

30th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of January, this week's newsletter includes a range of important updates and opportunities for families, alongside celebrations of students' achievements and wider school life. As always, our focus remains on supporting students' learning, wellbeing and engagement, both in and beyond the classroom. In the assemblies this week, there were outstanding presentations from Yr10 history students as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration. Students will also be attending a service from the borough on Monday evening. More information to follow on this next week.

You will see attached to this newsletter a detailed letter regarding the announced industrial action affecting the school. I appreciate that this is not the kind of communication any of us would wish to share with our community, but given the potential impact on students and families, it is important that parents and carers are fully informed. The letter sets out the context, the background to the dispute, and the extensive steps the school has taken, and continues to take, to seek resolution and minimise disruption to learning. Transparency and clarity are essential at times like this, and I request you to please read the letter carefully. 

The Waltham Forest ESOL

As part of our commitment to supporting our whole school community, we are pleased to share information about local English language support available to families. The Waltham Forest ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Single Point of Contact (SPOC) team provides guidance and access to English classes matched to individual needs and ability levels. Most ESOL courses are free for residents. For further information, families are encouraged to contact the SPOC team directly:
connectingcommunities@walthamforest.gov.uk

Uniform

I would also like to remind families of the importance we place on smart uniform at Connaught. We do pay close attention to the small details, shirts tucked in, ties worn and done up correctly, and blazers worn properly, to name a few. Our belief is simple: when we take care of the small things, the big things tend to take care of themselves. We are grateful for your continued support, particularly as ensuring uniform fits well can be a challenge during the inevitable growth spurts of adolescence.

Complaints

There has been much discussion nationally about a rise in complaints to schools. Thankfully, levels here remain very low, which we hope reflects the strong relationships we have with our families. That said, we know we are not perfect, and we always welcome feedback. We would far rather talk through any concerns over a cup of tea or coffee than allow issues to escalate unnecessarily. A new guide has been released very recently, which highlights that most concerns are best resolved quickly and positively through early, direct communication with the school. Working in partnership, assuming positive intent and following the school's procedures helps prevent issues escalating and supports the best outcomes for children. You can access the guide in full [here](#).

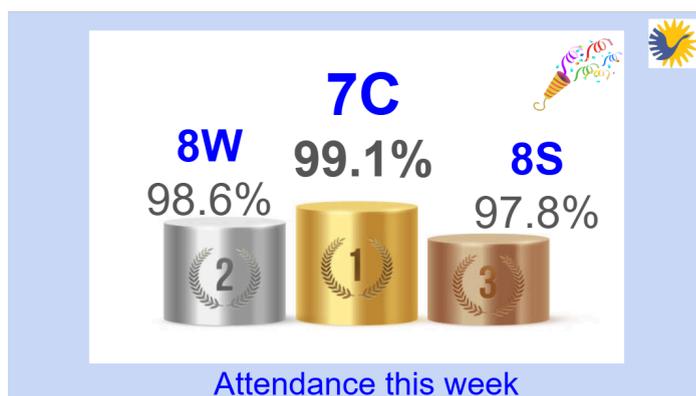
Young musicians

I would like to highlight an opportunity for our musicians to perform as part of a large ensemble with Waltham Forest Music Service. Musicians (Year 4 and above), working at Grade 1–5 standard, are invited to take part in an ensemble experience on Saturday, 14th March 2026, from 2.00pm to 4.30pm, at Walthamstow School for Girls. For more information, please see [here](#). Please note that this is not a free event.

Attendance Matters

Year 7 attendance continues to lead the way with particular congratulations to 7C who have had the highest weekly attendance in the school for two weeks in a row!

Attendance this week stands at 94%. While this continues to sit significantly above the national average, we are determined to improve attendance further still. Attendance matters enormously: one day missed each week equates to around 38 days of learning lost over a school year; one day each month adds up to more than a week of learning; and even a single day missed each half term soon accumulates. We know how much learning takes place in our classrooms every day, and your continued support in prioritising attendance is vital.



Achievement Points

Rosanna 7S has set a new record for the number of APs in one week - 29! And well done Setaish 10F for topping the KS4 chart with 19!

8F are still top of the leaderboard but with two weeks to go to half term this could change. There is an especially close race potentially for second place as 7S currently have 655 APs and 8W 654!

A table titled 'Leaderboard Spring term 1-Tutor groups' showing AP counts for various classes over time. Callouts highlight the highest number of APs in KS3 (Rosanna D R 7S with 29!) and the highest number of APs in KS4 (Setaish S 10F with 19!).

Date	Class	AP Count
05.01.26	8F	204
12.01.26	8F	387
19.01.26	8F	601
26.01.26	8F	759
02.02.26		
09.02.26		

HAF

As mentioned in previous letters, looking ahead to the half-term break, the Waltham Forest Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) will be running once again, offering a range of free activities and meals for eligible children and young people. For more details, please see [here](#).

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

Please remember to book appointments via the ARBOR app to see your daughter's subject teachers. If you have already tried to book appointments and were unable to book for some subjects please log back in and try again as we have corrected a glitch that was preventing some appointments from being booked.

If you have any difficulties accessing the ARBOR app or booking appointments please telephone the school office or email: rachel.hickes@connaught.waltham.sch.uk.

Year 10 Sociology Visit to Leyton Sixth Form College

Ms Hickes' Year 10 Sociology class visited LSC on Wednesday where we had a bespoke tour of the campus. Students were particularly impressed with the facilities for creative subjects; we were able to watch a drama rehearsal in the theatre and were treated to a dance rehearsal from their upcoming production. Following the comprehensive tour students then had a taster A Level Sociology lesson focusing on feminism. Connaught students did themselves proud by applying their existing knowledge of feminist sociologists and issues to learning at an A Level standard. The LSC teachers were very impressed with their knowledge and interactions. All students got to take home a goody bag at the end of the session.

Careers Visit - Apprenticeship Awareness

On Thursday 29th we were invited to an Apprenticeship Awareness event which took place at Eight Club, in Liverpool Street. The event was designed for Y10 & Y11 students, to provide them with key information around Apprenticeships while also busting myths about the labour market. It was a great opportunity to network with Industry Professionals, and ask key questions related to their next step.



Galentines Events

With Valentines fast approaching, Candy Grams are a way to share your appreciation for a friend through a kind note or a witty line! See the poster below for inspiration. You are able to purchase from Monday in the Canteen!

Tickets are also still available for the GALENTINES Disco!

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	Textiles Club RAN Room H2	Year 9 Poetry Club BUR Room 35	Year 8 Connections Club ALI Room

		Room 34			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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke.

Mr. Silk
Headteacher