

6th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well; a Friday update for you, as always. There is much to share as we continue to work together to support our students' well-being and success.

In the body of the email for this letter, there should be the notification below:

Strike action all removed

Last week, I wrote to parents and carers to inform them that the school had received formal notification from the NEU representative of proposed sustained industrial action either side of the February half-term. I am pleased to confirm that, following constructive negotiation and formal mediation facilitated by ACAS, an agreement has now been reached between the school and the NEU. As a result, NEU members have agreed **not to proceed with strike action** on the dates previously notified, and there are currently **no further dates of industrial action planned**.

You may be aware that earlier this week, the Secretary of State wrote to Headteachers regarding mobile phones. The letter makes clear that phones are **not allowed** in school, and this aligns with the position we already take at Connaught School for Girls, where mobile phones **must not be seen or heard at all during the school day, or at any time on the school premises**. Nationally and politically, there continues to be ongoing discussion about the impact of smartphones and social media on young people's wellbeing and learning.

In recent years, we have strongly encouraged our new students not to have a smartphone at all. A basic "brick" phone for calls and texts is all that is needed for contact in an emergency. It will be interesting to see how policy evolves in the country. As always, we aim to strike a balance, working with families to protect our students while also preparing them for adult life, where technology is an integral part of the world. It is a tricky line to tread, and we appreciate your partnership here as we navigate this evolving position.

Local opportunities

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](#).

Uniform

I continue with reminders about the importance of uniform and presenting to school ready to learn. I would also like to remind all families about the need to put names clearly sewn or stuck into items of clothing. This is crucial as many children have similar coats/ bags etc., and these are hanging up in school when they are not worn. If coats have names in it is much easier to identify a lost/ misplaced item of clothing when it is picked up.

Year 7 Parents' Evening - 4th February 4.30 - 7.00 pm

It was great to see all our Year 7 families at our Parents' evening on Wednesday. There were lots of smiling faces as teachers fed back on such a positive start to their learning journey. We trialed a new system of booking appointments for Parents' Evening directly through the Arbor app; if you have any feedback about the booking process through Arbor please contact rachel.hickes@connaught.waltham.sch.uk so we can make the process as smooth and straightforward for parents as possible.

Attendance Matters

I am pleased to report that our attendance this week has risen to just north of 94%. This is encouraging and shows the impact of families ensuring their children are in school consistently. Colds and sickness that affected us earlier in the term have abated for now, which has certainly helped our figures. We want to keep improving further and thank you for your continued support with this. As a reminder, there is a clear link between good attendance and strong GCSE outcomes. Students with attendance above 95% are significantly more likely to meet or exceed their GCSE targets than those with attendance below 90%.

Particular congratulations to 7C, with another week of 100% attendance!

Achievement Points

Leaderboard Spring term 1-Tutor groups		
05.01.26	8F	204
12.01.26	8F	387
19.01.26	8F	601
26.01.26	8F	759
02.02.26	8F	963
09.02.26		

Highest number of APs in KS3 this week:
Rosanna D R 7S (22!) - again!!

Highest number of APs in KS4 this week (19!)
Zainab F 10F (10!)

Congratulations to the KS3 and KS4 winners this week, and an incredibly strong performance for 8F!

Assembly next week

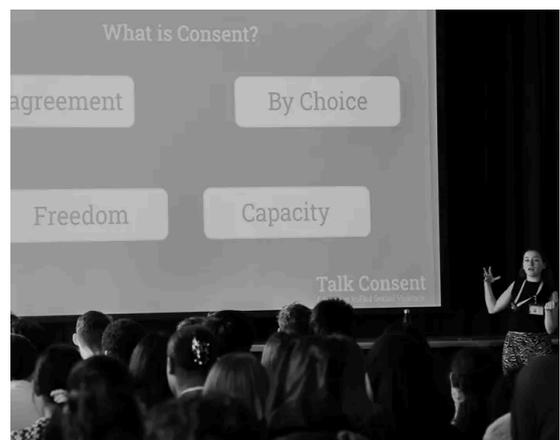
Next week's assembly will only be with KS4 about Safer Internet Day (Tuesday, 10th February). This year's theme is 'Safe Tech, Safe choices - exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

'Talk Consent' Assemblies

Next Friday, year 10 and 11 will have an assembly focused on making students aware of the issue of sexual violence in their lives and how it is important to be careful to ensure positive consent is present, delivered by the organisation 'Talk Consent'. For more information about the organisation, you can see [HERE](#).

The consent assembly will cover:

- The fact that every person has the 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.



Holocaust Memorial Day event with Waltham Forest

Last week, assemblies were held across the school to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This is an important moment for remembrance and reflection on the atrocities of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Through assemblies and tutor time, students were encouraged to consider the importance of memory, tolerance, and the responsibility we all share to challenge hatred and prejudice in all its forms.

On Monday evening, Mr Phillips accompanied a small group of students who were invited to represent the school at a Holocaust Memorial Day event alongside other schools from across Waltham Forest at the Town Hall. Connaught students played a significant role in the event, both lighting candles and delivering a speech in remembrance of the Holocaust. Ms Nasir, one of our school governors, was also in attendance.

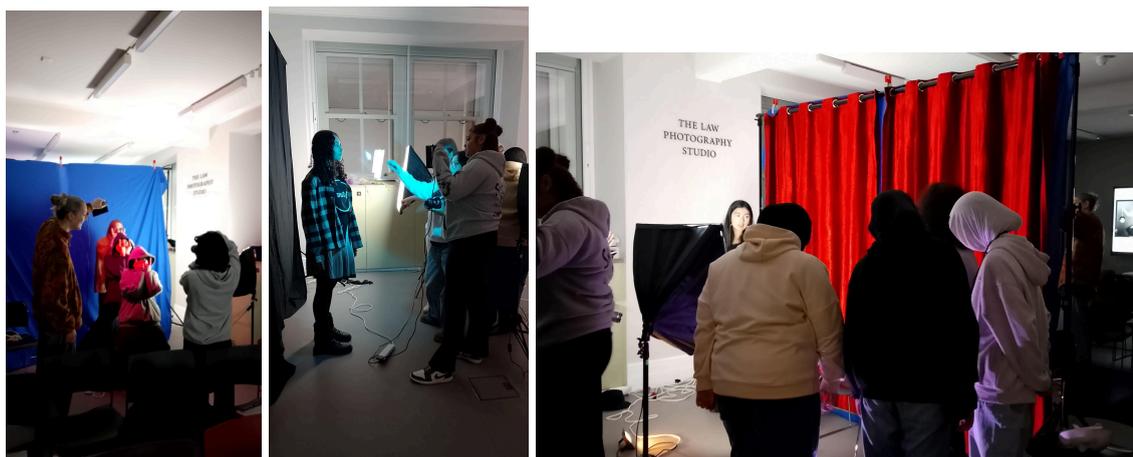


The event included a powerful address from Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke, who spoke movingly about her experiences under the Nazi regime and the antisemitism her family endured. Eva shared how she never met her father, and how her mother gave birth to her in the Mauthausen concentration camp after being transferred from Auschwitz. Her testimony was deeply moving, received a standing ovation, and served as a stark reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Our students were proud to take part in the commemoration and gained a great deal from the experience, which will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.

Photography workshop at The National Portrait Gallery

The Y10 Photography students visited the National Portrait Gallery, where we took part in a practical workshop focused on studio portrait photography. We learned how to set up studio equipment, including lighting and backdrops, and how to use these effectively to create successful portrait photographs. We then had the opportunity to apply these skills by taking our own portrait images. The trip gave us valuable hands-on experience and helped develop our technical skills and understanding of portrait photography.



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	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20

	hall PET	hall DIA/PET	hall DIA/PET	hall DIA/PET	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 school	11x/Ma4 Maths Intervention AUL Room 1	Year 10 Maths Action Tutoring IN 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
		Leyton Orient Football Club GAG Gym			
		Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Room 8			

Wishing you a good weekend,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher