from underrepresented backgrounds, particularly those with limited access to medical outreach. Students can apply for residential or commuter places depending on what suits their circumstances best.

Students can check their [eligibility](#) and apply online [here](#). Learn more about the programmes [here](#).

Age Appropriate Reading

It has come to our attention that some students are bringing novels into school that are categorised as Adult/New Adult and are aimed at 17+ readers. As such these novels include mature themes and content. Please check the books your daughter is reading, including online and encourage age appropriate choices.

Extra-Curricular Provision

Please find the ECP schedule for the second half of the Autumn term:

	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
	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		
		Drama Club MAL Hall	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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Silk
Headteacher