

## Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

**Connaught School for Girls**

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

**28th November 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have a Friday update for you, as always; I hope you have had a positive week. As we come to the end of November and look ahead to a busy and exciting few weeks in school, I am pleased to share this update with you. There has been a purposeful atmosphere across Connaught, with students working hard, engaging well in lessons, and contributing positively to school life. As always, I am grateful for your ongoing support—it makes an enormous difference to the culture and success of our community. This week's update includes important safeguarding information from the Local Authority, reminders about upcoming events, and celebrations of the many achievements taking place across the school.

A reminder that Year 10 Progress Evening will take place next Wednesday 3rd December, from 4.30pm–7.00pm. This is a vital checkpoint as we assess how students are progressing with their GCSE classes, and their focussed study in the options choices. If you have not made appointments with all your daughter's teachers, please use the booking system [here](#) to do so. We look forward to welcoming Year 10 families into school.

The Local Authority has asked all schools to share information with families about dangerous Christmas gifts currently being sold online and in shops, relevant for secondary-aged students as well as primary. Please do take a few minutes to read the guidance from the child accident prevention trust, which can be found [here](#).

### Achievement Points

A big well done to all the students receiving achievement points this week. Your effort, kindness and positive contribution to school life do not go unnoticed. Particular congratulations to Aoife (8W) (again!), Setaish (10F) and Zahra (10W) , who topped the charts for the entire school with the highest number of APs this week.

8W have overtaken 8S at the top of the leaderboard with an impressive 828 APs so far this half term.

### Attendance Matters

Currently our whole school attendance is 94.3%.

The breakdown by year group is:

- Year 7 - 95.96%
- Year 8 - 95.78%
- Year 9 - 93.7%
- Year 10 95.39%
- Year 11 - 92.35%



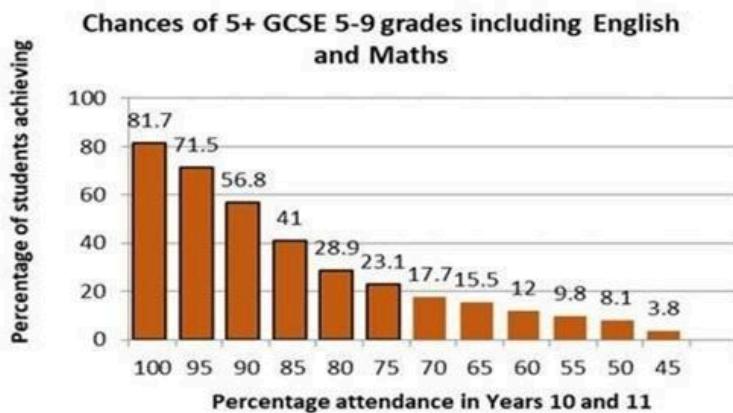
**Ofsted, February 2025**

**GOOD IN ALL AREAS**

Well done to all those who have met or exceeded our school target this week!

### **Year 11 Attendance**

After our mock exam period we have returned to normal lessons and the GCSE learning continues apace. As for all students it is vital that your daughter attends every day. We would expect Year 11 attendance to be the highest in the school as the link between attendance and GCSE success is clear:



Please check your daughter's attendance % on the Arbor app or on the Attendance Tracker in your daughter's diary and ensure she attends every day to maximise her chances of success.

### **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**

We are looking forward to visits by an ex-student who works at Kew Gardens and will be telling students all about the work of a botanist during our assemblies next week.

## Talent Show

Connaught Winter Talent Show will take place on Tuesday 2nd December, from 3:30 with an approximate end time of 5pm. The event has been designed, created and will be led by our Peer Mentoring Club, who are raising money for their Year 11 Leavers Prom.



In the afternoon/evening we have fantastic talent, incredible judges along with special guests! We will have hot & cold food, a PhotoBooth to take photos with friends or loved ones, competition giveaways along with a live DJ!

Most importantly, we will be having a Hurricane Melissa Drive for guests to provide items (as shown below) to support the recovery and stability for the Jamaican communities affected by the Hurricane. If you wish to donate but will not be attending the Talent Show, you can leave the items in Room 5 during the school day.

We cannot wait to see you next week and we look forward to sharing all the exploits next week! Please see below for the Price List & the flyer!



## Bedrock

We are now in full swing using the new vocabulary and grammar platform, Bedrock. We are seeing great results! **All students in KS3 are expected on a weekly basis to complete 20 points (2 lessons).** Parents and carers can also log on to their child's Bedrock platform with the special code given in a letter a few weeks ago. Once you have logged on, you will be able to see what vocabulary and grammar skills your child has learned, and needs to practice. If you require your code, please email the library, [library@connaught-cloud.co.uk](mailto:library@connaught-cloud.co.uk).

## Bedrock Points Leaderboard

Hafsa Abdul Khaliq, 8S → 321 points  
Aoife Rae, 8W → 275 points  
Gabrielle Djemili-Arnold, 8S → 246 points  
Tasneem Patel, 8F → 184 points  
Maryam Rizwan, 8W → 182 points  
Haleemah Parkar, 8W → 181 points  
Novreen Aryubi, 7C → 172 points  
Ozelle Villiers, 8W → 156 points  
Zineb Benrejdal, 7F → 153 points  
Aaisha Ahmad, 8S → 149 points

## Words We Are Learning

Here is the vocabulary list we are focusing on this half term:

Apprehensive, cordial, dwell, prosper, tangible, apparel, blunder, conspicuous, objective

## Reading Matters

Students are also expected to log the number of minutes they are reading on Reading Tracker. Students are encouraged to read a wide range of texts. Form classes are competing and are awarded goodies for logging the most minutes read. Please find the reading winners this week!



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

Mahnoor Ali, 7C → 2645 minutes logged  
Abigail Marshall 7F → 855 minutes logged  
Rosanna Drew Rennie 7S → 595 minutes logged  
Imaan Mohammed 7W → 2110 minutes logged  
Anabiya Adnan 8C → 740 minutes logged  
Kirsten Lakha 8F → 1205 minutes logged  
Aaisha Ahmed → 575 minutes logged  
Ayanna Baylem-Farrell 8W → 1125 minutes logged  
Dixie Donohoe 9C → 680 minutes logged  
Siana Tettey 9F → 875 minutes logged  
Khadija Noori 9S → 240 minutes logged  
Sakeenah Parkar 9W → 815 minutes logged

## National Poetry Week Assembly

This week's assembly was a real highlight of the term, as we welcomed visiting poet **Blaize Alexis** to launch our celebrations for National Poetry Week. Blaize delivered an energising and interactive workshop that had the whole hall fully engaged. He performed one of his own powerful poems, then invited students to craft a few lines of poetry of their own.

Blaize also announced the opening of this year's **Young Poet Laureate Competition**, encouraging our students to take part. Winners from each region will be appointed as Young Poet Laureate - an exciting and meaningful one-year role. These young poets will act as ambassadors for poetry, sharing their work, taking on writing commissions, performing at events, and engaging with their local communities.

We are keen to ensure that all students who wish to enter have the opportunity to do so, and we strongly encourage them to take part. Students who wish to enter can write an original poem of up to 40 lines, and hand it in to the librarian by the 8th December. It is a wonderful chance to develop confidence, creativity, and a public voice.



## Football Competition

Last Friday , nine Y7 & Y8 students represented Connaught School for Girls in a football tournament.

Sofia Abid 8S-one of the football players said : "We haven't been training for long , only since September, but we worked together as a team and made it to the quarterfinals ! It was a really intense day , but we got a lot of unforgettable memories, and an amazing experience! There was a lot of adrenaline rushing through us but once we got past the fact that we were already there, we strategised and made it through to the quarterfinals ! Whether we won or lost, the game taught us about how we need to work together when under pressure.

*Thank you to the PE teachers for giving us such an amazing opportunity!*

The PE department would like to congratulate the team on their fantastic achievement and commend them for representing the school with such pride.

Well done, Connaught!



## 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.**

## 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 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
	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**