

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we approach the end of another enriching week at Connaught School for Girls. It has been a particularly memorable week, filled with important learning opportunities, joyful celebrations, and valuable experiences that have contributed to our students' growth in terms of their personal development and wellbeing.

This week, Ms Binz delivered an important assembly to our students on cervical cancer prevention. This session formed part of our comprehensive pastoral curriculum programme, which is designed to equip our students with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing throughout their lives. The students engaged thoughtfully with this age-appropriate content, demonstrating maturity. These conversations are vital in helping our students understand how to protect their health and where to seek support when needed.

One of the key themes for students to reflect on this term is the nature of herd mentality, the bystander effect, and morbid curiosity — exploring why people sometimes follow the crowd, stay silent, or spectate, even when they know something is not right. At Connaught, we actively encourage students to think critically about the impact of “just watching” or “not getting involved,” whether in school, in the community, or online. We talk to students about how silence can unintentionally enable harm, and how choosing to speak up, report concerns, or refuse to join in can make a real and meaningful difference. Each of us has a responsibility to be part of the solution, and even small, positive actions can have a powerful impact on others. If possible, this is a conversation we would encourage families to continue at home with their children this weekend.

In an age where misinformation spreads quickly, the BBC has produced a series of [Bitesize activities](#) aimed at helping young people recognise fact from fiction online. These resources are timely, accessible and well worth exploring with your child.

Finally, a reminder that Waltham Forest is running a series of webinars for parents, offering guidance on supporting young people with the modern demands of life, including navigating social media safely and confidently. These sessions are highly topical and provide practical advice. For more information please see [here](#).

Education Record app

For Year 11 families, you may have seen that the Department for Education has recently launched a new Education Record app, designed to give young people easier access to key information about their qualifications and achievements. We are currently reviewing the

guidance and mobilising as a school to ensure we are ready to support students in using this effectively once fully rolled out. Further information will follow.

February Half Term Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

Bookings open on 19 January 2026 for the Waltham Forest February Half Term Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme, which will run from Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026.

The HAF programme provides free holiday clubs, activities, and meals for children and young people across the borough and is designed to support families during the school holidays.

Who the programme supports:

- Children eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM): Families with school-aged children who receive benefit-related FSM are eligible to book directly onto activities. We strongly encourage eligible families to take advantage of this provision.
- Vulnerable families not in receipt of benefit-related FSM: A limited number of places are available for vulnerable children who do not receive benefit-related FSM. These places must be referred by the school or another professional. Referrals must be submitted by Monday, 9 February 2026. Please note that bookings made without an approved referral will not be **accepted**.
- Children requiring additional support: If your child meets the eligibility criteria and requires additional support to access activities, please contact the HAF team before booking to ensure the provision is suitable and appropriate.

How to book and find out more:

Full details of activities on offer and instructions on how to book can be found [here](#).

For queries relating to the programme, families and professionals can contact Kayla Whiting: kayla.whiting@walthamforest.gov.uk

The School Library

Ms Riaz will be working in school from Monday to Friday starting next week and the school will resume the usual library opening times before school, breaktime, lunchtime and after school.

Attendance Matters

Huge congratulations to 7C!



Achievement Points

Congratulations to the following students with the highest number of APs in KS3 and KS4 this week, Year 10 have been working hard!



Highest number of APs in KS3 this week:
Sofia A 8S (15!)

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

Highest number of APs in KS4 this week (15!)

Kitty-Rae 10S
Aysha H 10S
Setaish S 10F
Olivia S 10S
Leila T 10S
Liabah Y 10S
Nusaybah M 10F
Kerisse W 10C

Next week's assemblies

The focus of next week's assemblies will be Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for HMD 2026, Bridging Generations, is a reminder that the responsibility of remembrance does not end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and all of us.

Happy Birthday Teddy!



The Celebration Club and the Ted Team organised Teddy's 1st birthday party at school this week as he turned one last Sunday (18th January). Teddy has certainly grown over the course of a year! It has been lovely to see his progress and development in his relationships with the students and the smiles he brings to so many faces. Teddy certainly enjoyed all the treats and attention! Thank you to Ms Masella, Mr Silk, the Ted Team and the Celebration Club students for making this happen and for all the work that has gone into training him to be where he is now. It is a great example of teamwork!



If you would like to follow updates on Teddy then please follow the dedicated Instagram page:



@CONNAUGHT.TEDDY



Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork

On Thursday 22nd January, our students participated in a fieldwork day at the Olympic Park, focusing on qualitative surveys to support their preparation for the summer examinations. Over the course of the day, students visited five different site locations, completing their Fieldwork booklets as they went. The day commenced in Hackney Wick, where students confidently engaged with members of the public to collect insightful data, demonstrating exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm throughout. Following this, we visited the Velodrome to examine the lasting legacy of the London 2012 Olympics and consider how its infrastructure contributes to sustainability, reinforcing key concepts studied in class. The day concluded at the international train station outside Westfields, providing students with the opportunity to reflect on their findings, and ended on a creative note with a piano performance by Greta, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Year 10 GCSE Drama Workshop

On Monday, a working actor and theatre practitioner visited the Year 10 GCSE Drama students. They led a three-hour workshop exploring a stimulus, with the aim of exciting and igniting creative ideas for the students' upcoming devised pieces. It was an engaging and enjoyable workshop during which students created some excellent short scenes to present their ideas. They are now feeling inspired and ready to begin creating their pieces.

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
Lunchtime	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	Year 9 and 10 Debate Club		Year 10 PE BTEC Booster Sessions	11x/Sc3 Science

	Club ELB Room 9	KHN Library		DIA/GAG Room 32 Week B Only	Intervention Lab 4 IQB Week B
		Leyton Orient Football Club GAG Gym			
		Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Room 8			

As we look ahead to next week, I encourage you to continue supporting your daughters' learning journey at home.

Wishing you a great weekend,



Mr. Silk
Headteacher