

## Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

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**Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH**

**9th January 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a peaceful and restorative break over the holiday period. As we begin the first full week of the new term and our first week back in 2026, I am delighted to welcome our students back to school. It has been a genuine pleasure to see them return with such positivity, and to feel once again the distinctive sense of energy, purpose, and community that defines life at Connaught.

The start of New Year offers an important moment to pause, reflect, and refocus. Schools, like the young people within them, are shaped not only by what they have achieved, but by the clarity of their direction and the strength of their shared values. At Connaught, we enter this term with a renewed sense of confidence in the progress we have made and a clear-eyed determination to continue building on it. High expectations, strong routines, and a calm, purposeful learning environment remain central to our work, underpinned by a belief that every child deserves both challenge and support in equal measure.

This term is particularly significant for our Year 11 students, who now enter the final and most important phase of their GCSE journey. Over the coming weeks, they will be guided carefully and deliberately, not only in consolidating subject knowledge and examination skills, but also in developing the resilience, confidence, and self-discipline required to perform at their best. Across all year groups, teaching and learning has resumed with focus and intent, and students have returned swiftly to the routines that allow learning to flourish.

Alongside academic rigour, we remain deeply committed to students' wellbeing and safety. Education is at its most powerful when young people feel secure; when they feel known, liked, and valued. Education works best when families and schools work together in partnership. We are grateful, as always, for the trust and support shown by our parent community, and we place great importance on clear communication, consistency, and shared expectations as the foundation of that relationship.

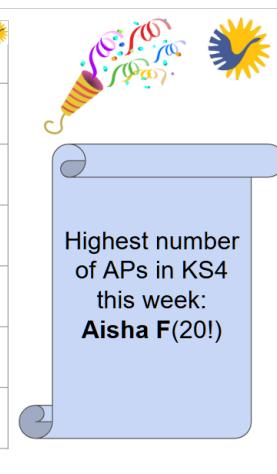
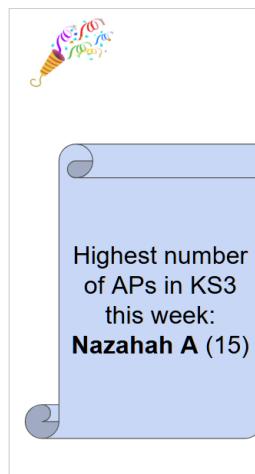
This weekly letter will continue to keep you informed about key developments, important reminders, and the wider life of the school as the term unfolds. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year ahead, and to ensuring that 2026 is a year in which every Connaught student is supported to grow, achieve, and thrive.

**Ofsted, February 2025**

**GOOD IN ALL AREAS**

## Achievement Points

We have re-set the AP leaderboard for the new term. Congratulations to 8F, off to a flying start!



Leaderboard Spring term 1-Tutor groups		
05.01.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>204</b>
12.01.26		
19.01.26		
26.01.26		
02.02.26		
09.02.26		

## Attendance Matters

Well done to all students who have smashed their attendance targets in this first week back, many with 100% attendance! Year 7 continues to lead the way, with the highest attendance to date. 10S have also made an impressive start to the term, achieving an average attendance of 97.6% this week.

Strong attendance is essential because every day in school matters. High attendance supports academic progress, builds positive routines, strengthens relationships with teachers and peers, and ensures students do not miss key learning that is difficult to replicate once lost. We are grateful to families for their continued support in prioritising attendance and look forward to seeing this positive momentum continue throughout the term.

## Next week back assemblies

**World Religion Day** is observed annually on the third Sunday of January and is a day dedicated to promoting understanding, harmony and unity among all religions and spiritual traditions around the world. The assembly will focus on the diversity of faiths and beliefs in our school and wider community, promotes respect, tolerance and understanding between different religious traditions, highlights what unites us across different faiths through shared values like compassion, kindness, justice and peace, and encourages students to learn about and appreciate different religious perspectives.

## Useful webinar for parents of Years 10 and 11 students

**There is less than a month until The Degree Gap host a Live Online Complimentary Webinar: 'A Parent's Guide to Supporting GCSE Success'.**

**If you have not signed up yet, there is still time.**

**So, what will we cover?**

- Understand what mock results really mean and how to respond calmly**
- See what effective revision actually looks like at home**
- Spot burnout early and fix it before motivation drops**
- Set one or two focused goals that lead to visible improvement**

**To sign up for the event on the 28th of January 7-8pm, please use the link:**

[\*\*Register here\*\*](#)

## Bedrock Points Leaderboard This Week

Arisha Malik 9S → 287 points  
Aoife Rae 8W → 159 points  
Gabrielle Dhemili-Arnold 8S → 136 points  
Hafsa Abdul Khaliq 8S → 97 points  
Maryam Rizwan 8W → 76 points  
Leila Watson 8W → 72 points  
Maryam Ali 8C → 71 points  
Aliza Chowdhuey 7C → 70 points  
Aysha Bilal 7C → 68 points  
Halima Asim → 63 points

Well done students! You will be receiving an achievement post card.

## **Words We Are Learning**

The vocabulary we are focusing on this term are: ***gauge, unscathed, acclaim, astute, incorporate***

## Reading Matters

We look forward to seeing students update their Reading Tracker this week to find out which form wins Reading Matters!

**Our top reader from each form, and receiving a postcard, are:**

While we wait for this week's Reading Matters results, the focus this week will be on the student with the most number of sessions logged on Reading Tracker. This means that the students named have been the most active on Reading Tracker.

**Eirini Duncan 7C → 63 sessions logged | Abigail Marshall 7F → 27 sessions logged**

**Rosanna Drew Rennie 7S → 34 sessions logged | Imaan Mohammed 7W → 58 sessions logged**

**Aaliyah Hussain 8C → 38 sessions logged | Hanah Kodabux 8F → 45 sessions logged**

**Hafsa Abdul Khaliq 8S → 30 sessions logged | Leila Watson and Ayanna Baylem-Farrell 8W → 76 sessions logged**

**Dixie Donohoe 9C → 33 sessions logged | Asma Waheed 9F → 41 sessions logged**

**Khadija Noori 9S → 39 sessions logged | Sakeenah Parkar → 27 sessions logged**

**Y11 Art GCSE Trip**

On Thursday the GCSE Art students enjoyed an inspiring trip to the National Gallery, where we took part in workshops focused on colour. We explored how and why artists use particular colours to create meaning and mood, before producing our own abstract colour responses inspired by artworks in the collection. We also spent time researching and selecting works to inform our new exam projects, with themes including *Magnificent*, *Nature* and *Isolation*. The trip provided valuable first-hand experience and creative inspiration to support our exam preparation.



## Extra-Curricular Provision

Please find the ECP schedule for the Spring term below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before school</b>	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
<b>Lunch time</b>	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 Clinic 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 7 Cooking Club WAL Room H1	Year 7 Nutre 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 Room 17
		Year 11 English Literature Revision 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	Year 11 Chemistry Clinic AMR Mobile Week A Only	
		Drama Club MAL Hall	History Film Club KLE Room 6		
		Key Stage 3 Futsal Club	11x/Ma2 Maths Intervention		

	KAD/GAG Gym	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			
		Key Stage 3 Waterpainting Club ELB Room 9			
<b>After school</b>	11x/Ma4 Maths Intervention AUL Room 1	Year 10 Maths Action Tutoring ADO Room 4	Year 10 English Action Tutoring CAR Room 4	Year 11 Textiles coursework Club RAN Room H2	Year 11 Physics and Chemistry Intervention MUJ Lab 3
	Key Stage 4 Art and Photography Club ELB Room 9	Year 9 and 10 Debate Club KHN Library		Year 10 PE BTEC Booster Sessions DIA/GAG Room 32 Week B Only	11x/Sc3 Science Intervention Lab 4 IQB Week B

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. It makes a real difference and is hugely appreciated by staff and students alike.

I hope you all had a restful, safe and happy break spent with friends and loved ones. Special thanks for your support throughout 2025. Here's to a happy and healthy 2026.

Wishing you a great weekend,



Mr. Silk  
**Headteacher**