

Seize the day

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

13th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well; a Friday update for you, as always.

As we reach the final week of this half term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school. The past few weeks have been busy and purposeful, with students working hard in classrooms, engaging positively in assemblies and enrichment opportunities, and continuing to demonstrate the resilience and commitment we are so proud of at Connaught. As we approach the February half-term break, this newsletter provides a chance to share some important updates, celebrate achievements, and look ahead to the weeks to come, while also encouraging everyone to take time to rest and recharge over the holiday.

Mobile phones and social media

We are aware of increasing concerns around harmful content circulating on TikTok and other social media platforms. We would like to remind parents and carers, particularly the bill payer and account holder of any mobile device, of the importance of monitoring online activity, privacy settings and the content young people are accessing. Please continue to talk openly with your child about what they see online and encourage them to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please share them with the school so we can support appropriately.

Below are some links to online safety support and guidance that you may find useful:

- ['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)
- [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)
- [Keeping children safe online | Barnardo's](#)
- Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - [GOV.UK](#)

[Molly Vs The Machines](#) is a powerful short film and online safety animation that helps young people understand how algorithms work and how online content is pushed to them. It is a valuable resource which can support important conversations at home about screen time, social media and staying safe online. There will be cinema screenings nationwide on 1st March. The film will also be broadcast on Channel 4, date to be confirmed. The age rating is 15+. You can watch the trailer [here](#).

Local opportunities

We are pleased to share an excellent opportunity via the Art Department now. Students can take part in a 15-week Saturday Club run in partnership with The Slade School of Fine Art / UCL, working with university tutors in professional studio spaces. This programme is designed to support young people who may not usually have access to specialist materials or space to express themselves creatively. This is an ideal opportunity for students considering continuing their art journey post-16 and is completely FREE. For more information and to apply please see [here](#).

An exciting opportunity to highlight for students interested in a future in law: the Clifford Chance Virtual Work Experience Day, on Thursday 19th February from 10am - 3 pm for Year 11 and 12 students. This one-day online programme offers students the chance to gain first-hand insight into the legal profession, develop key legal skills and hear directly from leading solicitors about pathways into a legal career. It is an excellent opportunity for those considering law or related careers to broaden their understanding and strengthen future applications. For more information, please see [here](#).

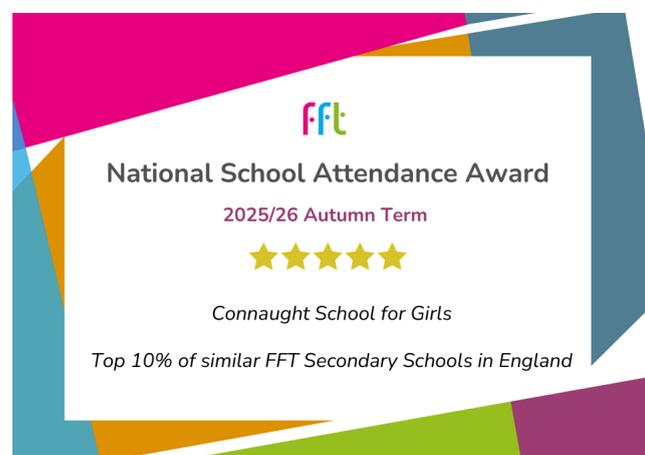
A February half-term opportunity; Monday 16th - Friday 20th February, performing arts school **X7eaven**, presents Spoken Minds, a youth-driven and creative arts programme that connects Black boys and young men (10 to 25 years-old) with wellbeing support through culture, creativity and peer voice. For more information, please see [here](#).

Attendance Matters

I am pleased to report that our attendance this week is 93.29% with a total attendance to date this year of 94%. While our attendance remains higher than average both nationally and across Waltham Forest we look forward to a renewed focus of attending every day when we return after the half-term holiday. Year 11 particularly are entering the final crucial stages of their learning journey; excellent attendance to make to most of the intervention and support offered in school will pay dividends come GCSE results day!

We are also proud to have our attendance recognised by this national award:

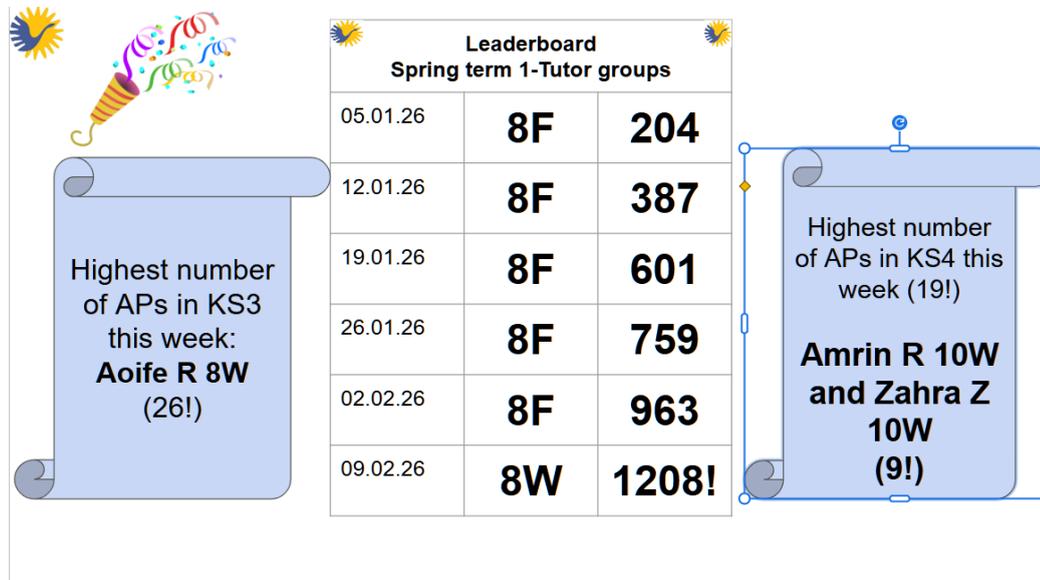
It is very tight at the top of the attendance podium this week; well done 7F!



Attendance this week

Achievement Points

A nail-biting end to the half-term with 8W doing the almost impossible. Well done to everyone who has earned so many achievement points, and in particular to 8W, who have swept in and topped the leaderboard this week.



Assembly next week

After the February half-term break, students will take part in an assembly to mark World Social Justice Day, observed annually on 20th February. This assembly will provide an important opportunity for reflection and discussion, encouraging students to consider the concept of social justice and the role that individuals and communities play in shaping a fairer and more equitable society.

The assembly will explore key examples of social change over the last century, examining how attitudes, laws and social structures have evolved in response to inequality and injustice. Students will be encouraged to reflect on how progress has been achieved through collective action, moral courage and sustained advocacy, as well as to recognise that social change is often gradual and requires persistence and responsibility.



A central focus will be the role of the individual: how everyday choices, behaviours and attitudes can contribute positively to society, and how young people, in particular, can use their voices thoughtfully and responsibly to stand up for fairness, respect and human dignity. The assembly will link these themes to our school values, reinforcing the importance of empathy, inclusion and active citizenship both within school and beyond.

'Talk Consent' Assemblies

Today year 10 and 11 students benefitted from engaging, high-quality, age-appropriate assemblies delivered by "Talk Consent" which were focused on making students aware of the issue of sexual violence in their lives and how it is important to be careful with ensuring positive consent is present.

The consent assembly covered:

- The fact that every person has a right to equally positive and safe relationships and sexual activity.
- The prevalence of sexual violence and the impact it has on victims.
- The reality of how sexual violence is committed.
- The importance of aiming for positive and enthusiastic consent and what that means.
- How to manage grey areas or issues surrounding consent to ensure everyone is safe, healthy and respected.

Year 11 students commented that the assembly was 'educational' and 'eye opening'. The assemblies are an important part of our commitment as a school to safeguarding our children and helping to prevent sexual violence through early intervention.

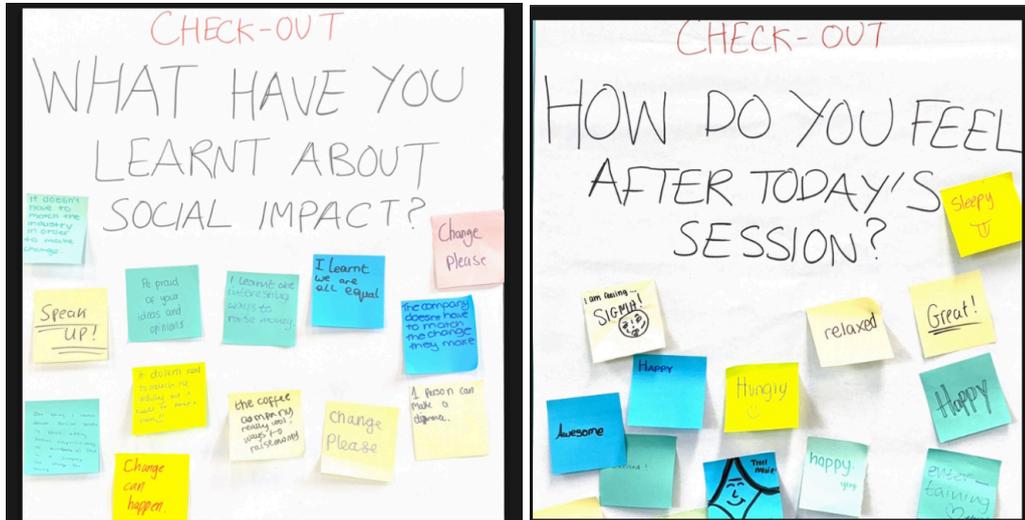


Sisterhood project

Last week, the school partnered with the Sisterhood Project, which is a transformative space where girls design their place in the world. Through the Changemaker Programme, the aim is to empower young women by equipping them with the skills, confidence, and networks to become changemakers. This partnership with Connaught School for Girls School is designed to provide students in Year 9 with an opportunity to engage in a hands-on,

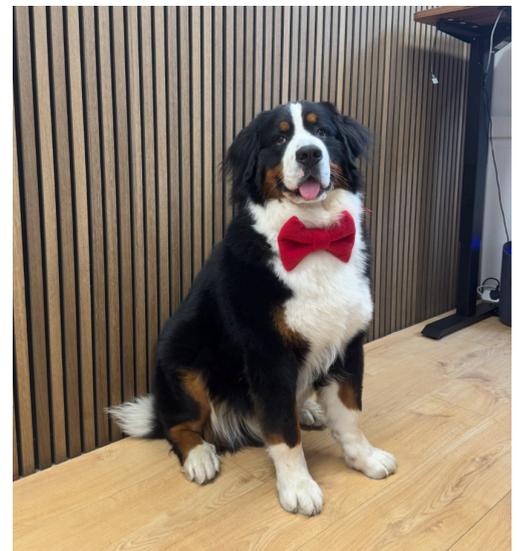
meaningful changemaker programme, where they will tackle real-world issues and develop creative solutions.

This week, the Changemakers focused on what businesses with social impact at the core of their mission looks like and explored how important these companies are for making positive changes in the world. These are some of their reflections after the session:



'Galentines' competition winners

Sophia and Ilona came to spend lunchtime with Teddy following the Galentines competition creating a companion/ creative engagement for Teddy. The winners brought with them great fun things for Ted. He has a fabulous bow tie courtesy of Ms Sahant, Bobo the elephant and a great knitted bandana from Ilona. It was a great way to spend the final lunchtime of the half term as they got Teddy doing tricks and training (in exchange for treats!).



School Iftar 2026

Connaught School for Girls is preparing to hold an Iftar event for students and parents/carers on **Monday 9th March, 5pm - 7.00pm** in the main school hall. Many of our school community will be observing Ramadan and in line with our value of inclusion, we would like to take the opportunity to share this with our students. There are 120 tickets only available on a first come first serve basis.

The tickets will cost **£6.00**, which will include a full Halal iftar meal of: vegetable samosa, chicken roast, kebabs, chicken biryani chutney salad and a vegetarian option. We are asking for desserts to be donated this year to support the event and we ask for a small donation for the desserts separately.

We plan to donate the excess amount raised to *Save The Children Gaza Emergency Appeal* to support those in need. There will be donation buckets available on the evening if those attending would like to make an extra voluntary contribution.

The event order will be as follows:

- Students start arriving at 5.00pm and enter from Connaught Road entrance
- All seated by 5.30pm
- 10 minutes speeches - Headteacher welcome and specific students
- 5.55pm - Queue/Serving of food and be seated for 6.15pm
- Open fast with date and water at 5.58pm (Students pray)
- Eat iftar - 6pm - 7.00pm
- Start preparing to close the event for 7.00pm

If your child would like to attend, please complete the payment on the online parent pay system and this will confirm their place for the event. Please put in writing to your child's Head of Year, if you will be collecting your child at 7.00pm. We welcome contributions and support from our parents, please get in touch with us at the school

Extra-Curricular Provision

Please find the ECP schedule for the Spring term below. To sign up for a club, students need to see the teacher who is leading the club in advance to sign up. If the club is at lunchtime, students need a note from them in their diary to be able to access early lunch and be able to enter the building by room 1.

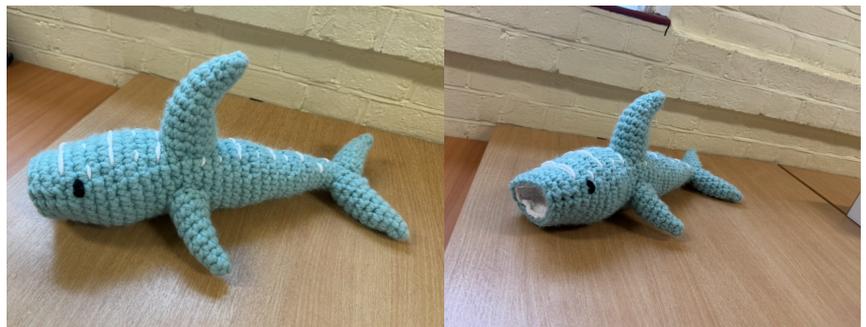
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET
	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall 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 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 Nature 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	Year 11 Drama Drop In Session MAL Drama Studio	
		Key Stage 3 Futsal Club KAD/GAG Gym	11x/Ma2 Maths Intervention ADO Room 4 Week B Only		
		11x/Ma5 Maths Intervention LAB Room 37	Dodgeball Club GAG Gym Week B		
			Year 7-10 Let's Celebrate KHL Room 39		
			Year 9 Teen Tech Awards KHN Library		
			Year 11 Spanish Intervention (Week A 11M; Week B 11N) EMA Room 40		
			Key Stage 3 Waterpainting Club ELB Room 9		
After	11x/Ma4 Maths	Year 10 Maths	Year 10 English	Year 11 Textiles	Year 11

school	Intervention AUL Room 1	Action Tutoring IN Room 4	Action Tutoring CAR Room 4	coursework Club RAN Room H2	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
		Leyton Orient Football Club GAG Gym			
		Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Room 8			

Finally... a shout out to Eve

A brief shout out to our knitting superstar Eve who has been knitting up pieces as a hobby and has shown us in school. This is an incredible piece: a whale shark!



Wishing you a wonderful half-term break and hope that you can all rest and recharge ready to return to school at the usual time on Monday 23rd February,

Mr. Silk
Headteacher