

## Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

**21st November 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have a Friday update for you, as always. As we reach the end of another busy week, I am pleased to bring you this Friday update. Connaught continues to be a vibrant and hardworking community, and it has been wonderful to see students engaging positively in lessons, enrichment activities and wider school life. I hope you enjoy reading the latest news and celebrations from across the school. It was the final week of mock exams for year 11 who have shown great resilience and diligence in their approach to learning and preparing for their assessments. We are all very proud of how well they have managed.

You may be aware of the latest curriculum review led by **Professor Becky Francis**, you can find the full report summary [here](#).

One key area of focus is the need for schools to help students develop the ability to recognise and question the reliability of things they see and hear, especially on social media. This is particularly pertinent for us, as we have had recent incidents involving doctored posts on TikTok, which students have believed to be true, and which have led to friendship issues and unkindness. Please talk to your child about always questioning what they see online and encourage robust monitoring of their social-media use. The legal age for many social-media platforms in England is 13 years old (and often higher), so students in lower year groups should not be on social media anyway of course, a thorny topic we continue to grapple with.

### **Cold weather and coats**

Winter is definitely upon us which means all students should be wearing warm coats when outside of the building. The majority of the coats are black and a lot of them are the same brand - this can result in students accidentally taking another student's coat. Please ensure your daughter has her name written in her coat, this helps identify when they have accidentally taken the wrong coat, and if they do realise they have another student's coat, please ask them to return it to school the next day and hand it in at lost property.

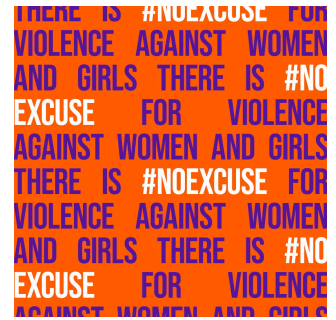
## Next week's assemblies

### Next week's KS3 assembly

Exciting news - the school has invited poet 'Blaize Alexis' to the school to celebrate National Poetry Week next week! KS3 will have an extended 45 minute assembly on Tuesday.

### Next week's KS4 assembly

The 25th of November is the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Day and next week's Key Stage 4 assembly will focus on this.



### Year 11 mock exam success

A massive congratulations to our year 11 students for completing their winter mock examinations in readiness for their actual GCSEs. There has been a real drive within students to be supportive of one another and to work hard towards their subjects. Year 11 conduct has been very impressive on many occasions, as they adapt to all examination regulations.

We wish all our year 11 a well earned rest this weekend and be ready to return on Monday to all their timetabled lessons.

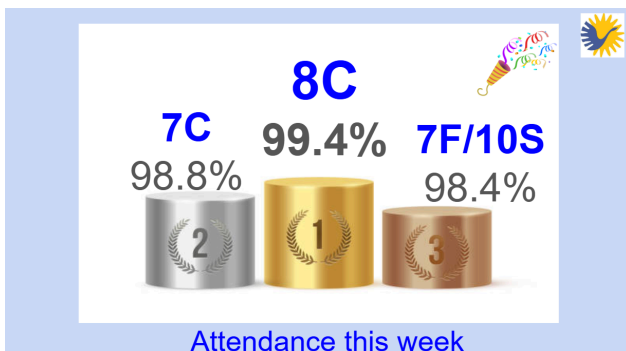
### Talent Show

The audition process is well underway and this looks to be a super show. The show is on 2nd of December, we look forward to seeing you there.

### Achievement Points

8S are still at the top of the leaderboard with 622 APs so far this half-term. Congratulations to Amrin R 10W who has the highest number of APs in KS4 this week and to Aoife R 8W who has been awarded an outstanding 25 APs this week.

### Attendance Matters

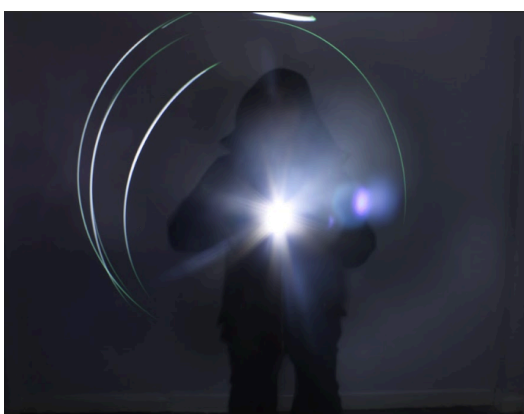
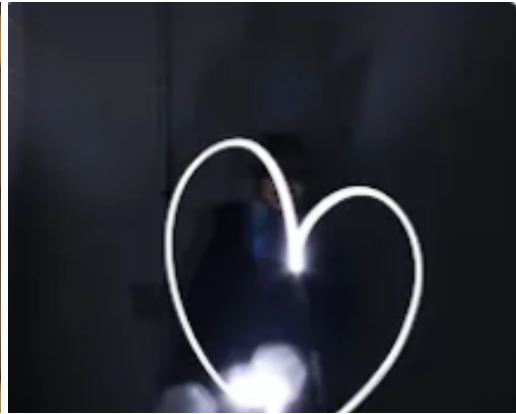


Well done for excellent attendance this week! I keep saying each week how important attendance is, and the top 3 form groups this week are leading the way with outstanding attendance to school.

And congratulations to Year 7 who still have the highest attendance overall so far this term.

## Y10 GCSE Photography lessons - Light Painting

Year 10 students have been learning how to take long exposure photos using tripods and have had a great time creating light painting photos! Photo examples by Aysha Hussain, Lina Mahdjoub, Eve Ritman and Amina Abbas, Sarah Salman and Haniyah Ahmed with Hafsah Hussain.



## **Year 10 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 3rd December**

Please remember to book appointments with teachers via School Cloud. If you have any problems booking appointments or queries about the Parents' Evening please contact [school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk)

### **Year 7 Student Led Assembly: Friendship**

Following on from Anti-bullying week, 7F have led the first of the year 7 form assemblies for the year group. Their assembly focused on Friendship, and was linked to the Connaught value of inclusion. The students planned the whole assembly, which included a poem written by Sumaya and a role-play to show a friendship scenario and how to deal with it. The students put a lot of effort and time into their assembly, with the help of their tutor Ms Ranganathan. The delivery of the assembly was eloquent, with students looking confident and building on the public speaking skills they had learnt in their Talk the Transition workshop last term. Finally, students were able to network and introduce themselves to others in the year group they had not yet spoken to.

Well done, 7F! You have set the bar high and we look forward to the upcoming assemblies from 7C, 7S and 7W.



Special thanks go to: Amira Boukraa, Sumaya Miguil, Mia Jones, Abigail Marshall, Leanne Afriyie, Nermin El Aissaoui, Afnan Tahraoui, Hafsa Ali, Ana Belbe and Ms Ranganathan.



## Hurricane Melissa: Supporting Families in Jamaica



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.**

## Extra-Curricular Provision

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

	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 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
		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. I hope you have a lovely weekend.



Mr. Silk  
**Headteacher**