

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Connaught School for Girls

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Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

14th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have a Friday update for you, as always. It has been a great week in school, with students focused and ready to learn. The days have been full of purposeful energy and good learning across the school. Our assemblies this week have reflected on Armistice Day and the significance of the battlefields; a particularly important theme given the conflicts and divisions we see in the world today. The assembly was delivered by the head of history and included a moving poem from Wilfred Owen and a minute silence for reflection.

I also want to keep up the reminders about attendance. Overall, attendance for the first half term stood at approximately 94%, which is almost identical to the same period last year. As you know, my goal of 97% attendance is a very lofty one, but it remains our target. That said, it is important to note that our school attendance is above national and Waltham Forest averages. While that is encouraging, I am not satisfied because every single day in school matters and every student's attendance contributes to our collective success. I appreciate your continued support and effort in making sure the girls are in school every day.

Next week, the forecast is for a significant drop in temperature. A reminder that students are permitted to wear a plain navy blue jumper under their blazer for school. However, they are not permitted to wear a jumper **instead** of a blazer. Increasingly, we are giving warnings for students who are walking around carrying a blazer instead of actually wearing it and this is not the school uniform. We ask for continued parent support in making sure that your daughter leaves for school wearing the **full** correct school uniform and without prohibited items such as jewellery and heavy make-up/ eyelash extensions etc. and they can arrive to school without this confrontation at the school gates. We have high expectations for the conduct of the girls in the school and our behaviour in school is outstanding as a result. We make no apology for having these high standards so that in lessons, teachers can focus on ***teaching*** and the delivery of high-quality lessons to get the best possible outcomes for your children.

Next week's assemblies

Next week's assemblies will be focused on the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge where our courageous nominees will present their speeches to the whole school.

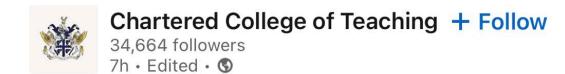
I would also like to draw your attention to a very special celebration of the achievements of our Vice-Chair of Governors, Ms Bushra Nasir. This week, the Chartered College of Teaching, the professional body representing teachers across the nation, has voted to recognise Bushra as an Honorary Fellow. Remarkably, she is only the second person ever to receive this prestigious accolade.

Bushra has been an exceptionally committed and diligent member of our Governing Body, playing a pivotal role in driving the school's continued improvement. Although her position is voluntary, it demands considerable time, expertise, and unrelenting energy to achieve the impact we see within the school.

A respected and influential leader in the local community, Bushra is a highly valued part of the Connaught family. She has been both a mentor and a critical friend to the school's leadership, offering challenge, insight, and steadfast support in equal measure. Her guidance has been instrumental in shaping our strategic direction and in ensuring that we remain ambitious for our students and staff alike.

We are immensely proud of Bushra's accomplishments and delighted that her contribution to education and governance has been recognised at a national level. This honour simply reaffirms what we already know: that Bushra is an exceptional leader and a truly special part of our community.

Congratulations, Bushra, on this well-deserved recognition.



Chief Executive of the Chartered College, **Dame Alison Peacock DL, DLitt**, announces an honorary Fellowship to **Bushra Nasir CBE DL**, which will be awarded in-person at the annual lecture in Spring 2026.

#ProfessionalBody #AGM #CouncilMember



Inner Spark workshops: Swimming against the current

On Thursday, the Park Charitable Trust for Girls supported our school in taking part in Inner Spark workshops for all year groups. Our students were inspired by a motivational talk from Leah Chowdry, the first British Asian woman to swim the English Channel. Leah is also a



business leader and an acclaimed author of the children's book '*Making a Splash.*'

In her session, Leah focused on building confidence, resilience, and emotional intelligence through her powerful personal stories of perseverance and determination. She introduced students to her "MAGIC formula"—a mindset tool to help young people unlock confidence and stay determined when facing challenges. She also discussed how she overcame self-doubt and seasickness; reframed "I can't" into "I can" and used her 'why' (her motivation to support the British Asian Trust charity) to push through difficulties.

Caregivers Webinar

The Local Authority is hosting a free webinar for all caregivers, not just parents, focused on helping you better understand the challenges young people face in today's social media world. The session will offer practical tips and guidance to support them in staying safe and resilient online.

 Date: 19th November

 Time: 6:00–7:00pm

 Speaker: Ellyria Georgiou, Certified Youth Resilience and Neuroplasticity Coach

This is a timely and valuable opportunity to gain expert insights and practical advice on supporting your child online. [\[Register for the webinar here\]](#)



WINTER TALENT SHOW & COMMUNITY BAKE SALE

Next week Peer Mentoring Club will be having a Bake Sale on Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th November to advertise for the upcoming Connaught Winter Talent Show!

If you wish to audition for the Talent Show, please check your Google Classroom and complete the Google Form!



Achievement Points

A big well done to Sofia A (8s) and Khadijah BI (10C) who have achieved the highest number of APs this week.

8S are determined to keep topping the AP leaderboard again this half term with an impressive 383 APs so far. There are a number of tutor groups who are very close behind!

Attendance Matters

Well done for excellent attendance this week!

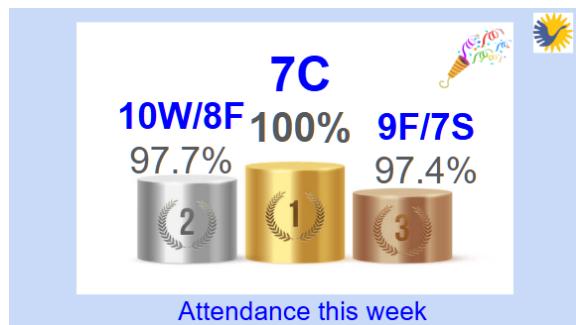


Photo Competition - Students can still submit photographs of their Year Group visit either via their Year Group Google Classroom or by emailing Ms Hickes directly - prizes for the best photographs in each year group. Final closing date - Friday 18th November.

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 3rd December

Please look out for the Year 10 Parents' Evening letter which will be emailed to parents of year 10 students on Wednesday 19th November. The letter will include a link to School Cloud to book your appointments with teachers. Booking via SchoolCloud will open Wednesday 19th November at 4pm

Hurricane Melissa: Supporting Families in Jamaica

HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF AID

Your kind donations will help in the recovery process of many children and families in Jamaica



ESSENTIAL ITEMS:
canned food (tuna, beans etc), condensed milk, pasta, noodles, showering gel, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, soap, sanitary pads, wipes, exercise books, pens, pencils, colouring pencils

On October 28, **Hurricane Melissa** swept across the Caribbean, leaving behind severe damage in several islands, with **Jamaica among the worst affected**. The storm brought **torrential rainfall, powerful winds and widespread flooding**, destroying homes, damaging roads, and cutting off communities from essential services. Many families have lost possessions, access to clean water, and in some cases, their livelihoods.

At **Connaught School for Girls**, we believe in compassion, global citizenship and standing together during difficult times. Many of our students, families and staff have personal links to the Caribbean, and we know that this devastation is felt deeply within our community.

To support relief efforts and help families rebuild their lives, **the school will be launching a collection of essential items**. We kindly ask parents, carers and staff to donate whatever they can. The following items would be especially helpful:

- Non-perishable food items (tinned goods, dried foods, rice, pasta)
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary products)
- First-aid supplies
- wipes
- School stationery for children who have lost their resources

All donations will be collected during form time starting week beginning **Monday 17th for years 7-9 and week beginning Monday November 24th for years 10- 11**. Items will be sorted, shipped and delivered to affected families directly in Jamaica.

In times of crisis, even the smallest act of kindness can make a meaningful difference. We thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping us show solidarity with communities in need.

Together, we can help Jamaica rebuild.

Proposed School Street expansion

Following up from the consultation held last term it has been decided that the extension of timings in the neighbouring roads will not be taken forward, we have also received a letter from the Neighbourhoods and Environment team regarding concerns about the safety of student and the community during pick up and drop off times, please see letter attached.

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 C.J/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 Room 17	
		Textiles Club RAN Room H2	Year 9 Poetry Club BUR Room 35	Year 8 Connections Club ALI Room 38	
		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. I hope you have a lovely weekend.



Mr. Silk
Headteacher